EAST AYRSHIRE

the **community** plan

improving **community safety**

action plan 2007 - 2011

planning together

working together

achieving together

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At the time of production, our Core Community Planning Partners are:

Introduction

Community Planning is about a range of partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors working together to better plan, resource and deliver quality services that meet the needs of people who live and work in East Ayrshire. The Vision articulated in the Community Plan is:

'East Ayrshire will be a place with strong, vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs.'

To ensure that the community planning process is consistent and meets the needs of everyone who lives in East Ayrshire, we are committed to working in a way which ensures that we:

- *promote social justice and social inclusion;*
- *ensure effective community engagement in the planning and development of local services;*
- *succeed in joint working and engaging people;*
- *ensure quality and accessibility;*
- *build sustainability into what we do; and*
- *deliver continuous improvement and best value.*

The Plan identifies a number of challenges facing East Ayrshire that Partners have agreed to address via the six priority themes of:

- *Promoting Community Learning*
- *Improving Opportunities*
- *Improving Community Safety*
- *Improving Health*
- *Eliminating Poverty*
- *Improving the Environment.*

This document is the Improving Community Safety Action Plan 2007-2011, which has been jointly developed by East Ayrshire Community Safety Partnership, comprising a wide range of partners at strategic and practitioner levels, as well as community representatives. The Community Safety Implementation Group drives forward the actions contained within the Plan assisted by the Community Safety Forum. The Community Safety Forum is the consultation group comprising members of voluntary and community groups, council departments, other agencies, including Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and NHS Ayrshire and Arran, and elected members.

Thematic Issues And Key Challenges

Overview of Progress 2003-2007

Considerable success has been achieved within the Action Plan 2003-2007 through very active partnership working and it is satisfying to see progress in many key community safety areas. These successes have allowed positive impact on crime, safety and quality of life for the people in East Ayrshire. Crime levels are lower than in areas of comparable deprivation and there are pleasing downward trends in violent crime and crimes of dishonesty. Proactivity by partners in targeting drug suppliers, underage alcohol misuse and associated anti-social behaviour has brought positive benefits to the community. Most fire indicators in East Ayrshire are well below the Scottish average but there have been fire fatalities since 2003 and we wish to further reduce deaths and serious injury caused by fire. Similarly, there has been a notable reduction in road accident casualties; however, we wish to further reduce the number of victims of road accidents where there is death or serious injury.

Since actions were set in 2003, there have been a number of new agendas influencing Community Safety, including anti-social behaviour; the increasing need to divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour; a greater focus on violent crime, substance misuse and vandalism; an identified need to target fire, home and road safety; and the desire to address domestic abuse and child protection issues.

The key issues identified by the Community Safety Forum for 2007 onwards reflect the thematic issues of public safety, particularly in respect of protection of children and vulnerable adults, anti-social behaviour, fire and road safety.

Statistical Analysis Informing the Improving Community Safety Action Plan 2007-2011

Statistical evidence over a five year period has been analysed to inform the 2007-2011 Action Plan. It is noted that in East Ayrshire total crime is 12% below the Scottish average over the last five years and 18% below in 2006. There is, however, a desire to continue a downward trend in crime and injury rates as a result of fire and road accidents.

In considering our analysis and targets for the coming four years, we have taken into account the change in the Scottish Crime Recording Standard, where no corroborative evidence is required before recording a crime. This change has resulted in a Scotland wide increase in the numbers of minor crimes and offences recorded by the police, such as vandalism, thefts, assault and breach of the peace.

As highlighted, East Ayrshire has below average levels of most crimes; however, in 2003 serious assaults were 14% above the Scottish average. Targeted efforts on violent crime by Community Safety partners had the desired effect and by April 2006, these figures were dramatically reduced with violent crime declining in East Ayrshire faster than the Scottish average. This resulted in a dramatic drop from 38 crimes per 10,000 population to 22 crimes per 10,000 population. It is important to maintain this downward trend on violent crime and, therefore, it has been included in the Action Plan 2007-2011.

Crimes of vandalism show an increasing trend in the last five years in East Ayrshire and in Scotland. This has been in part due to the new crime recording standards; however, good progress has still been made in the last two years with East Ayrshire vandalism rates 8% below the Scottish 5 year average and 7% below in the last year. In an effort to maintain a downward trend, vandalism and anti-social behaviour have been included in the Action Plan 2007-2011.

Drug and alcohol misuse has a negative effect on crime and community safety. It is therefore important to continue education and enforcement in these areas and they have been included in the Action Plan for 2007-2011.

