



Community Safety Strategy 2005 - 2008

AIM

to reduce
both the level
and the fear of crime,
and to make Maldon District
an even safer place to live, work and relax.

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1. Executive Summary



This is the third Maldon District Community Safety Strategy. This document is a summary of the full Community Safety Strategy and sets out the aims of the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership during the next three years. A full copy of the Community Safety Strategy can be obtained from the Partnership team at Maldon District Council.

The Strategy builds on the achievements of the Maldon Community Safety Partnership (CDRP) since it was formed seven years ago. During this time the Partnership has achieved significant reductions in crime and the Maldon District remains one of the safest in Essex. We intend to ensure crime levels continue to fall and to promote even safer and stronger communities.

A Crime, Drugs and Anti-social Behaviour Audit was undertaken in 2004/5, based on an analysis of statistics provided by a wide range of our partners and extensive consultation with residents, public, voluntary and business sectors, and visitors. This Strategy focuses on the five key issues identified as a result of that Audit. These are: Prolific and Other Priority Offenders; Anti-social Behaviour; Drug and Alcohol Misuse; Promotion, Prevention and Education; Partnership Development.

A detailed action plan developed in support of these objectives will be delivered through the CDRP Working Groups. Our objectives can only be achieved through joint working and ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive approach. We will build on the existing strong partnership framework, involving statutory and voluntary agencies, businesses and the community at large to achieve our aims. This Strategy, like its predecessors, will be subject to monitoring, evaluation and review.

This Strategy has been subject to consultation with all Community Safety Partners to ensure that it is relevant and meets local needs. If you would like to join us in ensuring the Maldon District remains a strong, safe community please contact the Community Safety Team on (01621) 875835.

CHAIRMAN

MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

2. Introduction



The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, places a statutory duty on specific agencies to work together with the community to tackle crime and disorder and misuse of drugs and alcohol. The Maldon District Community Safety Partnership (CDRP) was formed to deliver the programme of work. The CDRP includes representation from a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations and businesses operating in the District. These are listed in Appendix A.

The Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) is the strategic group with responsibility for ensuring the effective delivery of this duty. Statutory agencies represented on this group are:

- Maldon District Council (MDC)
- Essex County Council (ECC)
- Essex Police
- Essex Police Authority
- Essex Fire and Rescue Service
- Maldon and South Chelmsford Primary Care Trust (PCT)

The Community Safety Partnership Steering Group provides practical advice in translating policy into action and acts as a critical friend in relation to RAG, the Sub Groups and other working parties. Each Partner Organisation is able to nominate one member to the Community Safety Partnership Steering Group. To ensure a strong democratic representation, up to three elected Members of Maldon District Council are included in the Steering Group membership.

A number of Sub Groups and Working Groups are already established to tackle priority areas identified by the Partnership. Working Parties are formed (and disbanded) as required, to fulfil specific tasks and to develop and implement strategies for tackling crime and disorder at a local level. Currently these groups include the Farmers Working Party, Young Person Drug/Alcohol Outreach Steering Group, Youth Facilities Steering Group and a number of other sub-groups. These groups are listed in Appendix B.

3. The Maldon District



The Maldon District is rural in nature with a long coastline. Maldon is the main town and Burnham-on-Crouch is a smaller market town in the south of the District.

The 2001 National Census indicates that the District is generally affluent, with pockets of deprivation. The total population is 60,400 and the male/female breakdown is roughly 50% -50%. The non-white minority ethnic breakdown is 1.39%. Maldon District has the highest number of travellers per capita in Essex.

The District has 31 wards and the main employers are in manufacturing, wholesale and real estate. Unemployment is below the national average with the highest three wards standing at 0.9%.

Maldon District is considered to be one of the safest and least deprived areas in the country. In 2004 a national assessment of the 376 Community Safety Partnership areas placed Maldon in the top 10% safest districts in England and Wales.

However, in items of deprivation a number of wards in the District score highly when all the domains are taken into account, especially rural social exclusion. In Cold Norton nearly 8% of households are living below the national poverty threshold, and there is evidence of social exclusion in every rural ward in the District. Access to public transport, linked to rural isolation, is also a factor.

