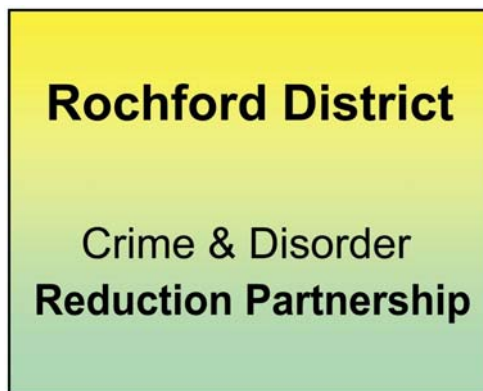


Crime and Disorder Reduction In Rochford District

Strategic Assessment



Produced by the
CRIME and DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP

2008/2009

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Abbreviations:

<i>Rochford District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership</i>	-	<i>RDCDRP</i>
<i>Annual Partnership Plan</i>	-	<i>APP</i>
<i>Strategic Assessment</i>	-	<i>SA</i>
<i>Essex Police Rochford District Strategic Assessment</i>	-	<i>EPRDSA</i>

2. INTRODUCTION

This **Strategic Assessment** (SA) is the result of a comprehensive analysis of crime, disorder and community safety data within the Rochford District including consultation with the public and a wide range of organisations and other agencies representing our communities. The subsequent **Annual Partnership Plan (APP)** is based upon the priorities identified through the SA which will drive forward our actions to reduce crime and disorder.

The Strategic Assessment and Annual Partnership Plan will be **renewed each year** until 2011 to reflect changing priorities, key issues and crime trends within our communities.

The APP will help the Rochford District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (RDCDRP) achieve its objectives. The actions will be regularly reviewed, updated and added to as the three-year life of the Plan unfolds.

Through the SA process the following have been identified as priorities for the RDCDRP for the coming financial year:-

- Reduce all reported crime by 5% during 2008/09.
- Engage with local communities to understand and deal with issues raised and provide reassurance regarding perception of safety in the area.
- Reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour attributable to young people.
- Support measures which enable the safeguarding of victims of domestic abuse and increase detection rates of perpetrators.
- Reduce both alcohol and substance misuse and the harm caused, especially amongst young people.
- Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.
- Reduce reoffending by supporting measures to facilitate the rehabilitation and resettlement of offenders.

3. AIM OF STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The aim of the SA is to identify current patterns, trends, future gaps and risks that impact upon Rochford District and the communities it serves, linked to crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, fear of crime and behaviour adversely affecting the environment.

A significant part of the SA is the development of a comprehensive analysis of community safety related issues and how these link to our partner agencies' most recent crime data, performance and service plans. This document is about future performance, in response to intelligence led information, analysis and data, that inform the Council, Police, County Council, Primary Care Trust, National Probation and Fire and Rescue of the priorities and needs of the local community. It provides knowledge and understanding of the local communities problems that will inform and enable partners to set priorities, and in turn develop a co-ordinated response, to plan activities and deploy resources based on a clear understanding of the local issues and needs.

This process will enable the RDCDRP to review the effectiveness of current priorities, strategies and action plans and provide a detailed focus and direction throughout the time frame of this document. The development of robust plans and actions for tackling crime and disorder, with the options of education, prevention, intervention, enforcement and public reassurance via a comprehensive and holistic partnership focused approach to the priorities that have been identified. This will provide the foundation of the Partnership Plan that will set out how our priorities will be met.

Ultimately, the aim of the SA is to make Rochford District an even safer place to live, work, and visit.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



On behalf of Rochford District Council, Essex Police South Eastern Division (Rochford District), Essex Police Authority, Essex County Council, South East Essex Primary Care Trust and Essex Fire & Rescue Service we would like to take this opportunity to gratefully thank all our partner agencies and individual staff who gave their assistance, support, background information and statistics to aid the production of this document. We look forward to the future of sustained partnership working that will make Rochford an even safer place than it already is.

Paul Warren
Chief Executive
Rochford District Council

Dave Folkard
Chief Superintendent South Eastern Division (Rochford District)
Essex Police

