

CRIME AND DISORDER PANEL - 19 MARCH 2002  
CABINET – 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002

## DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2002 - 2005

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1988 states that Local Authorities must take the lead with local Police Forces in the fight against crime and disorder. It states that Community Safety/Crime and Disorder Partnerships must audit the crime and disorder levels in their area, identify priorities to be addressed and then consult with interested stakeholders and the local community to see if they are representing the views of the area. Based on the feedback from this consultation a three-year strategy is to be produced by the Partnership that is monitored and evaluated throughout that period. This process is repeated every three years.
- 1.2 At the last meeting of the Crime and Disorder review panel, feedback on the results of the crime and disorder audit was requested. This report describes the results of the consultation.
- # 1.3 The attached document is the draft Community Safety Strategy for the New Forest Community Safety Partnership and follows a consultation process involving residents' surveys, focus groups, agency statistics as well as visits to stakeholder groups.
- 1.4 This strategy needs to be endorsed by the Community Safety Partnership, but also by the Council as the lead on this Partnership.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Overall the aim of the strategy will be to:
  - a. Reduce crime and disorder
  - b. Reduce the fear of crime
  - c. Improve community awareness of crime and disorder, the effects of anti-social behaviour and the importance of communities and individuals taking personal responsibility.

It is intended that all members of the Community Safety Partnership will share responsibility for achieving each of the priority objectives.

- 2.2 Emerging priorities.

A Crime and Disorder Audit was completed listing statistics, survey findings and focus group work that aimed to identify a number of priorities for the Community Safety Partnership. These were:

1. Dealing effectively with criminal damage
2. Tackling anti social behaviour
3. Reducing car crime
4. Supporting young people in the New Forest
5. Reducing the fear of crime
6. Increasing road safety
7. Dealing effectively with domestic violence and hate crime
8. Reducing the impact of drug and alcohol related crime

2.3 The Government also produced a Crime Reduction Strategy in 1999 that is set to last five years. This Strategy identified seven key areas:

1. Achieving maximum impacts through the work of the police and local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.
2. Tackling burglary and property crime.
3. Tackling vehicle crime to meet the national target of a 30% reduction by 2004.
4. Dealing with disorder and antisocial behaviour.
5. Youth justice and dealing with young offenders.
6. Dealing with adult offenders including the criminal justice system.
7. Helping victims and witnesses.

The draft Community Safety Strategy aims to take account of these ministerial priorities, where appropriate, for the New Forest.

2.4 A number of achievements have been made since the first Community Safety Strategy. These are in the targeted areas of Young People, Community Issues and Violence and Intimidation. Pages 3,4 and 5 of the draft strategy list some of the achievements over the lifespan of the first Community Safety Strategy.

### **3. CONSULTATION**

3.1 The Crime and Disorder Audit Report was sent to a wide range of groups and organisations as suggested in the Crime and Disorder Act Guidance. A list of these can be found in Appendix 3 of the Strategy. The feedback from this process allowed the Partnership to prioritise the activities for the coming three years.

3.2 Overall the consultation respondents agreed that those areas of activities listed in the Crime and Disorder Audit Report accurately reflected the views of those that live, work and visit the New Forest. They also ranked those draft priorities in order of importance to them. The results show that dealing with anti-social behaviour was of key concern. This was followed in rank order by:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Youth Issues
- Criminal Damage
- Drug and Alcohol Related Crime
- Domestic Violence and Hate Crime
- Car Crime
- Fear of Crime
- Road Safety

- 3.3 Although the consultation on the priorities is still ongoing early reports indicate that 100% of respondents agree with the key priorities and that 100% of the respondents believe they reflect the needs/views of those who live, work and visit the New Forest. However a number of other suggestions were put forward by the respondents such as tackling burglary, unsolicited callers, lack of lighting in certain areas, lack of police manning levels, theft from buildings that are unoccupied.
- 3.3 The crime and disorder review panel were asked specifically for their responses. Seven completed forms were received, all seven of which agreed with the priorities identified and that they reflected the views of the community. The areas that came out as highest priorities were violent crime, anti-social behaviour and youth issues were all ranked first. A number of comments concerned; involving socially excluded groups, encouraging parish and town councils to become more involved in youth issues, repossession orders for those that damage council property and thefts from unoccupied buildings.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The aim of the strategy is to reduce crime and disorder and the fear of crime, the physical environment can have a large impact on this. A number of the priorities set out in the strategy aim to deal effectively with vandalism and graffiti.

#### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 In order to successfully implement the community safety strategy there will be a cost. The Community Safety Partnership is currently investigating the possibility of a pooled budget. Commitment has been given from NFDC and Hampshire Constabulary (£15,000) and the chair of the partnership is in discussion with Hampshire County Council.
- 5.2 Government Office for the South East have also made available two funding streams to the partnership in terms of the Communities Against Drugs Initiative and the Partnership Development Fund which will be used to implement the strategy.

#### **6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The aim of the community safety strategy is to reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime in the New Forest District.

#### **7. COMMENTS OF CRIME AND DISORDER REVIEW PANEL**

- 7.1 The Crime and Disorder Review Panel discussed the Strategy at their meeting on 19 March and supported the proposed Strategy document. They asked that the Cabinet should review the wording of the second paragraph Appendix 2 of the Strategy to reflect the position with respect to coverage of the Crime and Disorder Portfolio, at that time. They also asked for consideration to be given to changing the statistical basis of one of the summary maps from crime incidents per parish, to crime incidents

per 1000 head of population within each parish. The Panel concurred with the view that the aims of the Strategy should be more refined by the exclusion of the one relating to the improvement in quality of life of residents and visitors. This was accepted as being one of the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 That the Cabinet approve the Community Safety Strategy.

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### **Background Papers:**

Crime and Disorder Audit 2002  
Draft Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005  
Government's Crime Reduction Strategy

# Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005.

## **Foreword**

By Cllr Simon Hayes (to be confirmed).

We are happy to introduce the second Community Safety Strategy for the New Forest and hope that this achieves as much success as the last. This document sets out the problems and how we intend to tackle them. It covers not only crime such as car theft and violence, but also anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime, as these can have just as much of an impact on our quality of life.

Over the last three years we have seen a reduction in our levels of crime, but there remains more lot to do. The crime and disorder figures clearly show that the New Forest is a safe place to live, work and visit, but we intend to make it safer still. This is the responsibility of not just the police, the Council and it's partners, but also you the community. We can achieve our aims with your involvement and support.

