

THE WIRRAL PLAN: A 2020 VISION

ENSURING WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

Wirral Council
March 2016

THE WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP

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1.0 FOREWORD

Councillor George Davies

Cabinet Lead for Housing and Communities

‘Ensuring Wirral’s Neighbourhoods are Safe’ sets the direction for community safety, in Wirral over the next five years.

Community Safety is essential to the quality of life of people in Wirral. It embraces a range of issues including anti-social behaviour, re-offending, violent crime, violence against women, and the protection of children and adults. Community Safety is an outcome rather than a service, although it is strongly influenced by the quality of service delivery. Community Safety relates to people’s sense of personal security in the places where they live, grow up in, work or where they spend their leisure time.

It affects how people value their neighbourhoods and what is considered to make a neighbourhood a good or bad place to live and grow up in. It builds on the positive progress made in recent years in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, both by continuing to focus on what works, as well as a stronger emphasis on the guiding principle that prevention is better than cure.

Success in building safer neighbourhoods is beyond the ability of the police or the Council alone, and requires an even greater partnership approach within and across all partner agencies and communities. Community safety is about building community confidence and ensuring local solutions to local issues of concern.

A revised Community Safety Partnership will be central to delivering community safety locally, and will work with communities to deliver local solutions, to make people feel safer and ensure that the voices of local people on community safety are heard.

At the end of the 5 years I want everyone in Wirral to experience:

- Safer communities, with lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Shared communities, where each person’s rights are respected in a shared and cohesive community; and
- Confident communities, where people feel safe and have confidence in the agencies that serve them.

I encourage you to read this strategy and to get involved in helping us ensure Wirral’s Neighbourhoods are Safe.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "George Davies".

Councillor George Davies



2.0 INTRODUCTION

As a member of Wirral's Partnership Board, I was really pleased to be asked to be the partner lead in the development of a strategy which will contribute to safer communities in Wirral. This is one of twenty pledges set out in the five year Wirral Plan, and as a senior manager at Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, I fully endorse a strategy that focuses on how we can all work more closely than we do now in making sure that the local communities and neighbourhoods in Wirral are safe places to live, work and visit.



Gary Oakford, Senior Manager
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Over the last two years public services have seen unprecedented change. In 2012 the introduction of the first elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside has fundamentally changed how policing and community safety services are commissioned and governed.

Ensuring Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe remains a priority for Wirral and we, the Community Safety Partnership, set out our ambitions for the next 5 years to address local issues whilst recognising the influence of wider transformational change that will impact on our capacity to achieve further reductions in crime and disorder.

It is the responsibility of all of us who live and work in Wirral to play our part in making our neighbourhoods safer. The success of this strategy relies on us working together to achieve further improvements in community safety.

Our Ambition

This strategy brings together the priorities and resources of a multi-agency partnership that includes Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Offender Management Services in Wirral, Health and Public Health Service, Voluntary and Community organisations and the Local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards where their work relates to safety.

Our approach aims to combine appropriate enforcement action with preventative and educational work. We must also understand why people commit crimes in the first place – and will focus on tackling the root causes. We want all people to be able to realise their aspirations, playing a positive role in a community that they feel they are genuinely part of. And we want all people to understand that getting involved in crime, or behaviour that leads to crime is unacceptable.

As well as a focus on the volume and high profile crimes such as burglary and vehicle crime, this strategy recognises that, for the community as a whole, there are even more significant issues including terrorism and radicalisation, the potential for child sexual exploitation, gangs and anti-social behaviour. To help prevent high profile, community changing events, as well as addressing more everyday crime, Wirral needs to be a strong, united community and, therefore, this strategy is underpinned by work to enhance neighbourhood working, community cohesion and support.

It is our ambition as set out in the Wirral Plan to work in partnership with all organisations, local residents and others to ensure that:

Wirral has an attractive and sustainable environment, where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here. Over the next 5 years we will increase our efforts to deal quickly and effectively with anti-social behaviour, including street drinking and neighbourhood noise issues. We will place a greater emphasis on activities which will positively engage both young people and communities to prevent anti-social behaviour, and support those who have been affected.

