

# MAKING DARLINGTON SAFER

Safer People, Safer Places

## Darlington Community Safety Partnership

### Community Safety Plan 2012-15 (Refreshed 2013)



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Durham Tees Valley  
Probation Trust



## Foreword

As Chair of the Darlington Community Safety Partnership (CSP), it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to the Partnership's refreshed Community Safety Plan 2012-15. The principles within the plan remain the same as those published in April 2012. However a number of areas have been updated to reflect current performance and activity.

Current figures show that Darlington is a safe place to live with falling rates of crime and anti-social behaviour. As a Partnership however, we know that we still have work to do to build upon our success and to focus upon some new actions. This refreshed Community Safety Plan sets out our aims and objectives for the coming year showing what we want to achieve and how we plan to achieve it to ensure that Darlington becomes even safer and people feel safer.

The plan also shows some of the many achievements made in the past year and highlights the wide range of activities and partners who come together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the town. Darlington has an excellent track record in respect of partnership working and this is reflected in the current crime figures.

This Plan supports Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy, 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed', which sets out the longer term vision and priorities for the Borough. Community Safety impacts on many other plans and service areas and every effort is made to ensure that this activity is joined up. The Partnership is represented on a number of Boards including the Youth Offending Service Board, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board and the Children and Young People's Collective.

Community safety has a significant impact upon community cohesion. This does not mean that the CSP is responsible for all aspects of ensuring cohesive communities in Darlington but that it will, where possible engage in projects that promote this. One example of this is the proposed Good Friends Scheme, which aims to recruit volunteers through Neighbourhood Watch who will ensure that vulnerable people in local communities are supported and do not become isolated.

Darlington has a great history of working in partnership and has achieved many successful outcomes by working collaboratively. Crime and disorder is no exception, as this document shows. I am confident that by continuing to work in partnership with agencies we will deliver the aims and objectives set out in the Plan.

I hope you will find the Plan interesting and informative. If you would like further information about this Plan please Contact the Safer Communities Unit at Darlington Borough Council or log onto the website: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Living/communitysafetypartnership/dcsp.htm>

**Chief Superintendent Graham Hall**  
**Chair of Darlington Community Safety**  
**Partnership.**



## Executive Summary

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) produces a three year plan, which is refreshed every year. The refreshed Community Safety Plan for 2013/14 aims to inform residents and agencies of the key aims and objectives set by the Darlington Community Safety Partnership.

The next 12 months will be challenging ones for the CSP, due to restructuring across a number of partner organisations and further funding constraints. However, the Partnership is a strong one and is well placed to deal with the implementation of changes as they occur.

### A Changing Context

Three key changes will impact upon the CSP during the next twelve months. The introduction of welfare reform will impact significantly upon many of the residents of Darlington and has implications for a large number of the people that partners currently support.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, following the abolition of Primary Care Trusts, the responsibility for commissioning drugs and alcohol prevention and treatment services moves to the Local Authority under the Director of Public Health. The CSP has retained tackling drugs and alcohol as key priorities due to their impact from a policing perspective and their strong links with the community safety agenda. The Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) will continue to be represented on the CSP, thus ensuring that appropriate linkages are maintained.

The election of a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Durham and Darlington which took place in November 2012 will have a significant impact upon how community safety is led in the future. The PCC is responsible for recruitment of the Chief Constable, setting policing priorities and commissioning community safety projects and services that help meet those priorities. In setting priorities for 2013/14 and developing work plans, the CSP have had regard to the priorities set by the PCC following public consultation and both sets of priorities complement each other.

The CSP sets its priorities annually. The five priorities for 2013/14 remain the same as last year and are:

1. Reducing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.
2. Tackling anti-social behaviour.
3. Reducing offending and re-offending.
4. Working with families with multiple problems.
5. Supporting vulnerable people (the focus here is upon addressing domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime).

Our work around locations shows that some places have disproportionately higher levels of ASB, domestic abuse, serious crime, vulnerability, substance misuse and disadvantage. These locations will be given a renewed focus by the CSP to ensure that resources are being properly targeted.

Resources are limited but effective mechanisms are in place to target those resources and to ensure that the available funding is spent on sustainable projects that deliver the Partnership's priorities.

Over the last four years, crime levels in Darlington have been falling. Over the last 12 months, the Partnership has had many successes as a result of working together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. On a daily basis partners will continue to support victims of crime and ensure that effective enforcement and rehabilitation methods are used where they are needed.

Ensuring that public confidence is maintained through awareness of the Partnership's work is essential and the Partnership will ensure that effective communication channels are in place to keep residents informed.

The Partnership is keen for residents to be involved either by sharing views or ideas or by more active participation, i.e. joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or becoming a volunteer. Details of how to contact relevant members of the Partnership are set out at the end of this strategy.



A clear up operation between the Police and DBC, Street Scene as part of the Summer Nights Campaign

## **What is Darlington Community Safety Partnership?**

Darlington has a long tradition of partnership working, both in the community safety arena and in the wider community through the work of the Darlington Local Strategic Partnership.

Community Safety Partnerships have at their core five responsible authorities which have a legal duty to work together to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, environmental crime and issues around re-offending. The Responsible Authorities are responsible for ensuring that the CSP has a Community Safety Plan in place setting out priorities and key areas of action. Prior to November 2012, there were six responsible authorities. However, with the election of the PCC, the Police Authority has now been abolished.

The five remaining responsible authorities are:

**Darlington Borough Council**

**Durham Constabulary**

**NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group**

**Durham and Tees Valley Probation Trust**

**Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service**

In Darlington the CSP brings together a range of partners from the public, private and third sectors who are all engaged in activities which contribute towards making Darlington a safe place in which to live and work.

# How Darlington Community Safety Partnership works

## The Top Five Priorities

Following the production of an annual assessment, public consultation and having regard to the newly elected PCC's priorities, the following five priorities for 2013/14 were determined by the Community Safety Partnership:

1. Reducing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.
2. Tackling anti-social behaviour.
3. Reducing offending and re-offending.
4. Working with families with multiple problems.
5. Supporting vulnerable people (the focus here is initially upon addressing domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual violence).

The priorities will be driven via a series of working groups representing the Partnership's five key priorities each year between 2012 -15. Each of the groups will develop an individual delivery plan setting out their key actions and objectives for the current year. These groups currently report into the Community Safety Partnership Board.

As stated above, in determining it's priorities for 2013/14 the CSP has also had regard to the priorities set by the newly elected PCC and the list below shows that these priorities complement each other and provide a sound basis for delivering an effective community safety programme during the next twelve months. The PCC's priorities are:

1. tackling anti-social behaviour
2. tackling the harm caused to individuals and communities by alcohol and drugs
3. to improve road safety by tackling careless and dangerous driving
4. to make policing services visible and accessible at all times
5. to reduce the impact of domestic abuse , particularly violence against women and girls
6. to reduce the impact of hate crime
7. to improve engagement with local communities across the Constabulary area.

For more information about the PCC please visit the website <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk>

## Current Crime Levels

The CSP continues to have a great deal of success as a result of working together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. As the performance table below shows, many crimes show significant reductions including robbery, drug offences and sexual offences. The reduction in robbery is a significant improvement from last year when figures showed an increase of 24 percent. The areas in red are priority areas for Darlington and action is already being taken to halt the increasing trends.

The table below shows crime figures for the period January 2012 to January 2013

Crime	% Change	Status
Total Crime	-16%	Green
Serious Acquisitive Crime:	-5%	Green
Burglary Dwelling	-18%	Green
Robbery	-45%	Green
Theft of Motor Vehicle	-21%	Green
Theft from Motor Vehicle	+7%	Red
Burglary Other	-21%	Green
Criminal Damage and Arson	-7%	Green
Drug Offences	-27%	Green
Sexual Offences	-39%	Green
Shoplifting	+11%	Red
Metal Theft	-65%	Green
Violence Against the Person	-12%	Green

While the above information gives an overall picture of progress in relation to crime in the Borough, the information below illustrates the wide range of the Partnership's achievements.

## Partnership Achievements

- ✓ Crime in Darlington has been steadily decreasing over the last four years.
- ✓ Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents in the Borough have reduced by 40%.
- ✓ There has been a 78% reduction in First Time Entrants into the criminal justice system over a six year period.
- ✓ A Restorative Justice programme to work with young perpetrators of ASB has been developed and a project to work with adults has been developed and is about to be implemented.
- ✓ Victims who have taken part in the Restorative Justice Programme report 100% satisfaction rate.
- ✓ The volunteer mentor scheme to work with adult offenders reports a significant reduction in re-offending from those adults on the scheme.
- ✓ Offending rates in Darlington have improved significantly and are currently 4% lower than the predicted rate.