You have helped us decide what we need to tackle next by helping us to identify a number of priorities through the audit and we hope that you will be involved in helping us over the coming three years to reduce our levels of crime and disorder further.

## **1. Executive Summary**

The overall aim of this strategy will be to:

- Reduce crime and disorder.
- Reduce the fear of crime.
- Improve community awareness of crime and disorder, the effects of anti-social behaviour and the importance of communities and individuals taking personal responsibility.

It is intended that all members of the Community Safety Partnership (listed in appendix one) will share responsibility for achieving each of the priority objectives. The partnership agencies will all use elements of their mainstream resources to implement the strategy.

### The First Community Safety Strategy.

The first community safety strategy (1999-2002) saw an overall reduction in most crime categories (8.8%) as well as in the fear of crime. The first strategy looked at the areas of youth issues, community issues and violence and intimidation. A number of projects from the last couple of years will carry on over a few years and so will be included in the forthcoming strategy. For example CCTV, and the role of Acceptable Behaviour Contract co-ordinator.

### Crime and Disorder audit.

From June to November 2001 an audit of crime and disorder across the New Forest was conducted. This involved collecting a range of information from all the partner agencies as well as focus groups. The summary document of all this research is available through the New Forest District Council's Community Safety Officer or on the Council's website. [www.nfdc.gov.uk](http://www.nfdc.gov.uk) . An extensive resident's survey was also completed with overwhelming results stating:

94.7% agreed with the statement 'Overall the New Forest is a good place to live'.  
90.6% agreed with the statement 'I feel I live in a relatively safe area of the New Forest'.

### Consultation.

The summary document was then used as a consultation tool to identify the main priorities for action over the coming three years. Various areas of concern seemed to emerge clearly from the audit, but the partnership needed to confirm these by seeking the views of the community, young people, older persons, tenants as well as hard to reach groups.

The emerging priorities identified by the partnership from the crime and disorder audit were:

- Dealing effectively with Criminal Damage.
- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour.
- Reducing Car crime.
- Supporting Young People in the New Forest.
- Reducing the Fear of Crime.
- Increasing Road Safety.
- Dealing effectively with Domestic Violence and Hate Crime.
- Reducing the impact of drug and alcohol related crime.

Overall the consultation respondents agreed with those areas of activity listed by the partnership and 100% of the respondents felt that they accurately reflected the views of those who live, work and visit the New Forest.

### **Operation Resolution. (Case study box)**

New Milton saw a reduction in nuisance crime of 40% in April 2001 when the first Operation Resolution was launched. High visibility policing and immediate removal of graffiti by the council (where possible) led to this significant drop in the figures. The project involved a number of agencies, including the school to link up with truancy problems. Although no truancy was discovered, the local young population were certainly aware of the increased policing on the streets. The scheme was not targeted at young people, but at anyone caught up in anti-social behaviour. The idea has been adopted a number of times across the New Forest since April 2001 and has shown success wherever it has been.

## **2. Introduction.**

This strategy has been prepared by the New Forest Community Safety Partnership in response to the responsibilities set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act states that local councils and the Police must work together to produce a strategy to tackle the issues raised during a crime and disorder audit. It will shift the balance of power from the anti-social and criminal to the law-abiding majority. It will put the victim first and ensure that offenders understand that even so-called petty crime has a victim. It will help to re-build community life and tackle social exclusion.

The strategy covers the New Forest District Council area for a 3-year period commencing April 2002. It follows and builds upon three extensive crime and disorder audits, in 1996, 1998 and 2001. This document sets out the overall aim of the Partnership, more specific details on the targets, monitoring and evaluation, and how the strategy will be financed can be found in the yearly action plans. These are available from any of the Partners listed in Appendix one.

In support of the multi agency approach for dealing with local crime, disorder and nuisance, the Community Safety Strategy partnership comprises senior representatives from the key agencies covering the New Forest.

### **3. National influence.**

#### About the Government's Crime Reduction Strategy

This was published at the end of 1999 and is set to last for 5 years. It identified 7 key areas:<sup>1</sup>

1. How we can achieve the maximum impact through the work of the police and local crime and disorder reduction partnerships.
2. Tackling burglary and property crime, including breaking the vicious circle of drug addiction and property crime;
3. Tackling vehicle crime to meet a national target of 30% reduction by 2004.
4. Dealing with disorder and antisocial behaviour.
5. Youth Justice and dealing with young offenders;
6. Dealing with adult offenders, and improving the criminal justice system;
7. Helping victims and witnesses.

The Crime Reduction Strategy has simple, practical ambitions: to build a safer and more responsible society to make a real difference to the quality of life of people in the community. It strives to restore the self-confidence of communities and to demand decent standards of public behaviour from everyone.

### **4. Since the last strategy.**

Over the past 3 years the community safety partnership has been working hard to improve community safety and reduce the fear of crime in the New Forest.

Three key areas were targeted.

1. Young people.
2. Community Issues.
3. Violence and Intimidation.

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<sup>1</sup> The Government's Crime Reduction Strategy. November 1999. [www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

In addition to this we also set ourselves our target of improving the way the partnership works together to ensure the next strategy would be even better.

### Young People

The partnership realises tackling the causes of crime is the most effective way to reduce crime in the long term. Therefore a lot of activity was targeted at young people to ensure they become responsible citizens in future years. Some examples are:

Exploring ways to improve relations between young people and the police. This has been achieved through the introduction of SNAP (Say No And Phone) Crime stoppers dance nights on the Waterside where young people and the Police work together in a safe and drug/alcohol free environment. Also a football project in Ringwood whereby young people have something to do on Friday nights has shown a marked improvement not only in terms of a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre but also in the contact and positive relationships with the local police. For example on Friday nights for the period 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 00 to 1<sup>st</sup> July 00 Ringwood section had **103** incidents of Crime and Disorder, these included assaults, criminal damage, public order and drugs offences. For the same period in 2001 the figure is down to **65** for the same offences. A number of rural transport opportunities have been provided for young people including voucher schemes that have had an impact on general nuisance levels and the social exclusion suffered by young people, in the areas in which they operate.