The key to achieve this vision is to deliver a Community Safety Partnership strategy with clear priorities which will provide the direction for all activity over the next 5 years:

Our Strategic Priorities:

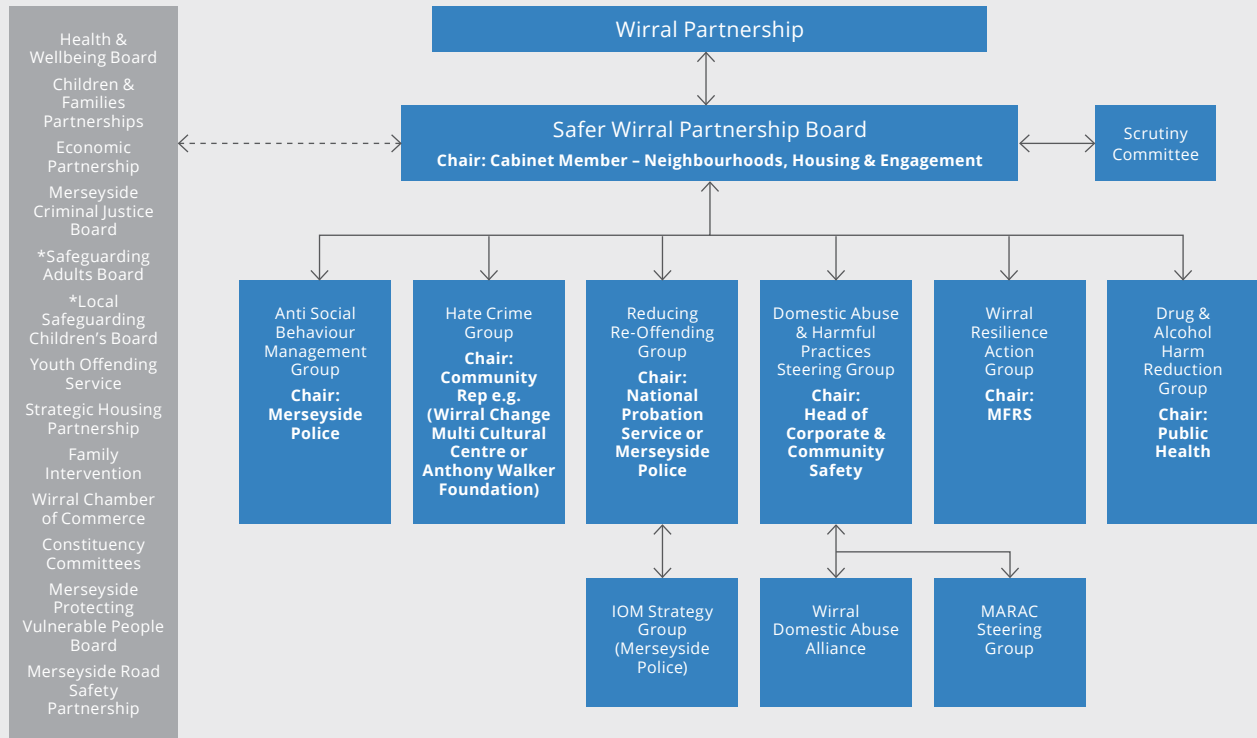
- Build stronger and more confident communities where people feel safe;
- Improve Community Safety by tackling the cause and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Protect the most vulnerable people in our communities;
- Deliver greater integration of all partner agencies to achieve a Safer Wirral.

Who is the strategy for?

This strategy is aimed at all Wirral residents, businesses and public services who operate in and out of Wirral. The strategy does not stand-alone. It is aligned to other plans, in particular the police and Crime Commissioner's Merseyside Police and Crime Plan. By aligning with this and other Wirral 2020 strategies, such as the Ageing Well strategy, the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, the Children and Adult's Safeguarding Strategies, the Growth Strategy and the Children's and Young Peoples strategy, we can integrate and co-ordinate resources much more effectively to protect and support all our communities.

The Community Safety Partnership comprises public and private agencies each with their own part to play in reducing crime and disorder and making our neighbourhoods safer, cleaner and greener. This strategy provides a framework for the many activities that the partnership will deliver to sustain crime and disorder reductions in the Borough and improve community cohesion? Wirral's Community Safety Partnership operates under the title of 'Safer Wirral'.

Figure 1 – Community Safety Partnership Structure 2016



Key

Reporting Relationship \longleftrightarrow

Working Relationship $\leftarrow\text{---}\rightarrow$

*The Domestic Abuse & Harmful Practices Sub Group will also report directly to both Safe Guarding Boards

The Community Safety Partnership will begin to forge stronger links to the local safeguarding boards to ensure that clear actions are incorporated in all respective delivery plans.

We recognise that areas of high deprivation suffer a disproportionately high amount of crime and disorder, and are statistically more vulnerable to a breakdown of community cohesion. This strategy is based upon strong evidence; crime data and analysis and will be informed by what Wirral residents¹ have identified as issues and priorities for their neighbourhoods. We will deliver localised activity to improve the quality of life in these neighbourhoods.

We also know that lower crime rates and improved perceptions and fear of crime encourage businesses to invest in the Borough and the Community Safety Partnership therefore has a key role in supporting economic growth.

How has this strategy been developed?

