

Swindon's Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy 2005-2008

Swindon Community Safety Partnership



“Keeping Swindon Safe”

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Urdu

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Foreword

I am pleased to present the Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy, for 2005-2008. Developed by the Community Safety Partnership, it is a three year plan setting out the way forward for investment and activity that will, by pulling together the resources across the Partnership, address the issues that Swindon's communities have identified through the Crime and Drugs Audit, undertaken in 2004.

This strategy sets out four themes, reflecting areas of most concern voiced by the people of Swindon, namely:

- Reducing Anti Social Behaviour
- Reducing Violent Crime
- Reducing Misuse of Drugs
- Reducing Victimisation

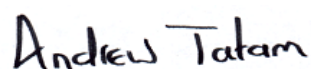
The Strategy sets out in terms of clear aims and actions, how improvements will be achieved, with clear and measurable outcomes. Our activities are undertaken against a background of limited resources, increasing demand and high expectation, but also with absolute commitment to "Keeping Swindon Safe".

The Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy 2005-2008 continues to build on the achievements of the Partnership to date. Our successes include many innovative and effective community safety initiatives over the last three years, such as "Street Safe", tackling begging, and "Street Watch" tackling prostitution.

The Partnership continues to strengthen and develop; the Swindon Crime Reduction Initiative Partnership, SCRIP, has resulted in a significant reduction in the re-offending by young people. Neighbourhood Safety Teams, NeSTs have progressed with eight now existing in Swindon.

Swindon has been awarded "*Together*" Action Area status, from the commitment shown by the partnership to respond directly to people's concerns. The Action Area Hotline "*It's Your Call*" now provides a one stop number for the community to report anti social behaviour. This, together with other community fora and NeSTs, is enabling the people of Swindon to be at the heart of the solutions as opposed to just being at the receiving end of the problems.

There is still much to achieve over the next three years. We will continue to develop as a partnership, and working with a range of new powers and legislation, such as Licensing Act 2003, and Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003, work together to ensure that Swindon is a safe place to live, work and visit.



Andrew Tatam
Chair, Executive Board Swindon Community Safety Partnership, April 2005

The following responsible and co-operating authorities, who are members of Swindon Community Safety Partnership, pledge their support for this Strategy to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and drug & alcohol misuse in the Borough of Swindon, and their commitment to the achievement of its objectives.

Chief Executive
Swindon Borough Council

Chair
Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

Divisional Commander
Swindon Police

Chief Executive
Swindon Primary Care Trust

Chair
Wiltshire Police Authority

Chief Probation Officer
National Probation Service
Wiltshire Probation Area

Introduction

The Wiltshire and Swindon Police Force area has one of the lowest rates of recorded crime in England & Wales – even so, concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour and drug & alcohol misuse are widespread across the borough as in other parts of the country. A public survey at the end of 2003 showed that Swindon residents put ‘a low level of crime’ in first position when asked what makes somewhere a good place to live and also rated it number one as the thing that most needed improving. The misuse of alcohol and drugs is also a cause of disquiet for many Swindon residents.

Until the late 1990s, action taken against crime and drug misuse was often piecemeal and unco-ordinated, and the emphasis was placed on picking up the pieces *after* crimes had been committed. The Crime and Disorder Act, passed in 1998, changed all that: for the first time public bodies were given a legal responsibility to work together to *reduce* crime, a responsibility which was reinforced and extended by the Police Reform Act of 2002. As a result of these two pieces of legislation, the following Swindon bodies are now designated as the authorities which hold a legal responsibility for crime reduction:

- Swindon Borough Council
- Wiltshire Police Authority
- Wiltshire Constabulary
- Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority
- Swindon Primary Care Trust

In addition to these organisations, other bodies are required by law to co-operate with the responsible authorities, including the Wiltshire Probation Area of the National Probation Service (covering both Wiltshire and Swindon), NHS hospital trusts, and Swindon’s parish councils.

The Crime and Disorder Act imposed specific duties on the ‘responsible authorities’, in particular to:

- carry out and publish an audit of crime and disorder every three years in each district & borough council area
- publish a three-year crime reduction strategy, based on the findings of the audit and including specific objectives and long- & short-term performance targets
- implement the strategy, keeping its contents under review and making any changes to it that are ‘expedient or necessary’ in the light of changing circumstances.

The first Crime Reduction Strategy was published in 1999 and the second in 2002: this strategy, running from April 2005 until March 2008, is the third. Unlike the first two, however, the contents of this strategy reflect the requirement contained in the Police Reform Act 2002 to complement the crime reduction strategy with:

- ‘a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs in the area’.

Alongside these specific duties, section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the borough council, parish councils, the Police Authority and the Fire Authority to have regard to crime prevention in everything that they do, and to do ‘all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder’ in their area. This section

imposes an all-embracing responsibility on these authorities to put crime reduction and community safety at the heart of their medium- and long-term planning and their day-to-day practice.