### Community Issues

The partnership also realised it had to tackle the crime and disorder related quality of life issues that affected people now. To do this a protocol for issuing Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) was designed. This aims to tackle the behaviour of an individual or family who are causing a very real nuisance, through harassment and intimidation to those around them. ASBOs are very complex so the partnership have also designed an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABCs) which aims to tackle nuisance behaviour before it gets bad enough for an ASBO. A number of ABCs have already been issued; they are currently being monitored and already are having a positive effect.

A car crime initiative (Operation Scorpion) has also shown a marked reduction in car crime in the areas targeted. For the year prior to Operation Scorpion (27/03/1999-26/03/2000) there were **392** thefts from unattended motor vehicles in rural car parks around the New Forest. For the same period 2000-2001 this had reduced to **262**. It has to be said however that for a good part of 2001 the car parks have been closed due to the foot and mouth outbreak. To help to reduce the fear of crime, a dedicated page in every issue of Forest News has been developed to inform the community on the positive work, and its effects, of the partnership.

### Violence and Intimidation

A lot of positive work has come out of the Domestic Violence Forum over the last three years. A domestic violence co-ordinator has been appointed by the partnership pooling together some of its funds. This post has had a dramatic effect on the quality of life of victims enabling them to access help and support at times when they are at their most vulnerable. Increased awareness of the domestic violence co-ordinator role has meant a greater number of victims now feel able to access help and support at an earlier stage than they would have thought of before. Dissemination of leaflets, posters and domestic



violence issues training within the community has aided this process and enabled the building of working professional relationships with other agencies. With a multi agency approach including health, social services, housing etc vulnerable families can be identified and offered help and assistance before the situation reaches crisis point. Therefore helping to reduce the traumatic effect on the family unit as a whole. The Domestic Violence Co-ordinator has also introduced safe call mobile phones and link line alarms to offer emergency help to vulnerable victims.

### Future Years Planning

Behind the scenes the partnership has been working hard at improving how we deliver community safety. We are now better at sharing our information to ensure we can have more of an impact on our community and have begun to map out our areas of concern across the Forest. This way we can make sure we put the most effort into where the problems really are. This way our funds can be stretched further and yet we can have more of an impact on our community.

## **5. Audit process**

From June to November 2001 an audit of crime and disorder across the New Forest was conducted. This involved collecting a range of information from all the partner agencies as well as focus groups. The summary document of all this research is available through the New Forest District Council's Community Safety Officer or on the Council's website. [www.nfdc.gov.uk](http://www.nfdc.gov.uk)

The Partnership commissioned independent consultants to assist with carrying out the audit, especially investigating the views of the community through a residents survey and a gay and lesbian focus group. Information was also gathered through youth surveys, older person focus groups, the Citizens panel and CCTV street surveys.

This was combined with information from:

- The police: recorded crime and non-crime statistics.
- New Forest District Council: nuisance calls to Housing and Environmental Health, vandalism to public areas, crime in recreation centres, public surveys, trader's survey.
- Hampshire County Council: social services information on children and older people, road safety information, education statistics, youth surveys.
- Hampshire Probation Service: offender information.
- Youth Offending Team: characteristics of young offenders.
- Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service: information on arson and hoax calls.
- The Health Service: information on drug/alcohol abuse and Accident and Emergency admissions.

The summary document was then used as a consultation tool to identify the main priorities for action over the coming three years. Various areas of concern seemed to

emerge clearly from the audit, but the partnership needed to confirm these by seeking the views of the community, young people, older persons, tenants as well as hard to reach groups.

Overall the respondents agreed with the emerging priorities identified by the partnership from the audit.

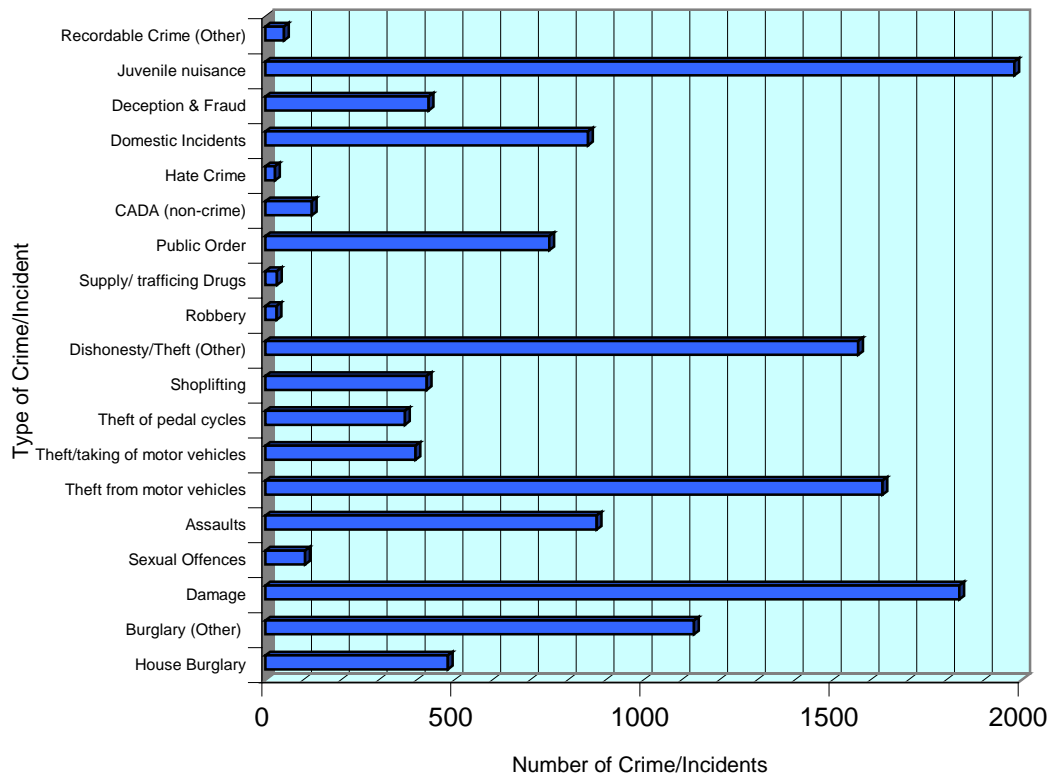
The priorities the Partnership wish to tackle are as follows:

- Dealing effectively with Criminal Damage (reducing the cost and incidence of graffiti, vandalism and arson).
- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour especially as it can shatter communities and destroy lives.
- Reducing Car crime.
- Supporting Young People in the New Forest (a large issue which covers youth diversion, offending and victimisation).
- Reducing the Fear of Crime (to improve the quality of life of our community).
- Increasing Road Safety (especially tackling the New Forest's high child casualty rate).
- Dealing effectively with Domestic Violence and Hate Crime (by reducing repeat victimisation and increasing reporting mechanisms).
- Reducing the impact of drug and alcohol related crime (to reduce the use of and minimise the harm caused by abusing drugs and alcohol).