- ✓ A new mentoring scheme to work with women offenders has been implemented.
- ✓ 10 primary schools have signed up to take part in Junior Neighbourhood Watch.
- ✓ 21 crime prevention roadshows were held across Darlington.
- ✓ Evidence of reducing substance and alcohol use in young people has been collected via the Social Norms Survey.
- ✓ Alcohol related hospital admissions are at their lowest since 2003.
- ✓ A new alcohol strategy has been developed and was launched in November 2012.
- ✓ The new joint treatment service was recently subject to an unannounced inspection by the Care Quality Commission and met all standards with no improvement actions.
- ✓ The Introduction of a Sexual Violence Co-ordinator in 2012 has led to a significant amount of progress being around this issue.
- ✓ A Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) event was held in Darlington in November 2012, which was very well attended and two more are planned for February 2013.
- ✓ The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has introduced CSE into their training programme and training will be held three times per year.
- ✓ A new service for victims of domestic abuse was commissioned and implemented and to date 154 women have received direct support.
- ✓ A successful awareness raising campaign around domestic abuse was run with four out of ten people having seen the marketing materials.
- ✓ Darlington's first Hate Crime Workshop, run jointly with the Learning Disabled People's Partnership Board was held in October 2012 to raise the profile and plan action and was very well attended.
- ✓ The number of secondary fires has been reduced.
- ✓ There is a strategy aimed at the prevention of fire deaths.



Before and after pictures showing graffiti removal in Prior Street.

## Equalities

This plan will be progressed through a wide range of programmes, action plans and other activities implemented by the various partner agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership. The plan provides the co-ordinating framework directing this wide-ranging activity towards shared outcomes and targets. It is essential that the strategy is implemented in ways that any outcomes are fair and help advance equality. The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council and other public agencies to 'have due regard' in their decisions, services and programmes to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advancing equality of opportunity; and to fostering good relations between people of different backgrounds. The duty applies specifically to age; disability; religion/faith; race; sex; sexual orientation; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; and marriage and civil partnership.

The Council carries out Equalities Impact Assessments to identify the potential impact of strategies and proposals on these groups, and to fulfil its equality duty. Where appropriate, it will carry out impact assessment on the programmes and actions in this strategy, and it will encourage partners to carry out equalities impact assessments on their own proposals. All partners are subject to either the public sector equality duty or similar duties under the Act.

## Community Safety Partnership Priorities

As stated on page 7, the CSP highlighted five priority areas to focus upon during 2012-5. These priorities are reassessed annually following consultation with partners and based upon the consultation carried out with the public as part of the work around the Policing Plan. The Priorities for 2013/14 remain the same as for last year. In setting its priorities for 2013/14 the CSP also took into account the priorities set by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

# 1. Reducing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol

Substance misuse has strong and clear links to community safety. Drug misuse is linked to serious acquisitive crime to fund substance misuse and offences relating to supply and possession. Alcohol misuse is linked to violent crime and the night time economy. There are also offences committed while under the influence of substances, for example driving offences.

National research suggests that the annual cost of drug related crime in the UK is £139 billion. A typical heroin user spends around £1,400 per month on drugs: 2.5 times the average mortgage. Many commit crime to pay for their drugs and heroin, cocaine or crack users commit up to half of all acquisitive crimes. Applying national research to Darlington shows that an estimated spend of £6m on drug treatment from 2011/12 – 2014/15 would lead to an estimated £16.5m crime related cost savings and natural benefits. At least £14m of these are thought to be cashable benefits. For every £1 invested in drug treatment, an estimated £5.47 is gained in total benefits.

In the November 2012 consultation on the government's alcohol strategy, the total cost of alcohol misuse in England was estimated to be around £21bn, made up of alcohol related crime (£11bn per year), NHS costs (£3.5bn per year) and lost productivity due to alcohol (£7.3bn per year). The alcohol related crime costs include the cost of general offences, such as violent crime, which are alcohol related; the cost of alcohol specific crimes, such as drink driving; and the issuing of Penalty Notices for Disorder.



The majority of offenders who commit acquisitive crime do so in order to fund lifestyle habits, in particular a heroin dependency. Prolific offenders tend to commit a range of crimes. Prolific offenders have the biggest impact on shoplifting across the Durham Force area. Prolific shoplifters may include those with Prolific Priority Offender status and who tend to shoplift to fund a drug and/or alcohol misuse problem and will regularly commit low value shop thefts such as alcohol and food.

Alcohol is a factor in domestic abuse; offenders are thought to be under the influence of alcohol in nearly half the incidents of domestic abuse. Research has been conducted into substance misuse and domestic abuse by interviewing women from the County Durham area. Findings clearly highlight the link between domestic abuse and substance misuse, by both victim and perpetrator.

## Levels of Need

The report Statistics on Drug Misuse: England, 2011 shows the following levels of substance misuse:

	1996	2009/10	2010/11
Lifetime prevalence of any illicit drug use (aged 16 – 59)	30.5%	36.4%	36.3%
Illicit drug use in the last year (aged 16 – 59)	11.1%	8.6%	8.8%
Class A drug use in the last year (aged 16 – 59)	2.7%	3.1%	3.0%
Lifetime prevalence of any illicit drug use (aged 16 – 24)	48.6%	40.7%	40.1%
Illicit drug use in the last year (aged 16 – 24)	29.7%	20.0%	20.4%
Class A drug use in the last year (aged 16 – 24)	9.2%	7.3%	6.6%

Cannabis is the type of drug most likely to be used by adults followed by powder cocaine; 6.8% of 16-59 year olds had used cannabis in the last year and 2.1% had used powder cocaine. For the first time respondents of the British Crime Survey were asked about their use of mephedrone. This proportion of people who had taken this drug in the last year was 1.4%.

Local Darlington treatment data shows that under 25's entering treatment in 2010/11 were less likely to use opiates and more likely to report the use of crack cocaine and other substances. They use similar levels of amphetamines, cannabis and alcohol to the over 25's. This fits with national trends suggesting use of opiates is declining while use of other substances is increasing. There has been less anecdotal evidence on the use of so called "legal highs" in the last 12 months. There were some reported cases of cannabis sold to young people being contaminated with crystal meth and Durham Police were investigating this.

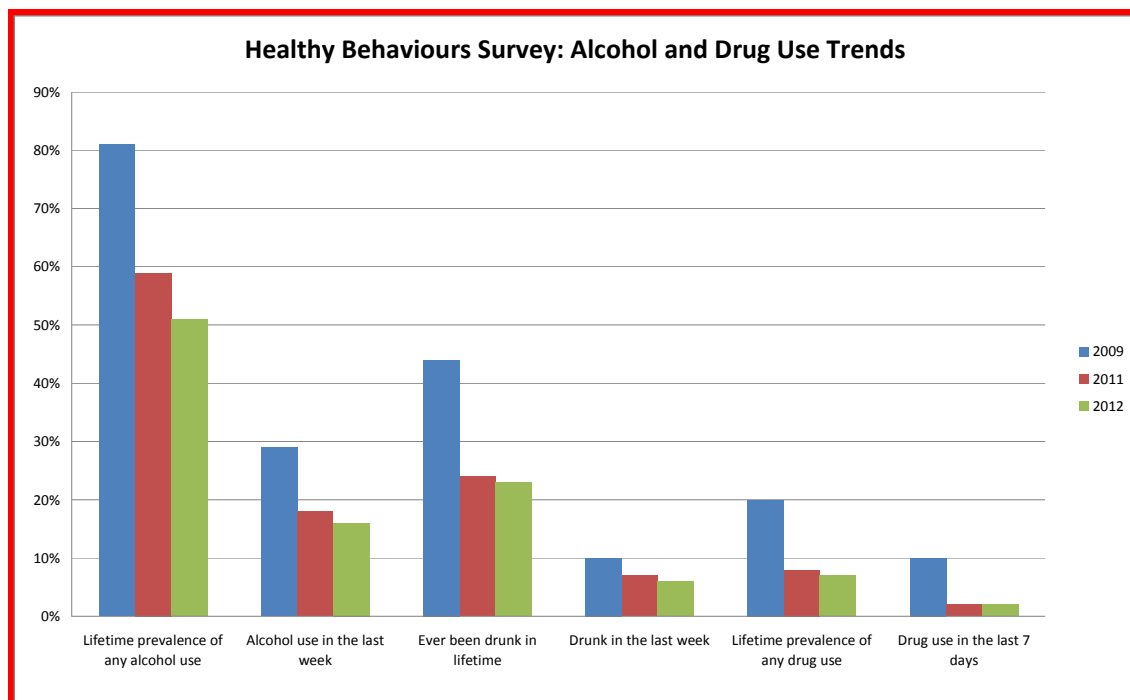
Nationally produced estimates of the prevalence of opiates and / or crack use in Darlington suggest there are around 700 users. There were 484 individuals in treatment during 2011/12, and a further 94 known to treatment who were not in treatment during 2011/12. This suggests that around 80% of heroin users in Darlington are in treatment, compared to 60% across England. This supports the other data which suggests that unmet need mostly relates to other substances like cocaine.