The shared responsibility for crime reduction imposed by the Crime and Disorder Act meant that organisations could no longer work in isolation – instead, partnerships were set up so that organisations from the statutory, voluntary, community and business sectors could pool their ideas and resources and work together to tackle problems of crime and anti-social behaviour. In 2004, these partnerships were merged with Drug and Alcohol Action Teams so that problems of crime and drug & alcohol misuse could be tackled in a co-ordinated way.

The partnership in Swindon, the **Swindon Community Safety Partnership**, accounts for its performance to the Swindon Strategic Partnership within the framework of Swindon's community strategy for 2004-2010 – “Our Swindon, Our Community, Our Future” – and with particular reference to one of the community strategy's six themes: “Keeping Swindon Safe”. The Community Safety Partnership's structure is as follows:

- The **Community Safety Executive Board** holds the strategic responsibility for the implementation of the Crime and Disorder Strategy, and of the National Drugs Strategy under its four themes: drug treatment, young people, availability, and communities. The Executive Board is one of a number of partnership bodies which accounts for its performance to the Swindon Strategic Partnership. The membership of the Community Safety Executive Board is drawn from the five responsible authorities – Swindon Borough Council (represented by the Chief Executive and the Lead Member), Wiltshire Constabulary, Swindon Primary Care Trust, Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Service and Wiltshire Police Authority – and also from the Wiltshire Area of the National Probation Service. The Chair of the Operational Board attends ex officio.
- Beneath the Executive Board, the **Operational Board** is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of relevant local and national strategies and is made up of senior managers from key departments of the Borough Council (including Education, Social Services and Housing) and from the Police, Probation Service, Youth Offending Team, Primary Care Trust and Fire Service. The Drug and Alcohol Action Team Manager and the Crime and Disorder Manager also attend, as do the regional drugs and crime link officers from the Government Office for the South West.
- Working to the Operational Board are a **Joint Commissioning Sub-Group**, which manages the Partnership's funding and resources in relation to both crime reduction and drug misuse, and **task groups** built around the three broad themes of young people, treatment and communities – the first two have a primary focus on drug and alcohol misuse, and the third a focus on crime and anti-social behaviour. These three task groups have a number of sub-groups working to them, details of which can be found in the Audit Report.

Swindon's Community Safety Partnership seeks to operate according to the following principles:

- *To work closely with the Swindon Strategic Partnership and to make sure that the community safety priorities reflect the overall priorities contained in the Swindon Community Strategy.*

- *To reflect the interests and experiences of local communities through regular consultation and two-way communication, and through participation in community area and neighbourhood-based planning processes.*
- *To pool the ideas and the resources of all the participating agencies to achieve a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.*
- *To use an 'audit-to-action' approach to reducing crime and drug & alcohol misuse, analysing problems before working out appropriate solutions, and ensuring that these solutions operate at a variety of levels and draw on the resources of many different organisations.*
- *To make clear who is responsible for seeing each planned activity through to a conclusion, for monitoring progress and for assessing whether the activity has had the desired results.*
- *To work with neighbouring partnerships, especially those in the administrative county of Wiltshire, where doing so makes a successful outcome more likely.*
- *To make sure that information on crime, anti-social behaviour and drug & alcohol misuse in the area is kept up-to-date, so that changes in the level, location and nature of crime, anti-social behaviour and drug & alcohol misuse are picked up and amendments made in strategic priorities in response to these changes.*

The Swindon Community Safety Partnership also recognises the need to take account of the many other strategies and plans which overlap with the aims and priorities of this Strategy in addition to the community strategy, including the Wiltshire Policing Plan; the Swindon Youth Justice Plan; the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board Local Action Plan; the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy; the Children & Young People's Strategy; and the Area Child Protection Plan. Equally importantly, account needs to be taken of the relevant national & local performance indicators and targets which will need to be measured and met over the next three years. The most significant as far as crime reduction and tackling drug misuse are concerned are the national Public Service Agreement (or 'PSA') targets which include:

Home Office PSA 1

- Reduce crime nationally by 15%¹, and further in high crime areas, between 2003/4 and 2007-8

Home Office PSA 2

- Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, and building confidence in the Criminal Justice System without compromising fairness

Home Office PSA 3

- Improve the delivery of justice by increasing the number of crimes for which an offender is brought to justice to 1.25 million by 2007-08

Home Office PSA 4

- Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs, including substantially increasing the number of drug-misusing offenders entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System.