Despite the fact that the serious fire rate in East Ayrshire is half the Scottish average, there is concern that there have been fire deaths in East Ayrshire between 2003 and 2007. Joint working continues to combat the misuse of fireworks and, since 2003, the nuisance of fireworks has been reduced. There have been tremendous attendances at the East Ayrshire public display, attracting 25,000 spectators in 2006. We require to continue the proactive approach to all aspects of fire safety and, therefore, this area is included in the Action Plan for 2007-2011.

In the last year, deaths and serious injuries in East Ayrshire as a result of road accidents were 25% and 21% respectively below the Scottish average. However, any deaths and serious injury are a matter of concern and, therefore, road safety has been included within the Action Plan 2007-2011.

East Ayrshire domestic abuse rates are 17% below the Scottish 5 year average; however, it is recognised that there was an element of under reporting between 2002 and 2004. Additional confidence of victims and assistance from the public and voluntary sector has increased reported incidents both locally and nationally since then. Between April and September 2006, there were a total of 1,822 contacts made with East Ayrshire Women's Aid. It is considered important to continue raising public awareness of domestic violence in the future and it has, therefore, been included in the Action Plan 2007-2011.

The protection of children and vulnerable adults is a matter of public concern and accordingly community safety partners have been proactive in this area during 2003-2007. As a critical area of community safety, it is important that we continue our work to promote child protection and the safety of vulnerable adults through the Action Plan for 2007-2011.

Aspiration

The overarching Aspiration for the Improving Community Safety Action Plan is as follows:

- *Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and work to make neighbourhoods and homes in East Ayrshire safer places to live and work.*

Aims

Through the activity in the Action Plan, we will aim to:

- *tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour;*
- *work with young people to reduce the likelihood of them getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour;*
- *improve community safety in neighbourhoods and homes; and*
- *promote child protection and the safety of vulnerable adults.*

The Way Forward

Key aspirations and aims contained in the Improving Community Safety Action Plan 2007-2011 revolve around the need to tackle crime and the fear of crime; improve safety in the home, especially in relation to the number of fatal fires; reduce road accident casualties; and promote child protection and the safety of vulnerable adults.

Following the review in 2005, there was greater focus put on key areas such as violent crime and anti-social behaviour. This brought greater focus to the plan and a real drive on results, which in turn have informed the Action Plan 2007-2011.

What has become evident to partners within the Community Safety Partnership in East Ayrshire is the ongoing need for joint working in a problem-solving capacity. This has brought a real energy and enthusiasm to the Community Safety Partnership with proactivity in the Community Safety Implementation Group.

Partners have come together with actions from the East Ayrshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy; the Youth Justice Strategy; the Integrated Children's Service Plan; the Joint Health Improvement Plan; ADAT Action Plan; Safer Scotland VI Safer Streets Campaign; and the East Ayrshire Voluntary Code of Conduct for off-sales premises to drive forward the new agenda for 2007-2011. Real progress has been made in the last two years in relation to youth disorder in respect of alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour, and there is now a real drive to build on this solid foundation.

A number of partners have been involved in developing this action plan, including:

- Strathclyde Police
- Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
- East Ayrshire Council
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- East Ayrshire Community Health Partnership
- The Local Community

Aim 1 To tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Outcome Indicator (How will we measure whether the aim has been met?)	Baseline (including source) at April 2007	Target (Anticipated change in baseline position by 2011)
Specified crimes in the areas of concern reduced	Crime figures at 1/4/07 (Available from Strathclyde Police June 2007)	Reduce by 3%
Incidents of anti-social behaviour maintained	Incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by Strathclyde Police and East Ayrshire Council (Figures available June 2007)	Maintain stability
Detections for drug and alcohol related crime increased	Crime figures at 1/4/07 (Strathclyde Police June 2007)	Increase by 3%

	Actions (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Partners (Which organisations are involved?)	Action relevant to other themes
1.1	Implement a range of activities to tackle violent crime	• 20 Action Plans per year implemented, involving high profile policing and partnership working for specific identified issues	2007-2011	**Strathclyde Police**	
1.2	Effectively tackle anti-social behaviour through partnership working	• 25 multi-agency problem solving meetings convened targeting complaints of anti-social behaviour through various activity, including detecting offences, parent alert letters, Anti-social Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)	2007-2011	**Strathclyde Police** **East Ayrshire Council (EAC)**	
1.3	Tackle drug and alcohol related crime through enforcement and partnership working	• 20 Action Plans per year implemented, involving high profile policing and partnership working for specific identified issues	2007-2011	**Strathclyde Police** EAC Ayrshire Drug and Alcohol Team (ADAT)	Improving Health
1.4	Tackle the fear of crime in East Ayrshire	• 2 initiatives per year implemented, focusing on fear of crime identified throughout the year	2007-2011	**Strathclyde Police**	

