

*Working in partnership to maintain safer communities*

## Huntingdonshire as a District

Huntingdonshire is the district with the largest population in the county of Cambridgeshire. The Cambridgeshire County Council Research & Performance Group (CCCRPG) mid-2010 population estimate for Huntingdonshire is 165,300. The population has increased by 5% since 2001 and it is forecast to increase by a further 7% by 2031.

In terms of local economy, 80% of Huntingdonshire's working age population is economically active. In December 2010 the Jobseekers' Allowance claimant count unemployment rate was 2% compared to a national level of 3.5%. Huntingdonshire has the second lowest average house price in the county. Between June - November 2002 and June - November 2010 house prices increased by 84%.

Huntingdonshire has three areas of Neighbourhood Management, these being Huntingdon North Ward (previously known as Oxmoor), Eynesbury in St Neots and Ramsey. These areas were identified because they demonstrated higher levels of social need based on the Social Indices. Working in partnership, Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Luminus Housing have contributed extra resources to these areas in the form of Neighbourhood Managers to help improve the outcomes for those living within these wards.

Data released at the beginning of 2012 as part of the 'Campaign to end Child Poverty' suggests that 33% of the children living in Huntingdon North Ward are living in poverty compared to 12% across Huntingdonshire and 17% in Cambridge. This is a similar number to the most deprived wards in Peterborough and Waterlees in Fenland. This is concerning for the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership as it means that these children and their families are more likely to experience or become involved in crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

## Successes

- Total Crime has fallen by 10.4% (843 fewer crimes) in the last 12 months
- As a result of the targeted work to address incidents of violence against the person, violent crime has fallen by 16.2% (254 fewer crimes)
- Through the Dodgems Project that works with vulnerable 12 - 25 year old males, 24 clients have received intensive 1 to 1 support. These individuals have not come to the attention of the ASB PSG after working on this project. All 24 clients are secure in either education, employment or training
- The introduction and maintenance of Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime which has resulted in massive reductions in shop theft
- The Junior PCSO Scheme has worked with over 100 Year 5 pupils who were at risk of entering the criminal justice system
- The creation of a multi-agency ASB Problem Solving Group to discuss problem people and problem families
- Diversionary activities introduced to areas where ASB is an issue
- Provision of the first 'street style' skate park in response to ASB

## Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership

The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has been in existence since 1998 with the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act. The Partnership consists of the statutory organisations as well as other organisations that it believes can help address issues of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Huntingdonshire. The Partnership meets bi-monthly and the chairmanship of the meeting is reviewed annually. The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has gone from strength to strength and over the last 10 years has seen crime fall across all types to help create Huntingdonshire as a safe place to live, work and visit.

### Working in Partnership

Underneath the Community Safety Partnership sits a number of working groups who have responsibility for addressing the identified priorities. The groups are made up of representatives from a number of different organisations and all of them have action plans with timescales that they are working to.

The Community Safety Partnership also 'owns' an action plan that is monitored on a quarterly basis via their meetings, this action plan is created from the quarterly Strategic Assessments and directs the annually refreshed Community Safety Plan.

Through the strong relationships that have been established across a number of different organisations, information is able to be shared effectively and duplication avoided. Through support from the Community Safety Partnership, Huntingdonshire District Council introduced a 'Shared Service' Team made up of District Council employed Community Safety Staff, two PCSOs, a Police Officer and the Community Safety Officer from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue. This team is the early stages of collaboration but the intention is to create a single point of contact for victims of ASB and

ensure that regardless of a residents' tenure, they can expect to receive the same level of support.

## Priorities 2012 - 14

The information gathered through the Strategic Assessment and consultations with community groups and residents of Huntingdonshire was used to help determine the priorities for the Community Safety Partnership to tackle. In identifying and agreeing the priorities, the following criteria were taken into consideration:

- Volume and recorded crime
- Rate and direction of change of the recorded crime
- The impact or potential impact of the crime on the victims and the community
- The positions or performance of the Community Safety Partnership when compared to other similar Community Safety Partnerships. This process is enabled through the use of the government's 'family group' comparison system
- Government priorities
- The Community Safety Partnership's ability or capacity to tackle the problem
- It is an issue people have deep concerns about or is an issue that impacts on the fear of crime

In determining the priorities for the Partnership for the next year, great consideration was given to what could actually be achieved given the reduced funding and resources available.