(Countryside Agency - Regional Briefing paper no 1 issued January 2004 Tackling Rural Social Exclusion in the South of England).

4. The Audit



Under the terms of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each CDRP is required to produce a Community Safety Strategy every three years. In developing this Strategy an audit has been carried out to identify national and local crime and disorder priorities.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME SUB GROUP		FARMERS WORKING PARTY
AGE CONCERN		FRIENDS OF PARKS GROUPS
BROSIS		HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMME
BURNHAM CHAMBER OF TRADE		HM COASTGUARD
BURNHAM TOWN COUNCIL		HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS
BUSINESS FEDERATION		MALDON & SOUTH CHELMSFORD
CHANGES		PRIMARY CARE TRUST
CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU		MALDON AND DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS		FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE
CONNEXIONS		MALDON CHAMBER OF TRADE
CRIME REDUCTION PANEL		MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL
CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE		MALDON TOWN COUNCIL
DENGIE PROJECT TRUST		MALDON YOUTH SERVICE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM		MARINE WATCH
DRUG AND ALCOHOL		MENTORING AGENCIES
REFERENCE GROUP		MOAT CARE AND REPAIR
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL :		NORTH ESSEX MENTAL HEALTH P'SHIP
Highways,		OPEN ROAD
Child Protection Team,		PARISH COUNCILS
Vulnerable Adults Team,		PLUME SCHOOL
Senior Citizen Team,		PPO WORKING GROUP
Trading Standards		RACIAL INCIDENT PANEL
ESSEX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE		RAILWAY POLICE
ESSEX LIBRARIES		ROAD SAFETY AGENCIES
ESSEX MAGISTRATES		RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ESSEX POLICE:		FOR ESSEX
Maldon section,		SCHOOL LIAISON
Traffic policing,		SOCIAL SERVICES
Domestic Violence Unit,		ST PETER'S HIGH SCHOOL
Licensing officer		TRADING STANDARDS
School based Police		VICTIM SUPPORT
ESSEX PROBATION SERVICE		WILLIAM DE FERRERS SCHOOL
ESSEX YOUNG PEOPLE DRUG ADVISORY SERVICE		WOMEN'S AID
		YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

Local residents, businesses, minority groups and co-operating bodies (including Parish Councils and Governing Bodies in Schools and Further Education) have been consulted.

This document sets out the findings of the audit and, mindful of the finite resources available to the CDRP, identifies priority areas to be tackled during 2005 - 2008. The Strategy is supported by a detailed Action Plan setting out the Secondary Objectives, relevant targets and funding allocation. An annual review ensures the Strategy remains relevant and funds are allocated or re-allocated to reflect changing needs.

5. Research Methodology



Maldon District Community Safety Partnership set up a Core Audit Group to steer the process. The group, which meets monthly, uses a variety of tools to identify local priorities, including:

- desk research;
- a residents' postal survey;
- a small business survey;
- consultation at public events;
- the engagement of a national market research company to carry out consultation among specific target groups.

5.1 Desk Research

A wide variety of published material was analysed during the course of the audit. Statistics relating to local crime and disorder from a variety of partnership and national sources were sifted. Many partner agencies collect data which can be analysed, eg schools' data on expulsion rates; Anti-social Behaviour Coordinator's ASB audit; and Essex Police information on crime trends. Strategies and action plans produced by local agencies and strategic groups have been taken into account along with national data (ie the 2001 Census and National Priorities). Profiling the statistics in relation to trends and resulting geographic and demographic hotspots was carried out by use of the 'Crime Profiler' and 'I Quanta'.

5.2 Postal Survey

An external market research company was engaged to carry out a postal questionnaire, based on a previous survey in 2002, to establish the perception of crime. A number of other CDRPs were encouraged to adopt the core questionnaire - reducing costs and ensuring a consistent approach and the opportunity for a comparative analysis. A questionnaire was posted to 4,000 residents picked at random with 799 responses being received. This is a much lower response than the previous Audit achieved, but follows a countrywide trend in reduced responses.

5.3 Small Business Survey

The CDRP liaised with the Small Business Federation in drawing up a postal questionnaire for distribution to 1900 businesses in the District.