In developing this strategy, we have consulted with the people of Wirral via the Wirral Residents Survey. Community Safety Partners have also attended Constituency and other public forums to understand what are the concerns of the residents of Wirral. These priorities will be addressed by the delivery plans of this strategy.

3.0 WHAT WE KNOW

56%
OF RESIDENTS FEEL
DOG FOULING AND

45%
OF RESIDENTS FEEL
LITTERING ARE
BIG PROBLEMS IN THE BOROUGH¹

57% OF RESPONDENTS SAID THAT
**CRIME & ANTI-
SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

SHOULD BE WIRRAL'S MOST IMPORTANT
PRIORITY AND IS THE 4TH HIGHEST AREA
IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT (37%)¹

34%
OF RESIDENTS FEEL
**'GROUPS HANGING
AROUND THE STREET'**
IS A BIG PROBLEM¹

1 IN 2

VIOLENT CRIMES ARE ALCOHOL-RELATED²

1 IN 2

ASSAULTS THAT LEAD TO ADMISSION
TO A&E ARE ALCOHOL-RELATED³

ON AVERAGE RECORDED CRIME IN
ENGLAND AND WALES FELL BY

**4.9% YEAR ON
YEAR FOR 10 YEARS
BETWEEN 2002/3**

HOWEVER, BETWEEN 2013/14 AND 2014/15
THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF **2.1%**⁴

DURING 2014/15 THERE WERE
19,061 CRIMES IN WIRRAL OR

**59.5 CRIMES PER
1,000 POPULATION**

WIRRAL IS BELOW THE AVERAGE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES
WHICH IS **62.5** PER THOUSAND POPULATION, AND
MERSEYSIDE WHICH IS **77** PER THOUSAND POPULATION⁵

OVER THE 11 YEARS TO MARCH 2015 THERE HAS BEEN A

10% DECREASE

IN THE TOTAL NUMBER
OF CRIMES IN WIRRAL⁵

We have taken account of these views in setting this strategy and we will continue to seek community views throughout the life of this strategy.

Case Studies

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team (WASBT)

Maureen, aged 61, an owner occupier experiencing anti-social behaviour (ASB) from private rented tenant contacted the WASBT following years of alleged ASB (including shouting, banging, using foul language and being abusive) from her next door neighbour Tracey, a single mum with 4 children aged from 4 -14 years, who was privately renting the property. Maureen had tried, without success, to resolve matters herself with Tracey, the Landlord and Merseyside Police.

WASBT investigated this on behalf of Maureen, and discovered that Tracey and her children were in need of family support. Tracey was finding it difficult to cope and admitted that family situations became extremely volatile in a short space of time, involving arguing, shouting, fighting and damage to the property during the family outbursts. School attendance of the children was poor and Tracey's tenancy was at risk due to rent arrears.

WASBT made a referral to the Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP), as they felt that Tracey would benefit from parenting support and an ADHD awareness course; and that the children needed alternative activities/ intervention for their behaviour.

A case worker was allocated to look at the whole family including boundaries, morning and evening routines and mechanisms to deal with anger. Tracey was keen to turn her life around for herself and her family and was willing to engage fully to prevent the need of enforcement action. Together

WASBT/IFIP were able to identify flash points within the family and target areas for support.

WASBT made a referral for 1-2-1 support work for the 3 eldest boys which took place within the school.

Tracey worked with WASBT to change her behaviour and made changes, including turning a room downstairs into a bedroom, to give the family the space they needed to take time out from each other. The complaints of ASB significantly reduced, to Maureen's delight.

Tracey decided to have a fresh start and move house, and due to the massive improvements made, was able to secure a property/tenancy with a Registered Provider. Tracey has maintained this tenancy and recently won a good neighbour award.

WASBT worked with the private Landlord to minimise any further repetition of ASB to ensure that Maureen had the respite she needed.

New Brighton Problem Solving Group (PSG)

New Brighton attracts visitors of all ages to Wirral, and many young people travel to New Brighton, most cause no issues and are in the area to enjoy the facilities. However, during the summer of 2015, a small minority of young people caused nuisance and annoyance in and around Marine Point and the surrounding parks and open spaces. Their behaviour had a detrimental impact on local businesses, residents, visitors, security staff, Merseyrail staff and Arriva bus operatives. The problems ranged from underage drinking, fighting, verbal abuse, trespassing, criminal damage, arson and threats.