Home Office PSA 6

- Increase voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion

In support of these targets, the Government is requiring community safety partnerships to give a high priority to confronting the behaviour of the very small percentage of the population who commit a substantial proportion of crime, through

¹ In Swindon, the crime reduction target is 17.5%.

the implementation of a Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Strategy. The Strategy has three strands:

- *Prevent and Deter*: Working at an early stage with those children and young people who are most at risk of becoming serious offenders
- *Catch and Convict*: Focusing detection and criminal justice resources on about 15-20 prolific offenders in each partnership area
- *Rehabilitate and Resettle*: Working intensively with prolific and other priority offenders, offering them multi-agency support to prevent their relapse into offending.

The Findings Of The Audit Of Crime, Drugs And Anti-Social Behaviour, Autumn 2004

While it is important to bear in mind the contents of related strategies & plans and the targets & expectations of central and local government, the Swindon Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy needs to be based above all else on the findings of the Audit of Crime, Drugs & Anti-Social Behaviour published in October 2004. The full audit report, covering Swindon and Wiltshire, can be found on the Police Authority website at http://www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk/pub_crmdrgaudit.asp. The report is a detailed document, but it includes a summary and a list of suggested priorities in Part 1 of the report (pages 1-30). The main findings as far as Swindon is concerned can be summarised as follows:

Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and the Fear of Crime

- Figures published in December 2004 indicated that Wiltshire and Swindon Police Force area had become the lowest crime area in the country.
- 18,449 crimes were recorded in Swindon in 2003/4, a 4.4% fall compared to 2002/3.
- Compared to fourteen similar local authority areas across the country, Swindon's overall crime rate was amongst the lowest throughout 2004.
- The total costs of crime in Swindon in 2003/4 were almost £60 million.
- Recorded violent crime fell by 7.7% between 2002/3 and 2003/4, in contrast to a national increase of 14%.
- The number of reported hate crimes and incidents fell from 327 in 2002/3 to 242 in 2003/4.
- The rate of domestic violence incidents reported to the police, at 13.5 per 1,000 residents, represented a drop of 7.5% compared to the year before, but remained at more than twice the rate of that in the administrative county of Wiltshire.
- Offences of violence against the person constituted just 16% of all offences in Swindon; but, because the overall costs to society of violent crime are much higher than those of other crimes, they accounted for 80% of the costs of all crime in the borough.
- The peak times for offences of violence, in the evenings and at weekends, suggest a strong link with alcohol misuse.
- Domestic burglaries increased by 12% between 2002/3 and 2003/4, and accounted for 7% of all offences.

- Other burglaries, for example of business premises, accounted for another 7% of all offences.
- Vehicle crimes fell by 7% and constituted 13% of all offences.
- The most numerous offence categories in Swindon in 2003/4 were theft & handling (5,163 offences, or 28% of the total) and criminal damage (3,660 offences, or 20% of the total).
- 941 fires were reported to Wiltshire Fire Brigade, occurring in the Borough of Swindon between October 2003 and September 2004 – almost half of them were assessed by the Fire Brigade as having been started deliberately.
- Reliable data on incidents of anti-social behaviour have only started to be produced since April 2004 – police figures show that weekend evenings are the peak times for anti-social behaviour and that nuisance and vehicle-related incidents top the list. Data held by Swindon Borough Council put ‘youths playing football’ as the most frequent cause of complaint, followed by harassment.
- There are wide geographical differences in the rates of crime between one electoral ward and another: the Swindon ward with the highest rate of total recorded crime in 2002/3 had a crime rate more than ten times higher than the ward with the lowest rate. Out of Swindon’s 22 wards, the two with the highest rates of crime accounted for almost one third of all recorded crime.
- Looking at the police force area of Wiltshire and Swindon as a whole, four of the ten wards with the highest rates of recorded crime in 2002/3 were in Swindon Borough, three in South Wiltshire, and one each in Kennet, West Wiltshire and North Wiltshire.
- In Swindon’s General Opinion Survey undertaken in the autumn of 2003, respondents ranked ‘a low level of crime’ as the most important thing, out of twenty options, in making somewhere a good place to live, and placed it top in the list of things that most needed improving.
- The same survey showed that twelve times as many people thought that levels of crime had risen in the previous three years as thought that they had fallen.
- 9% of respondents to a Swindon People’s Voice survey in August 2004 said that they felt unsafe or very unsafe in their home area during the day, and 42% felt unsafe or very unsafe after dark. A survey targeted at young people showed that 68% of them felt fairly unsafe or very unsafe after dark.
- Swindon People’s Voice respondents put supplying hard drugs and muggings/street robberies as the top crime priorities to tackle, and vandalism & graffiti and drink-related disorder as the most important types of anti-social behaviour to concentrate resources on.

Drug Misuse

- Although not formally part of the drug misuse audit, alcohol is seen as the drug which makes the biggest contribution to crime and anti-social behaviour in Swindon.
- 313 drug offences were recorded in Swindon in 2003/4, almost the same as the year before. It should be borne in mind that the level of recorded offences is as much a reflection of police activity as of the amount of drug use and dealing that is going on.