The attached Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) (August 2012) shows that Darlington is higher than the national average for alcohol specific hospital admissions for adults and under 18s and also alcohol attributable hospital admissions.

Estimates also suggest that binge drinking is likely to be higher in Darlington. From the most recent needs assessment data, nearly three quarters of those entering alcohol treatment in 2010/11 were unemployed. Around a fifth had housing issues, around a fifth had dual diagnosis / mental health

issues, around a fifth were living with children and around a fifth had also been in drug treatment at some point. In 2011/12 there were 444 alcohol users in treatment in Darlington.

The annual Healthy Behaviours Survey of Years 6 to 11 in secondary schools shows a reducing trend in substance misuse but that there is still unmet need, especially around alcohol. The table below shows changing trends, though there is thought to have been some over-reporting in the first survey.



There is a slight increase in positive opinion with 71% of all respondents agreeing that it is NOT OK for young people their age to get drunk, a slight increase over the 70% reported in 2011. The proportion of young people that agreed it is NOT OK to take drugs has fallen slightly from 90% in 2011 to 89% in 2012, although this is an increase on the 80% reported in 2010.

An analysis of Youth Offending data in 2011 showed that 158 offences resulting in a referral to the YOS from April – June, 58 (37%) were committed under the influence or were related to drugs or alcohol. 14% were committed under the influence of drugs, 55% under the influence of alcohol, 14% were drug related and 8% were alcohol related. The main offences which were committed under the influence were Public Order (16), Violence against the Person (8) and Criminal Damage (8).

## Vulnerable Groups

As shown above, there are strong links between drugs and alcohol misuse and community safety. Being engaged in substance misuse treatment is a powerful protective factor: reducing substance misuse, improving health and reducing crime. High crime causers, prolific offenders and those committing crime to fund their substance misuse, or while under the influence are vulnerable groups with a particularly high impact on community safety.

Although trends are showing reducing substance misuse among young people year on year, there is still evidence of misuse among a minority and unmet needs, particularly around alcohol. In addition, the

Youth Offending data shows that alcohol and drugs are recorded as being linked to at least a third of referrals received. Young people misusing drugs or alcohol, and particularly young offenders are therefore a vulnerable group.

Those who were engaged in treatment on the RIOTT (Randomised Injectable Opiate Treatment Trial) programme were considered an "at risk" group during 2011/12 when funding of the project ended. As service users were ending treatment which may have included injection of clinical grade heroin, into less intensive treatment without the possibility to prescribe heroin, it was thought possible that individuals may drop out of treatment and return to crime to fund their substance misuse. However, a successful planned transition into the Connected Recovery Service ensured that none of the cohort dropped out of treatment.

## Achievements and Changes

Trends in both drug and alcohol misuse are similar to those reported in 2012. There is less evidence of the use of "legal highs". Use of opiates is still decreasing in under 25s and those new into treatment. Substance misuse among young people continues to decrease year on year, although there is still a relatively high level of unmet need, particularly around alcohol.



The Connected Recovery service was implemented in April 2012 and had its official launch in November 2012. Since the implementation of the joint treatment centre the number of people in drugs treatment on long-term methadone maintenance has reduced from 90% to 43%. The significance of this can be seen in the fact that the local pharmacist has commented on the reduction in the amounts being requested from their service. The quote below also shows that recovery services in Darlington have been recognised.

*Recovery, when it is working well, is very attractive. It is alive and well in Darlington which certainly seems well ahead of the game."*

**National Treatment Agency Head  
of Recovery  
Mark Gillman**

### Case Study

K tells us: "I drank so much my life was coming apart. I'd been forbidden to see my daughters, had lost all my self respect and self confidence and felt my life wasn't worth living. After a spell in hospital and a rehabilitation centre, I was introduced to NECA, a charity which supports people with addiction issues. Staff there turned my life around. I now work as a recovery worker for NECA in partnership with NERAF and help mentor people with an alcohol addiction." K says, "I now have my self-respect back and see my daughters regularly. If I can turn my life around anyone can."

The main significant changes relate to the funding and structures for alcohol and drugs misuse treatment commissioning. The transition of Public Health from the NHS into local authorities has now taken place. Successful substance misuse treatment will be a public health outcome which is likely to affect the budget allocation. In addition, some funding previously allocated to interventions targeting drug misusing offenders has been incorporated into the Police Crime Commissioner budgets.

The new structures will increase the importance of partnership working, as the sustainability of successful recovery is affected by the wider environment and cannot be addressed in isolation. As evidenced by national research, treatment works and is effective in reducing crime and improving community safety. Any reductions in funding for substance misuse treatment would be likely to lead to increased crime and increasing associated costs.

## Darlington Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)

The work around the priority theme of drugs and alcohol is driven through the partnership structure. A complete description of the DAAT Partnership Plans to address alcohol abuse can be found within the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2012-15 and the Substance Misuse Implementation Plan. Further information on treatment plans can be found on the National Treatment Agency (NTA) website at [www.nta.nhs](http://www.nta.nhs) and the alcohol strategy and action plan can be obtained from the DAAT on (01325) 346837.

### Targets for 2013/14

<i>Action</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>
<p><b>Continue the reducing trend of young people involved in substance misuse.</b></p> <p>Social Norms Survey, % c&amp;yp drinking in the last week</p> <p>Social Norms Survey, % c&amp;yp reporting any drug use in the last year</p>	<p>20% (2010/11)</p> <p>7% (2010/11)</p>	<p>15% (2013/14)</p> <p>5% (2013/14)</p>
<p><b>Continue to reduce the upward trend in adult alcohol related hospital admissions.</b></p>	<p>2366 (2011/12)</p>	<p>2366 (2012/13)</p> <p>2013/14 target is to be confirmed subject to 2012/13 final outturn and outcome of national consultation on calculation of this target.</p>
<p><b>Increase the number of successful adult completions (drugs)</b></p>	<p>Target definition and baseline to be confirmed – likely to be Public Health Outcomes Framework Indicator</p> <p>Proportion of all in treatment, who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months</p> <p>11.7% (Q3, 2012/13)</p>	<p>Monitor direction of travel</p>

## 2. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behavior is defined as:

*“Behaviour which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people not of the same household” (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).*

ASB will continue to be a priority for the Safer Darlington Partnership during 2013/14. It is also a priority of the newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Ron Hogg.

Dealing with anti-social behavior (ASB) is a complex issue. ASB doesn't just make life unpleasant, it holds back the regeneration of disadvantaged areas and creates an environment where more serious crime can take hold. It includes noise, graffiti, environmental damage, harassment, verbal abuse and alcohol-related nuisance.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that the Community Safety Partnership has to have a strategy for reducing crime and disorder, anti- social behaviour, substance misuse, negative behaviour affecting the environment and re-offending.