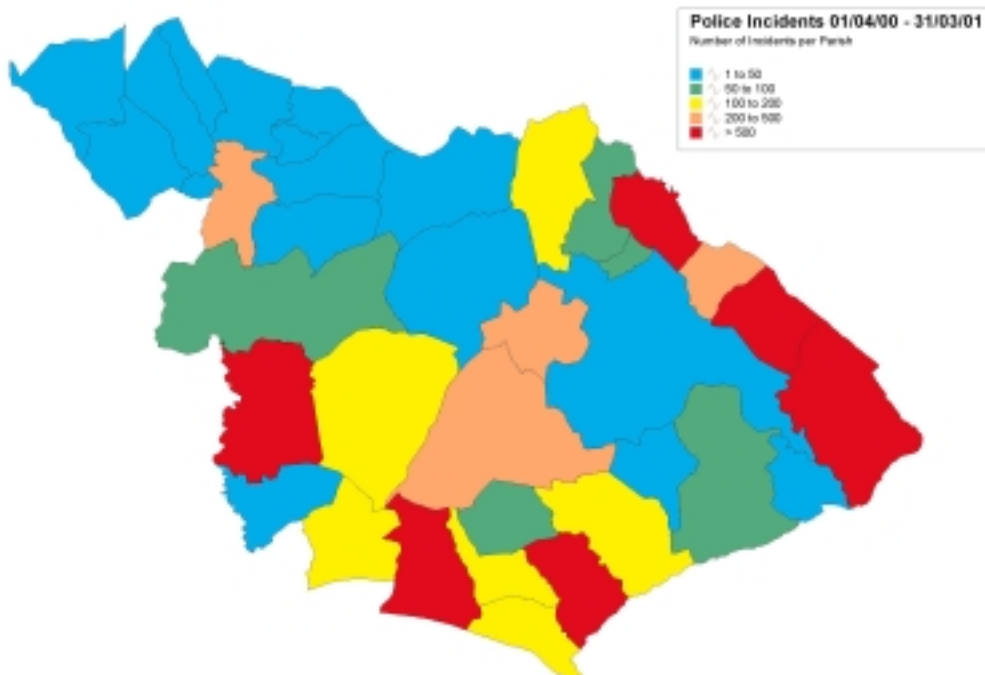
#### Recorded crime.

Recorded crime rates in the New Forest are low for Hampshire, and Hampshire is low for the rest of the country. In order to compile a complete year of figures for comparison we have used the full year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2000 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001 as our basis. The bar chart below shows the main crime categories and levels of crime in the New Forest.

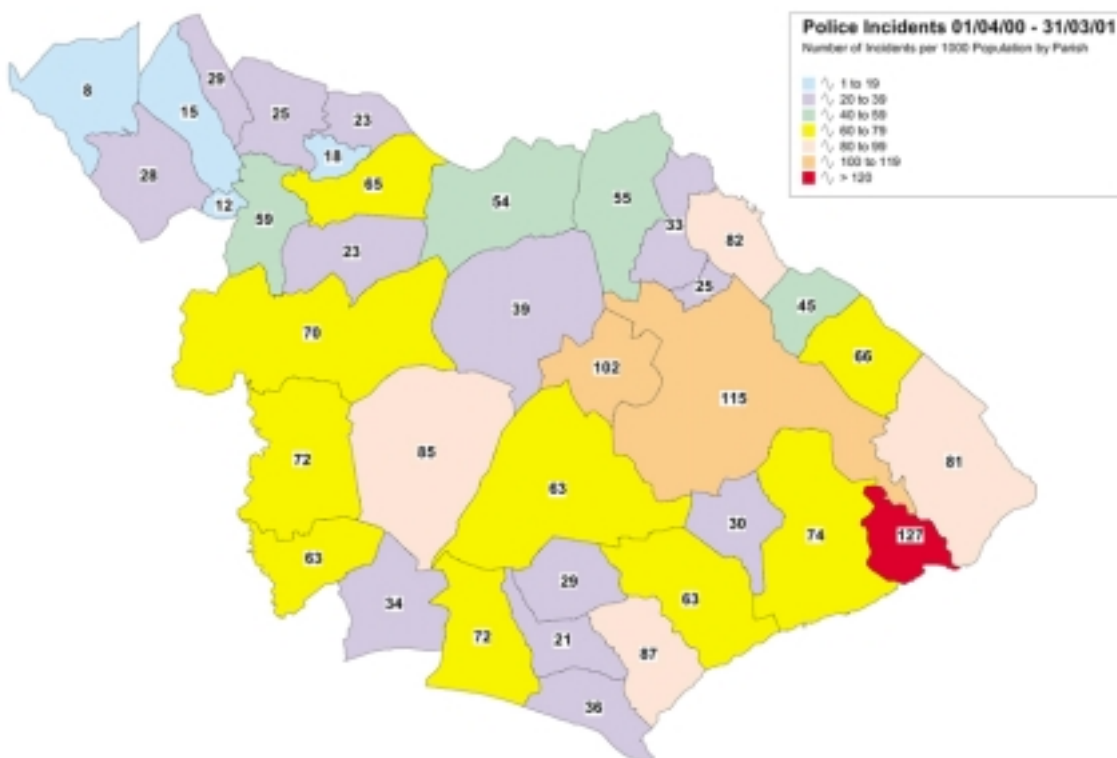
## New Forest - All Crime 2000 - 2001



The map below shows how the crime density is spread across the district.



Another way of showing the data is by crime per 1000 population. The map below shows the density of crime incidents compared to the population of a parish council. The population age range is from 0 – 85+ years. Many of the parishes have well under 1000 population and so some of the figures in the map may seem alarming, they do not represent actual crime figures.