5. Research Methodology



5.4 Consultation at Public Events

The Community Safety Team developed a brief questionnaire designed to establish the main issues facing individuals in their neighbourhood and consulted with members of the public attending a number of public events held throughout the summer. These included the Southminster Show, the Burnham-on-Crouch Community Day (June 2004) and the 999 Day held in Maldon (July 2004).

5.5 Targeted Groups Survey

Experience has shown that the most likely groups to become victims of crime are the young, older people and people who have a disability.

A national market research company, Priority Research, was engaged to carry out consultation with specific groups on both the fear of crime and experience of crime. This was achieved using focus groups, telephone interviews and one to one interviews.

Consultation with Black Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in the Maldon District has proved extremely difficult. This is in part due to the low number of BME people in the area, the rurality of the District and the lack of formal structures to provide a conduit.

5.6 Partnership Audit

Partners were asked about their experience in implementing the 2002-2005 Community Safety Strategy and recommendations for improvement were considered. Partners were also asked for their views on the service provided by the Community Safety Team. The feedback was very positive with high ratings for the work officers undertook.

6. Findings

6.1 National Priorities

The following national priorities have been taken into account in developing the Strategy:

- National Drugs Strategy
- National Alcohol Strategy
- Home Office Public Service Agreement Targets
- National Policing Plan 2004 - 07
- Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

MAPPA was created as a result of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act (2000) to minimise the risk of re-offending by those offenders convicted of offences of a violent or sexual nature. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 requires Police, Prison and Probation Services to establish arrangements for assessing and managing the risks posed by offenders, review and monitor those arrangements and publish an annual report on its operation. The CDRP is charged with co-operating with all the relevant bodies as part of MAPPA and expects those bodies to reciprocate.

Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO's)

The PPO Strategy is aimed at the small number of prolific offenders (estimated at 0.50% of the entire active offender population) responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime. Built into the process are systems to identify those people at risk of offending, with the intention of providing early interventions.

The three PPO strands: Catch and Convict, Prevent and Deter, and Rehabilitate and Resettle interconnect to ensure a strategic, partnership approach is adopted in tackling the target groups. Individual action plans will be developed aimed at changing behaviour. These may include the provision of specific projects such as drug intervention programmes, work/skills training and support with housing problems. Custodial sentences will continue to be sought as appropriate.

The Partnership is working jointly with the Chelmsford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Essex Police, Essex Probation and Magistrates to deliver the PPO Strategy. We will also co-operate with the Essex Criminal Justice Board in its efforts to ensure a consistent approach throughout the County.

6. Findings

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

Tackling ASB is a Government priority and in 2003 the Partnership appointed an ASB Coordinator to collate information and coordinate partnership activity in this area. During the next three years the priorities will include establishing the extent of and tackling ASB in the District and supporting victims and witnesses.

Other National Priorities

- Burglary
- Vehicle crime
- Drug related crime
- Robbery

6.2 Local Priorities

Local plans and other strategies adopted by the Maldon Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Partner Agencies are also taken into account. Just a few examples of these plans are:

- Maldon District Community Plan
- Maldon District Council Older Peoples' Strategy (2004)
- The Children's and Young Peoples Service Improvement Plan
- Essex County Council Strategic Plans
- Essex Policing Plan

6. Findings

The key challenges for community safety set out in the Community Plan are:

1. Anti Social Behaviour
2. Youth Offending
3. Fear of crime
4. Hate crime
5. Offences of violence
6. Road Safety
7. Distraction burglary
8. Partnership working
9. Crime & Motor vehicle crime
10. People who misuse drugs or alcohol
11. Disorder that is rural by nature and specific to the Maldon District

Essex Police Crime Reduction Targets 2005-08

During 2002-2005 overall crime fell in the Maldon District. Thefts from motor vehicles reduced by 63% and reports of domestic violence fell by 24%. However, criminal damage increased 56% and theft of motor vehicles by 77%.

Historically, the District has not suffered from large numbers of vehicle thefts and the large percentage increase must be considered against that background with thefts rising from 95 to 170 in the past 12 months. High value cars have been targeted by 'displaced' thieves believed to be operating in the District following successful campaigns to reduce car thefts in neighbouring areas.

During 2004 Essex Police made major changes to the way offences of violence are recorded and this has made direct comparison with the period three years ago more difficult.