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive
Essex County Council

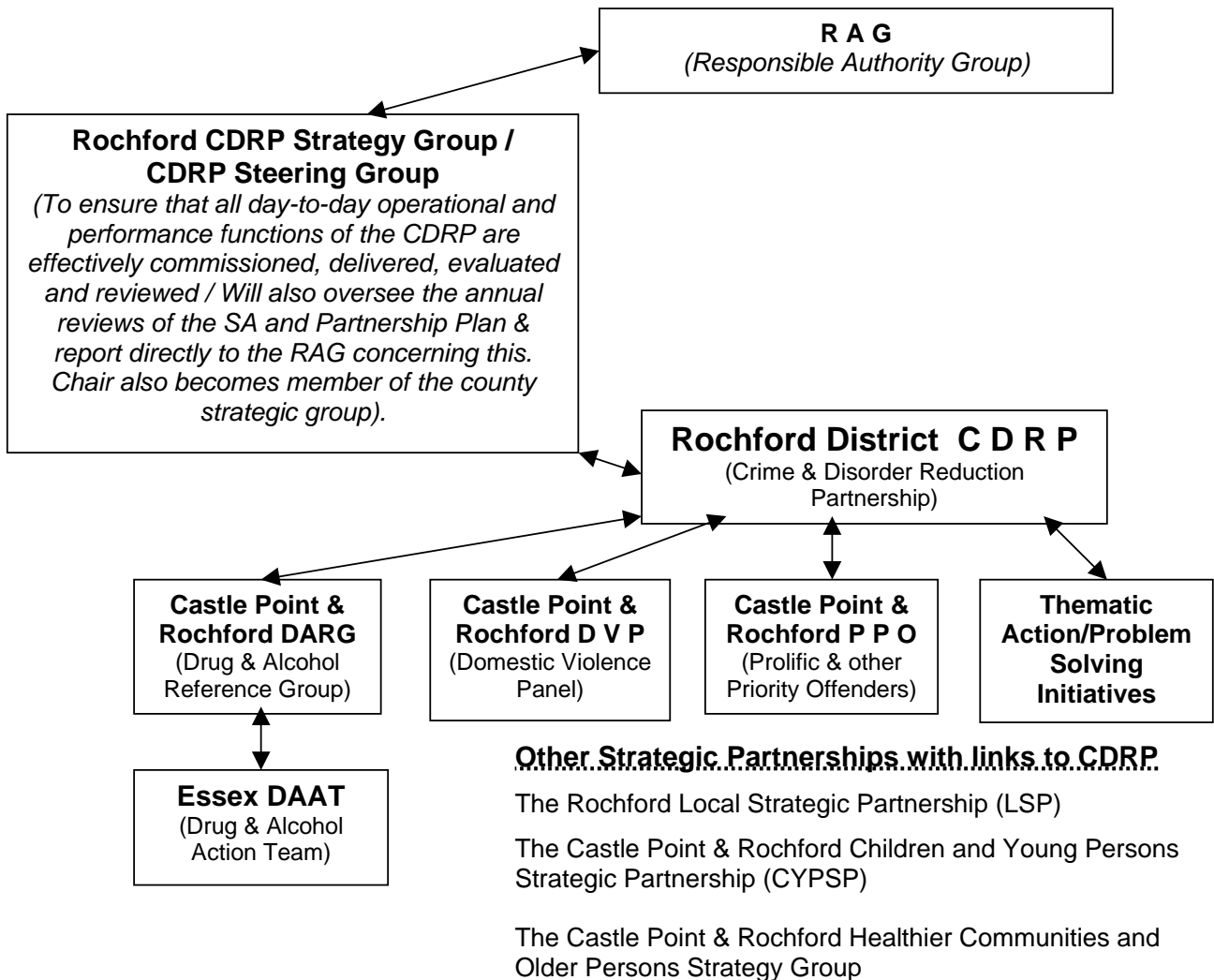
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5. CRIME & DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE DISTRICT

6. BACKGROUND

In 2006, a review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police Reform Act 2002 led to a series of recommendations. The 1998 Act included the requirement to produce a detailed crime and disorder audit; consult with key agencies and the wider community; use the findings to identify strategic priorities and set targets and performance measures. The review sought to strengthen and extend these requirements further based on the experience gained through partnership working. As a result, a new set of national minimum standards came into force in England in August 2007.

Over the past three years Rochford District CDRP has achieved an unprecedented reduction in targets set by the Home Office (Go-East):-

Rochford CDRP Crime Reduction Strategy – 3 year plan based on 2003/04 British Crime Survey (BCS) Baseline Figure of 2,796 offences committed

YEAR	Target Offences	% Target Reduction	Actual Offences
2005/06	2,674	4.5%	2,538 (Down 9%)
2006/07	2,548	9.0 %	2,074 (Down 26%)
2007/08	2,419	13.5%	1,869 (Down 33%) As at 31/12/07

Source: Essex Police (South Eastern Division)/Iquanta

“Since April 2004 Rochford has reduced BCS crime by 26.8% against a crime target to March 2008 of 13.5%. This, in % terms is the biggest decrease across the whole of the Eastern Region.

This is a monumental achievement and something all the partners should be very proud of.”

Government Office for the East of England



Moving into a new era and following our considerable success, all partners are committed to improving the quality of life for the communities of Rochford District, through a continued reduction in the fear of and incidence of crime and disorder.

7. CDRP STRATEGY GROUP

The seven responsible authorities (as specified in ‘acknowledgements’) have a legal obligation to comply with the requirements, which include the placing of the duty on the strategy group to prepare a Strategic Assessment. The seven authorities participate in the Strategy/Steering Group and each have contributed to the production of this SA.

8. METHODOLOGY

The SA is primarily created to address local issues, by analysis of a number of reports, using baseline crime data from 2003/4 to the end of 2007. We have also extracted and considered detailed statistics, measured people’s perception via public surveys, enabling partners to identify local priorities and concerns, including problematic and recent emerging issues.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has been extremely successful in reducing crime, currently achieving a 32% reduction; therefore we have had some difficulty prioritising one specific crime. Accordingly, we have set the priority of reduction in ‘All Crime’ at 5%. We have analysed other forms of information that are available to us to identify what priorities and issues, specifically relating to crime, have been identified to the partners through consultation with the local community.