There was an 8.8% reduction in crime between 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. This compares to 1.2% across the rest of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Although there seems to be a slight increase since April 2001. Overall the figures for the New Forest are reflecting those nationally.

### Public Perception of Crime and Disorder.

Crime statistics will only ever reveal a portion of what really occurs in our community. Many crimes are not reported to the police for a numbers of reasons such as:

- It's more of a case of disorder than crime.
- The police might not be able to do anything about it.
- Fear of retribution.
- The victim may live with of be related/married to the offender.

Therefore a residents survey and focus group work allow the Partnership to get a better picture of what it feels like to live and work in the New Forest.

Nearly 2500 surveys were sent out of which 1143 were returned, some of the main findings were that:

94.7% agreed with the statement 'Overall the New Forest is a good place to live'.  
90.6% agreed with the statement 'I feel I live in a relatively safe area of the New Forest'.

The main types of crime residents were worried about were:

- Having a vehicle broken into.
- Being burgled.
- Having a vehicle stolen.
- Road safety.
- Vandalism and graffiti.
- Rubbish and litter lying about.
- Teenagers and gangs 'hanging around'.

However the level of fear of crime has gone down since the audit in 1998. Respondents were less fearful of having a vehicle broken into, being burgled, having a vehicle or bicycle stolen than in 1998. But are slightly more concerned about being mugged, robbed or assaulted. This reflects the national trends in these crime categories.

There has also been a reduction in concern regarding road safety and the safety of children and young people (which were the highest areas of concern in the last audit). However there has been an increase in concern around vandalism to buildings, cars and playgrounds and rubbish/litter lying about, as well as an increase in concern about teenagers and gangs hanging around.

The findings from the Gay and Lesbian focus group were very similar, in that there was a fairly positive view of the New Forest as a safe place to live, although the fear of homophobic crime did affect the way individuals conducted their lives, restricting their use of public space and facilities as well as their social interaction with each other.

## **6. Preparing the Strategy**

A number of themes had to be considered whilst preparing this strategy, what can the partnership realistically achieve, who has the power to do what, what do the community want, what does Government want, how can we measure our achievements, and where do we get the resources from.

This document is not set in stone, if the partnership's priorities change, then so can this strategy. If we achieve one objective, we can tackle something else that we may not be able to initially. There were many areas of activity raised through the audit, it would be impossible to attempt to achieve everything; just those areas that are of most concern. In some cases, objectives may need to be revised during the three-year period because of gathering more information or priorities set by government. The partnership will endeavour to make use of funding opportunities as they arise through the Government's Crime Reduction Programme.

The Partnership has also been the subject of a Best Value Review, which highlighted a number of areas where improvements could be made such as, improving our communication with the public and other partners, improving our ability to contact 'hard to reach groups', developing a financial strategy, making our target setting and performance management more effective, improving our data sharing and increasing our sustainability

## **7. Consultation**

The Crime and Disorder Act states that after asking the community what their concerns are, the partnership must then consult on the draft priorities that have emerged through the audit process. The audit report was sent to a wide range of groups and organisations as suggested in the Crime and Disorder Act guidance. Statutory agencies as well as youth groups, residents and many others were given the opportunity to respond (see appendix 3 for consultation list). The feedback from this process allowed the partnership to prioritise the activities for the coming three years.

Overall the consultation respondents agreed with those areas of activity listed by the partnership and 100% of the respondents felt that they accurately reflected the views of those who live, work and visit the New Forest.

They also ranked those draft priorities in order of importance to them. The results showed that dealing with anti-social behaviour was of key concern, followed closely by youth issues and criminal damage.

The priorities ranked below are those identified in the top three by the respondents:

Anti-social behaviour (23%)  
Youth issues (19%)  
Criminal Damage (19%)  
Drug/alcohol related crime (13%)  
Domestic violence and hate crime (9%)  
Car Crime (8%)  
Fear of Crime (4%)  
Road Safety (2%)

A number of other issues were identified by the respondents such as burglary from unoccupied buildings, unsolicited callers, general burglary, lack of lighting, and a desire to see more 'police on the beat'.

## **8. Developing the Strategy.**

The overall aim of this strategy will be to:

- Reduce crime and disorder.
- Reduce the fear of crime.
- Improve community awareness of crime and disorder, the effects of anti-social behaviour and the importance of communities and individuals taking personal responsibility.

It is intended that all members of the partnership will share responsibility for achieving each of the priority objectives. The partnership agencies will all use elements of their mainstream resources to implement the strategy. In addition a small pot of money has been made available by some of the partners creating a 'pooled budget'. This pooled budget will be used to carry out the actions and targets listed over the next few pages.

The priorities for action set out in this strategy are based on the findings of the audit and consultation. They are as follows:

## 9. PRIORITIES

### 1. Reduce Vehicle Crime per 1000 population.

#### Why this target?

National influence = The Government set the target of reducing vehicle crime by 30% over 5 years in 1999. To do this a Vehicle Crime Reduction Action Team (VCRAT) was set up to map out a route to achieve this national target.

Local influence = Car crime is still a major concern to the New Forest Community Safety Partnership. It forms one of the highest crime categories locally with **1936 vehicle crimes committed last year. This represents 15.23% of all crime.** Results from the audit survey work show that around 10% of respondents have suffered vehicle crime. The policing plan sets a target of no more than 9.5 vehicle crimes per 1000 population.

Research indicates that most car crime is still committed outside the victim's own home and on the street.

#### How will this be achieved?

- Ensuring all New Forest Police focus the attention of the division upon reducing vehicle crime to less than 9.5 occurrences per 1000 population and by increasing the detection rate by 15%.
- To further develop multi-agency operations to target specific areas (i.e. housing estates) with the intention of combating stolen, abandoned or un-taxed vehicles.
- The dedicated vehicle crime officer will lead the divisional proactive effort in reducing and detecting car crime through initiatives such as Operation Scorpion.
- Proactive use of the CCTV system to target initiatives in town centre car parks.

#### How will it be measured/evaluated?

This target can be easily measured through recorded crime statistics, through the audit in 3 years time (public perception), and through the immediate impact on targeted areas through the proposed operations listed above.

