

Final Report

# **Strabane Community Safety Partnership**

Community Safety Audit 2008

**May 2008**



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# 1 Introduction

Momentum Research Consultancy was commissioned by Strabane District Council to develop a new Community Safety Strategy for the period 2008- 2011. The strategy must address the following key strategic priorities and themes:

- A reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour (a reduction by 15% based on 07/08, by 2011)
- Creating safer neighborhoods (a reduction in the level of more serious crimes)
- Creating positive opportunities
- Building strong, confident communities.

## 1.1 Background

Community safety means preventing, reducing or containing the social, environmental and intimidatory factors which affect people's right to live without fear of crime and which impact upon their quality of life. It includes preventative measures that contribute to crime reduction and tackle anti-social behaviour. The emphasis is on a local approach to local problems, in an effort to produce solutions, which are tailored to local needs, and have a lasting impact. In essence, Community safety is about delivering local solutions to local problems that have been identified by local people.

The Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland recommended: "the development of a Northern Ireland community safety strategy based upon extensive consultation with relevant agencies, political structures and the voluntary, private and community sectors". The strategy document, 'Creating a Safer Northern Ireland through partnership' published in March 2003, set out the framework for the development of local strategies and Action Plans to be delivered during the period April 2002 – March 2007. Informed by the findings of a wide ranging consultation exercise the Community Safety Strategy identifies nine key issues, with associated objectives, key actions, and agreed crime reduction targets. The nine key issues identified in the 2002-2007 strategy are as follows: car crime; domestic Burglary; business and retail crime; offences against individuals particularly Domestic Violence and Sexual Assaults; youth offending and reducing criminality; offences motivated by prejudice and hatred; fear of crime amongst older people, vulnerable adults,

victims and children; drug, substance and alcohol abuse; street violence, low level neighbourhood disorder and anti-social behaviour.

The Government is committed to creating a safer Northern Ireland. Since its Community Safety Strategy was introduced in 2003, demands from local communities have seen the development of a joined-up action through 26 Community Safety Partnerships. Most recently, the Criminal Justice Order (NI) Order 2008 seeks to ensure that the issues most concerning communities throughout Northern Ireland are addressed as promptly as possible.

In February 2008, the government announced that £18 million had been secured to assist in the delivery of front line projects in order to identify and deliver local solutions to local problems and contribute to strategic priorities with a particular focus on anti-social behaviour and crime.

Strabane Community Safety Partnership held its first meeting in October 2004. This meeting was in recognition of the fact that to reduce crime, the fear of crime and tackle anti-social behaviour, the active participation and representation of all major stakeholders within the local area was required. Representatives from a range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations met together on a regular basis to develop a local Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan.

## **1.2 PSA Targets**

Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets agreed as part of the 2001 and 2004 Spending Reviews charged the NIO (working with other organisations) with reducing domestic burglary by 15% by April 2007 and reducing theft of and from vehicles by 10% by March 2007. These targets were exceeded, with domestic burglary falling by 24.6% and car crime reduced by 53% when compared against the 2001/2002 baseline.

PSA targets agreed as part of the 2008 -2011 Spending Review includes the reduction of more serious violence: the reduction of harm caused by organised crime, the reduction of re-offending and the reduction of the fear of crime. Although the focus will be on more serious crime, there will be an emphasis on maintaining the successful reductions in vehicle crime and domestic burglary achieved over the period 2002-07.

Regardless of the extent to which the work of the Community Safety Partnerships had an impact on exceeding the original targets set, it is clear that government, through the introduction of PSA's, is placing greater emphasis on performance measurement.

### **1.3 Strategy and Action Plan**

A major audit of existing local community safety information, accompanied by consultations, was carried out during 2004 to inform the 2005-2008 Strabane Strategy. The audit involved the collation and analysis of relevant statistical information held by each of the partner organisations and other relevant information to supplement the findings. A Community Consultation Plan was developed in order to ascertain the views of the community with regard to their experiences, fears and perceptions of crime in the area compared with the information obtained by the Community Safety Partnership Audit. Having considered the findings of the Audit and the comments received through the consultation, the Partnership considered that its Strategy for the three years 2005-2008 should concentrate on three main themes:

- To reduce the actual occurrence of crime
- To tackle anti-social behaviour
- To address the perceptions of the fear of crime

The Partnership has made very substantial progress since the publication of its first strategy in 2005, but recognises the need to sustain the work to maintain this position. By working together and sharing resources, as well as information, the Partnership can be more effective in tackling crime and disorder and building a safe and supportive community. The purpose of this new document is to refine and update both the 2005-2008 strategy and to ensure that existing achievements are built on to secure even greater success over the next three years and beyond. The audit is split into two complimentary parts:

- **Stage 1**

Stage 1 of the audit process has been informed by secondary analysis of local area statistics including crime and those relating to the demographic and socio-economic profile of the Strabane area. MRC has sourced an extensive range of information from multiple sources that can now be used in developing the Partnerships strategy for the next period.

