

2008/9 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT DACORUM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



'OUR MISSION IS TO REDUCE CRIME, DISORDER AND ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, MAKING PEOPLE FEEL SAFER IN THEIR HOMES AND ALSO GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY LIVES'

Councillor Nick Tiley, Chair of Dacorum Community Safety Partnership



Introduction

Dacorum is a mixture of urban and rural communities in West Hertfordshire. It has a population of 137,799 people (2001 census), more than half of whom live in Hemel Hempstead. The market towns of Berkhamsted and Tring are situated in the more rural areas of the Borough. There are 57,612 dwellings (2003 figure) of which around 20% (11,291) are owned by the Council.

Dacorum Community Safety Partnership is the preferred name for the Dacorum Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

Dacorum Community Safety Partnership is a wide partnership with the following statutory members

- Dacorum Borough Council
- Hertfordshire Police Authority
- Dacorum Primary Care Trust
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Hertfordshire Constabulary

The Partnership has made good progress since the publication of the 2005-2008 Community Safety Strategy towards our Government PSA1 target of reducing overall crime by 15.7%. As at the end of December 2007 we have achieved a reduction in crime of 14%.

Dacorum continues to deliver good partnership working, with the close proximity of the Police and Fire stations to the Council offices lending itself in no small way to this.

Following the guidance issued by both the Home Office and the County Council, Dacorum decided to follow the theme headings listed below, these being :

Reducing Crime
Managing Offenders
Tackling Drugs
Tackling Alcohol Misuse
Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour
Improving Feelings of Safety

A template with the six themes was sent out to partners to gain information to complete the document. After gathering the information from partners, this was fed into the analysis matrix as recommended by the Home Office (see section 2) and this was used to identify our priorities.

This Strategic Assessment fulfils the statutory requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and identifies for Dacorum the priorities that the Community Safety Partnership intends to address over the period April 2008 to March 2009.

The Analysis

As stated earlier once we received information back from partners it was fed into the following matrix to highlight our priorities for the year ahead.

Crime / Problem Type	Volume (Prevention)	Detection	MSCDRP Comparison	Crime Trends	Seriousness (risk to people & organisation)	Public Concern	Crime & Disorder Generator	Intelligence Gaps	Total	Final Rank
Anti-Social Behaviour	4	3	3	3	4	5	4	3	29	1
Criminal Damage	4	3	4	3	3	4	1	4	26	2
Vehicle Crime	5	4	3	3	2	2	2	4	25	3
Theft From Persons	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	5	25	3
Drug Misuse	4	2	3	3	4	3	4	2	25	3
Alcohol Misuse	4	0	3	3	4	2	4	3	23	4
Dwelling Burglary	3	3	2	3	4	3	2	3	23	4
Security / Terrorism	1	1	1	4	5	3	3	4	22	5
Personal Robbery	2	3	3	2	3	4	2	3	22	5
Violent crime	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	21	6
Hate Crime	2	3	3	3	5	2	1	1	20	7
Pedal Cycle Theft	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	16	8

Score	Level Of Concern	Priority
5	Very High Concern	Highly Recommended
4	High Concern	
3	Concern	Recommended
2	Low Concern	
1	Very Low Concern	Not Recommended
0	No Concern	

The Priorities

From the matrix shown in section 2 these are the identified priorities for Dacorum for 2008/2009

PRIORITY 1
To tackle anti-social behaviour, including criminal damage
PRIORITY 2
To reduce vehicle crime in Dacorum particularly theft from a vehicle
PRIORITY 3
To reduce the effects of substance misuse in Dacorum, and to bring down levels of drug and alcohol related crime
PRIORITY 4
To reduce theft from a person, particularly focusing on our town centres
PRIORITY 5
To reduce instances of dwelling burglary, in particular where distraction is used by the offenders to gain entry to the property
PRIORITY 6
To increase feelings of safety, particularly in Hemel Hempstead

Conclusion

A partnership plan is to be produced around the Priorities effective from April 2008. In it we intend to list the actions that will be taken to ensure that we are able to deliver on our priorities.

Dacorum's strategic assessment will also feed into Hertfordshire County Councils assessment. Of the Dacorum Priorities outlined we believe that Priorities 1, 3, 5 and 6 should be adopted as countywide priorities for 2008/9. These are tackling anti-social behaviour including criminal damage, reducing substance and alcohol misuse, reducing distraction burglary and increasing the feelings of safety. This Partnership also believes that County should prioritise domestic violence and continue to support the excellent work of the Sunflower Centre.

For more information please contact Clive Townsley, Community Safety Co-ordinator, Tel No 01442 228641 or clive.townsley@dacorum.gov.uk