Wirral Anti-social Behaviour Team (WASBT) co-ordinated a strategic approach, with Partners, to tackle these issues. This included:

- Engaging with young people travelling into New Brighton, checking tickets and issuing Fixed Penalty Notices where appropriate
- High visibility Policing, giving advice regarding behaviour and directing young people towards activities put on by the Council's Sports Development Unit

- Targeting specific groups in the parks and open spaces, providing advice on keeping safe and area activities
- Merseyside Police giving individuals causing problems directions to leave the area and not to return within 24hrs or face being arrested
- Putting in place a Public Spaces Protection Order around the boating lakes to prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB) and provide another avenue of enforcement
- Providing reassurance to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- WASBT and Police carrying out home visits to individuals causing issues in the area to issue a warning
- Managing areas used by the young people to congregate in
- Providing crime prevention advice to local businesses to prevent future issues

This led to a massive reduction in ASB in the New Brighton area and on public transport. There was a reduction in calls to the Police and Merseyrail staff stated that they felt safer.

These results were also fed back into the Marine Point Problem Solving Group and the Wallasey Constituency Meeting. Another PSG is planned for March 2016 to implement an early prevention plan for summer 2016.

Case Study 'Restorative Justice'

Bob, aged 60, works in a local Community Centre that was experiencing anti-social behaviour by a 10 year old boy called Ian.

Ian lived near the centre and repeatedly committed acts of anti-social behaviour in and around the centre. Although he had been temporarily barred from the centre on several occasions, his behaviour did not improve. Bob reported Ian's behaviour to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team who made a referral to the Wirral Neighbourhood Justice Scheme.

Neighbourhood Justice Volunteers met with Bob and Ian separately and then arranged a face to face meeting between them. Bob told Ian how his behaviour had affected him and others. Ian became upset when he realised how he had made people feel and apologised to Bob. At the end of the meeting Ian signed an agreement regarding his future behaviour.

Bob said that he was very satisfied with the Restorative Justice process, which he thought was very professional, "I also thought it may have a negative outcome but firmly believe after the meeting that it was a success. In certain cases I would strongly recommend this course of action". Ian has not caused any problems at the centre since the meeting.

4.0 OUR PRIORITIES

4.1 Build Stronger and more confident communities where people feel safe

Why is it a Priority?

You have told us that you want us to make tackling crime and anti-social behaviour a priority and residents have a right to expect us to respond effectively and quickly.

Involving the community is integral in tackling these issues, and working with local agencies will help them take successful action against crime and anti-social behaviour. We will work with our residents to support strong, active and inclusive communities, who are informed and involved in decision-making which will enable us to improve our services and create safer neighbourhoods.

You have told us that there is little for your children and the youths to do and this can lead to anti-social behaviour as gangs of youths congregate at certain places across the Borough. We have listened and we are delivering a £6million project called The Hive, which will be Wirral's first youth zone. There have been dramatic reductions in levels of anti-social behaviour in similar locations across the country where Youth Zones have been created.

It is clearly evident that reported crime and anti-social behaviour have continually fallen across the Wirral over the past 11 years. However the public perception of crime on Wirral remains high and 66% of you have also told us that Feeling Safe is your number one priority to your quality of life.

We know communities who feel informed about efforts to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour are more likely to feel safer and become involved.

We will continue to work towards reducing the actual levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, but as importantly we will be reviewing how we communicate to you about what we are doing in your area. We need to understand why some residents may not feel safe, and seek ways to ensure that this perception changes.

We will increase awareness and information about what opportunities are available to encourage residents to participate in tackling crime and disorder.

How are we going to get there?

- We will work with constituencies using community engagement to improve our approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- We will complete Wirral's first Youth Zone 'The Hive' for the boroughs young people age 8-19 and up to 25 for those with disabilities
- We will strengthen communications through social media to improve public perceptions of crime
- We will deliver targeted interventions to raise awareness of hate crime and encourage people to report incidents of crime and/or anti-social behaviour
- We will develop plans with probation, youth offending services and the voluntary sector to provide opportunities for offenders to undertake environmental improvement opportunities in their communities
- We will run targeted, high visibility multi-agency operations against relevant crimes across all communities

How we will measure if we're getting it right?

- A reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour to Merseyside Police
- People will tell us that they feel safer in their neighbourhoods
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of support programmes for victims of crime
- A reduction in repeat victims of anti-social behaviour
- Reduction in crimes recorded by the police

What's already happening in Wirral?

There is already a wide range of examples of community engagement initiatives across Wirral as well as methods of methods available to report anti-social behaviour and informing residents of our action. Some examples of work that already supports our objectives are:

Publicising enforcement activity

Activity taken against the perpetrators of crime and anti-social behaviour is often publicised by issuing press releases and in some circumstances through localised leafleting to residents and businesses directly in the affected neighbourhood. The purpose of this is to act as a deterrent to other potential perpetrators; demonstrate to residents that their concerns have been responded to; increase confidence in agencies' abilities to tackle crime and ASB and enable relevant court orders to be effectively 'policed' by the public to allow the prompt reporting of any breaches. As a partnership we will always undertake a risk assessment before any advertising of any individual names.