- **Stage 2**

Stage 2 of the audit focuses on findings from the consultative element of the research. This stage is particularly relevant given that it provides an opportunity for the local community to engage with the process of identifying key priorities for the district and to identify local solutions to local problems. This principle is central to the strategies development.

A further element of the consultation process was a survey of a sample of post-primary school children and young people in the area undertaken by the Partnership. The purpose of the survey was to obtain young people's views and experiences of anti-social behaviour. Findings from this survey are included in this audit.

In order to place the work of the Partnership in a broader context, examples of intervention implemented elsewhere in Northern Ireland have been identified. In addition and in recognition of the importance attributable to delivery structures in creating effective interventions, an assessment of mechanisms employed by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) is included in Appendix 3.

Analysis of all data gathered, at Stages 1 and 2 will identify the priority areas to be addressed within the 2008-2011 strategy and will be used to guide the development of the Action Plan. Alongside this data priorities and targets, pre-set by government, will also be taken into account.

## 2 Summary of Findings

### 2.1 Population

In 2006, the estimated population of Strabane District Council Area was 39,100, an increase of 3% since 2003. At ward level, the largest increase was seen in Strabane Town – South (4%), with the greatest decrease in Ballycolman (-4%). Compared to the Northern Ireland level, Strabane District has a slightly higher youthful population. Based on predictions to 2011, the Districts population will age considerably, with fewer people of working age.

### 2.2 Deprivation

At a District Council level, Strabane is ranked the most deprived in Northern Ireland. At a Super Output Area level, Strabane Town – South has the lowest multiple deprivation rank (26) and Strabane Town – East the highest (396). Rank of Crime and Disorder based on the Noble Indices of Deprivation ranges from 96 (Strabane Town-North) to rank 663 (Clare).

The three post primary schools in the District have a combined total of 594 pupils on Free School Meals. This represents 29% of the post primary population in 2007/08, 12% higher than the rate for Northern Ireland.

### 2.4 Crime

The crime rate for Strabane District Command Unit for 2006/07 was 51.5 crimes per thousand, compared to a Northern Ireland total of 73 crimes per thousand. At a District level this represents a significant fall from 74 crimes per 1000 population since 2002/03.

Reported crime for Strabane Town – North, was nearly three times higher than for the whole of Northern Ireland, with the most frequently reported crime being Violence against the Person. Newtownstewart saw the greatest increase in reported crime since 2003, up by 26 crimes per thousand.

### 2.5 Anti-social behaviour

There were 1,295 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour between April 2007 and January 2008, an increase of 5% on the same period the previous year. Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour was the most frequently reported category and showed the

largest increase, up 27%. The significance of this finding is validated, when considering complaints to NIHE residents in 2007/08, with 'noise' being most frequently reported (37%).

## **2.6 Domestic violence**

A total of 479 domestic incidents were reported in 2006/07, a decrease of 19 (-3.8%) compared to 2005/06, but an increase of 15% on 2003/04. There were 10,115 domestic crimes recorded in 2006/07, a decrease of 653 (-6.1%) on 2005/06.

During 2006/07 more than two thirds of all crimes with domestic motivation fell within the category of violent crime (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery).

## **2.7 Racial, homophobic and sectarian incidents**

The number of racial, homophobic and sectarian incidents in Strabane District Council remains low in comparison to neighbouring council areas and the Northern Ireland rate. For example, reported racial incidents in 2005/06 and 2006/07 totalled five, 11 times lower than the number of reported incidents for 2006/07 in Dungannon.

## **2.8 Housing**

House prices in Strabane District have increased on average by 134.5% since 2002. Affordable housing is increasingly an issue with no properties deemed to be affordable to purchasers on a median income during 2006. The average house price within the Strabane District in 2006 was £147,300. The number of Housing Executive house sales to sitting tenants has decreased in the last four years from 181 in 2003 to 70 in 2007. In 2004, approximately 3.8% of all stock was deemed unfit. Unfitness remains higher in rural areas, at 6.8%.