However, this process has highlighted to the Partnership, the need for more detailed data analysis and more targeted data collection, as we have identified gaps in intelligence, analytical capacity, capabilities and community engagement mechanisms. This is an area in which funding will be directed to contribute to the continued development of such information gathering, as this will aid the production of future SA’s.

9. DATA SOURCES

The partnership drew up a list of potential datasets to assess how each could contribute to understanding the local community safety problems (data sharing and data protection protocols were followed). This allowed as wide a focus as possible, from a variety of organisations, as the table below demonstrates:-

DATA SOURCE	STATISTICAL	PERCEPTION	TIMEFRAME	GEOGRAPHICAL
Iquanta	✓		01 Dec 04 – 30 Nov 07	National
Local Government User Satisfaction Survey (LGUSS)	✓	✓	2006/07	National
Storm Database – Essex Police	✓		01 Apr 07 – 31 Dec 07	District
Citizens Panel Survey	✓	✓	2004 – 2006	District
Strategic Assessment Matrix		✓	2006 - 2007	District & County
Rochford CDRP Audit	✓	✓	2004	District
NAP's Action Plans		✓	2006 – 2007	Communities
ECC Tracker Survey 2007/08	✓	✓	2007	District & County
CDRP Community Initiatives		✓	2006 - 2008	Communities
CDRP Community Conference		✓	Feb. 2007	District
Essex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Primary Care Trust)	✓		2007	District & County
Local Futures Report	✓	✓	2007	District
Rochford District Council Area Committees		✓	2007 – 2008	Communities
Essex County Fire & Rescue data	✓		2007	District
Essex County Council Road Traffic Accident data	✓		2005 - 2007	District

SECTION 2: THE ANALYSIS

10. CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

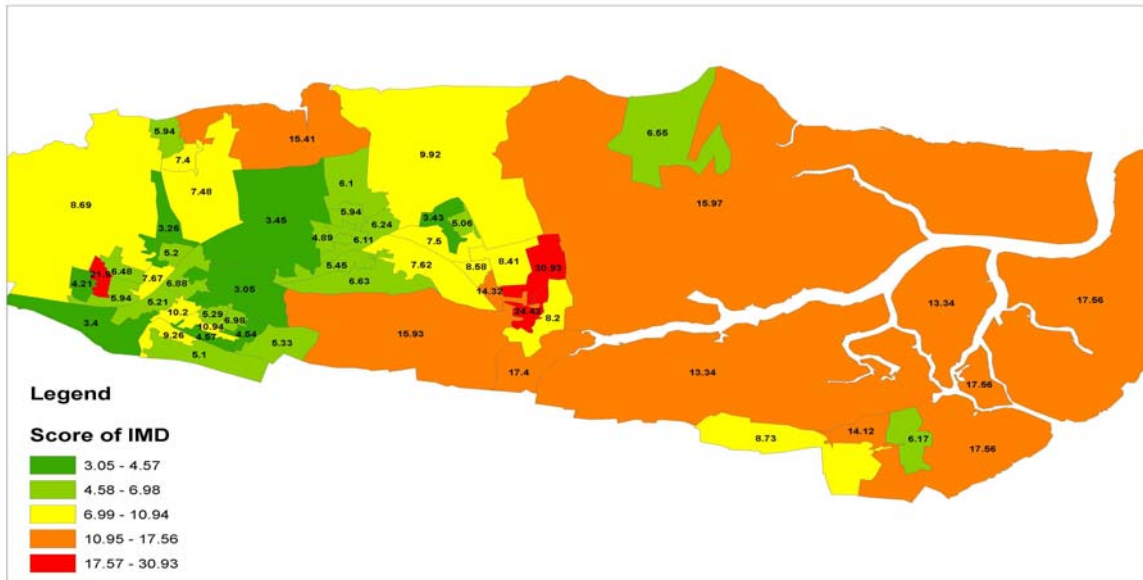
Rochford District is situated in south-east Essex, within a peninsula between the rivers Thames and Crouch and with the North Sea to the east. The south of the district adjoins the urban areas of Southend-on-Sea and Castle Point. Much of the district's 65 square miles is designated as green belt and there are many miles of attractive coastline and nationally important areas of salt marsh. Foulness Island and some adjoining areas in the east of the District are under Ministry of Defence control.

The district's population of some 79,700 inhabitants lives in three main settlements and a number of villages. . The population is predicted to grow to 80,300 by 2011. Overall, the residents of Rochford have a similar age profile to the East of England, but there are fewer young children (0-4) and young adults (19-31) and more people aged 52-69.

The largest town, Rayleigh, and the other two main settlements of Rochford and Hockley, have good rail connections to London and there is access to the A127 London-Southend Arterial Road and then to the A12 and M25. London Southend Airport is situated within the district and the airport and surrounding area are part of the Thames Gateway regeneration area.