### 2. To reduce Domestic Violence and deal effectively with Hate Crime.

#### Why this target?

National influence = Violence is one of the countries rising crime categories, this is not necessarily to say there is more violence, but that domestic violence and hate crime are now more likely to be reported. Domestic violence now accounts for a quarter of all violent crimes.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Fighting Violent Crime Together: An Action Plan. Home Office. Jan 2001

Local influence = Domestic violence was discovered to be an area of high concern in the last community safety audit. Although there are **858** domestic incidents recorded only **266** incurred violence by one party or another. Even so it accounts for **26%** of all violent crime in the New Forest (**1191**). Overall violent crime accounts for only 10% of all crime across the District. Hate and racial violence is an area that has been neglected locally, this action aims to remedy that.

#### How will this be achieved?

- Ensuring all New Forest police focus the attention of the division upon reducing violent crime to **less than 6 occurrences per 1000 population and ensuring that detection remains above 90%.**
- To respond effectively to Hate crime, fully investigating and monitoring police action to ensure integrity and fairness of approach to all, also to raise awareness and encourage the reporting of hate crime.
- To continue to support and secure the post of the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and related work.
- To develop a mutli agency training package for the court process to reduce incidents of repeat victimisation in domestic violence.
- By the use of ASBOs/ABCs where applicable.

#### How will this be measured/evaluated?

The target can be measured through recorded crime statistics; the amount of multi-agency racial incident monitoring forms received and acted on (if desired by the complainant/victim); the quantity of cases referred to the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and the desired outcome of each one and the monitoring/successfulness of any relevant ASBOs/ABCs issued.

### **3. To deal with youth diversion, offending and victimisation.**

#### Why this target?

Local Influence = The Community often cite youth crime and youth nuisance as one of their highest areas of concern, a recent Best Value survey ranked it as the highest area of concern. In terms of recorded statistics youth 'crime and disorder' showed an incident rate of **2101** last year, making up **16.5%** of all incidents recorded (**12708**). The local Youth Offending Team (YOT) is now established and has the target of reducing youth offending by 5% over the 3 years. Fear of Crime was also higher in the younger age category than in many of the other age groups, highlighting an area of concern for the partnership.

#### How will this be achieved?



- The continued development of Validate UK proof of age cards to prevent young people purchasing alcohol, which may lead to youth nuisance.
- The development of a dedicated half time post to issue and monitor Acceptable Behaviour Contracts in line with the Best Value Implementation Plan. The post will be a pilot due to receiving funding from Government Office for the South East under the Partnership Development Fund.
- Positively promote Problem Orientated Policing principles within town and parish councils.
- Further investigation of expanding some of the achievements from the last community safety strategy i.e. the Ringwood football project. Also to link more closely with town and parish councils, to engage them and encourage them to become more youth friendly.

#### How will this be measured/evaluated?

The YOTs primary measurement tool is the recidivism rate of young people with whom they have contact. Measurements can also be taken from Police statistics under the category of 'crime and disorder' youth related. A further key indicator will be the perception of the public and young people in the audit that will be completed at the end of this 3 year period. Finally complaints to other partners about youth offending or nuisance can be monitored.

#### **4. A reduction in crimes of criminal damage/vandalism reported of 5% over the next 3 years.**

##### Why this target?

National influence = At present there is no national context for this target.

Local influence = This target is set purely on a locally identified problem. Criminal damage incidents number 2015 last year making it 15.9% of all crime. Large costs are incurred to partner agencies and the business community through criminal damage, deterring resources away from the core services. Criminal damage (which includes vandalism and graffiti) is also of major concern to the community as identified in the resident's survey.

##### How will this be achieved?

- Through the proactive use of CCTV incidents of criminal damage in town centres will be quickly dealt with.
- The use of ABCs/ASBOs will be monitored where criminal damage is a feature of the contract/order.
- The cost of criminal damage will continue to be recorded to allow cost/benefit analysis of physical improvements to the environment.

- New Forest District Council to respond (where possible) by removing graffiti within 2 working days.
- To produce a targeted information pack on how to deal with criminal damage.
- To encourage the involvement of the Probation service and Community Punishment orders to assist in removing graffiti and repairing vandalism.
- To involve the Police in a targeted activity similar to Operation Resolution.

#### How will this be measured/evaluated?

Although the target could be easily measured by police statistics, more work needs to be completed on the impact of criminal damage on the partners and how that is measured.

### **5. To reduce the fear of crime.**

#### Why this target?

Fear of crime affects people's quality of life and can have debilitating effects on those who are elderly or vulnerable. The aim is to reduce the fear of crime in the New Forest District. The target is for the main types of crime identified in the Residents Survey under Fear of Crime, that are more than 20%, to be reduced by 5% year on year to 2005.

#### How will this be achieved?

- Each of the task groups tackling a priority will provide media articles on the positive outcomes of their projects.
- Through CCTV, positive publicity and community awareness.
- To encourage the uptake of Neighbourhood watch by targeting areas that do not currently have a scheme and to encourage a Forest wide association to share best practise.
- To develop a leaflet or a page in Forest News that promotes Community Safety in the New Forest.

#### How will it be measured/evaluated?

This can be measured through the audit findings as some questions related specifically to fear of crime. Also through the evaluation of the CCTV systems as objectives of reducing fear of crime were set for CCTV. Participation in Neighbourhood watch schemes. The number of positive press articles could also be used as a measure of the success of this action.

### **6. To prevent drug and alcohol abuse and related crime.**

#### Why this target?

National Influence – The Government has placed high importance on tackling drug issues, not least with the creation of the ‘Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain’ strategy. Funding has also been provided to crime and disorder partnerships through the Communities Against Drugs Initiative.

Local Influence - Drug and alcohol issues and related crime are an area of concern for local residents; the consultation has also shown it to be placed in the top three areas the community would like the partnership to tackle.

#### How will this be achieved?

- Through the mapping of drug use.
- To respond to the recommendations of a ‘needle finds’ report currently being completed.
- To utilise the allocated funds from the ‘Communities Against Drugs’ Initiative successfully. Using mobile CCTV, youth education/sports/dance nights in targeted areas, enforcement police activities and environmental improvements where possible.
- Finding a way for young people to access advice and information about drugs and alcohol through a dedicated website.

#### How will this be measured/Evaluated?

A number of measurement will be used here, not least crime figures, but also the numbers of needles being found, a survey of young people attitudes an usage of the targeted facilities, the production of a website and it’s usage. The ability of the partnership to map drug hotspots and then to act on that information. The partnership will also be required to provide quarterly feedback reports to Government Office for the South East on how we are using the Communities Against Drugs fund.