## **2.9 Health**

Health inequalities remain a significant issue in Strabane District Council. This is demonstrated by the District having the second lowest life expectancy of all Council areas; a higher than average standard mortality ratio and a higher than average incident of breast cancer. Other statistics sourced support these findings with almost 1 in 3 people having a limiting illness, health problem or disability.

## **2.10 Economy**

The working age employment rate in Strabane District Council is 60.1%, 8.6 percentage points lower than Northern Ireland as a whole. Median gross weekly earnings in Strabane District Council at April 2006 were £319.2 per week. This was 21.2 per cent lower than those for Northern Ireland and ranks the District 23rd out of the 24 Councils for which data was available. At September 2005 16.8% of employees in the District were employed in the manufacturing sector (a reduction of 36.8% compared to 2003).

In 2007 there were a total of 1,025 claimants in the District, a reduction of 190 compared to 2004 and comprising 4% of the working age population. Thirty two percent of claimants were aged between 18-24. At February 2008, Strabane Town – East and North shared the highest number of claimants by Super Output Area (115). In Strabane Town – North, this represents a 53% increase since 2005.

### **2.11 In-migration**

Using the Workers Registration Scheme, between 2005/06 there were 175 migrant workers registered to work in Strabane District Council. This constitutes 1% of the registered migrant population in Northern Ireland. The working profile for this section of the community is characterised by low paid manual labour.

### **2.12 Education**

The highest qualification of school leavers within Strabane District at either A Level or GCSE was only slightly lower than that achieved at the Northern Ireland. At GCSE, 60% of leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs (grade A\*-C), compared to 64% at the Northern Ireland level; at A Level, 43% of leavers achieved 2 or more A Levels, compared to 45% at the Northern Ireland level. In 2005/06, there were 659 school leavers within the Strabane District. The largest proportion of these chose to enter Institutes of Higher Education.

### **2.13 Road Traffic Accidents**

Comparison between casualties in road traffic collisions between 2002/03 and 2006/07 reflects a significant improvement in the number of casualties, although there remains significant variation in numbers between the two years. The total number of casualties in the District by all categories fell by 55% between 2002/03 and 2006/07.



## 3 Statistical Analysis

### 3.1 Demographic Profile

In June 2006, the estimated population of the Strabane District Council area was 39,100, an increase of 1% since the same period in 2005 and comprising 2.25% of the total Northern Ireland population. The population of Strabane District Council area has increased by 2% since May 2003 when the previous audit was undertaken.

Table 1 shows changes in the districts population at ward level between 2001 and 2005<sup>1</sup>. Increases in population over this period can be seen in Strabane Town - South (4.42%) and Strabane Town - North (3.96%), with decreases in Castledearg (-4.75%) and Ballycolman (-4.44%).

The Districts population is relatively evenly distributed across the 16 wards, with the urban centers of South (8.87%) and West (8.61%) containing the largest centers of population. Castledearg ward contained the smallest percentage share of population in 2005 (5.13%).

Strabane District has a comparatively youthful population with 23% aged under 16 (table 2). This compares with 21.8% at a Northern Ireland level, a difference of 1.2%. Conversely, the District has a slightly smaller population aged over 75, with 5.4% in this age range compared to a Northern Ireland level of 6.3%.

Table 3 shows the population projection for the Strabane District Council Area between 2008 and 2011<sup>2</sup>. Based on these, the overall population will increase by 1.6% over the period of the new strategy (2008-2011). This increase will be greatest amongst females (2.0%), with the male population likely to rise by 1.1%.

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<sup>1</sup> Ward level populations are not available at mid-year estimate intervals. 2005 levels adapted from the small area geography of Super Output Areas, used to measure spatial distribution patterns