The population from mixed or ethnic minority backgrounds is only 1.7% although estimates predict a 4% growth between 2001-2004 (source: ONS). The black and minority ethnic (BME) population is relatively dispersed amongst the urban settlements

The Government's standard measure of deprivation and inequality in England is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD covers a number of aspects of deprivation, including disadvantage in education; income; employment; health and housing. The district is relatively affluent, being 316th least deprived out of 354 districts. However at the ward and sub ward level there are pockets of deprivation with one Super Output Area (SOA) in the top 10% most income deprived in the Country, as detailed on the map below:-



The district has approximately 33,700 homes and one of the highest proportions of owner-occupation in the Country at 86%. Social housing comprises approximately 8%.

About 39,000 residents are in employment and the unemployment rate is low, at about 1%. There are about 21,000 jobs in the district, predominantly in the retail, wholesale and service sectors and only five businesses employ more than 250 staff.

A high proportion of the workforce commutes out of the district – 30% to Southend, 14% to London and 24% elsewhere.

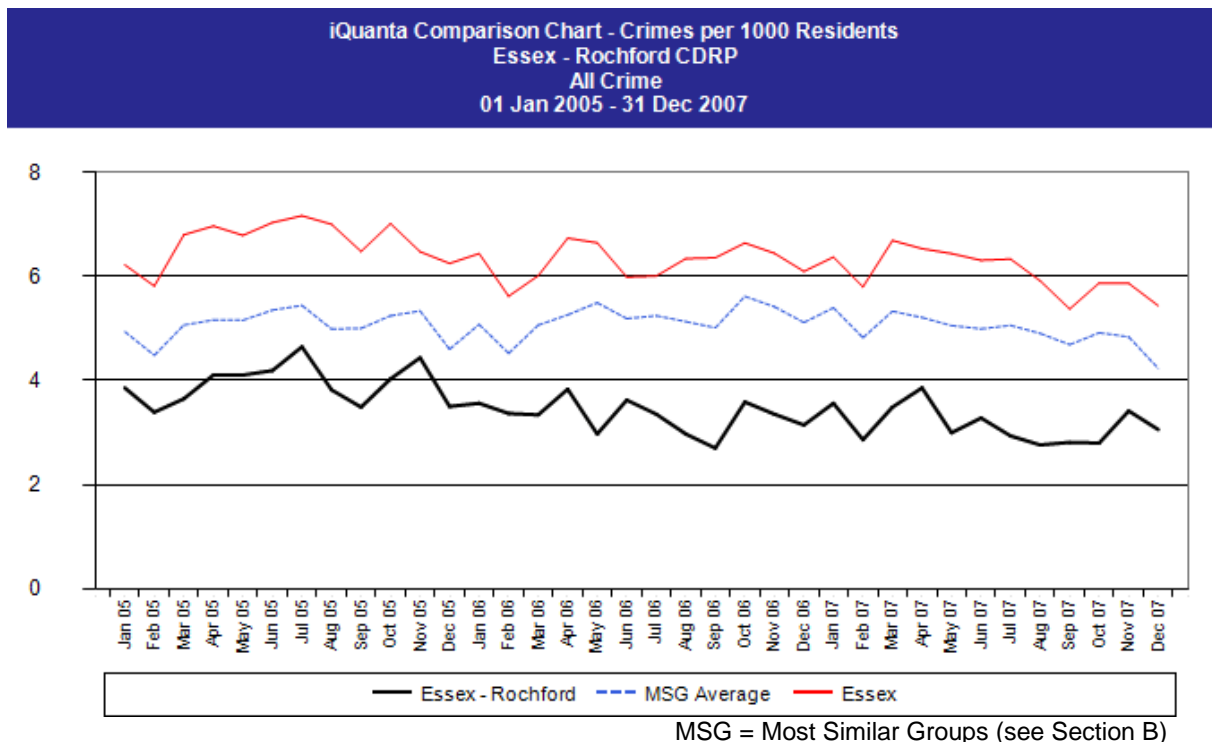
There are 7 industrial estates located within the District and work is underway on the new Rochford business park close to the Airport. Port facilities exist on the Rivers Crouch and Roach with a large wharf and warehousing at Wallasea.

11. THE SCANNING EXERCISE

The scanning exercise reviews and summarises various datasets and information, it identifies the levels and patterns of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance/alcohol misuse. For the Partnership to be able to understand fully what is happening some of the datasets examined may appear to be an unusual choice but we believe they will enable the Partnership to take a more holistic approach to try to get to a level where we develop a better understanding of our issues. Therefore the exercise refers to data from all sources, not just crime data.

A. An Assessment over time identifying trends and patterns

The graph below represents 'All Crime' looking back comparing from 2004 (which is the time period since our last Community Safety Strategy and Audit) with 2006/07 and the immediate past 12 months. It illustrates the decrease in offences since the highest level in July 2005, although crime levels did begin rising again for short periods between March-April and November 2007, (which shows a trend dating back the previous two years), offences are now continuing to reduce. The axis on the left, indicating the number of crimes per 1,000 residents in relation to our population.