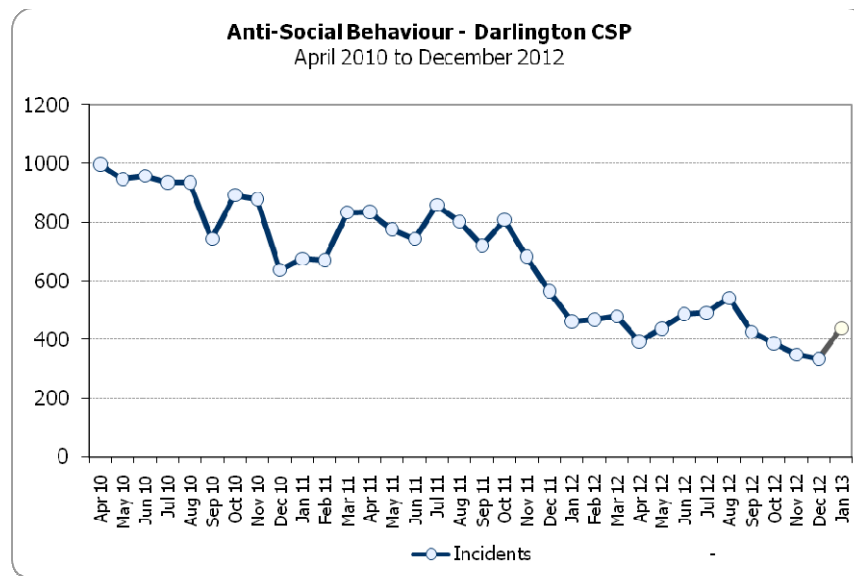
Anti-social behaviour has shown a general downward trend since April 2010. The graph below shows that ASB has declined from a high of almost 1,000 incidents in April 2010 to just over 400 in January 2013. Current figures show that there were 6,802 incidents in December 2011 and only 3,851 for the same period up to December 2012, which is a reduction of 43%. Performance against anti social behaviour is outlined in the following tables:

Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date			
	December 11	December 12	Change	Per 1000 Population
Incidents	6802	3851	-43%	38.5

Youth Related Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date			
	December 11	December 12	Change	Per 1000 Population
Incidents	2368	1348	-43%	13.5

Alcohol Related Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date			
	December 11	December 12	Change	Per 1000 Population
Incidents	1182	640	-46%	6.4





The reductions in ASB in the last three years have been outstanding. Whilst there have been reductions both regionally and nationally, the levels of reduction in Darlington have been significant. There are many complex reasons why we believe there have been such large reductions and these include probable changes in culture where people actually committing or perceived to be committing ASB have roamed the streets in groups, they now interact with each other via social media and are less visible in physical groups.

Darlington CSP will need to continue to focus on ASB to maintain this success and will be refreshing its strategy and action plan setting out the priority actions for the coming year. The full range of actions can be found at the website:

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Living/Communities/communitysafetypartnership/dcsp.htm>

## Perceptions

The number of ASB-related incidents reported to the police is falling across Darlington, and the perceived levels of ASB currently reflect this, with local confidence surveys revealing that the number of people who believe that ASB is a problem in their area is declining. The table below shows that the numbers of respondents have increased across the quarters but the percentage indicating concern is declining.

Percentage of respondents who perceive a high level of crime and ASB in their area <i>*percentage stating 'Fairly big problem' or 'Very big problem'</i>	11/1	11/1	11/1	11/1	12/1	Las
	2	2	2	2	3	t 4
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Qs
Number Surveyed	75	93	74	200	206	573
%	23	23	23	23	19	22

Whilst actual levels of ASB reported to the police and Darlington Borough Council continue to fall, we also monitor public perceptions to judge whether people feel safe living, working and socialising in Darlington. Perceptions are monitored using public confidence surveys.

Although the public perception that ASB is a major concern is low, the public continue to tell us that ASB is still an issue that impacts their lives. The public also tell us that their confidence that the police and partners are effectively dealing with ASB is relatively low. Clearly with ASB rates falling to their lowest level, there is much to do to ensure the public are aware of the reductions and the good work going on

in the Borough. As a Partnership, we are determined not only to effectively tackle ASB but to increase confidence of the public that the partners and the wider communities are tackling this issue.

## Resolving ASB Incidents

The Government is reviewing the way that ASB is being addressed nationally and the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill is progressing through the legislative process and is expected to become law later this year.

The Bill contains reforms which focus on the way we deal with ASB and the legislation around it. These are:

- Reviewing ASB powers and tools.
- Re-defining ASB.
- Including the community in solving local issues.
- Encouraging young people to take responsibility for their communities.
- Reforming the licensing act to help tackle alcohol-related problems.

The CSP will ensure that it takes account of the above in carrying out its work in the coming months.

## What have we achieved?

Table showing targets set against last year show progress against all areas

Action	2012/13 Baseline	Actual 2012/13
Reduce the number of ASB incidents	7262	4716 (Feb 2013)
Arson and deliberate and not known secondary fires	414	227
Reduce the number of criminal damage offences	1,579	1,500

In addition the ASB Group has focused its attention on continuing to roll out Neighbourhood Watch across the town and building upon its success in using the Restorative Justice model when working with young offenders.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Great success has been seen in the numbers of residents signing up to take part in Neighbourhood Watch during the past twelve months. There are currently 684 co-ordinators and 8,208 residents actively involved with the scheme. This means that currently 21.6% of households in Darlington are covered by Neighbourhood Watch. Recruitment continues and the scheme aims to have 50% of households covered by the scheme by 2016.

The Junior Neighbourhood Watch scheme was also very positively received in schools in the town with ten schools signing up to take part in the scheme.

## **Restorative Justice**

Darlington Youth Offending Service (YOS) introduced in 2008, in partnership with Durham Constabulary, the Pre-Reprimand Disposal. This has contributed significantly to the reduction in First Time Entrants (FTEs) coming through the service.

In collaboration with Durham Constabulary, Darlington YOS introduced a Pre-Court Restorative Justice Disposal in November 2011, further supporting the reduction of FTEs. This intervention allows the victims of low level offences the opportunity to participate in the criminal justice process. To date, Darlington has received 100 direct referrals from the police. This process has provided each victim with the opportunity to decide what outcomes they would like, therefore ultimately raising confidence in the wider criminal justice setting. To date Darlington has a 100% satisfaction rate from victims who took part in this process. There are no figures available to show how this compares nationally, but Stockton-on Tees and Hartlepool CSPs show 100% and 80% success rate respectively.

Re-offending rates of those young people involved in the process have been low. As of July 2012, 53 of the 68 RJ cases had concluded. Of the sixty-eight young people, only seven had re-offended.

## **Neighbourhood Resolution**

Darlington CSP is currently building upon recent successes around Restorative Justice and is developing a Neighbourhood Resolution Project. The work is carried out by specially trained members of the community (called 'facilitators') who are highly skilled in helping people resolve crime and conflict and will take place in cases of low level crime and anti-social behaviour committed by adults. A full time co-ordinator was appointed in February to train and support volunteers who will become facilitators. Restorative Justice with adult offenders who have committed more serious offences is already being implemented by the Probation Trust and is set out in Section 3.

## **What do we want to achieve?**

In tackling ASB, the CSP aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Effectively share information in order to identify problems, appropriate interventions and sanctions to reduce and tackle ASB.
- Reduce the public's perception that they are victims of ASB.
- Improve public confidence that the partner agencies are effectively tackling ASB.

## **How will we achieve it?**

In order to achieve our objectives, partners will respond to nuisance and harassment quickly and effectively and will make every effort to resolve such situations at the earliest opportunity. If we receive a report that nuisance/harassment has taken place we will:

- Make sure that all complaints are taken seriously.
- Encourage those who are experiencing nuisance/harassment to play a full part in actions taken to deal with it. Their views will be taken into account in reaching decisions on courses of action and they will be kept informed of progress and also supported during any legal proceedings that may take place.
- Take firm and prompt actions against perpetrators, wherever appropriate, and work with partner agencies to support victims in their homes.

- With the victim's consent, work with other agencies wherever appropriate, to achieve a speedy resolution.
- Ensure a consistent approach to assessing and resolving ASB incidents.

## Case Study

### Skerne Park Community Garden

The case study below highlights the impact of using restorative justice to tackle ASB. 'Before and after' photos show the improvements carried out by young offenders on the garden.



In March 2008 Darlington YOS began a ground breaking project to create a community garden for a primary school in a deprived area of Darlington. First they dismantled and recycled the existing fence and clearing the site. Flowerbeds were built and filled in with soil from the surrounding area. Existing benches were renovated along with the 'story-telling' seat where children could be read to in an outdoor setting and where teachers can run lessons around vegetable growing and healthy eating. The YOS still go back to the garden with volunteers to ensure that it is maintained.



## Targets 2013/14

<i>Action</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>2013/14 Target</i>
Reduce the number of ASB incidents	6,300	Reduce number of incidents
Dealing with local concerns about ASB and crime issues by the local Council and Police (Police confidence survey)	57.6%	Increase percentage
Percentage of people reporting a high level of ASB	31.3%	Reduce percentage
Arson and deliberate and not known secondary fires	227*	372
Reduce the number of criminal damage offences	1,500	Reduce number of Offences

\* This figure is believed to be low due to some seasonal factors and the 2013/14 target has been set taking this into account.

### 3. Reducing Offending and Re-offending

The Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOMU) in Darlington attempts to resettle and rehabilitate offenders on statutory supervision, who present the highest risk to their communities (Prolific Priority Offenders).