<sup>2</sup> NISRA 2006

**Table 1:** Population change in Strabane District between 2001 and 2005

Ward	2001	2005	% of overall population (2005)	% change 2001 to 2005
Artigarvan	2,365	2,355	6.11	-0.42
Ballycolman	2,423	2,320	6.02	-4.44
Castledearg	2,074	1,980	5.13	-4.75
Clare	2,458	2,495	6.47	1.48
Dunnamanagh	2,057	2,085	5.41	1.34
Strabane Town - East	2,098	2,110	5.47	0.57
Finn	2,407	2,475	6.42	2.75
Glenderg	2,497	2,510	6.51	0.52
Newtownstewart	2,133	2,115	5.48	-0.85
North	2,473	2,575	6.68	3.96
Plumbridge	2,191	2,255	5.85	2.84
Sion Mills	2,320	2,290	5.94	-1.31
Slievekirk	2,091	2,090	5.42	-0.05
Strabane Town - South	3,269	3,420	8.87	4.42
Victoria Bridge	2,124	2,170	5.63	2.12
Strabane Town - West	3,268	3,320	8.61	1.57
	<b>38,248</b>	<b>38,565</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: NISRA

Notes: All counts are rounded to the nearest 5 persons

**Table 2:** Population estimates

Age Range	Strabane (%)	Northern Ireland (%)
Under 16	23.0	21.8
16 to 29	19.7	19.7
30 to 44	22.0	21.6
35 to 59	19.6	20.6
60 to 74	9.7	10.0
75 and over	5.4	6.3

Source: NISRA, 2006 population estimates

The District will show an increasingly aging population, with the percentage of population aged 16-44 likely to reduce by 6.44% between 2008 and 2011. This reduction will be most evident amongst males, with an anticipated fall of 10.2% over the same period. The number of individuals aged over 60 is predicted to increase by 17.60%.

**Table 3:** Population projections

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% change over period</b>
<b>under16</b>	9,249	9,347	1.06
<b>16-29</b>	7,683	7,465	-2.84
<b>30-44</b>	8,598	8,285	-3.64
<b>45-59</b>	6,935	7,375	6.34
<b>60-74</b>	4,989	5,385	7.94
<b>75+</b>	2,252	2,470	9.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39,706</b>	<b>40,327</b>	

Source: NISRA

The population density of Strabane in 2006 was 45.4 persons per square kilometre, an increase of 0.5 (1.2%) since 2004. This increase is slightly lower compared to Northern Ireland which showed an increase over the same period of 1.83 persons per square kilometer.

### 3.2 Noble Measure of Deprivation

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2005 identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland at a Super Output Area (SOA) level. The benefits of using this measure compared to the one published in 2001 and used 2004 Strabane Audit are that it provides a relative comparison of levels of deprivation across the whole of Northern Ireland and that analysis incorporates results at varying levels of spatial geography, enabling the identification of small pockets of deprivation.

SOAs contain on average 1800 people and are more evenly sized in population than electoral wards which was the geography used in previous deprivation indices. There are 890 SOAs across Northern Ireland. The SOA ranked 1 (Whiterock\_2 in Belfast LGD) by the NIMDM 2005 is most deprived and the SOA ranked 890 (Jordanstown\_3 in Newtownabbey LGD) is least deprived.

The NIMDM 2005 brings together 43 different indicators which cover specific aspects of deprivation: Income, Employment, Health, Education, Proximity to Services, Living Environment and Crime & Disorder. These are combined to create the overall NIMDM 2005. The majority of the NIMDM data relate to 2003 and this should be taken into account when reviewing the results. The measure is based on the widely

accepted methodology developed by the Social Disadvantage Research Centre at the University of Oxford and is used across the UK in measuring spatial deprivation<sup>3</sup>.

### **3.2.1 Multiple Deprivation for Strabane CSP Area**

Strabane District has within it 18 Super Output Areas, each with an average population of 2,142. In addition to establishing the overall Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) for each SOA, this section will examine deprivation relating to the following domains<sup>4</sup>:

- Income
- Employment
- Crime and Disorder

### **3.2.2 Multiple Deprivation**

Strabane District is ranked as the most deprived council area in Northern Ireland, with 54% of the District's population living in the most deprived SOAs. At a Super Output Level, the rank of Multiple Deprivation ranges from 26 (Strabane Town – East) to 396 (Strabane Town – South2). Figure 1 shows the distribution of Multiple Deprivation across the District.

Of the 890 Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland, three in Strabane District feature in the top 10% of most deprived areas in Northern Ireland: Strabane Town-East, Ballycolman and Glenderg.

### **3.2.3 Income Deprivation Domain**

This domain measures the number of people living in households with low incomes, identified as those people living in households in receipt of the four benefits: Income Support; Job Seeker's Allowance; Working Families Tax Credit and Disabled Person's Tax Credit.

A recipient household is defined as a claimant, any partner plus any dependent children (i.e. the recipient and their dependents). The score for any SOA is thus the percentage of the SOA.s population living in a household in receipt of any of these benefits.