Providing information and key messages to the public

Each Neighbourhood Police Inspector circulates a newsletter every month about activity in their respective neighbourhood and includes work coordinated to tackle anti-social behaviour. The press is regularly used as a vehicle to deliver information to the public around ASB. More recently we have used social media to deliver messages to both adults and young people.

Constituency Committees

There are four Constituency Committees within Wirral:

- Birkenhead
- Wallasey
- Wirral South
- Wirral West

These committees have an advisory role and act as a voice for each of the four local community areas. They inform communities about what's happening in the local area, forthcoming events, funding opportunities and consultation events.

Volunteering Opportunities

There are a number of voluntary schemes where local residents can come together with the support of local partners, to build safe and friendly communities. They include, Neighbourhood Watch, the Neighbourhood Justice Scheme, Crime Panel Volunteers and Constituency Volunteers.

4.2 Improve Community Safety by tackling the cause and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour

Why is it a Priority?

Through the residents survey you have told us that you want Wirral to be a place where you can live safely and free from crime and anti-social behaviour. This is particularly prevalent in the Birkenhead and Wallasey constituency areas.

The term anti-social behaviour is broad and is used to describe the everyday incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder that can have a detrimental effect on people's quality of life and makes victims feel helpless in their own communities. We will place prevention at the heart of our work to tackle crime and anti social behaviour. Building on the excellent work undertaken by the Sports Development Team, Youth Services and the plethora of voluntary and 3rd sector activities and clubs, we will continue to review the universal offer available to the communities of Wirral to ensure that they provide real opportunities especially to the younger people, who might otherwise congregate together in the streets and neighbourhoods.

Crime causes damage - be that physical, economic or social. The damage caused to each individual and to the wider community by crime is unacceptable. Crime causes fear which reduces confidence and resilience in communities. By tackling the causes and impact of crime we will improve the lives of victims, their families and the communities in which they live. By reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour we help build strong, resilient communities, in which people can thrive and reach their potential.

We understand the significant role that drugs and alcohol contribute to criminal behaviour. We will work with colleagues across the Partnership to review the preventative programmes and ensure they are fit for purpose. Where drugs and alcohol are having a community impact, we will do more to combat this and where necessary take appropriate action against criminals.

We will also work collectively to tackle environmental crime and anti-social behaviour by looking at how we as a Partnership can affect behaviour change – e.g. so that people do not drop litter, there is no fly-tipping and dog owners do clean-up their dogs mess. We will work with our colleagues involved in the Early Years strategy to ensure that our young people are aware of what opportunities and resources are available so that hanging around on street corners becomes less of an attraction to them.

How are we going to get there?

- We will undertake further insight and engagement activity within Birkenhead and Wallasey Constituencies to greater understand the perceptions of crime in these areas
- We will deliver a plan to changing the behaviour and culture of children and young people in regards to crime and anti-social behaviour using both early intervention and enforcement.
- We will deliver a plan that encourages businesses and the voluntary sector to report incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour and to become a part of the solution to tackle its causes.
- We will review the range of diversionary activities currently available to ensure they provide the most effective outcomes for all young people.
- We will promote initiatives, such as Wirral's Neighbourhood Justice Scheme, to resolve crime and anti-social behaviour.
- We will review the current programmes which are tackling the use of drugs and alcohol across the Borough.

How we will measure if we're getting it right?

- A reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour to Merseyside Police
- People will tell us that they feel safer in their neighbourhoods
- A reduction in repeat victims of anti-social behaviour
- An increase in Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling and Littering

What's already happening in Wirral?

There is already a wide range of services and initiatives across Wirral which are dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour including:

[Respect Consortium](#)

Wirral Council and eighteen Registered Providers (RP's) of social housing form the Respect Consortium for Wirral. Partners meet quarterly to share good practice to ensure they deliver continuous improved services aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour and promote a principle of respect.

[Neighbourhood Justice Scheme](#)

This is a scheme to tackle anti-social behaviour and low level crime in Wirral. It is managed by Wirral Council, coordinated by Merseyside Police and is referred into by all of our partners.

The Neighbourhood Justice Scheme brings together the person(s) who has caused the harm and the person(s) affected in a safe environment to reach an agreed outcome. This encourages the perpetrator to acknowledge the impact of their actions on others. It also gives them the opportunity to make good the harm caused. A restorative justice approach has been proven to reduce the risk of further offences being committed and to stop any conflict from escalating further.