- Of the 67 Class A drug supply offences detected in 2003/4, 33 involved heroin, 18 crack cocaine and 12 ecstasy.
- All drug types are thought to be available locally, the main sources of supply being Bristol, Birmingham, London and Liverpool.
- 435 people accessed drug and alcohol treatment in Swindon in 2003/4, 43% of them identifying heroin as their main problem drug and 20% identifying cannabis. 323 people participated in a structured treatment programme.
- Out of the 294 people in treatment in July 2004, 125 were receiving counselling, 80 specialist prescribing, 31 GP prescribing, 6 day care and 52 some other intervention.
- Home Office estimates suggest that the rate of problematic drug users in Swindon per 100,000 population is between 404 and 688, placing the borough in the second lowest of five bands when comparing it to Drug and Alcohol Action Team areas across the country.
- Local estimates indicate that, between April and December 2003, there were 207 injecting drug users in Swindon.
- In a Swindon People's Voice survey undertaken in August 2004, 52% of respondents said that illegal drug supply was a big problem in nearly every part of Swindon, and another 43% agreed that it was a problem, but only in one or two parts of the borough.

SWINDON'S PRIORITIES FOR REDUCING CRIME, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND DRUG & ALCOHOL MISUSE

Achieving the Government's Crime Reduction Target

Taking account of the Government's Public Service Agreement target to reduce crime nationally by 15%, the Swindon Community Safety Partnerships has set itself the target of reducing those crimes which are included in the Government's calculation by a total of **17.5%** over the four-year period between 2003/4 and 2007/8. The crime types chosen by the Government to measure the achievement of this target are:

- Wounding
- Common assault
- Robbery
- Criminal damage
- Domestic burglary
- Theft from the person
- Theft of a vehicle
- Theft from a vehicle
- Vehicle interference & tampering
- Theft & unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle

These crime types are not necessarily priority crimes for the Swindon Community Safety Partnership to deal with: they have been selected by central Government because they relate most closely to the standard questions asked in the British Crime Survey – this survey will be used, at a national level, to measure the reduction of crime across the whole country between 2003/4 and 2007/8.

Reductions in these and other crime types will be achieved not only through initiatives directly targeted at these kinds of behaviour, but also through prioritising the **places** in which crimes of all sorts are most likely to occur; the **people** who are most likely to commit offences or behave anti-socially, or who are most at risk of doing so; and the people or organisations who are most likely to be the **victims** of crime and anti-social behaviour, whether once or repeatedly.

The need to achieve reductions in the offences included in the national PSA target should not, however, be allowed to deflect the attention of the Swindon Community Safety Partnership from the other kinds of behaviour identified in the Audit which are not fully reflected in the above categories: these include domestic violence, hate crime, arson and anti-social behaviour.

Swindon's Priority Themes

Following the publication of the Wiltshire and Swindon Audit of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Drug Misuse in October 2004 and the consultations which then took place on the audit's findings, four priority themes have been agreed by Swindon's community safety partners, built around the overall theme of '**Keeping Swindon Safe**'. The order in which the themes are laid out below does not imply a priority order; they need to be seen as a set of approaches which, by being worked on together, will complement and reinforce each other and make the achievement of the aims and targets set out in the Strategy more likely.

- **Reducing Violent Crime**
- **Reducing Victimisation**
- **Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Reducing Substance Misuse**

So, What of the Future?

The strategic priorities, aims and activities set out in the following pages, as well as taking account of national requirements, reflect the findings of an audit undertaken in 2004 and based in part on information that was, even at that stage, up to two years old. Problems of crime and drug misuse can change rapidly, in respect of the factors underlying offending and drug use; the places where crime and anti-social behaviour are most likely to occur; and especially the most prevalent types of criminal behaviour. A strategy to tackle crime and drug misuse which makes sense in April 2005 may well become outdated a year or two later. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 recognises that the requirement to produce a three year strategy does not mean that the strategy remains frozen in time for that period – the Act requires the responsible authorities to make any changes to the contents of the strategy that “appear necessary or expedient” in the light of changing circumstances.

The capacity of the Swindon Community Safety Partnership to keep the information contained in the audit up to date has increased greatly in the last year or two – the data to which they have access includes:

- the six monthly strategic assessments and fortnightly ‘tasking and co-ordinating meetings’ organised as part of the police’s National Intelligence Model
- the geographically mapped data produced by Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire County Council and Wiltshire Constabulary
- the detailed data on recorded crime published on a monthly basis on the Home Office’s ‘iQuanta’ website
- the quarterly reports produced under the Drug and Alcohol Action Team’s Performance Management Framework
- the day-to-day experience of partner agencies and community-based organisations involved in task groups, neighbourhood safety teams and so on.