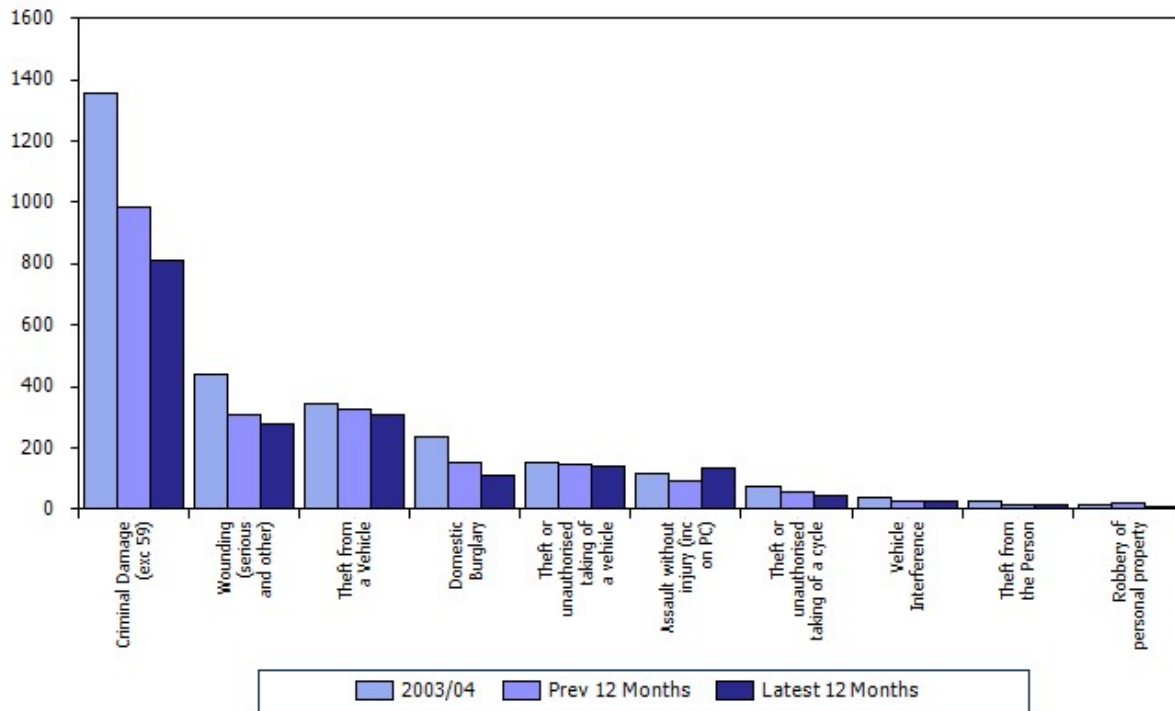
However, in contrast to the above statistics, results of the 2006/07 Local Government User Satisfaction Survey (LGUSS) show perception of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Rochford, as being ranked 5th out of 15 similar Local Authorities. This suggests that perception and fear of crime is an issue within our communities which the priorities of the SA will endeavour to address.

B. Assessments exploring changes in the levels and patterns over the past year

Rochford has consistently remained below both our family group (based nationally on Iquanta see Appendix 3) and the County average, particularly during the past 12 months. For 'All Crime', our 'Current Placing Amongst Family Group', based upon a similar population and their crime figures, currently shows the district's standing as 1st out of 15, with 37.815 crimes per 1,000 residents compared with the average for the family group of 59.459. (Source: Iquanta – Jan. to Dec. '07)

The charts below represent recorded British Crime Survey (BCS) comparator crime within the district looking back from the original baseline set up until the most recent timeframe of December 2007. The PSA 1 relates to Public Services Agreement, with the dataset listed often being referred to as the 'basket of 10', which are the main crime categories that the Home Office measure each CDRP's performance against.

**Progress towards PSA 1 target
Essex - Rochford CDRP
Data to end of Dec 07**



Year Ending	British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crime	% Increase/ Decrease	
31 March 2004	2,796		<i>Baseline</i>
31 March 2005	2,662	Down 5%	-
31 March 2006	2,538	Down 9%	<i>Year 1 of Strategy</i>
31 March 2007	2,074	Down 26%	<i>Year 2 of Strategy</i>

C. Public Engagement & Partner Agency Consultation

This will contain a breakdown of information and priorities highlighted by NAPs/ Community Initiatives/Community Conference/Tracker Survey/Citizens Panel and will include perception of fear of crime.

MATRIX FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

GROUP	FIRST CRIME & DISORDER PRIORITY	SECOND CRIME & DISORDER PRIORITY	THIRD CRIME & DISORDER PRIORITY
Neighbourhood Action Plan's (NAPs)	Speeding/Road Traffic Offences	Youth Nuisance because of lack of facilities for Young People	Crime Reduction for Theft of Motor Vehicle/Burglaries.
Citizens Panel	More Police Officers # Enforcement of Anti-Social Behaviour	More facilities needed for Young People	Speeding
Community Initiatives; Rayleigh, Great Wakering & Hullbridge	Anti-Social Behaviour involving Young People (YP)	Road Traffic Offences/Issues	Alcohol related Anti-Social Behaviour
Community Conference Evaluation forms	Youth Nuisance including alcohol related incidents.	Speeding Vehicles	Higher Profile of CDRP
Essex County Council Tracker Survey	Perception of local drug use	Perception of parental responsibility	Perception of Anti-Social Behaviour
Rochford District Council Area Committees	Road Traffic Offences	Irresponsible Dog Owners	Anti-Social Behaviour

Survey conducted in 2006 prior to Neighbourhood Policing launch and additional PCSO recruitment, therefore considered fourth priority.