### **7. To reduce the amount of Anti-Social behaviour suffered by our community.**

#### Why this target?

The consultation of the draft priorities for the Community Safety Strategy revealed that a reduction in anti-social behaviour highlighted as the top priority for those who responded. Anti-Social behaviour destroys lives and shatters communities, it can be defined as acting: ‘in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress...’

#### How will this be achieved?

- Using Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Anti Social Behaviour Orders where necessary.
- By the Divided We Fall officer groups dealing as quickly as possible with anti-social behaviour cases.

### How will this be measured/evaluated?

When an anti-social individual is identified to the Divided we Fall group the aim is to meet to discuss the case within 7 working days and then to achieve positive action within one month. Positive action could mean an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, counselling, prosecution or any other actions the partners can take by working together.

The post of ABC coordinator will also be evaluated after 12 months (subject to continued funding) to evaluate the numbers issued and effectiveness of ABC's.

### **CASE STUDY TWO = DIVIDED WE FALL AND ABC'S**

Divided We Fall is a group of practitioners who meet regularly to deal with neighbourhood nuisance issues. There is one group to cover the east of the forest and one for the west. These groups are overseen by a core group, which takes the lead on more serious nuisance and anti-social behaviour issues. The groups started a number of years ago when a neighbour nuisance problem began getting out of control. It didn't take long to realise that housing services, the police, social services and others were all already dealing with this one issue. By all of these agencies working together a resolution was reached and the problems stopped. Joint agency working has been the philosophy that underpins Divided We Fall. It has achieved a great many successes over the years and is now the referring group to the Acceptable Behaviour Contract Co-ordinator, and will deal with any anti-social behaviour orders if the need arises.

## **8. To increase Road Safety and reduce the number of child casualties.**

### Why is this a target?

This has been set as a priority as it has come up as one of the highest areas of concern in the residents' survey. 65.3% of residents stated they were very/fairly concerned about road safety, although still one of the highest categories, it has dropped from 75% in the 1998 crime and disorder audit. The statutory responsibility for road safety lies with Hampshire County Council, however the partnership feel that as this is such a high area of concern for our residents, it feels it should get involved in assisting Hampshire County Council to reach it's target of reducing child casualties by 50% by the year 2010.

### How will this be achieved?

- The biggest child casualty category is unrestrained children in the back of cars. The partnership will work with HCC to promote the 'belt up' message to parents by targeting parents of young children with information and advice.

### How will this be measured/evaluated?

Measuring road safety is not an easy task; it may only be possible to measure the number of accidents involving child casualties who were not seat belted in the back.

## **Appendix one.**

The New Forest Community Safety Partnership formed a number of years ago and formalised itself in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its membership consists of the main agencies that have a direct impact on community safety issues, from the public and voluntary sector; many of which contribute to social, economic and environmental well-being.

New Forest Community Safety Partnership, Strategic Group.

New Forest District Council.

Hampshire County Council

Education Services

Social Services

Youth Services.

Wessex Youth Offending Team.

New Forest Voluntary Services Council.

New Forest Primary Care Trust.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Hampshire Probation Service

Hampshire Constabulary, New Forest Division.

New Forest Community Safety Partnership, Operational Group.

(The Crime and Community safety Action Group).

New Forest District Council.

Hampshire Constabulary.

Hampshire County Council

Youth Service

Social Services

Colleges.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue.

Independent business community.

Victim Support.

Magistrates.

Hampshire Police Authority.

Various other groups involved in Community Safety Issues.

Divided We Fall.

Totton and Eling Crime Prevention Panel.

Drugs and Alcohol Reference group.

Drugs Action Team

Police and Community Liaison Group.

Domestic Violence Forum

Waterside youth Steering Group.

SNAP management Committee.

And many many more.....

## **Appendix Two**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on all local authorities to consider crime and disorder implications in every decision made. Therefore to make a real difference in the New Forest, all the partners' strategies and policies need to be underpinned by community safety issues.

Some examples are:

### **New Forest District Councils – Heart of the Forest.**

'By making Crime and Disorder a portfolio for an individual Cabinet Member, we have signalled the importance we attach to our statutory duty in this area. We will seek stronger community engagement in delivering real outcomes. CCTV provision will remain a priority.

### **Hampshire County Council's Corporate Strategy.**

Developing the quality of life in Hampshire which has a major focus on crime and disorder and community safety related to a reduction in crime levels, the number of youth service projects and facilities for young people and the percentage of looked after children who offend. The council is also concerned with an improvement in road safety accident statistics and that all school age children are given support and opportunity to achieve their full potential. This will be achieved through the education development plan and the behaviour support plan and will be measured by the number of projects designed to bring disaffected young people back into school, the number of children permanently excluded from school and the percentage of days missed due to unauthorised absences.

### **Social Services, key objectives for the department are:**

Those who are vulnerable and need of help and support are often more at risk of social exclusion because of unemployment, crime, poor health, poor housing and poor education. A key department priority for Social Services is 'to contribute to the multi agency youth offending team to address the causes of juvenile crime, respond effectively to young people in conflict with the law and to reduce the number of children looked after by the department who are cautioned or convicted'.

### **Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.**

The target for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service is to reduce preventable fires by 5% year on year until 2003/04. This will be achieved through school education programmes, supporting youth association activities, fire setters intervention programme, talking to groups across the community, hot spot targeting and partnership working. The Fire service will also be measuring the number of malicious false alarms with the aim of reducing these by 2% per year.

## **Forestry Commission.**

The aim of the Forestry Commission's service plan is to increase opportunities for everyone to become more engaged in the stewardship of the New Forest. They will require all employees and volunteers to be clearly identifiable at all times and all vehicles will be marked with the logo. They also aim to work with partner agencies to reduce crime and anti social behaviour in forest car parks and to provide a safe experience for its visitors.

## **New Forest Primary Care Trust.**

- The newly formed Primary Care Trust (PCT) has developed a Health Improvement Programme. There are a number of actions within this programme that relate to community safety.
- Children and young people – Further work on developing and co-ordinating parents schemes.
- Mental Health – Diverting mentally disordered offenders away from the criminal justice system.
- Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol) – Developing a patch profile of the type of drug used and where this takes place, developing strategies for schools and youth services and alternatives to exclusion.

