

Drugs and alcohol: from page 4

of alcohol to prevent problems and additionally to signpost services where necessary. The partnership recognises the need to work with other organisations to better identify and treat alcohol misuse.

Violence, including domestic violence

Domestic violence: Domestic violence is a category of violent crime and has been a priority for the CSP over a number of years. The partnership has given financial support to a programme run by the probation service to reduce the number of repeat victims. The Butterfly Centre continues to operate a multi-agency service to support victims of domestic abuse.

A recent report has examined alcohol and licensed premises-related violent offences. The study showed that South Northants had the lowest incidence of violent offences related to licensed premises compared to other districts in the county. South Northants has the highest number of licensed premises per 1,000 population (1.8).

Partnership development and community involvement

There is an increasing drive from communities and parish councils to resolve local problems themselves engaging the support and advice of the Council and the Police. The partnership very much welcomes local initiatives to address community safety issues.

Addressing the fear of crime and the fear of antisocial behaviour has been an issue for South Northamptonshire over recent years as surveys have consistently shown that the fear is greater (compared to other areas) than the reality of crime. Improving the use and availability of reliable information is part of this, distributing meaningful information to the public and encouraging involvement of parishes and the public in schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch can also impact on the levels of knowledge and the fear of crime.

Many residents said that they would like to see an increased provision of activities for young people, recognising the access and transport problems for young people in a rural area. This is something that the Community Safety Partnership is addressing through Project 5 – provision of sports, arts and recreational opportunities and resourcing premises for young people to get together safely and with support from the youth service and Council leisure services.

The partnership uses media and publicity opportunities as proactively as possible to promote successes in reducing crime and 'good news' stories about communities helping themselves. It runs advice and information campaigns, highlights the low crime nature of communities to reduce the fear of crime and promotes the positive initiatives by young people.

This partnership includes the Police, SNC, NCC, PCTs, Probation Services, the Voluntary Sector and many other organisations.

If you want a large-print version or further copies of this leaflet, please contact 0845 230 0226

Useful numbers

Antisocial Behaviour (Police)	01327 300300
(South Northamptonshire Council)	0845 230 0226
Crime Prevention	01327 300300
Police: emergency	999
non-emergency	01327 300300
Crime Stoppers	0800 555111
Rape and Incest Crime Centre	01604 250721
Off the Hook (drug/alcohol abuse)	01604 259178
Solve IT (solvent abuse)	01536 420604
RE-SOLV (solvent abuse)	0808 800 2345
CAN (drug/alcohol service)	01327 701674, 01604 622121
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
Al-Anon (support for families with alcohol problems)	0207 403 0888
Aquarius (drug/alcohol counselling)	01604 632421
Housing advice	01327 322383
Road maintenance	0845 6011113
Abandoned vehicles	08456 121999
Trading Standards advice	01604 707900
South Northants Volunteer Bureau	01327 358264
Connexions	01327 359080
Youth Service	01327 356004
South Northamptonshire Council	01327 322322
Quitline (smoking helpline)	0800 002200
NHS Direct	0845 4647
National Aids Helpline	0800 567123
Community Access and Language Service	01604 601817
Home Start	08000 686368
Neighbourhood Watch	01327 303024
Probation Service	01604 658000
Fire Service	01604 797000
Northampton Women's Aid	01604 639099
Milton Keynes Women's Aid	01908 271900
Samaritans	01604 637637
Relate	01604 634400
Citizens' Advice	01327 706464
NSPCC	01933 223920
Victim Support	01327 701650
Social Services (adult)	01327 313200
(child and mental health)	01327 300567
Family Mediation	01604 636651
Time 2 Talk	01327 706706
Childline	0800 1111
Northampton Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance	01604 628986
Domestic Abuse (Police Special Crimes Unit)	01327 303022
Marriage Care	0800 389 3801
Same Sex Domestic Abuse	01604 628986
MuslimLine	0208 840 4840
Children's Confidence Group (NCH)	01327 705063
Rights for Women	0207 251 6577

South Northamptonshire Community Safety Strategy



2005–2008

Introduction

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has agreed the following objectives for 2005–2008:

To reduce:

- Domestic burglary;
- Vehicle crime;
- Accidental fires, arson and hoax calls;
- Criminal damage;
- Antisocial behaviour;
- Drug and alcohol-misuse through addressing issues of treatment, reducing supply, providing services for young people and working with communities;
- Violence, including domestic violence and, in particular, repeat victimisation;

We also aim to improve partnership performance and the availability of information, and reduce the perception and fear of crime.

This strategy document was developed from an audit and consultation with stakeholder organisations and communities.

The objectives take account of the national, regional and countywide crime reduction targets.

South Northamptonshire

South Northamptonshire has a population of 82,600 (mid-2003) in a rural setting with approximately 100 villages and two urban centres – Brackley (13,300) and Towcester (8,900).

To the south and west, the district borders Milton Keynes and Banbury; to the north, it borders Northampton. The M1 motorway runs along the eastern edge and the M1–M40 link (A43) along the southern edge of the district. Both of these routes provide rapid access to most areas of the country. This has implications for the mobility of offenders and crime levels in the area.