Considering the information that has been provided through the Strategic Assessment and listening to the views of those living, working or studying in Huntingdonshire, the Community Safety Partnership agreed to address the following priorities:

- **Prevention** – Working with vulnerable people, families and groups to discourage them from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, crime or disorder. Including:

- Domestic Violence – Investigate further reporting gaps that exist amongst young women (16 – 25 years).
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Focusing on the perpetrators of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- **Vulnerable Localities** – Identifying areas within Huntingdonshire where anti-social behaviour, crime or disorder may occur because of a number of different factors.
  - Anti-Social Behaviour – Work with Registered Providers (RPs) around settling residents into new communities.
  - Alcohol Related Violence – The Partnership will continue their focus in the Town Centres and learn from best practise.

## Issues/ Crime and Disorder Types not identified as a Priority

There are many other types of crime and disorder that have not been identified as a priority, but this does not mean that they will be ignored. Running alongside the work of the Partnership, the organisations that make up the Partnership will be addressing other issues that are occurring within the Huntingdonshire area.

### Why were these Priorities chosen?

#### Prevention:

By prioritising prevention, the Partnership will be able to focus their resources in a number of different areas where the most impact can be achieved. This priority will cover a number of different crime types and will include targeting young people who may be at risk of going on to offend as well raising awareness about the prevention of crime.

#### Vulnerable Localities:

Crime or anti-social behaviour may occur in an area for a number of reasons, but by working together and identifying the causes, the Partnership can ensure that an affective response is put in place.

More crime occurs in some places than in others and different crimes occur in different places, by looking at these places more closely and establishing why they are 'vulnerable', will enable the Partnership to focus their resources, address the issues and make communities feel safer.

## Funding and the Future

Historically the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership has received funding on an annual basis from the Home Office in the form of the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund. This funding has enabled the Partnership to be proactive rather than just reactive and put in place some incredibly successful projects that have enabled young people and families to change their lives and in turn their future.

The amount that the Partnership has received has reduced annually and below is a table of what has been received since 2005:

Year	Capital	Revenue	Total
2005 - 06	£58,149.27	£123,850.73	£182,000
2006 - 07	£43,000	£141,000	£184,000
2007 - 08	£25,541	£94,055	£119,596
2008 - 09	£28,996	£94,055	£123,051
2009 - 10	£28,996	£85,377	£114,373
2010 - 11	£0	£76,839	£76,839
2011 - 12	£0	£56,880	£56,880
2012 - 13	£0	£28,440	£28,440
2013 - 14	£0	£28,440	£28,440

This funding has also been used to fund two ASB Case Workers but unfortunately due to the reduction in the funding received; there was a need to make one of these posts redundant at the beginning of January 2011. But despite the loss of this post, there is still the demand and as a forward thinking Partnership who has set some high standards, we are not prepared to compromise.

# Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership

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The Partnership is still determined to offer the same level of service and continue to reduce crime, disorder and ASB despite the reduction in funding. Partners have recognised the impact that ASB can have within a community and a number of these organisations, including Huntingdonshire District Council have mainstreamed the ASB Case Worker posts.

The Partnership, via their Shared Services Team will be considering further the possibility of managing ASB caseloads on behalf of one other Local Authority (East Cambridgeshire) as well as Registered Providers.

The Safer Stronger Communities Funding that has been received for 2013 – 14 has been used to fund four projects to date. Three of the projects are prevention focused as the Partnership is committed to investing in the future to ensure sustainability; the other project is a response project. The Partnership is determined to secure additional income and is working to attract income in the form of successful funding applications, putting forward projects for awards, offering their successful projects to other areas of the County on a payment basis as well as sharing responsibilities to avoid duplication.

Community Safety is important to those living and working in Huntingdonshire and this has been recognised by the District Council. Huntingdonshire District Council employs on a full time permanent basis, a Community Safety Officer, an ASB Case Worker and a Community Support Officer. These officers are extensively involved with the Community Safety Partnership as well as working very closely with other organisations to effectively respond to crime, disorder and ASB across the District and ensure that the District Council fulfils their duties under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

## The Way Forward

- Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership is committed to maintaining the reduction in all crime types that they have experienced over the last ten years;
- It is important that Huntingdonshire is not missed as an area of need just because improvement and success has been seen. Without the positive relationships and the effective Partnership that has been established, this work could be easily undone