## **Wessex Youth Offending Team.**

Objectives:

- 1) Early intervention with young offenders.
- 2) Collaboration with agencies within the statutory and voluntary sector to reduce offending by children and young people.
- 3) Promoting the interests of the victim.
- 4) Promoting public confidence in the youth justice system.
- 5) Monitoring the service provided.
- 6) Promoting better life changes for vulnerable young people and children.

## **Youth Justice Plan.**

The Youth Justice Plan has many influencing factors that together create a set of thirteen performance measures. A number of these measure are relevant to community safety, such as:

- To reduce the involvement of young people, who are 'usually resident' in the YOT area, who receive a 'substantive outcome' for one of the following offences:
  - i) Vehicle crime by 20% by 2003 and by 30% by 2004;
  - ii) Domestic burglary by 8% by 2003, 16% by 2004 and 25% by 2005.
- To achieve a reduction in re-offending rates with respect to each of the following four populations:

Pre-court, first tier penalties, community penalties, custodial penalties; by 3% by 2003 and 5% by 2004

- To develop the co-ordination and planning of youth crime prevention services at both the 'Wessex' level and, in Hampshire, at District level.
- To support youth inclusion programmes.
- Monitor the impact of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts with a view to promoting good practise across the partnership area.
- Develop and promote the use of anger management programmes and driver awareness with young offenders across the partnership area.
- To ensure 90% of young offenders supervised by YOT are in full time education, training and employment by March 2004 (80% by 2003)

### **New Forest Police Service Plan.**

For the year 2002-2003 a number of targets have been set at Hampshire level, variations of which have been set locally. These involve tackling house burglary, vehicle crime, violent crime, and racially aggravated crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

### **Hampshire Police Authority Plan**

Hampshire Police Authority respond to a number of ministerial priorities on partnerships to tackle crime and disorder, increasing trust and confidence amongst ethnic minority communities as well as a number of local objectives based on; reducing road collision casualties, achieving Best Value and providing the highest quality service to citizens.

### **Drug Action Team Plan**

The Hampshire Drug Action Team have a number of strategic links with Community Safety and focuses it's activities in the areas of young people, communities, treatment and availability. The local Drug and alcohol Reference Group also has an action plan which aims to assist the DAT in achieving their objectives.

There are a number of other strategies from various agencies which will have an impact on Community Safety, but which may not have set specific targets, such as:

The Local Strategic Partnership.  
Social Exclusion Strategy.  
Environmental Improvements.  
Local Plan.  
Transport Strategies.  
Design against Crime.  
Road Safety National strategies.  
Emergency Planning strategy.  
CCTV policy.

Plus many more.



## Appendix Three.

A wide range of organisations and representative groups were offered the opportunity to respond to the partnership on the draft priorities discussed in the Crime and Disorder Audit Report 1999-2002. These include those groups that have been identified in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Guidance.

Commission for racial equality	New Forest Disability Information Service	Southampton Rape Crisis Centre.
Magistrates	National Farmers Union	Customs and Excise
Trades Unions	Age Concern	Esso Petroleum
Solent Blue Line Buses	Marchwood Youth Centre	Health and Safety Exec
Ringwood Youth Office	New Forest and Romsey Mobile Community Project	Denny Lodge Parish Council
First Bus	Lyndhurst Parish Council	New Forest Tourism
Lyndhurst Chamber of Trade	Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council	New Forest Primary Care Trust
North Totton and Calmore Tenant/Resident Association	Marchwood Parish Council	Netley View Tenants Residents Association
New Forest Victim Support	Martin Parish Council	Totton College
New Milton Citizens Advice Bureau	Applemore College	Testwood School
Ringwood and Fordingbridge CAB	Fordingbridge Outreach Work	Fawley Parish Council
Hampshire Constabulary	Minstead Parish Council	Exbury and Lepe Parish Council
Its Your Choice	Ringwood Town Council	Christchurch CAB
HCC Youth Service (NF)	Hyde Parish Council	Applemore Tenants Residents Association
Ringwood Chamber of Commerce	New Milton Neighbourhood Watch	Beaulieu Parish Council
Breamore Parish Council	Pennington Tenants Residents Association	Federation of Small Businesses
Drug Reference Group	Hampshire Drug Action Team	Sopley Parish Council
Netley Marsh Parish Council	Damerham Parish Council	Hordle Parish Council
Waterside Streetwise Project	Western Challenge Housing Association	Hythe and Dibden Parish Council
Woodside Parish Council	Wilts and Dorset Bus Company	Oak Lodge School
East Boldre Parish Council	Rockbourne Parish Council	Grange Probation Hostel
Arnwood School/College	Waterside Detached Youth Project	Fordingbridge Business Forum
Brockenhurst Parish Council	Priestlands School	Julian Lewis MP
Whitsbury Parish Council	Hythe Business Partnership	Ringwood School
Milford on Sea Traders Association	Sway Parish Council	Youth Offending Team
Lymington Neighbourhood Watch Association	Burgate School	Hounslow School

Colours Youth Centre	Eastleigh Social Services	Lymington CAB
Salterns School	Lymington Chamber of Commerce	Burley Parish Council
HCC Education	Sandleheath Parish Council	Hampshire Police Authority
Domestic Violence Forum	Boldre Parish Council	Hale Parish Council
Noadswood School	Copythorne Parish Council	Fordingbridge Tenants Residents Association
Totton and Eling Town Council	LAGLO Liaison Officer	Hanover Association of Tenants
Rollestone Road Association	New Milton Chamber of Trade	Brockenhurst College
Godshill Parish Council	Hampshire Fire and Rescue	New Forest Voluntary Service Council
Bramshaw Parish Council	Hampshire County Council	Desmond Swayne MP
British Transport Police	Southampton and South West Hants Health Authority	Totton Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Group
Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council	Southampton Gay Men's Health Project	Hardley School
Lymington and Pennington Town Council	Totton CAB	Waterside CAB
Lymington Detached Youth Project	Round the Houses	Waterside Neighbourhood Watch Steering Committee
Milford on Sea Parish Council	Fordingbridge Parish Council	Bransgore Parish Council
New Milton Town Council	Housing Providers	NFDC Management Teams
NFDC Councillors	All police stations	NFDC Chief Executive
Unison	GMB	TGW Union