Maldon District has performed very well nationally in the reduction of crime, and statistics provided by the Home Office confirm that the District is a low crime area compared to other similar areas around the country.

The overall target for crime reduction nationally 2005-2008 is 12.5%. However, the Essex Police target is 15%.

Maldon CDRP has adopted the
Essex Police crime reduction target of 15%.

6. Findings

6.3 Residents' Postal Survey

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) remains high on the list of community priorities. Surveys undertaken within the past three years indicate high levels of concern in relation to young people hanging around, litter, vandalism and substance abuse. A significant number of ASB complaints concerned nuisance neighbours.

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS WORRIED ABOUT SPECIFIC CLASSES OF CRIME		
	2001	2004
ABANDONED VEHICLES	48	22
ARSON	37	9
HOME BURGLARY	61	47
THEFT FROM GARDEN	65	44
THEFT FROM CAR	47	70
THEFT OF A CAR	54	31
STREET ROBBERY (MUGGING)	31	16
SEXUAL ASSAULT	10	9

Source - Priority Research: postal survey

Groups of young people who congregate in public places have been identified as a major cause for public concern. Such groups are believed to be responsible for minor criminal damage and public order offences although levels of youth crime in the District are comparatively low.

6.4 Business Crime Survey

The 123 responses highlighted problems with criminal damage and fly-tipping. Of the replies from local farmers, three cited fly tipping as an ongoing problem. The Strategy will take this into account by continuing to link in with the Farmers Working Group and sign-posting emerging issues for action.

6.5 Public Event Consultation

At the public events held, 222 questionnaires were completed. Many respondents (13% - including residents and visitors) expressed satisfaction with the Maldon District in general. The results indicate that youth provision and lack of public transport remain high on the agenda.

6. Findings

6.6 Targeted Groups Survey

BME Residents - respondents generally reported feeling safe in the District. One respondent had experienced racism in the past but no recent incidents were reported.

Travellers - The majority felt safe. A small number reported discrimination, especially in local shops. Seven out of ten considered young people hanging around and being verbally abusive a problem.

Young Disaffected - expressed the view that hanging about in groups offered protection (from other young people). The main issue was the ready availability of drugs in the District and widespread underage drinking.

Substance Misusers - generally felt safe though concerned about groups of young people and underage drinking. All acknowledged having committed crimes as a result of their substance misuse. The main problems were that some GPs were unwilling to see them and a perceived lack of knowledge among GPs about drug-related issues.

Adults with Mental Health and Learning Difficulties - Most considered Maldon District to be a safe place. None had experience of ASB from young people. Their main concerns centred on speeding vehicles and petty crime.

6.7 Additional Findings

The Rail Safety and Standards Board carried out a research programme with railway passengers across Essex in 2004. Although the number of assaults to passengers on railways in the East of England is comparatively low (Essex is ranked 4th out of 11 regions) offences on the Southminster Line are significant against this with 20 recorded offences per year. (*Rail Safety and Standards Board - Research Programme, Fears and Experiences of Passengers from Assault - 2004.*) The Partnership has identified areas of ASB on that line and will continue to work with other agencies to make railway travel a safer more enjoyable process.

Evening bus services have been withdrawn in that area due to allegations of public order problems. This makes access to public transport more difficult in this rural part of the District. *Source: Countryside Agency: Burnham Market Town Healthcheck - Undertaken 2000, and updated in 2004)*

7. Priorities for 2005 - 2008



The following themes and priorities have been developed as a result of the findings of the audit.

1. Prolific and Priority Offenders

- to identify the top persistent and priority offenders in the Maldon District and implement supportive measures to intervene with their offending behaviour.

2. Anti-social Behaviour

- to identify and reduce the volume of ASB in the Maldon District by identifying the causes, location and offenders and taking appropriate action including education, preventative measures and enforcement.

3. Drugs and Alcohol

- to reduce the level of drug and alcohol misuse and associated crime in the Maldon District by strengthening our ability to deal with drug and alcohol issues by dealing positively with those who misuse drug and alcohol, and with their families.

4. Prevention, Education and Promotion

- to coordinate the Crime and Disorder Prevention programme and implement the Promotion and Education programme.