The experience and views of the general public also play a vital role in ensuring that the work of the Community Safety Partnership reflects current concerns and harnesses community resources. Whether you are a local resident or business person, or work for a Swindon organisation in the statutory, voluntary or community sector, your contribution to reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and drug misuse will be welcomed. Contact details for key officers are as follows:

- **Swindon Borough Council:**
 - Crime & Disorder Manager – Tel: 01793 466510
 - Drug and Alcohol Action Team – Tel: 01793 466506
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator – Tel: 01793 466733
- **Wiltshire Constabulary:** Community Safety Inspector – 01793 528111
- **Wiltshire Police Authority:** Clerk to the Police Authority – Tel: 01380 734022
- **Wiltshire Fire Brigade:** Group Manager – 01793 401200
- **Swindon Primary Care Trust:** Public Health – 01793 708700
- **National Probation Service (Wiltshire Area):** 01225 781950

Reducing Violent Crime

Why is this a Priority?

Violent crimes have a unique capacity to cause physical, emotional and financial harm to victims, their families and their communities. Violent and sexual offences made up 17% of Swindon's recorded crimes in 2003/4, but accounted for over 80% of the costs of dealing with these crimes.

The 'People's Voice' survey 2004 identified street robberies/muggings and sex offences/assaults as being the 3rd and 4th most important issues to be tackled, and drink related disorder was rated 2nd as far as anti-social behaviour was concerned. It is evident that, whilst recorded crime is falling – by 5.5% in Swindon during 2004 – the fear of crime remains an important factor in people's lives.

Concerns about violent behaviour linked to alcohol and drug misuse have increased rapidly in recent years, especially in relation to night time drinking in town centres. The Licensing Act 2003, which is being implemented throughout the course of 2005, provides a platform for local authorities, the police, licensees and other partners to co-ordinate preventive, educational and enforcement measures to tackle this problem.

Violence and abuse in the home remains a largely hidden crime, and one which demands a partnership approach if victims are to be truly protected, perpetrators confronted, and the community as a whole helped to understand the extent of the problem and its damaging effects. There were 2,398 incidents of domestic violence between partners recorded by the police in Swindon in 2003/4. It is estimated that only 1 in 5 incidents are actually reported, implying that the true number of incidents in the borough is nearer to 12,000.

This Strategy will set out to deliver a number of measures to reduce violent crime over the next three years.

Our Aim:

To reduce violent crime, focusing on alcohol related disorder, domestic violence and sexual attacks.

Evidence of our Success will be:

- Increasing detections for violent crime to 53% by robustly dealing with offences linked to the night time and evening economy, using existing powers and sanctions and those provided under the Licensing Act 2003.
- The development and implementation of a comprehensive Alcohol Strategy.
- Reducing the incidence of repeat victims of domestic violence and abuse, currently at 21% in Swindon.
- Increased reporting of incidents of domestic violence, from the 2,394 incidents reported between April 2004 and February 2005.
- Provision of a Sexual Assaults Referral Centre ('SARC').
- Increased confidence amongst victims of crime, as monitored through satisfaction surveys.

Over the Coming Year we will:

- Negotiate effective multi agency licensing protocols.
- Develop a co-ordinated Alcohol Strategy.
- Ensure that resources are directed at working with offenders on community orders and upon release from prison convicted of offences of violence
- Reduce the number of under age sales of alcohol.
- Strengthen the existing police family, offering more visible reassurance to the public.
- Raise awareness among adults and young people of the unacceptable nature of domestic violence and its damaging effects.
- Through the Safer Swindon Shop, continue to provide effective crime prevention measures, advice and referrals.
- Work together through the Partnership towards zero tolerance towards violence.
- Implement a sound media strategy to inform and reassure Swindon's communities about the progress of partnership actions towards a safer Swindon and to reduce the fear of crime.

Over the Next Three Years we will:

- Implement the Licensing Act 2003 in a co-ordinated way, working with partners and businesses to support social responsibility in the drinks and entertainment industry.
- Educate children, young people and adults about responsible drinking, through the implementation of the Alcohol Strategy.
- Design out crime through effective use of CCTV and by creating safer and supportive environments.
- Increase the number of interventions for victims, offenders and children who experience domestic violence.
- Educate members of all agencies to better recognise indicators of domestic violence and offer support and appropriate referral to victims.
- Continue to improve investigative, forensic, medical and counselling provisions to victims of sexual assault through the provision of a Sexual Assaults Referral Centre.

For more information about this priority:

- Swindon Community Strategy 2004 - 2010
- Swindon Policing Plan 2005/6
- Licensing Act 2003
- Crime & Disorder Act 1998
- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- Wiltshire Fire Brigade Community Safety Programme 2005/6

Who will make this happen?