See also Appendix 1 – Matrix of Partners

D. Review of performance against current targets with comparisons

Rochford CDRP Performance

Local Area Agreement (LAA) - Crime Description
Theft or unauthorised taking of vehicle (incl. attempts)
Theft from a vehicle (incl. attempts)
Vehicle interference
Domestic burglary (incl. attempts)
Theft or unauthorised taking of cycle
Theft from person
Criminal Damage (excl. 59)
Assault without Injury (incl. on a PC)* Change of Title
Woundings (serious or other)
Robbery of personal property
All British Crime Survey (BSC) Crime

Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI)
BVPI 126 - Domestic Burglary
BVPI 127a - Violent Crime Offences
BVPI 128 - Robbery
BVPI 127b - Vehicle Crime Offences (excl interference)

Annual 06/07	
01 Jan 07 - 31 Dec 07	
Target	Actual
Offences	Offences
Not to exceed	Reported
131	138
292	308
33	25
199	111
58	44
24	15
1184	809
98	136
387	275
12	8
2418	1869

Annual 06/07	
01 Jan 07 - 31 Dec 07	
Target	Out turn
Offences	Offences
	Previous 12 Months
199	111
498	640
11	15
424	446

Year to date		
01 Apr 07 - 31 Mar 08		
Target	Actual	2003/04
Offences	Offences	BCS
Not to exceed	Reported	Baseline
		2,796
98	100	Down 10%
219	230	Down 10%
25	21	Down 36%
149	85	Down 53%
44	38	Down 40%
18	12	Down 46%
888	559	Down 40%
74	104	Up 18%
290	195	Down 38%
9	7	Down 43%
1814	1351	Down 33%

Year to date	
01 Apr 07 - 31 Mar 08	
Target	Actual
Offences	Offences
149	85
374	469
8	12
318	330

December 2007

Current Month	
Dec 07	
Target	Actual
Offences	Offences
Not to exceed	Reported
11	5
24	22
3	3
17	7
5	1
2	1
99	70
8	12
32	16
1	0
202	137

Current Month	
Dec 07	
Target	Actual
Offences	Offences
17	7
42	50
1	1
35	27

In order for the Rochford CDRP to achieve their crime reduction target of 13.5% from 2003/04 British Crime Survey figures by 31st March 2008, we need to reduce crime each year by the following targets:- (* Figure correct as at 7/1/08)

BCS Comparator Crime	2003/04	2,796	2005/06	by 4.5%	to: 2674	2006/07	by: 9%	to: 2548	2007/08	by: 13.5%	to: 2419
Killed Seriously Injured (KSI's)	1994/98	51	2005	54	2006	37	2007	28*	2010	by: 40%	to: 31

E. Summary of Emerging Issues

- * Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) * Youth Nuisance * Crime Reduction * Traffic Offences
- * Perception of Crime * Substance Misuse * Fear of Crime * Domestic Abuse
- * Alcohol Related Crime * Rehabilitation & Resettlement of Offenders * Reoffending Rates
- * Facilities for Young People

Summary of emerging list of priorities from LSP:-

The Aging population

Community cohesion/integration particularly tackling issues between young and old

Access to Services across the District

Developing Voluntary and Community Capacity

12. CURRENT ACTIVITIES & PROVISIONS

Contained within the Rochford District Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership 2005/8 Strategy were action plans around priority targets. The actions plans were live documents which were constantly updated and amended. From this, the partnership was able to identify emerging issues and subsequently allocate funding towards responses which had an impact. Set out below are some examples of the activities and initiatives that were funded and also what type of effect and results such directed funding had.

Criminal Damage

Target 07/08: 1184

Actual Offences to date: 809
Jan 07 to Dec 07

Down 40% from 03/04 Baseline

Much of the criminal damage within the District has been attributed to young people, on occasion fuelled by alcohol. Therefore to reduce incidents of criminal damage, the partnership has undertaken numerous initiatives for young people such as:

Taking steps to prevent and deter younger offenders from embarking upon criminal careers, identification of those young people, and working closely with them through early intervention programmes and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). Between July to December 2007 – 15 ABC's entered into.

Working with local schools and youth centres by funding educational initiatives dealing with anti-social behaviour, binge drinking, bullying and drugs.

Supporting the Fire Service's Firebreak and other schemes such as Crucial Crew, designed to raise young peoples' sense of social responsibility, citizenship and consequences of their actions.

Ensuring that youth leaders and community workers are fully trained on key issues such as bullying, child protection, drugs and alcohol.