5. Partnership Development

- to implement improvements to the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership to ensure we maintain a good track record.

8. Delivering the Strategy

Each objective will be progressed through Steering or Working groups outlined in Appendix A.

The success of this Strategy depends on choosing the most appropriate and effective arrangements for Partnership working. The way in which the Partnership has worked for the last three years has been reviewed and some structural changes have been implemented.

The Partnership has proposed that the Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy forms the basic structure for each of the Sub Groups. This will ensure that the work of the Partnership fits into this remit. It is proposed that the Community Safety Strategy 2005-08 will implement the following Sub Groups in order to deliver the Strategy and achieve its aims:

- Anti Social Behaviour Sub Group
- Drugs and Alcohol Reference Group
- Domestic Violence Group
- Prevention and Education and Promotion Working Group
The Partnership will continue with a broad range of targeted projects and events which will address identified and emerging issues such as racism, road safety, vulnerable people and coordinating youth projects. This group will signpost up to date information and raise the profile of the Partnership. A media strategy will be developed to raise the profile of the CDRP by ensuring publicity is built into all Community Safety initiatives.
- Chelmsford and Maldon Hate Crime Group
There are few organised groups representing residents who may be victims of hate crime. Whilst this does not mean that problems do not occur it does mean that they can be hard to identify. Joint working with Chelmsford CDRP will assist in the task of identifying and supporting victims of hate crime.
- Partnership Development
The Partnership is keen to continue to develop its role to take on new responsibilities as new government initiatives come on line. The pace of development is fast and there is a need for joint training in order to deliver the shared challenges in the Strategy. An annual review of how the Partnership is performing will be undertaken to ensure its continued development.

Cross Cutting Themes

Each Sub Group will consider vulnerable groups, fear of crime and promotional issues in addition to the three PPO themes.

8. Delivering the Strategy

Other Considerations

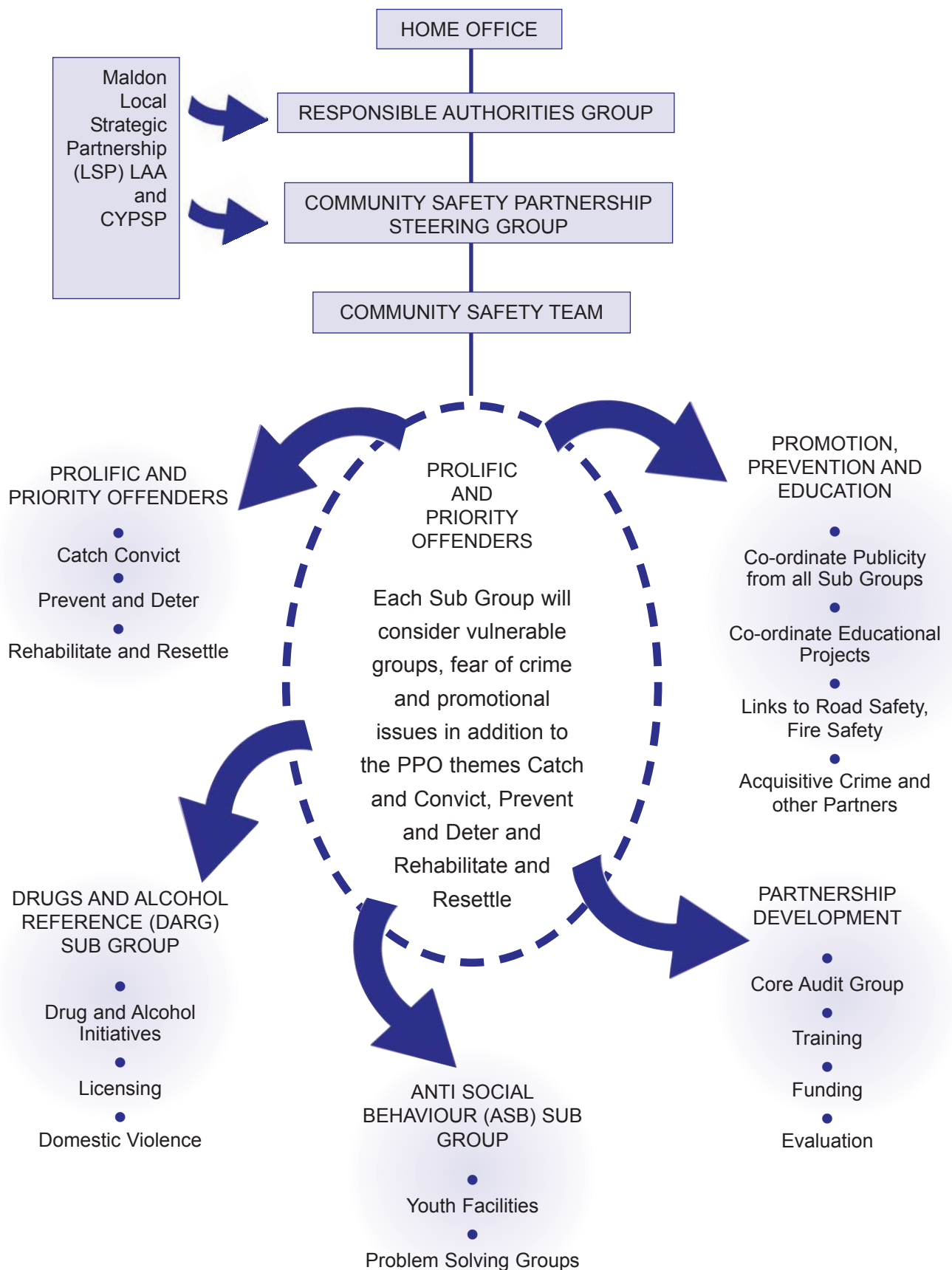
Although it is difficult to predict fully what other strategies and developments may impact on the Crime and Disorder programme over the next 3 years, the following developments may have considerable influence on the Community Safety agenda:

- Safer and Stronger Communities - New funding arrangements will influence how resources are distributed across a range of services as Local Area Agreements come into force.
- Crime and Disorder Review - emerging from the Government White Paper on Police reforms. This review was carried out between November 2004 and January 2005 with a report expected later in 2005. The findings may result in changes to Partnership structure, data sharing, funding and two tier working.
- Maldon District Council Youth Strategy - closely aligned to the *Children's and Young People's Strategic Plan (CYPSP)* this strategy will contribute to work already underway to bring together all partner agencies working with children and young people, to agree common aims and objectives and ensure effective partnership working.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A full copy of the Maldon District Community Safety Strategy and further information about the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership, funding procedures, training opportunities and general community safety advice is available on the Maldon District Council website which can be found at www.maldon.gov.uk

Appendix A Partnership (CDRP) Structure



Appendix B

Functions of the CDRP groups

STRUCTURE	MEMBERSHIP	FUNCTIONS
Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) (STRATEGIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essex County Council Maldon District Council Essex Fire Authority Maldon & South Chelmsford Primary Care Trust Essex Police Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordinates the Strategy along with other Local Plans Approves and publish final Community Safety Strategy Approves a financial plan and bid annually for resources Reviews a quarterly progress report from the Operational Groups Accounts for the budget allocation
Community Safety Partnership Steering Group (OPERATIONAL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Officer Senior Lead Officers from the relevant agencies including Social Services, Maldon District Council, Essex County Fire and Rescue, Essex Police, Road Safety Crime Prevention Officer and other partners who wish to contribute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets quarterly to review progress reports from the Community Safety Partnership Team Receives feedback from strategic group Reviews targets quarterly and annually Pursues External Funding
Community Safety Partnership Task Groups <i>including:</i> <i>Persistent and Priority Offenders, Anti Social Behaviour, Drug and Alcohol Reference Group, Education, Promotional Initiatives and Partnership Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Officer Community Representatives Young people Faith Groups Service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements a local action plan Produces a local implementation project plan Reviews progress of plan against audit data and targets Reports to the operational group
Community Safety Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Officer ASB Co-ordinator Community Safety Development Worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiates and completes audit, including recorded crime data from other service delivery organisations Ensures protocols are agreed for sharing information Publishes community safety audit results for consultation Devises action plans and targets, performance indicators and costs Produces an action plan for RAG Secures Funding agreements with project providers Maintains monitoring systems Facilitates the Task Groups



produced by

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