- Chief Executives and Chief Officers of all agencies involved in the Swindon Community Safety Partnership.

Reducing Victimisation

Why is this a Priority?

The British Crime Survey and 'fear of crime' surveys undertaken across Swindon have indicated a drop in confidence levels across all parts of the community, with the majority of respondents perceiving crime in their neighbourhood to be increasing. Whilst this may not be the reality, the key issue is that the perception that crime is increasing is held by an increasing number of Swindon residents. Living in a crime free community and being free from the fear of crime is important to every person in Swindon. This includes the impact of domestic violence and tackling bullying in schools. Without this, there cannot be absolute confidence in the ability of the Criminal Justice System to tackle crime, and Swindon residents will be afraid to walk the streets.

In recent years, the British Crime Survey has shown a narrowing of the gap between its outcomes and Home Office statistics provided by the police. The fear of crime is increasing despite recorded falls in the overall crime rate. In particular, burglary, violence and "hate crimes" are of particular concern to the community due to the impact of such crimes on their victims. At the same time, large amounts of criminal activity of an anti-social nature can have a disproportionate impact on those who reside in Swindon; it is therefore an absolute priority that members of the Swindon community feel free to go out about their business without the fear of victimisation or crime.

Aim:

To reduce the number of victims of crime in Swindon through targeting actions, interventions and resources where they are most needed.

Evidence of our Success will be:

- Increasing the Criminal Justice public confidence measure to 48%.
- Delivery on Home Office Aims 3 and 4:
 - Home Office Aim 3: To ensure the effective delivery of justice, avoiding unnecessary delay, through efficient investigation, detection, prosecution and court procedures. To minimise the threat to and intimidation of witnesses and to engage with and support victims.
 - Home Office Aim 4: To deliver effective custodial and community sentences to reduce re-offending and protect the public, through prison and probation services in partnership with the Youth Justice Board.
- Preventing, deterring, catching, convicting and rehabilitating Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs), as research shows that 10% of PPO offenders are responsible for up to 50% of all crime. The target is to reduce by 15% the crime committed by Prolific and Priority Offenders.
- A reduction in permanent and fixed term exclusions for those who are bullying other school pupils.
- Ensuring that Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are delivered effectively in Swindon, and that high-risk offenders are appropriately managed within the criminal justice system.
- Increasing the number of offences brought to justice by 5%, by 2007/8.
- Meeting the Persistent Young Offender Pledge, whereby persistent young offenders are brought to justice (from arrest to sentence) in under 71 days.

- Increasing the number of domestic violence cases brought to justice by 7%, by 2007/8.
- Ensuring that the victims of crime receive priority treatment through full implementation of the 'No Witness, No Justice' scheme.
- Meeting key performance targets in respect of the victims of crime, in particular:
 - National Probation Service targets which ensure that 85% of victims are contacted within eight weeks of the offender being sentenced in cases involving serious sexual or violent offending where the offender has received 12 months imprisonment or more.
- Meeting the range of Community Safety targets which safeguard the residents of Swindon, reduce re-offending rates, and lessen the fear of crime

Over the Coming Year we will:

- Implement the Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) Scheme as a multi-agency partnership, reporting on its effectiveness to the local community.
- Maintain a focus upon both drugs and crime in order to ensure that resources are being effectively targeted where the problems are most severe.
- Deliver on the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) 'Confidence' and 'Narrowing the Justice Gap' targets.
- Deliver on key community safety partnership targets, making results in respect of these targets available on the partnership website.
- Report on the effectiveness of the 'No Witness, No Justice' initiative and also publish Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board statistics in relation to the improving confidence in the Criminal Justice System.
- Publish specific evidence of success in respect of key targets to reduce drug misuse, vehicle crime, domestic burglary and violent crime in terms of increased detection rates.

Over the Next Three Years we will:

- Implement this Community Safety Partnership Strategy and its linked action plans.
- Develop a strategy which places alcohol and drugs misuse, reducing re-offending and preventing the next victim at the heart of the work of the partnership.
- Create a Safer Community through law enforcement, education, and social justice.
- Demonstrate that all members of the Swindon Community, not least those from minority groups, have a 'voice' in raising their needs in respect of reducing the risk of victimisation.
- Improve the experience of victims and witnesses in court through the introduction of a Witness Care Unit; tailoring court processes to deal better with victims with specific needs (e.g. victims of domestic violence); using technology to keep victims informed of the progress of their cases; and tackling witness intimidation in serious and organised crime cases.
- Ensure that resources are managed appropriately to meet the needs of this strategy and of the residents of Swindon.