Focusing attention on criminal damage, domestic violence and young people's alcohol abuse through awareness campaigns. Targeting young drivers in relation to speed, alcohol and drugs, wearing of seatbelts and use of mobile phone, through initiatives such as Roadrunner and South East Essex Community Safety Initiative (SEECSi).

Theft or Unauthorised taking of a Vehicle (incl. Attempts)

Target 07/08: 131 Actual Offences to date: 138 Down 10% from 03/04 Baseline
Jan 07 to Dec 07

Theft from a Vehicle (incl. Attempts)

Target 07/08: 292 Actual Offences to date: 308 Down 10% from 03/04 Baseline
Jan 07 to Dec 07

The partnership has addressed vehicle crime through public awareness initiatives, information provided at public meetings via deployment of the Council's mobile unit, as well as safer parking areas. In conjunction to this, the partnership purchased and distributed information and sticker packs to drivers relating to vehicle crime through specific campaigns such as 'Not in my Neighbourhood'.

Also, through the South East Essex Community Safety Initiative (SEECSi), a back of the bus campaign was launched earlier this year warning of thefts from vehicles.

Domestic Burglary (incl. Attempts)

Target 07/08: 199 Actual Offences to date: 111 Down 53% from 03/04 Baseline
Jan 07 to Dec 07

One of our key partners is Neighbourhood Watch whom we support along with a local housing association that operates a Handyman and Gardening service for those identified as vulnerable residents and repeat victims of crime.

Theft from Person

Target 07/08: 24 Actual Offences to date: 15 Down 46% from 03/04 Baseline
Jan 07 to Dec 07

Theft from the person saw a dramatic reduction of 50%. Reducing this area of crime by half is extremely encouraging.

There have been specific interventions to tackle this crime, a poster campaign and district wide distribution of free security purse chains.

The Partnership also helps Victim Support to provide assistance to young victims of crime.

Providing Victim Support with purse chains and defender alarms, to distribute free of charge to all victims of crime to reassure and give them increased personal safety.

The partnership has also focussed on tackling other areas of crime that are not specifically included within the above categories. For example, funding the Sanctuary scheme, carrying out security measures for victims of domestic violence, ensuring they feel safer in their homes.

As this demonstrates the RDCDRP has been very effective in its selection of activities and funding allocation, results achieved emphasise this. This Strategic Assessment will allow us to continue to have a hands on, impactive approach to the issues of concern within our communities and upon our identified priorities.

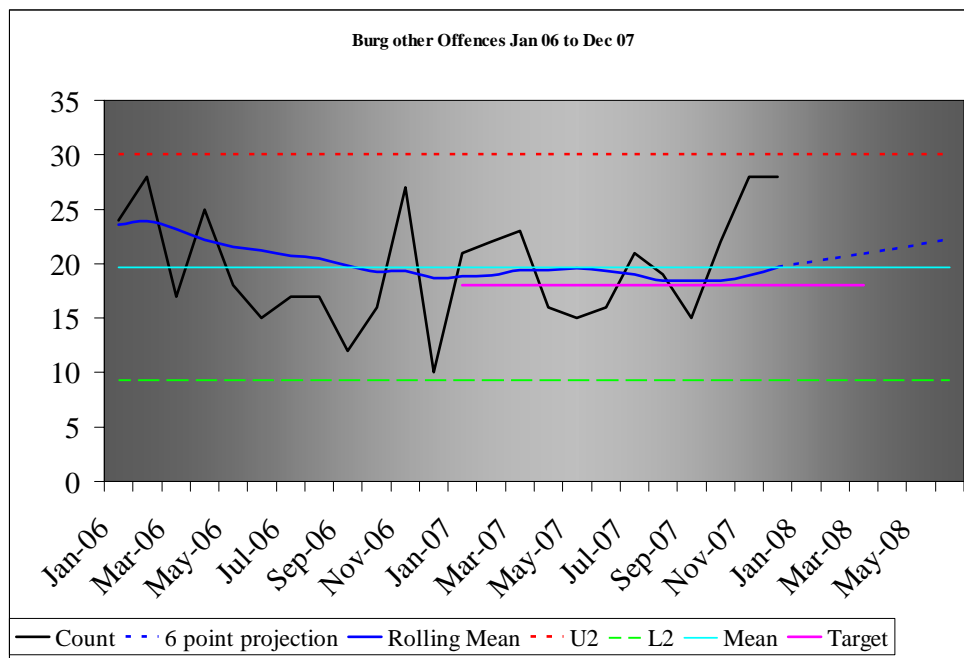
For full details of the all CDRP funded projects see Appendix 2

13. THE ANALYSIS

The analysis section of the SA provides a more in-depth and detailed assessment of a priority identified from the scanning exercise. Because of the detail of analysis required, the following intelligence is from Essex Police's Rochford District Strategic Assessment (EPRDSA). It identifies the scale of the problem, numbers and proportions, and any reasons for change. It suggests causes of the problem and the relevance of detail, such as location, victim, time and day.

It provides a picture of current, emerging and longer term issues impacting on the district. Data is obtained using Bi Query looking at all offences during the period using the process and spreadsheets set up by a Police Senior Analyst, based on Home Office codes for the offences. Intelligence is obtained from the Essex Police Intelligence System, other information gathered from external agencies and open sources e.g. the internet, local council and Home Office information.