[Noise nuisance](#)

The Pollution Control Section (based within Environmental Health) responds to complaints regarding statutory noise nuisances this includes noise from barking dogs, DIY, loud music and commercial/industrial activities. Complainants will be asked to keep a log of the incidents of noise nuisance and provide back to the team for investigation. Intervention and enforcement action can be taken to abate noise nuisances where required which includes the seizure of noise making equipment and prosecution.

[Wirral Control Room](#)

Wirral Council operates a 24/7 all year Out-of-Hours service which acts as the first point of contact for environmental and structural damage emergencies as well as providing an alarm and security service to all council buildings and a number of Wirral schools.

This does not replace Merseyside Police 999 emergency response.

[Wirral Community Patrol](#)

This service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide security, key holding and response patrols to schools, public buildings and parks. The team also respond to incidents of ASB and support the Council's emergency planning response.

4.3 Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities

Why is it a Priority?

Vulnerable individuals should be able to have complete confidence in reporting to any agency issues that make them feel unsafe in their neighbourhood and to receive the best support for their needs. We understand that protecting vulnerable people should be everybody's business. It is a complex and sensitive area and to achieve this it is likely we will need to increase resources, as well as deliver greater integration with partners.

We will pay particular attention to our children and young people as Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be a challenge. We will tackle hate crime, domestic abuse and other offences committed against vulnerable adults and children and we will support victims from the earliest opportunity as this is paramount to how they cope and recover. We will work with all our communities to ensure we protect those who are vulnerable to radicalisation and work with the schools and colleges to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. We also know from the residents survey that Social Isolation is a major contributory factor in feeling safe. As such we will work with partners and communities through the Ageing Well strategy to address social isolation and to Make Safeguarding Personal.

We know that some people are more likely to become either perpetrators and/or victims of crime and that those already involved in criminal behaviour often become the perpetrators of further crime against vulnerable people such as hate crimes and domestic abuse.

We also know that there is strong evidence to support that intervention at the earliest opportunity is key to preventing crime and criminal behaviour. Early intervention and prevention will be a fundamental principle running through our approach.

This strategy commits us to protecting vulnerable people including the identification, protection and support of those people who are at risk of becoming victims on the basis of prejudice. There are many definitions of vulnerable person but in this strategy we mean the term in its widest possible sense to include anyone of any age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or other protected characteristic who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

How are we going to get there?

- We will work with vulnerable groups such as the elderly and people with learning disabilities to understand their particular needs and to address their issues
- We will ensure that vulnerable people affected by crime and disorder feel confident to report issues and are at the heart of our response
- We will ensure that vulnerable people do not become repeat victims of crime by implementing the right support at the earliest opportunity, and are aware of all support available to assist them to cope and recover
- We will develop our Partnership responses to protect and support victims of domestic abuse and harmful practices and put victims at the heart of our response to anti-social behaviour
- We will create better networks to deliver interventions which break the cycle of criminal behaviours at the earliest opportunity to Wirral's most vulnerable families
- We will strive to eradicate all criminal behaviour and attitudes relating to hate, in whatever form it presents itself

How we will measure if we're getting it right?

- A reduction in the percentage of repeat incidents of hate crime
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of support programmes for victims of crime

What's already happening in Wirral?

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

MAPPA is a multi-agency group to minimise the potential harm through the successful management of the high risk violent and sexual offenders.

Alleygating

Wirral has over 1000 Alleygates which are designed to prevent burglary in areas where there are alleyways which were used by criminals to burgle and use as escape routes. The Council stopped funding new schemes in 2008 but continue to provide maintenance and repair budget to ensure the gates are kept in good working order.

Wirral Family Safety Unit

Wirral Family Safety Unit (FSU) is a team of qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) which act independently of the Police and provide advice and support to victims of domestic abuse.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Catch 22

Catch 22 provides assertive support with sanctions and possible enforcement action to increase a family's motivation to change their behaviour. Specifically focussing on anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and domestic abuse.

Multisystemic Therapy

Wirral's Multisystemic Therapy (MST) team works with families and communities to address the causes of serious anti-social behaviour in young people aged 11-16. Working to support families in finding ways to improve the young person's chances for the future.

Family Intervention Project (FIP)

Vulnerable Families identified as having complex needs including crime or anti-social behaviour, (as well as health, truancy unemployment and other social issues), are referred to the service. With the permission of the family, a key worker will arrange to meet with them to talk about their support needs and coordinates work that ensures that these families receive the right support at the right time.

4.4 Deliver greater integration with all relevant partner agencies to achieve a Safer Wirral

Why is it a Priority?

We know that there is already good joined up working across partners to improve community safety. As the amount of financial resource reduces across the public sector it is even more vital to explore how best we can collectively use these resources.