For more Information about this Priority:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Swindon Community Strategy 2004-2010
- Children and Young People's Strategic Plan 2003-2006
- Swindon Policing Plan 2005/6
- Youth Justice Plan 2005/6
- Wiltshire Fire Brigade Community Safety Programme 2005/6

Who will make this Happen?

- Chief Executives and Chief Officers of all agencies involved in the Swindon Community Safety Partnership.

Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

Why is this a Priority?

Of the problems which can affect our communities, the issue of anti-social behaviour (ASB) has the greatest potential to blight all our lives, destroy families and ruin communities. Anti-social behaviour is never victimless, and too often the victims are the most vulnerable within our communities. These are often people who suffer in silence and whose quality of life is ruined by the thoughtless, inconsiderate and malicious actions of a few. The problem of anti-social behaviour has been highlighted in the Crime Audit 2004, where anti-social behaviour was identified as one of the main priorities. This also features as one of the four national policing priorities.

Aim:

To build on Swindon's good practice and work with responsible partners to reduce vandalism, litter, vehicle and fire related anti-social behaviour.

Evidence of our Success will be:

- A reduction in anti social behaviour in identified hot spot areas.
- A reduction of fly tipping incidents to promote cleaner and safer communities.
- A reduction in the number of nuisance motor cycling incidents reported.
- A reduction in the fear of crime and worries about crime.
- Raising the profile of enforcement in the street environment.
- Reducing deliberate fire setting.

Over the Coming Year, we will:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour using the full range of powers and measures available, as well as tackling the causes by working with key partners.
- Continue to utilise fly tipping signs in identified hot spot areas across the borough and ensure a response within 2 working days.
- Use newly acquired legislative powers to impact on waste related enviro-crime, in particular using provisions that allow the use of fixed penalty notices.
- Deliver clean streets and neighbourhoods by achieving 75% of street and land with A or B cleanliness levels in accordance with BVPI 199.
- Build on the successful 3-month trial of a free removal scheme for graffiti on private dwellings.
- Devise a screening process to identify the needs of young perpetrators as part of an early intervention measure to prevent anti-social behaviour.
- Enhance access to early intervention and diversionary activities to young people to encourage the prevention of further anti-social behaviour.
- Work with partners to establish effective approaches in developing operation 'Gate it Project' by using physical barriers to restrict access by motorcycles.
- Promote the use of fear of crime surveys where positive actions have been taken across the borough.
- In partnership tackle fire related anti-social behaviour.

Over the Next Three Years, we will:

- Develop a focused parenting support scheme to provide a structured programme for those families engaged in anti-social behaviour.
- Work with partners to utilise parenting orders for those families who fail to engage with the relevant help and support offered.
- Roll out the Together Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour 'It's Your Call' reporting line in Swindon by providing a 9 to 5 weekday service to the community.
- Clear all fly tipped waste on relevant land within 2 working days, target 95%.
- Deliver clean streets and neighbourhoods by achieving 85% of street and land with A or B cleanliness levels in accordance with BVPI 199.
- Develop new indicators in response to improvements in the national reporting mechanisms with regard to graffiti, fly tipping and fly posting
- Adopt a coordinated partnership approach in tackling nuisance motor cycling by using education, enforcement and physical changes to the environment.
- Carry out periodic fear of crime surveys in identified action areas.
- Adopt the Anti Social Behaviour protocol to unite all relevant agencies in identifying anti-social behaviour hotspots and providing a robust partnership intervention, using legal powers and diversionary tactics as necessary.
- Work towards the following target: "By 2010 reduce the number of deliberate fires by 10% based on the 2001/2002 figures".

For more Information about this Priority:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Swindon Community Strategy 2004-2010
- Children and Young People Strategic Plan 2003-2006
- Swindon Policing Plan 2005/6
- Youth Justice Plan 2005/6
- Wiltshire Fire Brigade Community Safety Programme 2005/6.

Who will make this Happen?

- Chief Executives and Chief Officers of all agencies involved in the Swindon Community Safety Partnership.

To reduce substance misuse, with a focus on reducing the harm drug misuse causes to individuals, families and communities.

Why is this a Priority?

The problems of drug misuse are complex and require integrated solutions and co-ordinated service delivery, involving prevention, education and harm reduction, treatment, and enforcement. Drug misuse impacts on individuals, families and communities in health, social and economic activity, and can only be tackled by involving drug users, carers and communities, education, treatment and enforcement agencies in a partnership to plan and deliver health and social benefits, whilst reducing the availability of and demand for drugs. The National Drug Strategy has set challenging targets in all these areas, to engage partnerships and communities in tackling the drug issues that affect them most. In addition, the developing Alcohol Strategy has a requirement for planning future treatment provision for those alcohol users whose drinking is having a damaging impact on their health and social functioning.