The IOMU has been a very successful partnership, with a number of different funding sources and a variety of agencies collaborating and working alongside the Probation Trust to reduce offending and re-offending. A Custody Triage post managed by the YOS and a Volunteer Mentoring Scheme run by Foundation are two initiatives which contribute to this success. The Police contribute towards the cost of a researcher post and a mentoring post. More recently an Arrest Referral Women's worker has been funded to help deal with the specific problems faced by female offenders. The Darlington DAAT contributes to the work of the IOMU to provide arrest referral and key work support.

The IOMU is currently working with 76 offenders to date this year. Recent figures from the Ministry of Justice show significant improvements in the re-offending rates in Darlington which are four percent lower than the predicted rate. Figures provided by Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust show that the costs of working with the top ten offenders have reduced since 2010 from £439,529 to £173,647 in March 2013.



"Team Work "- members of the IOMU cohort working at Paradise Farm

## Young Offenders

Significant progress has been made in recent years in reducing the number of first time young offenders entering the criminal justice system. This figure has reduced by 78 per cent over the last six years. Re-offending rates published by the Ministry of Justice show that again numbers have decreased in Darlington. The diagram below shows the range of interventions that Darlington Youth Offending Service (YOS) provide to young offenders.



The current picture for Darlington YOS in relation to national indicators for April 2012 to March 2013 shows that there have been 60 First Time Entrants and that 9.73% of young people were given a custodial sentence. This equates to 11 young people out of 113 court disposals.

With regard to re-offending, figures for the last nine months show that out of 35 young people, 10 have re-offended committing a total of 24 further offences.

Specific projects that have contributed to these results both for adult and young offenders are discussed below. Work with women offenders has made significant progress during 2012/13 and this will be built on during the coming year.

The challenge is to build upon the success to date and ensure that re-offending levels remain low and that individuals are supported to ensure that they are fully re-integrated into society, for example helping them to obtain work.

## Achievements 2012/13

In 2012 the Reducing Offending and Re-offending Group set out a number of key areas of work for the coming year.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<b><i>Volunteering in Partnership (ViP)</i></b>	<p>ViP, which was funded by the Community Safety Fund provides mentoring support to Priority Prolific Offenders (PPOs) and High Crime Causers (HCCs) in Darlington and is an integral part of Change Track - a partnership led by the Integrated Offender Management Unit. The scheme aims to: offer time-limited, SMART goal focussed, one-to-one mentoring relationships; provide tailored, intensive, personal, practical and emotional support; contribute to overall reduction in reoffending; increase social inclusion and citizenship; increase offenders' personal confidence, self-esteem and motivation.</p>
<b><i>Further Develop Services for Female Offenders</i></b>	<p>Two new initiatives are in the process of being implemented to support women offenders.</p> <p><b>Arrest Referral Women's Worker</b>            The post provides the opportunity for a dedicated worker based in the custody suite to deal with specific support needs of women offenders i.e. domestic violence, mental health issues, accessing employment, self harm etc, as per outcomes opposite. It is anticipated that the project will assist 50 women. The project is still in the implementation stage, however, proposed outcomes are to recruit volunteers who will divert those whose primary need is support e.g. mental health, alcohol, housing etc from the criminal justice system; reduce the number of women making repeat appearances in the custody suite repeat convictions; increase the number of women accessing mental health services and drug and alcohol services and complying with the treatment.</p> <p>Since the introduction of the above project, there have been new developments around work with women offenders, which are exploring ways to divert women offenders away from the criminal justice system (Court Diversion Scheme below) and the Arrest Referral Women's worker is a critical link in this process.</p> <p><b>Court Diversion Scheme</b>            Women arrested for an offence of theft will be given the opportunity to work with the IOMU for a short period of time on police bail and to take part in agreed intervention work. If women adhere to this they will not go to Court. Given current figures, this could mean as many as 173 women being part of this programme.</p>



	<p><b>Supporting women offenders who have served less than twelve months in prison.</b></p> <p>Women who have been given sentences for less than twelve months are not currently automatically entitled to receive support from the Probation Trust when they leave. The IOMU is currently trialling a scheme working with all women being released from HMP Low Newton to offer short term support and help with accessing relevant services</p>
<p><i>Roll out Restorative Justice as an alternative to existing criminal justice disposals</i></p>	<p>Restorative Justice has been used for a number of years to work with young offenders, usually for lower level crime and anti-social behaviour. During 2012, the Probation Trust in conjunction with partners has been implementing a Restorative Justice Programme for adult offenders who have committed more serious offences.</p> <p>This has involved providing training to one hundred practitioners about the restorative process and 30 facilitators. Since September 2012 there have been three Restorative Justice conferences held which were very successful. Alongside of this a number of other restorative approaches have been used such as apology letters and conferences where third parties have acted as “go betweens” in order to enable communication between offender and victim where one party has not wished to attend in person  <b>(Details of Restorative Justice with young offenders and the creation of a Neighbourhood Resolution Project to work with adults are set out in Section 2).</b></p>

## Case Study

Bill first joined the IOMU scheme on the September 2011. He had 80 theft offences (Burglary/Theft) 14 Public Disorder, 47 Offences relating to Police/Courts/Prison. His last offence was February 2012. Bill had spent most of his life struggling with addiction trying his first drug at the age of 12. He has been addicted to heroin, amphetamine and more lately alcohol which almost cost him his life. Many of his offences were committed to fund his addiction.

In March 2012, Bill was recalled to prison where he received eight weeks custodial sentence. The IOMU worked intensely with him while in prison and was successful in obtaining residential support at The Fells. Work continued with Bill from the IOMU whilst he was a resident and he eventually gained a place at Recovery Academy Durham (RAD). Bill graduated in August 2012 and is now totally substance free including prescribed medication (he had been on a methadone prescription for seventeen years). He now mentors new residents who are in first stage recovery and supervises their methadone collections.

Bill has successfully completed his first stage in counselling and is now working towards his diploma. He mentors clients in their first stage of recovery and works within I Wing in HMP Durham advising inmates on recovery. Most recently he took part in training Durham Constabulary custody staff on the benefits of working with the OMU and the new recovery model. He has also established contact with his estranged family which had not seen for several years. He will be spending this Christmas with his family meeting for the first time his nephews and nieces. Bill's ultimate goal is to secure employment working within the field of addiction.

## Priorities for 2013/14

The Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group has identified five priority areas which require specific attention over the next 12 months as set out below (the full action plan can be seen at <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Living/Communities/communitysafetypartnership/dcsp.htm>).

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>
To maintain the Actual Rate of reoffending to be below that of the National Predicted rate of re-offending for Darlington Local Authority	This National Predicted rate is not a constant so we will report quarterly against the figure.	Monitor direction of travel
Maximising the use of volunteers and mentors	TBC	An increase in the numbers of volunteers and mentors supporting offenders
To launch and maintain the "Divert Women Offending Scheme" in Darlington Police Custody Suite	173 theft offences committed by 111 women. 26 of those women were repeat offenders.	A reduction in the numbers of women in the criminal justice system for theft
To improve both the referral and retention rate within the Connected Recovery Service by 10% on last years figures	TBC	10% reduction
To maintain a high level of victim satisfaction with all Restorative Justice work in Darlington, thereby raising public confidence	Figures will be collected across relevant agencies for the first time and so a baseline will need to be established during 13/14.	90% victim satisfaction

## 4. Working with Families who have Multiple Problems

Research done nationally and by Durham Constabulary shows that there are vulnerable households which lead chaotic, complex lifestyles and are often well known to the community in which they live. They have a disproportionate impact on the community through: anti-social behaviour; crime. alcohol and substance misuse; perpetrating and being victims of violence and domestic abuse; having behavioural problems at school; unemployment and welfare benefit issues; housing issues, e.g. failure to pay rent; health problems; and a negative environmental impact. As these families are some of the most vulnerable to becoming offenders or victims of crime it is important to provide an effective, multi-agency response to safeguard families and communities. The national research shows that of the 2,655 families which have accepted a Family Interventions Programme intervention:

- 60% of families headed by a lone parent.
- The majority are large families.
- 30% of families included at least one disabled person.
- 33% included one or more children with Special Educational Needs.

Recent research quoted by the DfE (DfE analysis based on information on families supported by 17 local authorities) found that a single family intervention could save up to £49,000. Further evidence suggested that for every £1 million invested in family intervention there could be a saving of £2.5 million. This is because high quality interventions work. The changes they bring are sustained and continue to improve 9-14 months after the initial intensive response.