The assessment analysed the following crimes; Serious Violent Offending, Other Violent Offending, Robbery, Serious Acquisitive Crime, Other Acquisitive Crime, Criminal Damage, Racially Aggravated Crime, Drug Related Offending, Other Crimes, Fraud & Forgery, Anti-Social Behaviour. Further to the scanning process using the data sources listed on page 7, the RDCDRP decided it would be pertinent to closely analyse 'Other Acquisitive Crime', focussing on 'Burglary Other' because analysis has indicated that this crime volume may rise.



Source: Essex Police

Overview – The graph shows that offences have decreased in the last six months in comparison with the first six months, especially in November and December 2007, but levels remained in the lower and upper quartiles. In 2007 there were 133 Burglary Others.

In Rochford District nearly half of the burglary others consist of private garages (19%), shop others (13%) and sheds (11%). Not taking into consideration offences that span for longer than 24 hours, peak times are overnight from 23:00hrs to 07:00hrs. Peak day is a Monday which can be explained by the fact that people often return to work on a Monday after the weekend.

Looking at the Shop Other burglaries, nearly a quarter of the premises were insecure. A third of the total property stolen consists of tools, cash, non precious metals and computer items.

Burglary Other has increased and a reason for this could be in the increase in price for scrap metal which is consequently being stolen and sold on as scrap.

Prediction - Levels of Burglary Other will stay the same or gradually increase primarily due to the fact that detections have been minimal although operations have been conducted in some of the key burglary other hotspots which may help to deter the offenders and displace offences to other areas. Tools and cash will continue to be the key property types stolen although metal theft will rise.

Intelligence gaps – **None noted**

Prevention

Patrol staff (police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)) will be briefed and deployed according to the most recent crime patterns and intelligence. A mixture of high visibility patrols and covert policing will be utilised. Activity will be focussed on industrial estates and retail areas with particular attention given to businesses that are subject to repeat offending and those where security is highlighted as a relevant issue.

All identified 'Prolific and Priority Offenders' (PPOs) will be regularly visited by local officers with the aim of stopping or suppressing their criminality.

Continued development of partnerships with local businesses to reduce to opportunities for criminal behaviour. This will include implementing an information sharing protocol with key local businesses on relevant local offenders.

Where appropriate use targeted awareness campaigns to address specific issues such as the potential for summer burglaries of garden sheds.

Intelligence

Wider divisional and force-wide intelligence around 'burglary other' offences will be used as appropriate through the tasking and co-ordination process.

Neighbourhood officers and PCSOs will prioritise the gather of community intelligence in this arena. This will include visits to PPOs.

Enforcement

The arrest of all identified offenders will be prioritised. Cases will be reviewed by a senior officer at an early stage to ensure the appropriate level of investigation and that, wherever necessary, opportunities to detect other offences and / or remand the culprits in custody are taken.

This form of analysis will allow the Partnership to develop a targeted response to the causes identified.

SECTION 3: SETTING PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2011

14. THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The SA is a tool enabling the Partnership to identify the priorities for further action. It is recognised that some local problems will need more attention and resources than others.

At this juncture the issue of funding needs to be addressed. The priorities that have been identified and the resources are not necessarily being matched by the amount of funding that RDCDRP receives and future changes in funding streams could have an even greater effect. Funding levels are relatively low and make it a challenge for Partnerships to achieve their performance objectives and to meet obligations expressed in the Local Area Agreement process. In addition one of our concerns is that in future funding years we would be unable to continue to maintain the existing crime reductions or have any chance of carrying out further reductions if our allocation was reduced.

This is why there is a prioritisation process in the SA, to ensure funding available is distributed in the most effective way. A prioritisation process has been used throughout this assessment, by:-

- Analysing how big the problem is in the District
- How big the problem is compared to other areas
- What is the harm caused
- Is the problem changing over time
- To what extent do the public expect something to be done about the problem

Addressing these five issues has provided sufficient information for the partnership to decide on our priorities.

15. CONCLUSION

This Strategic Assessment process has provided RDCDRP with the knowledge and understanding of the crime, disorder and community safety issues that have been identified in our district as the priorities for consideration. Through a co-ordinated response, partners will plan activities and deploy resources on behalf of our communities for the next 12 months. The Annual Partnership Plan will further demonstrate how the identified priorities will be addressed and include **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic and **T**imely (SMART) targets.

In conclusion, RDCDRP are encouraged by the success achieved in reaching such high levels of crime reduction in respect of Home Office targets. However, it is recognised that the partnership must continue to build upon this to tackle the public's perception and fear of crime, even if reported crime levels are relatively low. Partnership activity, through the actions outlined in the Partnership Plan, will endeavour to reduce the level of reported crime even further and reassure the public that the District is a safe place to live with a good quality of life.

16. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Partnership Matrix

Appendix 2: CDRP Spending Plan for 2006/07

Appendix 3: Listing of Rochford's Most Similar Group as detailed on Iqanta