Our Aims:

- **To work with partners to reduce the availability of Class A drugs in the community**
- **To increase the numbers of drug users accessing and successfully completing drug treatment programmes, whilst reducing waiting times for treatment and expanding the drug treatment workforce.**
- **To ensure that support and treatment is available for all drug users in the criminal justice system.**
- **To provide drug education, appropriate to age and understanding, for all young people, whether in school or other settings; early intervention for those most vulnerable; and treatment for young people who have begun to develop drug problems.**
- **To engage communities in looking at and creating the solutions to drug misuse problems that will be most effective for their local area.**
- **In conjunction with partners in licensing, to consider a range of strategies to reduce alcohol misuse, and plan treatment provision for the future.**

Evidence of our Success will be:

- Increasing the numbers of drug supply offences brought to justice.
- Increasing the number of drug users in treatment by 10% year on year.
- Increasing the proportion of drug users who complete treatment programmes or remain in them for more than 12 weeks by 6% year on year.
- Reducing waiting times to no more than 2 weeks for any type of drug treatment.
- 100% of drug using arrestees assessed for and offered drug treatment prior to or as part of their sentence by 2008, thereby reducing drug-related re-offending.
- By 2008, all schools to have achieved Level 3 of the National Healthy Schools Standard, which will provide drug education to all school attendees.
- By 2008, over 90% of young people on the Youth Offending Team caseload, attending the Pupil Referral Unit, or Looked After by the Local Authority will receive targeted education, prevention and early intervention to reduce their risk of drug misuse.

- Increases of 10% year on year in the provision of drug treatment to young people who have developed problems.
- Provision of a coordinated, identifiable and comprehensive Young People's Substance Misuse Service by April 2008.
- Increases of 10% year on year in the numbers of people from the community who have a say in planning and delivering the local drug strategy.
- A comprehensive and integrated Alcohol Strategy identifying approaches to licensing, reducing alcohol misuse and its consequences, treatment provision and other issues.

Over the Coming Year we will:

- Work with partners to disrupt the supply of Class A drugs by impacting on all points in the supply chain, at street-level and middle-market level.
- Increase the number of drug users in treatment programmes to 546, of whom over 50% will remain in treatment for 12 weeks or successfully complete a treatment programme.
- Reduce waiting times for drug treatment to an average of 3 weeks, and increase the drug treatment workforce in Swindon from 50 to 55 staff.
- Implement the integrated Criminal Justice Drug Interventions Project/ Prolific and Priority Offenders Project, and provide at least 82 dedicated treatment places for drug users subject to a Court Drug Rehabilitation Requirement or Drug Testing and Treatment Order.
- Support schools in their progress towards Level 3 of the National Healthy Schools Standard, with a target of 64 schools achieving it in 2005/06.
- Develop and implement a coordinated approach to targeted education, prevention and early intervention for young people on the YOT caseload, in Pupil Referral Units, and Looked After by the Local Authority.
- Provide a structured treatment intervention for at least 31 young people identified as having a need for drug treatment, with plans in place to provide more treatment places should they be needed.
- Encourage and support 1650 volunteers, service users and residents to have a say in the planning, development and delivery of the National Drug Strategy in Swindon.

Over the Next Three Years we will:

- Develop a Partnership approach to reducing drug supply, ensuring that drug users affected by drugs being removed from the market will be able to access immediate support from treatment services.
- Make available up to 645 drug treatment places per year, with priority for immediate treatment being given to those who pose most risk to themselves or the community, with non-priority cases having to wait no more than 2 weeks to access a treatment programme.
- Achieve a universal education and prevention approach to substance use/misuse within formal education settings, evidenced by 100% of schools having Level 3 of the National Healthy Schools Standard.
- Ensure a coordinated approach to protecting vulnerable young people, evidenced by all young people on Youth Offending Service caseloads or attending Pupil Referral Units and 90% of young people Looked After by the Local Authority receiving targeted interventions.
- Provide easy access treatment services for under 18s including comprehensive assessment, harm reduction, structured counselling, community detoxification, family work and access to specialist in-patient treatment either in

or out of the partnership area, increasing the overall number of treatment places for young people by 10% year on year.

- By involving residents, service users and volunteers in planning and delivering services, those services will be more effective and targeted where they are most needed. We will therefore involve up to 2000 people from the community who will have a say in planning and delivering the local drug strategy.
- Implement a partnership approach to reducing alcohol misuse and, once the National Service Framework “Models of Care for Alcohol Treatment” is published, enhance existing services to better meet the needs of those who have developed alcohol problems.

For more Information about this Priority:

- National Drug Strategy “Tackling Drugs” – Home Office.
- “Models of Care for Treatment of Adult Drug Misusers” – Department of Health.
- “The Substance of Young Needs” – Health Advisory Service.

Who will make this Happen?

- Chief Executives and Chief Officers of all agencies involved in the Swindon Community Safety Partnership.