

**Strategic assessment 1 (2008-2009)**

During the first six months of 2007/8, compared with the same period of 2006/7:

- The number of criminal damage offences recorded in East Herts fell by 19.7% from 1007 to 809
- Recorded offences of wounding in East Herts fell significantly by 26.1%, from 436 to 322 offences
- Recorded offences of theft of and from a motor vehicle increased by 22.1% from 435 to 531 (96 offences)
- Recorded offences of burglary dwelling fell by 5.4% in East Herts, from 204 to 193
- In the period April to September 2007, there were 111 adults in substance misuse treatment
- Alcohol related offences made up just over 11% of all crime within the district
- There were 6571 incidents in the past twelve months. Of these 69% were for rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour.

**Strategic assessment 2 (2009-2010)**

- East Herts was in 3<sup>rd</sup> position when compared to most similar CSPs reporting an average 13.857 crimes per 1000 of the population. This was below the average of 16.059 crimes per 1000 population.
- There was a 10% reduction in all crime, which equates to a reduction in 797 crimes.
- There was an 11% increase in dwelling burglaries. However, the number of distraction burglaries decreased.
- There was a 27% reduction in attempted theft of a motor vehicle. This reduction may have been due to operations such as Operation Tarantula.
- There was a 12% reduction in theft from a motor vehicle.
- There was an 11% reduction in criminal damage. Damage to vehicles was the dominant criminal damage offence.
- There was a 50% reduction in personal robbery offences.
- Over the last seven months theft from a shop increased by 31%.
- There was a 12% reduction in all violent crime of which 43% was alcohol related and 22% domestic violence related.
- The peak age for those accused of all crime was 11 – 20 years (33%), closely followed by the 21-30 age group making up 32% of all offenders.
- There were 12 individuals in East Herts identified as a prolific or priority offender. The offending behaviour of these individuals covered many offence types, most of which are acquisitive crime offences.
- There was a 27% increase in drug related offences which appeared to a result of one factor; the recorded possession of cannabis. The two top

locations for the recorded possession of cannabis were Sawbridgeworth and Buntingford.

- East Herts was 7<sup>th</sup> in the county for the numbers of cases in treatment for substance misuse.
- The Drug Interventions Programme took 422 individuals onto its caseload, of which 43 individuals were from East Herts district.
- The peak times and location for most alcohol related offences occurred during the evening and in the town centres.
- There have been 5,916 incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB), which was an 11% reduction. The top ASB activity was rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, followed by vehicle related nuisance.
- Public opinion suggested that people feared different aspects of anti-social behaviour and its consequences such as fast driving in towns, litter, vandalism and intimidating behaviour from young people.
- Just 12% of residents said they felt unsafe after dark whilst outside in their local area.

### **Strategic assessment 3 (2010-11)**

- There were 1247 serious acquisitive crime offences between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009. This was a reduction in 27 (1.3%) crimes compared to the same period the previous year.
- There were 860 vehicle crimes of which 206 were theft of motor vehicle and 618 thefts from a motor vehicle. Theft from motor vehicle saw a reduction of 2.4 %.
- There were 555 burglary other offences (including attempts) in East Herts over the 12 month period. This was an increase of 10.7% on the same period last year. The majority of offences occurred within Hertford Castle (10.4%) which commonly experienced burglaries to business premises? There was an increase in repeat locations.
- There were 742 shoplifting offences over the stated period, an increase of 28.8% (n166) compared with the same period the previous year. Shoplifting accounted for 9.9% of all crime.
- According to Hertfordshire Police there were 16 PPOs in East Herts, an increase of 4 compared to the previous year.
- There were approximately 365 domestic violence offences during 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008 -30<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Although this does not compare directly with the previous strategic assessment as it covered 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009, there was an increase of 56 when considering the two 12 month timeframes together.
- At the year end of 2008/09 there were 229 adults recorded as being in effective treatment - 76% male and 24% female. The largest age group was 30-34 making up 23%. The main drug of choice was illicit heroin favoured by 57.6% (n132), with alcohol as the second drug of choice at 28% (n49).
- There were 484 licensed premises in East Herts including 176 pubs, 81 restaurants and bars, 62 food stores/newsagents and 12 off licenses.

- Street drinking equated to 1% of anti social behaviour (59 incidents) which was an increase of just 2 incidents when compared with the previous year.
- There were 649 offences of violent crime compared with 42.5% (614 offences) the previous year.
- There were 5,711 incidents of ASB across the district, which is a reduction of 3.6% (n215)
- Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour was the top ASB activity making up 69% (n3870) of all incidents. This was followed by vehicle related nuisance at 16.4% (n925) and rowdy/nuisance neighbours at 3.7% (n211) of all ASB activity.
- There were 1446 criminal damage offences committed over the period covered. This was a reduction of 11.6% and equates to 19.3% of all crime. Vehicle damage dominated criminal damage, accounting for nearly half of all damages (45.6%), followed by other damage (25.7%) and damage to a building other than a dwelling (15%).
- There were a total of 216 deliberate fires compared with 188 in 2007/2008. The majority of which were classed as secondary fires (65.7%) followed by vehicle fires (17.6%).
- East Herts featured in 1<sup>st</sup> position in Hertfordshire with the majority of residents (64.5%) responding that they feel very or fairly safe after dark. When asked how safe residents felt during the day, 93% felt very or fairly safe, which ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> position in Hertfordshire.
- Twenty three percent of East Herts residents felt that people using or dealing in drugs was a big problem, which 6% feel that it is a very big problem.
- People being drunk or rowdy was scored by 9% of East Herts residents as a very big problem and by a further 20% as a fairly big problem.