Latest population projections show a 10 per cent increase in population by 2010. The population growth, in particular around Towcester, and the growth within Northampton and Milton Keynes, will bring pressures on infrastructure and service provision and, potentially, the levels of crime and criminality. The key agencies are working with the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation to address these issues.

Crime and Disorder Audit 2004–5

Overall picture: In summary, the crime level in the district over the last 2½ years has remained fairly constant, however, there are seasonal variations and fluctuations in the levels and rates.

Overall the picture shows an improving level of crime reduction in a number of geographical areas and crime types. However, in some areas there has been a consistent increase in reported nuisance and antisocial behaviour.

South Northamptonshire is a very low crime area with only 6 per cent of all crime recorded in the county (12.5 per cent of the

population) and also has the lowest incidence of crime (13 crimes per 1,000 population) in the county.

Burglary

Domestic burglary accounts for 8 per cent of recorded crime. 2004/5 saw a decrease of 8 per cent in the number of homes which have been burgled, mainly as a result of targeted work on distraction burglaries. Distraction burglary – where an offender gains access to a domestic property under false pretences – has recently become a significant problem, and is most often targeted at residents aged over 70 years.

The Community Safety partners are contributing to the voluntary sector-led Safe 'n' Sound project, which is providing crime prevention, fire safety, energy conservation and affordable warmth advice to vulnerable people in their homes. This project has additional external sources and will be expanded to include further types of advice, prevention and medicine-management, and to cover additional villages.

The partnership has developed a strategy to identify the most prolific offenders in the area and to put in place the measures for those individuals to prevent re-offending.

Vehicle crime

During 2004/5 there were 457 thefts from cars and 217 thefts of vehicles recorded, unchanged on the previous year when a 10 per cent decrease was achieved through a reduction in the number of thefts of vehicles. There is a strong link between the thefts of cars and malicious fires of abandoned vehicles, requiring the attendance of the fire service. Other measures, such as mobile CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition, are also used to prevent and detect burglaries and vehicle crime.

Fire safety

The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, through partnership working, aims to reduce accidental fires by improving fire safety in homes and businesses; to reduce the incidence of arson, which accounts for 30 per cent of all fires within Northamptonshire; and to reduce the few, but nevertheless problematic, hoax calls. There is a countywide scheme to deal with abandoned vehicles as promptly as possible to reduce the risk of arson.

Criminal damage and antisocial behaviour

Criminal damage: During 2004/5 there were 789 offences recorded, a decrease of 14 per cent over the previous year. Of these, 46 per cent were damage to vehicles. The reduction is the result of a targeted operation by the police, following a significant rise in the previous year.

Antisocial behaviour: Recorded incidents of antisocial behaviour have increased over the past three years with 3,160 recorded during 2004/5, these include environmental crimes such as dog-fouling and

fly-tipping. The partnership is committed to addressing antisocial behaviour, through targeted activities such as the use of Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABAs), dispersal orders, fixed penalties and other measures to prevent recurrences.

Other organisations, for example education and social services, probation and the youth offending team, are working with adults and young people repeatedly involved in antisocial behaviour. We will also continue to use and promote the national TOGETHER programme to improve our response to antisocial behaviour.

Additionally there is recognition that working with communities to promote positive behaviour and to provide facilities and activities for young people can reduce the risks of young people being either victims or perpetrators of antisocial behaviour and crime.

There are a number of 'clubs' recently established, as premises have become available where young people can get together. In some cases the young people run the schemes themselves.

Drugs and alcohol

Drugs: There are a number of key objectives for the Northamptonshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team from the National Drugs Strategy.

- Preventing young people from using drugs by providing education and support – targeting the most dangerous drugs, patterns of drug misuse and the most vulnerable young people;
- Reducing the prevalence of drugs on our streets – tackling supply at all levels from international traffickers to regional drug barons and drug dealers. An increased emphasis will be placed on intelligence-sharing and effective policing and confiscating the proceeds of drug trafficking;
- Reducing drug-related crime – providing support to drug misusers and communities most in danger of being destroyed by drugs; working together to create stable, secure, crime-free lives and neighbourhoods and taking every opportunity within the criminal justice system and within the community to refer people into treatment;
- Reducing the demand for drugs by reducing the number of problematic drug-users, i.e. those individuals who already have serious drug problems; providing effective treatment and rehabilitation to break the cycle of addiction while minimising the harm drugs can cause.

Alcohol: From the National and the Northamptonshire Alcohol Harm Strategies, and from local crime data and anecdotal information, it is clear that alcohol-related problems are an issue for this area.

The impact can be seen in terms of health, antisocial behaviour, crime, workplace problems, domestic violence and abuse, family problems, divorce, separation and homelessness.

The National Alcohol Harm Strategy focuses on the problems associated with chronic drinking and binge drinking.

The work of the partnership to date has been around education and awareness-raising with young people and adults about the effects