Data from family intervention official statistics, from September 2010, shows reductions at the end of the intervention compared to at the start (for the first 1,788 families to exit an intervention) included:

- Marriage, relationship or family breakdown by 48%.
- Domestic violence between any members of the family by 54%.
- Child protection issues by 37%.
- Anti-social behaviour by 57%.
- Drug misuse by 39%.
- Alcohol problems by 48%.
- Truancy, exclusion or bad behaviour at school by 54%.

### Services in Darlington

There are three initiatives running in Darlington to address this issue, all of which are co-ordinated by the Think Family Board. These are the Family Intervention Team, High Impact Households and Troubled Families.

#### Family Intervention Team

Darlington's Family Intervention Service (FIT) provides a co-ordinated and personalised response to families. FIT has within it a range of professional skills and backgrounds including child care, social work, health, family therapy, working with sexually exploited people and people with mental ill health. FIT works closely with a wide range of agencies in Darlington and reports to a multi agency board. Members include: Housing, YOS, Police, DAAT, DBC, Evolution, and Children's Social Care. The FIT team work with families involved in all three of the initiatives above and the FIT model of working is used in all cases. The FIT team are currently working with 17 families.

## High Impact Households

The High Impact Households project commenced in October 2011 following the murder of a homeless man in Darlington. The analysis highlighted repeated multi agency interventions. Those families concerned have a disproportionate impact on communities, children, families or partner agencies as either perpetrators or victims of crime / anti social behaviour. They tend to experience complex health, social economic and behavioural problems which pass from generation to generation despite extensive and prolonged interventions from a range of agencies.

In Darlington the FIT are the lead agency for this project which aims to reach the critical few families who at the highest end of the scale in terms of the level of issues that they present with. There are approximately four or five families who meet these criteria. There are currently three families from Darlington engaged on this scheme.

## Troubled Families

This initiative was introduced by government in 2012 and it aims to offer support to a greater number of families than the two schemes above, offering longer term and planned focused interventions. It is also expected that this initiative will provide a driver for transformational change for ways of working with individual families. The identified number of Troubled Families in Darlington is 275 (as advised by government criteria). It is expected that the 275 will receive these interventions over a three year period 2012-2015. The scheme is a payment by results scheme. The scheme commenced in the later part of 2012 and is currently working with 49 troubled families.

## Achievements

- Successfully developed the Think Family Board to oversee all three strands of the work with families.
- Developed an implementation process for the Troubled Families Initiative.
- Continued to build upon positive partnership working and develop greater understanding of the issues among a wide range of partners.
- Developing cost benefit analysis tools to show impact of interventions.

The case study below provides an example of the complexity of working with families with multiple problems and the successes that can be achieved by a co-ordinated approach to tackling the problems faced by families.

## CASE STUDY

### BACKGROUND

#### Family:

The family have been known to Children's Services since 2006 and had various interventions offered since this period; YOS have also been involved since 2008. Family Intervention Team had been involved with this family since June 2012, and the family were discussed within Offender Management Unit meeting, and concerns were raised. This progressed to a referral being requested from Youth Offending Services due to risks around family functioning as a whole, with anti-social and criminal behaviour, school exclusions, behavioural issues, drug misuse, from X (14) and Y (17).

This was then identified and progressed via the High Impact Households scheme now running within Darlington for which FIT is the lead agency.

However, offending behaviour escalated throughout the summer period, this impacted negatively on family functioning and resulted in regular attendance to the family home by police officers.

X and Y's father is alcohol dependent and not deemed suitable to care for X; he has also been seen under the influence of amphetamines, which Y has also disclosed. Police have now agreed, via discussions at High Impact Household multi-agency meetings to use their powers of protection should X be found in father's care or in Shildon, where his recent offence took place.

Mum has admitted that she will often not know where X is, and September 2012 the offence (theft of car) put both X and Y at risk of physical harm, also members of the public. Y has had a baseball bat, Stanley knife and drugs paraphernalia found during room check, and X was also in possession of a penknife when committing an offence of theft at Morrisons in September. Mother does not appear able to safeguard and manage X's behaviour, which places him at further risk of harm, and the negative impact that this is having upon family functioning for A has also been raised as a concern.

Y has also been threatened and received knife injuries to his face this is believed to be linked to drugs money. Y was no longer residing within the family home but at the YMCA, and was associating with Joe Bloggs. There have been concerns raised, which police are exploring about young girls being exploited by Joe Bloggs and his associates, which both X and Y may also be linked to. X has 72% IQ and showed little remorse or understanding of consequences, which makes them easy to exploit in their own right, as well as their noted manipulation of others. Y was diagnosed with ADHD, and is impulsive. Y was at risk of eviction from YMCA, as a result of him not being within placement five days or more per week, however, his current bail conditions were adapted to enforce this.

A strategy meeting was held in September 2012. X's daily whereabouts unknown, highly inappropriate associations, potential exploitation by Organised Crime Groups, drug use and a fascination with knives. Mother informed agencies that she could no longer look after him and requested that he be taken into care. It was agreed that he would be put before a panel for consideration of a placement (Section 20, voluntary). A placement was secured at out of the area, to which X was taken following a court appearance for a further sneak-in burglary in September 2012.

At this time both boys tested positive to several drugs - Cannabis, Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines and Crystal Meth (although the latter showed a faint line) following drugs testing after arrest.

<b>PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT AND/OR INTERVENTION</b>
<p>There are regular multi-agency meetings, which Mother attends as part of High Impact Household. Looked After Children reviews and an extensive list of actions and outcomes have been put in place. Areas of risk in terms of offending and drug use, which are directly linked to safety of all family members, are being explored by police analysts, eco-maps of services are being created to streamline services and ensure that as services pull out, support can be rebalanced from other agencies.</p>
<b>OUTCOME FOR CHILD</b>
<p>X is safe and doing well in his current placement, he has full time education in place, and regular contact with family. X has used substances on one occasion, but this has been addressed. He has remained outside of secure services, which supports rehabilitation back to Mother's care and also prevents him from gaining further skills in terms of criminality and negative associates.</p> <p>Y is engaging in education at Wetherby. He is aware of licence conditions, and is healthy and drug free. Following the intervention of CAMHS, Y has finally, at 17, been diagnosed with ADHD. His cannabis use was reportedly an effort to self-medicate, to calm his symptoms. This can support a step in the right direction for Y, and being on remand provides the opportunity to assist the process in terms of rehabilitation, reducing offending and attempting to ensure that upon release he doesn't resume his activity and negative associations.</p> <p>Without the sharing of information by the agencies, the HIH Group would not have identified the greater risk of the exposure and exploitation of the boys to organised criminality and had an opportunity to factor this into the strategy for dealing with the family.</p>
<b>OUTCOMES FOR FAMILY</b>
<p>Mother is being supported to take control back in terms of her family and the children, with her own plan. Dad is engaging with Alcohol Services and being supported to manage his finances.</p> <p>Step-father is now engaging in the process along with Z, whose well-being is monitored and parenting skills explored to ensure parents can meet his needs.</p>
<b>OUTCOMES FOR SERVICES/LESSONS LEARNED</b>
<p>Importance of multi-agency working and trying to be flexible with roles and responsibilities to meet families needs. It has been challenging at times to co-ordinate such a wide range of services and professionals. Professionals previously involved can utilise their knowledge and relationship with family, but that this cannot be allowed to create a further barrier or support manipulation of services, that responses need to be clear and adopted by all agencies.</p> <p>One of the key issues that the partners have identified through their information sharing was that the boys were almost becoming complacent about the lack of consequences to their escalating actions, prior to removal from Darlington.</p>

## **Actions for 2013/14**

Measuring success is not an easy task when working with families who have multiple problems. The issues are often multi-generational, and well embedded within families. These families are likely to have had many agencies working with them over a considerable number of years and success is difficult to

define. Often a seemingly small step forward is a major achievement for people who have a lot to overcome. It is therefore possible for a family to take small steps forward but have many issues remaining which will require ongoing work and support. It is important to acknowledge this in measuring the impact of the Family Intervention Team, the High Impact Household Project and the Troubled Families Scheme.

### Priorities for 2013/14

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Target</i>
<b>To work closely with schools to identify at the earliest opportunity families that are experiencing difficulties</b>	Links with schools already in place	Increase the number of families identified at an early stage.
<b>To continue the remodelling of the workforce to ensure families who need more sustained contact with services are not bound by service timescales</b>	Work has begun to develop more flexible work patterns	Increase numbers of key workers working flexible hours.
<b>To ensure partners and council departments continue to embed the Think Family culture in their organisations and continue the positive information sharing that is currently happening</b>	Positive working relationships established	Monitor progress

## 5. Supporting Vulnerable People (Supporting Victims of Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Hate Crime)

Since 2011, the CSP has had a specific priority to assist victims of domestic and sexual abuse and more recently this has extended to victims of hate crime.