We will therefore build on the range of existing partnership activity set out below to bring key services together into one Strategic Hub through more formal integration and new delivery models for community safety. Models where the Police have clear operational control for all the community safety resources, so that they can respond more quickly and more appropriately to areas of need.

We will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate even further with neighbouring districts and other potential partners, to ensure that we maximise the potential of all available resources.

How are we going to get there?

- We will deliver an integration plan for community safety services
- We will commission effective and efficient services that will deliver our community safety priorities and ensure that resources are targeted towards areas of most need
- We will review the anti-social behaviour and crime reporting processes to ensure that they are fit for purpose
- We will review how we promote action taken to combat crime and anti-social behaviour to continue to raise awareness of safer neighbourhoods and improve residents perceptions
- We will work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and our neighbouring districts and agencies to identify future opportunities for delivering services across a City Region footprint

How we will measure if we're getting it right:

- People will tell us that they feel safer in their neighbourhoods
- Reduction in crimes recorded by the police

What is already happening in Wirral?

There is already a significant amount of multi-agency and integrated work occurring across Wirral. Some examples of this are:

Community Safety Partnership

Wirral Community Safety Partnership is made up of local agencies who work together to ensure safer neighbourhoods across Wirral. They include Wirral Council, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Merseyside Police, Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, and the Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company, Merseytravel (Travelsafe), Community Action Wirral, Crown Prosecution Service, Magistrates Court Service, Youth Offending Service, Chamber of Commerce, Clinical Commissioning Group and Older Peoples Parliament.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The MASH brings all the agencies who are involved in safeguarding children and adults together under one roof with the goals of improving relationships and providing a confidential information sharing service, which enables all the organisations to work closer together to give vulnerable people a better service.

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team (WASBT)

WASBT is a multi-disciplinary team with officers from Wirral Council, Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. The team is dedicated to investigating Wirral's most serious cases of anti-social behaviour. The team has at its disposal a range of enforcement powers - including Injunction, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Public Spaces Protection Orders, Community Protection Warnings and Notices, as well as early intervention tools including Warnings, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Restorative Practise; whilst ensuring support is identified and offered to both perpetrator and victim.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

Integrated Offender Management combines the Police, Probation and Drug Support Agencies to manage those offenders causing the greatest blight to Wirral communities. The ethos of the initiative stems from the statistic that 10% of offenders commit 90% of crime. The most prolific priority offenders are supported in desisting from their criminal behaviour through education, employment and drug and alcohol issues.

Multi Agency Action Group (MAAG)

The purpose of MAAG is to enable partnership action to be taken against those young individuals/groups identified as causing the greatest harm to communities and to society in general.

Data Intelligence Team (DIT):

DIT supports the approach to tackling anti-social behaviour by co-ordinating all intelligence and performance analysis across Wirral's Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The team combines data from agencies within Wirral CSP to produce a holistic view of crime and disorder hotspot locations and vulnerable/repeat victims across Wirral.

ASB Governance Group

A multi-agency ASB Governance Group meets on a monthly basis to develop and implement action plans to tackle ASB in 'hot spot' locations across Wirral. These hot spots are identified through analysis provided by Wirral Councils Data Intelligence Team. This partnership meeting also provides a response to any emerging issues that are identified by agencies and focuses upon repeat victims.



5.0 HOW WE WILL DELIVER THIS STRATEGY

This strategy will provide a clear framework for partners to work collectively and make a real difference against each of the strategic priorities outlined within the strategy.

The following actions will be delivered over the lifetime of this strategy with detailed project plans to be developed. To ensure there is regular review and monitoring of progress the strategy will be a responsibility of the Safer Wirral Partnership. There will be further engagement and consultation with residents, partner organisations and other stakeholders as we develop the more detailed action plans.

An annual review of the strategy will take place assessing the progress against each of the actions.

5.1 Action Plan

1. Build safer, stronger, more confident communities where people feel safe

Theme Lead: Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service		
Action	By When	Lead Organisation
We will work with constituencies using community engagement to improve our approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.	December 2016	Wirral Council
We will strengthen communications through social media to improve public perceptions of crime	March 2017	Community Safety Partnership
We will deliver targeted interventions to raise awareness of hate crime and encourage people to report incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour	March 2017	Safer Wirral Partnership
We will develop plans with probation, youth offending services and the voluntary sector to provide opportunities for offenders to undertake environmental improvement opportunities in their communities.	March 2017	National Probation Service / Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company / Youth Offending Services
We will run targeted, high visibility multi-agency operations against relevant crimes across all communities	2016-2020	Merseyside Police
We will create a £6 million youth zone called The Hive, which when operational will offer a significant level of diversionary activity and reduce ASB.	Completed Summer 2016 Opens Dec 2016	Wirral Council