Aim 2 To work with young people to reduce the likelihood of them getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Outcome Indicator (How will we measure whether the aim has been met?)	Baseline (including source) at April 2007	Target (Anticipated change in baseline position by 2011)
Total number of young people involved in the activities delivered increased	9,000 attendances by young people for 2006/07 (figures to 31/12/06, Leisure Services, EAC)	Increase by 3%
Number of persistent young offenders reduced	Number of Persistent Young Offenders 2006/07 (Available from Strathclyde Police 31/03/07)	Reduce by 3%

	Actions (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Partners (Which organisations are involved?)	Action relevant to other themes
2.1	Divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour through involvement in education and leisure activities	• 9,000 attendances recorded per annum at a range of sports-related activities, including Night Leagues, Streetsport Express and Multi-use Games Areas delivered by Leisure Services	2007-2011	**EAC** Strathclyde Police	Improving Health
2.2	Work with young offenders to divert them from the Criminal Justice System	• 150+ young offenders supported per annum through the Restorative Justice System, SACRO and Multi-agency Case Conferences	2007-2011	**EAC** **Strathclyde Police**	
2.3	Tackle alcohol and drug misuse by young people	• 2 initiatives per year to focus on drug and alcohol education and enforcement implemented	2007-2011	**Community Safety Partnership**	Improving Health

Aim 3 To improve community safety in neighbourhoods and homes.

Outcome Indicator (How will we measure whether the aim has been met?)	Baseline (including source) at April 2007	Target (Anticipated change in baseline position by 2011)
Number of injuries and incidents caused by fire and malicious calls, deliberate secondary fires and attacks on fire crews reduced	Number of injuries Number of malicious calls Number of Secondary Fires Number of attacks on Fire Crews 2006-2007 (Available from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue June 2007)	Reduce by 3%
Number of people killed or seriously injured as a result of road traffic accidents reduced	1994-98 - 140 2005/06 - 54	40% reduction from the 1994-98 baseline figure
Number of children killed or seriously injured as a result of road traffic accidents reduced	1994-98 - 28 2005/06 - 7	50% reduction from the 1994-98 baseline figure

	Actions (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Partners (Which organisations are involved?)	Action relevant to other themes
3.1	Raise awareness of fire safety and support national campaigns	• 2 initiatives per year focused on fire safety awareness implemented	2007-2011	**Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**	
3.2	Educate young people in the dangers of deliberate fire raising and malicious calls	• 3 initiatives per year implemented	2007-2011	**Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**	
3.3	Work in partnership to increase awareness of fire safety within the home	• 6 training sessions per annum delivered by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue: Sheltered Housing Wardens (2 sessions) Housing Officers and Health Visitors (4 sessions), including Home Fire Safety Visits	2007-2011	**Strathclyde Fire and Rescue** Community Health Partnership	
3.4	Raise awareness of and improve road safety through education, engineering, enforcement and encouragement	• 3 initiatives to educate child pedestrians, young drivers and cyclists organised per annum • 300 individuals per annum reported for Road Traffic Offences • A range of engineering works at potential accident hotspots implemented	2007-2011	**EAC** Strathclyde Police	

Aim 4 To promote child protection and the safety of vulnerable adults.

Outcome Indicator (How will we measure whether the aim has been met?)	Baseline (including source) at April 2007	Target (Anticipated change in baseline position by 2011)
Awareness in respect of child protection, domestic abuse and the safety of vulnerable adults raised	Total number of initiatives held in 2006/07 (baseline to be established 1 April 2008)	To be set when baseline established

	Actions (What needs to be done?)	Projected Outputs (What do we propose to do?)	Timescale (When will the action be completed?)	Partners (Which organisations are involved?)	Action relevant to other themes
4.1	Address the needs of victims of crime in East Ayrshire	• 1,600 victims of crime per year offered a service tailored to their needs	2007-2011	**Victim Support Strathclyde Police**	
4.2	Raise awareness of domestic abuse and support the overall reduction in abuse	• 2 initiatives per year to raise awareness with a view to improving protection of victims of domestic abuse	2007-2011	**Community Safety Partnership**	Promoting Community Learning
4.3	Raise awareness of child protection and focus on potential vulnerable adults	• 2 initiatives per year to raise awareness of child protection and vulnerable adult issues	2007-2011	**Community Safety Partnership**	Improving Health

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