### Domestic Abuse

#### Definition of Domestic Violence and Abuse

With effect from March 2013, the definition of domestic violence will be widened to include those aged 16-17 and will reflect the issue of coercive control. The decision follows a Government consultation which saw respondents call overwhelmingly for this change. The title of the definition will also change from 'domestic violence' to 'domestic violence and abuse'.

It is intended that the new definition will increase awareness that young people in this age-group experience domestic violence and abuse and encourage more of them to come forward and access the support they need. The 'coercive control' element includes issues of honour based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Domestic violence and abuse is now defined as "any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality". This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional.

#### The Local Problem

In 2011/12 there were 2,469 incidents of domestic abuse in Darlington. For the period April 2011 to February 2013, reported incidents total 2,128. Darlington is over-represented in the figures for the Constabulary area. The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process has heard 55 cases between April 2012 and January 2013 to date, of which 11 were repeats.

The CSP target was 28% for 2011/12 but in fact the figure for April 2012 to January 2013 shows only 20% of domestic abuse cases that were heard at MARAC were repeat incidents.

There have been 124 children made the subject of a child protection plan since 01/04/2012 and of those 82 have domestic abuse listed as a contributory factor at the Initial Child Protection Conference, which equates to 66%.



## Achievements 2012/13

In 2011 a Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plan was developed for Darlington and the implementation of that plan was the main focus of the CSP for 2012/13. The strategy will be refreshed during the spring of 2013 and the action plan updated accordingly. The current plan can be seen at: <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Living/Communities/communitysafetypartnership/dcsp.htm> and the updated strategy and plan will be added as soon as it is completed.

The main areas for action for 2012/13 included in the plan are listed below:

<b>Key Action</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
<b>Implementation of the Service for both victims and perpetrators</b>	New services to support victims of domestic abuse and their children were commissioned at the start of 2012 and new services began operating in April 2012. To date Sanctuary Supported Living have provided full support to 69 victims of domestic abuse and provided advice and guidance to a further 67. Forty-seven women have attended the Freedom Programme run by Harbour. Although not a new service, the Darlington Refuge has accommodated 38 women since April 2012 and given advice and guidance to many more via its helpline.
<b>Development of a voluntary perpetrator programme</b>	Although multiple options have been explored during 2012/13, there are a number of reasons why the CSP has not been able to fully implement this programme. Commitment to do so still remains high and options will be explored further during 2013/14.
<b>Operation of the MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Process)</b>	The MARAC process deals with domestic abuse cases where there is a high level of risk to the victim. It is the aim of agencies to ensure that victims are given the correct support to help them to escape from abusive relationships. The success of this is measured by the numbers of repeat victims whose cases come back to MARAC. The target for Darlington is to have no more than 28% of repeat cases per year. As stated above the figure for 2012/13 as at January 2013 was 20%.
<b>Developing promotional awareness raising campaigns</b>	A very successful campaign was run throughout 2012/13 led by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Network (DASAN). As part of this campaign leaflets were provided to 127 venues in the town, with 55 venues agreeing to display posters. Alongside this, display stands with promotional material were placed at various locations throughout the year and helpline numbers were placed on the back of car park tickets. A short survey of the campaign showed that four out of ten people had seen at least one form of marketing, with the greatest number reporting that they had seen information in their GP surgery. The Vulnerability Strategic Group is aware that there is still work to be done in reaching specific groups of women such as members of ethnic minorities and women in the 50+ age group. Therefore, one of the key objectives for 2013/14 will be to explore ways to ensure that information reaches these groups.
<b>Developing comprehensive referral pathways</b>	One of the aims stated in the action plan was to ensure that agencies have access to information which sets out clear referral pathways to each of the services available to enable victims to be signposted to the service which most meets their needs. This was completed and

	disseminated to relevant agencies in the town in Spring 2012.
<b>Carry out work in schools to promote healthy relationships</b>	This objective has not yet been completed due to reduced resources and the fact that most schools in Darlington have been going through the process of becoming Academies. However, education packs have been distributed to most schools in Darlington and a key action for the coming year will be to map how this is being used in schools and identify gaps where further support is required. This applies to work around sexual violence as well as domestic abuse.
<b>Ensure the involvement of early intervention teams with families where there is domestic abuse</b>	A mentoring scheme initially funded via the Community Safety Fund has been established in the town. The aim of the scheme is to train volunteers who can work with families to help address problems at an early stage and prevent them from escalating.
<b>Develop a more standardised approach to data collection across partner agencies</b>	An operational working group was established in 2012. This group has successfully worked together to decide on a standard set of indicators that are used by each agency.

## Sexual Violence and Exploitation

Sexual violence and exploitation is more common than people think, with many victims remaining silent about the abuse they have suffered. The official statistics (under-reported) for the average PCT show that 4% of women (which in County Durham and Darlington amounts to 10,232 people) have been raped (excluding attempted rape). 23% of women and 3% of men experience sexual assault as an adult.

Social networking provides access to vulnerable people without appropriate supervision. Partner agencies indicate this is of growing concern, and is underreported to the police.

A profile commissioned to understand the extent of sexual violence in County Durham and Darlington Constabulary area found that there are around 120 rapes and 300 other instances of sexual violence recorded each year (under-reported). Analysis carried out in 2011 showed that:

- 57% of all rape crimes take place with people under the age of 18
- The majority are historic reports including adults reporting abuse as a child
- 51% of cases of child rape involve a family member
- 29% are child on child abuse
- There are links to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Detection rate for child rape is 43%
- 26% of all rape crimes take place in domestic violence situations where there are other forms of domestic abuse present
- Rape within domestic settings are underreported and have the lowest detection rates
- 14% of all rape crimes involve an associate, i.e. someone known to the victim, who they may have recently met at a party or in public house
- The majority of associate crimes are acute crimes
- Alcohol is very common factor in associate rape
- Stranger rapes are very rare (3%)

- In 2011 there were two cases reported to Durham Constabulary that were historic i.e. an adult reporting an attack when they were a child.

Sexual violence and exploitation causes severe and lifelong harm to victims. A recent victim profile showed that:

- There is a diverse range in age, between 3-44
- 90% of victims reporting were female. It is known that there is under reporting among males
- There is overrepresentation of socially deprived victims
- A significant number of adults have complex needs including learning disability or involvement with alcohol/drug misuse.

A recent analysis of 50 known offenders showed:

- A diverse age range
- Many had previously been arrested for a sex offence or violent offence
- Many were known as domestic violence perpetrators.

## Child Sexual Exploitation



A recent analysis of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), showed that:

- Victims were vulnerable and often had complex needs
- Victims live and/or are socialised in deprived areas or high youth ASB hotspots
- Perpetrators are often known for other aspects of criminality such as drug use, ASB, domestic abuse, alcohol misuse, drug misuse/supply and theft
- Older males deliberately target vulnerable young people
- Alcohol misuse is often a contributing factor among victims and or perpetrators
- Sexual activity is exchanged in return for attention, alcohol, cigarettes and drugs

With regard to sexual abuse, a strategy has been developed by community safety partners from both Darlington and Durham, led by Durham Constabulary. The strategy was launched in 2011. Representatives from the Darlington CSP sit on the Sexual Abuse Implementation Group and are involved in working groups which have been set up to progress the action plan. The Sexual Violence Co-ordinator is a member of the Vulnerability Strategic Group. Linkages into the wider CSP are made via the Strategic Vulnerability Group.