2. Improve Community Safety by Tackling the Cause and Impact of crime and ASB

Theme Lead: Merseyside Police		
Action	By When	Lead Organisation
We will review the range of diversionary activities currently available to ensure they provide the most effective outcomes for all young people.	March 2018	Wirral Council
We will undertake further insight and engagement activity within Birkenhead and Wallasey Constituencies to greater understand the perceptions of crime in these areas	Sept 2016	Wirral Council
We will deliver a plan to change the behaviour and culture of children and young people in regards to crime and anti-social behaviour using both early intervention and enforcement	December 2016	Wirral Council
We will work with the Chamber of Commerce, Wirral businesses and the 3rd sector to review how we promote action taken to combat crime and anti-social behaviour to continue to raise awareness of safer neighbourhoods and improve people's perceptions of feeling unsafe	March 2018	Wirral Council / Chamber of Commerce/ Wirral Council
We will promote the use of initiatives such as Wirral's Neighbourhood Justice Scheme, to resolve anti-social behaviour.	March 2017	Wirral Council
We will ensure that the work of the Alcohol Harm & Reduction Strategy is aligned to reducing the levels of crime and ASB associated with the misuse of these substances.	Spring 2016	Public Health / Merseyside Police

3. Protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities

Theme Lead: Wirral Council		
Action	By When	Lead Organisation
We will work with vulnerable groups such as the elderly and people with learning disabilities to understand their particular needs and to address their issues	March 2017	Ageing Well Steering Group
We will ensure that vulnerable people affected by hate related crime and disorder feel confident to report issues and are at the heart of our response.	2019	Merseyside Police
We will ensure that vulnerable people do not become repeat victims of crime by implementing the right support at the earliest opportunity, and are aware of all support available to assist them to cope and recover	Summer 2017	Community Safety Partnership
We will develop our Partnership responses to protect and support victims of domestic abuse and harmful practices and put victims and the protection of children at the heart of our response	March 2017	Domestic Abuse & Harmful Practices Steering Group
We will create better networks to deliver interventions which break the cycle of criminal behaviours at the earliest opportunity to Wirral's most vulnerable families.	March 2017	Wirral Council
<p>We will protect very vulnerable children, young people and adults by building on the work and priorities of the LSB's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure work is co-ordinated across all agencies to safeguard children and adults • To support the Making Safeguarding Personal Campaign 	On-going to 2020	Local Safeguarding Board's / Community Safety Partnership

4. Deliver greater integration with all relevant partner agencies to achieve a Safer Wirral

Theme Lead: Merseyside Police		
Action	By When	Lead Organisation
We will form a working group to deliver an integration plan for community safety services across the Wirral Partnership.	Scoping document By Sept 2016	Wirral Council
We will commission effective and efficient services that will deliver our community safety priorities and ensure that all of our resources are targeted towards areas of most need	March 2017	Wirral Council
We will review the anti-social behaviour and crime reporting processes to ensure they are fit for purpose	Sept 2016	Community Safety Partnership
We will continue to work with the Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner and our neighbouring Councils to identify future opportunities for delivering services on a City region footprint.	March 2018	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner / Wirral Council

5.2 How Will We Know if We are Getting it Right?

By presenting this strategy we are pledging that by 2020 we will have a Wirral which is free from crime and anti-social behaviour, where Wirral residents can live side by side without the any fear of feeling unsafe. We will be able to demonstrate that the strategy is making a difference by the following outcome measures:

- Fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour
- Decrease in number of repeat offenders
- Decrease in number of repeat victims
- People will feel safer in their neighbourhoods

We will know how we will have achieved these outcomes through:

- A reduction in reports of crime and anti-social behaviour to Merseyside Police
- People will tell us that they feel safer in their neighbourhoods
- A reduction in repeat incidents of hate crime
- A reduction in repeat victims of anti-social behaviour
- An increase in Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling and Littering
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of support programmes for victims of crime

6.0 CONCLUSION

The key to delivering this strategy is effective partnership working. No one agency can deliver all the activities that will ensure we achieve our objectives.

Through partnership events and stakeholder consultation, we have engaged with residents and listened to their feedback to help develop this action plan.

We will continue to work in even greater collaborative ways to ensure that everyone knows Wirral has:

- Safer communities, with lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Shared communities, where each person's rights are respected in a shared and cohesive community; and
- Confident communities, where people feel safe and have confidence in the agencies that serve them

7.0 STEERING GROUP MEMBERS



8.0 REFERENCES

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- 3 JMU Centre for Public Health (2015): Injury Surveillance in the North West of England; <http://www.cph.org.uk/monitoringreports/tiig/merseyside/Arrowe%20Park%20Monthly%20Bulletin%20apr14%20to%20mar15.pdf> accessed 3/3/2016
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