

# **Derby Violent Crime** Reduction Strategy



**2008-2011**

### The background to this strategy

Violent crime includes robbery, sexual offences and 'violence against the person' offences, such as assault and murder. However, most recorded violent crime is low-level thuggery.

Overall, violent crime has fallen 35% since 1995. Serious violent crime accounts for only 1% of all crime, but can devastate lives and raise levels of fear.

### The local picture:

Violent crime represents around 23% of all recorded crime in Derby. It can be estimated that around 8,420 violent crimes occur in Derby each year, of which 70% are reported to the Police. Assaults form the largest component of violent crime (84%), with domestic assaults accounting for around 16%.

The violent crime rate in Derby is in line with that of comparable local authority areas, but woundings exceed the family average by around 24%.

Violent crime overall in Derby is now showing a rising trend. Males aged 24 and under are at highest risk of violent crime victimisation. The proportion of older robbery victims has, however, increased compared to 2005/06, particularly males aged 55 and over. Most offences occur in and on the fringes of the city centre, but research shows that there is an increasing problem in our neighbourhoods.

Alcohol-related violent crime is a particular concern. Research shows that Derby has a significantly higher level of alcohol-related violent crimes and alcohol-related sexual offences than the national average. Domestic violence is still a serious and under-reported problem. Knife crime and the growth of gang culture are high profile public concerns. This Strategy addresses these concerns.

This Strategy is supported by a detailed Action Plan, agreed by partner agencies, which deals with intelligence, enforcement and prevention. This Action Plan will be revised annually to take account of emerging trends. The delivery of the Strategy will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Alcohol Harm and Violent Crime Reduction Group, in recognition of joint areas of delivery.

The partners in this Strategy are:

Derby Community Safety Partnership  
Derbyshire Constabulary  
Derby City Council  
NHS Derby City  
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Derby Homes  
Enthusiasm (voluntary sector)  
Derbyshire Probation Area

### Alcohol-related crime

Around half of all violent crime is alcohol-related. Around 39% of people arrested by the Police are intoxicated at the time of their arrest. Alcohol is known to be a major factor in city centre assaults and domestic violence. Misuse of alcohol causes disorder and disrupts our communities. It also places a huge burden upon health, Police and other services.

#### Our aims are to:

- to maintain public safety and reduce disorder
- restrict the supply of alcohol to young (under-age) people
- to ensure well-run, safe drinking establishments
- to promote a sensible drinking culture
- contribute to a vibrant night-time economy
- increase visibility of partnership resources.

#### We will achieve this by:

- working in partnership to ensure rigorous regulation of licensed premises
- taking enforcement action against problematic premises
- working with licensees to reduce opportunities for violence
- implementing a strong Police patrol strategy at weekends and bank holidays
- developing innovative schemes such as taxi marshals and street pastors
- setting up a regular programme of test purchases at off licences
- supporting the Derby Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy
- continuously reviewing national good practice and implementing this locally, where possible
- identifying 'hot spot' locations and developing interventions
- providing evidence-based services to reduce re-offending.

### Domestic and serious sexual violence

Domestic violence accounts for 16% of violent crime and has more repeat victims than any other crime. Domestic violence claims the lives of women each week and yet still remains massively under reported. Serious sexual violence is also a crime that is disproportionately committed against women and, again, under reporting is a significant problem.

The restructured Domestic and Sexual Violence Unit within Derby Community Safety Partnership has broadened its brief to include serious sexual violence, honour-based violence, prostitution, stalking and harassment. This thematic approach reflects national strategy developments in this area of work.

#### Our aims are to:

- to provide appropriate and effective advocacy support to high and very high risk victims of domestic and sexual violence
- to encourage the reporting of domestic and sexual violence across all communities in Derby
- to reduce repeat victimisation in domestic violence incidents
- to reduce the number of cracked and collapsed cases by providing effective support through the court process
- to work with key agencies in developing innovative responses to honour-based violence
- to reduce street prostitution and sexual exploitation.

#### We will achieve this by:

- establishing a Family Justice Centre, providing a comprehensive, high-quality response to victims of domestic violence and serious sexual assault
- working with the Crime Prevention Team to ensure victims and their families are safe in their homes
- introducing an alcohol screening tool as part of the risk assessment process for all clients to ensure appropriate referrals to alcohol treatment services
- developing a serious sexual violence action plan, in conjunction with our key partners, to ensure victims receive a high-quality service
- working with key partners in ensuring the continued development of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) process targeting those most at risk of serious harm or homicide
- introducing a programme of training provided by partners to increase awareness of domestic and sexual violence
- making sure that alcohol harm reduction activity addresses the links between sexual violence and alcohol.

### Knife crime

Nationally, there has been huge public concern around the apparent increase in the carrying and use of knives in society, particularly amongst young people. Media coverage may have also contributed to people's heightened sense of fear. The Government has now brought out a national protocol aimed at ensuring that people aged 16 and over are automatically prosecuted if caught in illegal possession of knives and other offensive weapons. So far, Derby has not seen a significant increase in offences involving such weapons. We are determined to take all necessary measures to ensure that such an increase does not occur.

#### Our aims are to:

- reduce the carriage and use of weapons in our communities
- catch those people who do carry weapons
- make our public places safe for citizens
- educate young people about the dangers of carrying weapons
- reassure the public that knife crime is being dynamically tackled.

#### We will achieve these aims by:

- analysing incidents of knife crime in Derby and responding appropriately
- supporting the national protocol on charging of offenders
- visiting and working with all city schools, through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, to teach pupils about the dangers of knife crime as part of their Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons
- developing post-court interventions through the CSP's Youth Offending Service to deter young people from carrying weapons
- increasing the use of 'knife arches' and detector wands in entertainment venues, possibly using them as a condition of a licence
- implementing media campaigns to reassure the public and promote work taking place to tackle this issue
- working with voluntary groups, such as Enthusiasm, to enhance prevention activity and inform young people of the dangers linked to knife crime, as both victim and perpetrator.

### Gang violence

The growth of gang culture in our communities has been significant in recent years. In Derby, the emergence of rival gangs has become a focus for escalating violence and criminality. Partner agencies are working to address these issues in a holistic fashion.

#### Our aims are to:

- reduce the risk of harm to local people of gang-related violence
- gather comprehensive intelligence on gangs and gang leaders
- target and arrest gang members involved in criminality
- divert young people from joining gangs
- reassure the public that action is being taken to combat and contain the problem.

#### We will achieve these aims by:

- identifying key individuals and implementing partnership interventions (enforcement and prevention)
- identifying actual and potential leaders and implementing processes to engage them, to divert them from group offending and to build positive relationships working with communities and community leaders to build resilience and prevent further escalation of group offending
- developing our communications and media relations work to inform and reassure the public
- building our own capacity to respond to gang-related violence through training.

**The partners in this Strategy are:**

Derby Community Safety Partnership  
Derbyshire Constabulary  
Derby City Council  
NHS Derby City  
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Derby Homes  
Enthusiasm (voluntary sector)  
Derbyshire Probation Area

**For further information, contact:**

**Derby Community Safety Partnership**

3rd Floor, St Peter's House, Gower Street, Derby DE1 1SB

Telephone: 01332 256926

Minicom: 01332 256900

Email: [community.safety@derby.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@derby.gov.uk)

Website: [www.saferderby.org](http://www.saferderby.org)



**December 2008**