Since the development of the Strategy a great deal of progress has been made. Some of the key achievements are listed below:

<i>Key Action</i>	<i>Achievements</i>
Child Sexual Exploitation	<p>A Child Sexual Exploitation action plan was released in December 2012 by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).</p> <p>The Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Gangs and Groups published an interim report of their findings so far. There were recommendations made requiring immediate action. These are in areas relating to identification of victims, identification of perpetrators and the process of recording and sharing data.</p> <p>CSE Presentations have been provided to police, alcohol treatment groups, mental health services and domestic and sexual abuse support services. A CSE awareness raising event occurred in Darlington in November 2012.</p> <p>The Local Safeguarding Children's Board have CSE scheduled on their training programme and this multi-agency training will be held three times a year.</p> <p>A monitoring tool, to capture data on the number of children who go missing in Darlington and the number of children referred to the Sexual Exploitation Worker has been developed.</p> <p>The ERASE leaflets regarding CSE continue to be circulated across agencies.</p>
Education	<p>A toolkit which will explore sexual abuse, exploitation, coercion and healthy relationships is being produced by CSE workers.</p> <p>A mapping exercise is being carried to identify what existing SRE programmes are on-going and what aspects of domestic and sexual abuse and CSE are taught within schools.</p>
Mental Health Pathways and Provision	<p>A presentation is being prepared about the impact of domestic abuse upon mental health.</p>
Raising awareness with health professionals	<p>Leaflets/training sessions/presentations etc are to be used to raise awareness of sexual violence and exploitation amongst health professionals.</p>

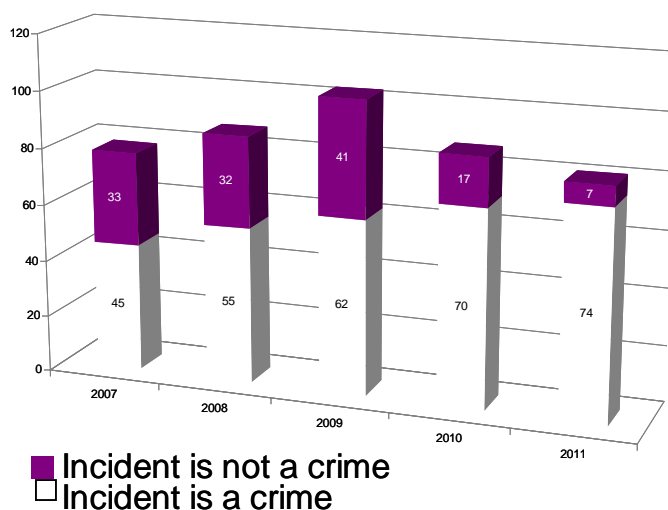
## Hate Crime

During 2012/13 the Vulnerability Strategic Group, added hate crime to its agenda and in order to begin to understand the nature and extent of the problem, held a multi-agency workshop in October 2012 and commissioned a hate crime profile which was carried out by Durham Constabulary. The profile highlighted the following issues:

## Hate Crime Overview

- An average of **87 hate incidents a year** are reported to the police.
- Less than **two hate incidents a week**.
- Number of incidents reported **has not changed** over five years.
- **BUT** number of incidents converted into crimes has significantly increased.
- Hate incidents are **treated more seriously** by the police.

The graph below shows that over the last five years the numbers of reported incidents and crimes have risen and it also shows that increasing numbers of incidents are being recorded as crimes. This suggests that some progress has been made around understanding what hate crime is and in taking it seriously. It also suggests that a greater number of victims are reporting incidents as they occur. We know however, that there is still a great deal of work to be done to improve these figures further.



The Vulnerability Strategic Group have been working closely with the Safeguarding Adults Board and have produced an action plan, which will be progressed during 2013/14. Progress will be monitored by the Vulnerability Strategic Group, Safeguarding Adults Board and the Learning Disabled Partnership Board and will be reported in the refreshed Community Safety Plan 2014/15.

## Case Study

Fred had a learning disability. He was walking to a football match when he was attacked by someone he knew, punched in the face and hit with a bottle. He was then kicked and dragged into the bushes. When reported the incident to the police, initially they didn't treat it as hate crime. However, after more information was received, the police did decide to treat the incident as a hate crime.

The offender was arrested within an hour and the police, court and Crown Prosecution Service supported Fred by making reasonable



adjustments to help with his learning disability. Fred had an Advocate to support him through the process.

The offender pleaded guilty and was given a community sentence. Fred has had no further problems with him since.

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategies together with action plans and the Hate Crime action plan can be found on the CSP website:

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Living/Communities/communitysafetypartnership/dcsp.htm>.

## Priorities 2013/14

Indicator	Baseline	Target
Continue to raise awareness of sexual violence and exploitation in Darlington; to increase confidence in reporting to the police; to ensure victims gain support and information whether or not they decide to go through the criminal justice system**	49 sexual offences between Dec 2011 and Dec 2012  42 serious sexual offences (including rape) between Dec 2011 and 2012  Marketing Plan in place  Various campaign/marketing initiatives carried out in 2012/13  Identify pathways utilising recent research such as commissioned by Evolution as a baseline	Monitor direction of travel*
Increase number of hate crimes reported	An average of 87 reported each year	Monitor direction of travel*
Increase awareness of domestic abuse and support services to identified groups i.e. members of ethnic communities, 50+ age group	Successful generic awareness raising campaign ran throughout 2012/13. This will be built upon but with targeted campaigns for identified groups	Number of focussed campaigns

\*Targets are difficult to set in this area of work as although the overall aim is a reduction in incidents, the CSP are aware that there is considerable underreporting of this issue. Therefore an increase in numbers would be seen as a success in terms of reaching more victims and increasing their confidence to report.

\*\* Detailed actions are contained within the Sexual Violence Strategy Action Plan, which can be downloaded from the Community Safety website. Regular updates on progress will be given to the Vulnerability Strategic Group.

## What Happens Next?

The next step for the CSP is to develop action plans that set out the detailed tasks it will take to address each of the five priorities. In doing so, the CSP will take account of the financial constraints and significant changes taking place in 2013, which will impact upon community safety.

Community safety partners have a proven track record of co-operation and therefore are in a strong position to face these challenges together.

## Monitoring Performance

The Community Safety Plan is a living document and will be reviewed annually and updated in the light of data provide by the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment and the Single Needs Assessment.

The action plans discussed above will be monitored by the strategic thematic groups with any emerging issues being reported to the CSP Board.

Although concentrating on its priorities, the CSP will also regularly consider emerging trends in order to work together to resolve these issues. The impact of the changes mentioned on Page 4 will also be assessed, particularly the impact of welfare reform.

## How you can get involved

Community Safety affects everyone living in Darlington and the Community Safety Partnership and to be truly effective partners need assistance from residents of Darlington. 2012/13 has seen more residents than ever before becoming involved in Neighbourhood Watch and interest has already started to be shown in the new Neighbourhood Resolution project. The CSP hopes that this involvement will continue to grow in the coming year.

There are a variety of ways you can be involved. Firstly, if you would like to comment on this plan or on the priorities set by the Partnership, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please send your comments to [judith.morton@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:judith.morton@darlington.gov.uk) or contact one of the people named in the contact list below.

The CSP is keen to tackle the issues that arise in your community. The Police organise monthly PACT meetings in conjunction with partners, which are held in your area. You can attend these and raise local problems. Community Safety partners will work together to resolve these. To find out more about your local PACT meeting, please ring Durham Constabulary on 101 or log on to [www.durham.police.uk](http://www.durham.police.uk).

You can have more direct involvement in the work of the Community Safety Partnership through volunteering or becoming a member of Neighbourhood Watch. There are a variety of volunteering opportunities available and details can be found on the Community Safety Partnership website: <http://www.Darlington.gov.uk/Living/Communities/safercommunities/saferdarlington>. Alternatively please ring the Safer Neighbourhoods Unit on (01325) 346294.

## Key Contacts

The table below sets out the key contacts from each of the Responsible Authorities.

Name	Email	Telephone
Hazel Willoughby (Director of Public Protection, Probation Service, chair of the Reducing Offending Group)	<a href="mailto:hazel.willoughby@dtv.probaton.gsi.gov.uk">hazel.willoughby@dtv.probaton.gsi.gov.uk</a>	(01642) 230533
Graham Hall (Chief Superintendent, Darlington Police, chair of the ASB Strategic Group)	<a href="mailto:Graham.Hall@durham.pnn.police.uk">Graham.Hall@durham.pnn.police.uk</a>	(01325) 742500
Miriam Davidson (Director of Public Health, Darlington Council, lead contact for Drugs and Alcohol and chair of the Vulnerability Strategic Group)	<a href="mailto:Miriam.davidson@darlington.gov.uk">Miriam.davidson@darlington.gov.uk</a>	(01325) 388463
Colin Bage Area Manager, Fire & Rescue Service, Operational Delivery	<a href="mailto:cbage@ddfire.gov.uk">cbage@ddfire.gov.uk</a>	(0191) 3324397
Judith Morton, Darlington Council (Community Safety Officer)	<a href="mailto:Judith.Morton@darlington.gov.uk">Judith.Morton@darlington.gov.uk</a>	(01325) 346773
Sgt Louise Guest, Darlington Police	<a href="mailto:Louise.Guest@durham.pnn.police.uk">Louise.Guest@durham.pnn.police.uk</a>	(01325) 346221

Please contact the author Judith Morton on (01325) 346773 if you have any queries or if you require the document in a different format.