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<sup>3</sup> NISRA (2005). Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure – A Users Guide.

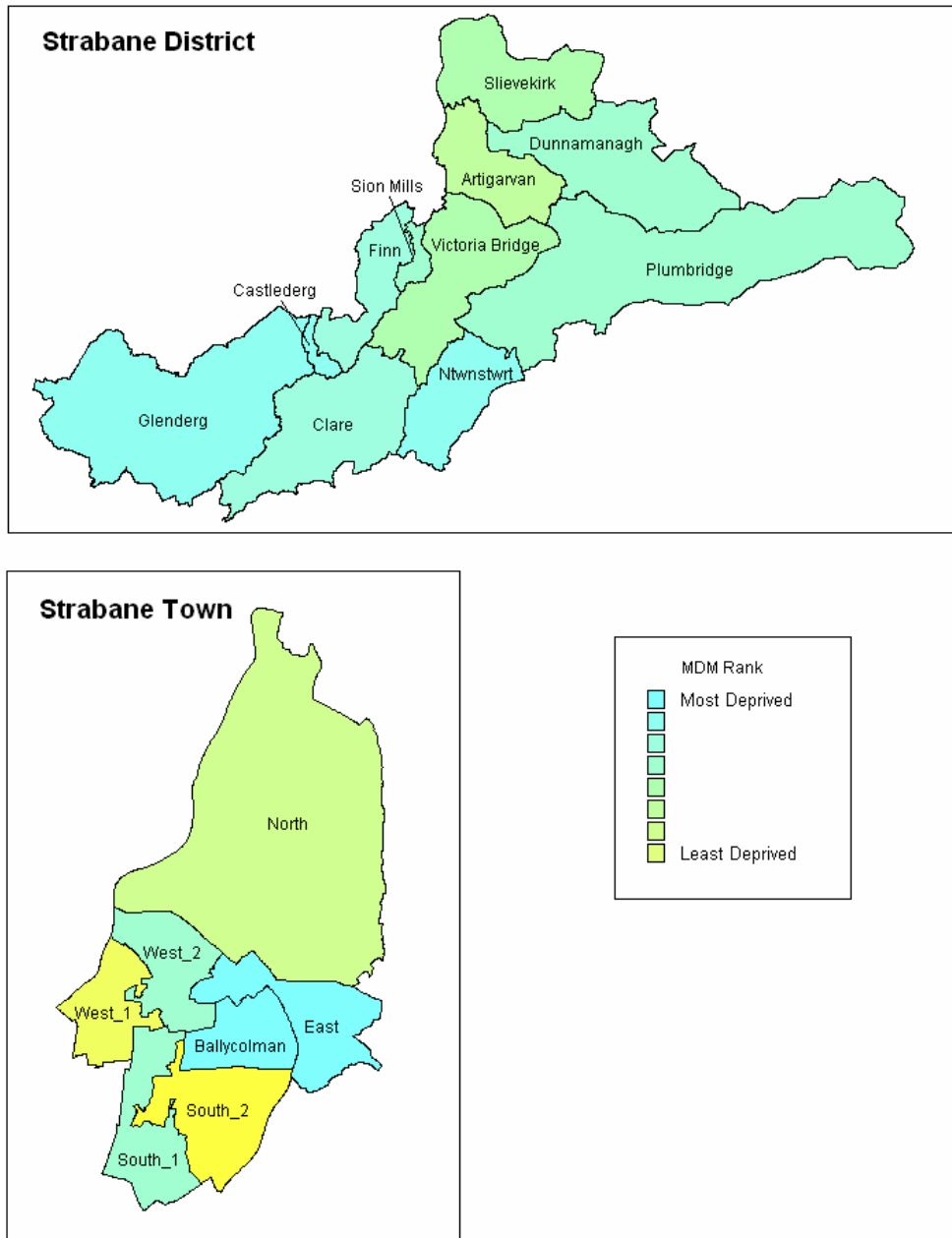
<sup>4</sup> Direct comparison with the 2004 Audit results is not possible given the difference in methodology used

Income deprivation scores within Strabane District Council Area range from rank 20, Strabane Town East (score: 0.62) to rank 438, Strabane Town South 2 (score: 0.19). Of the 890 Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland, two in Strabane District feature in the top 10% of most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. Figure 2 shows the rank of Income Deprivation for the District.

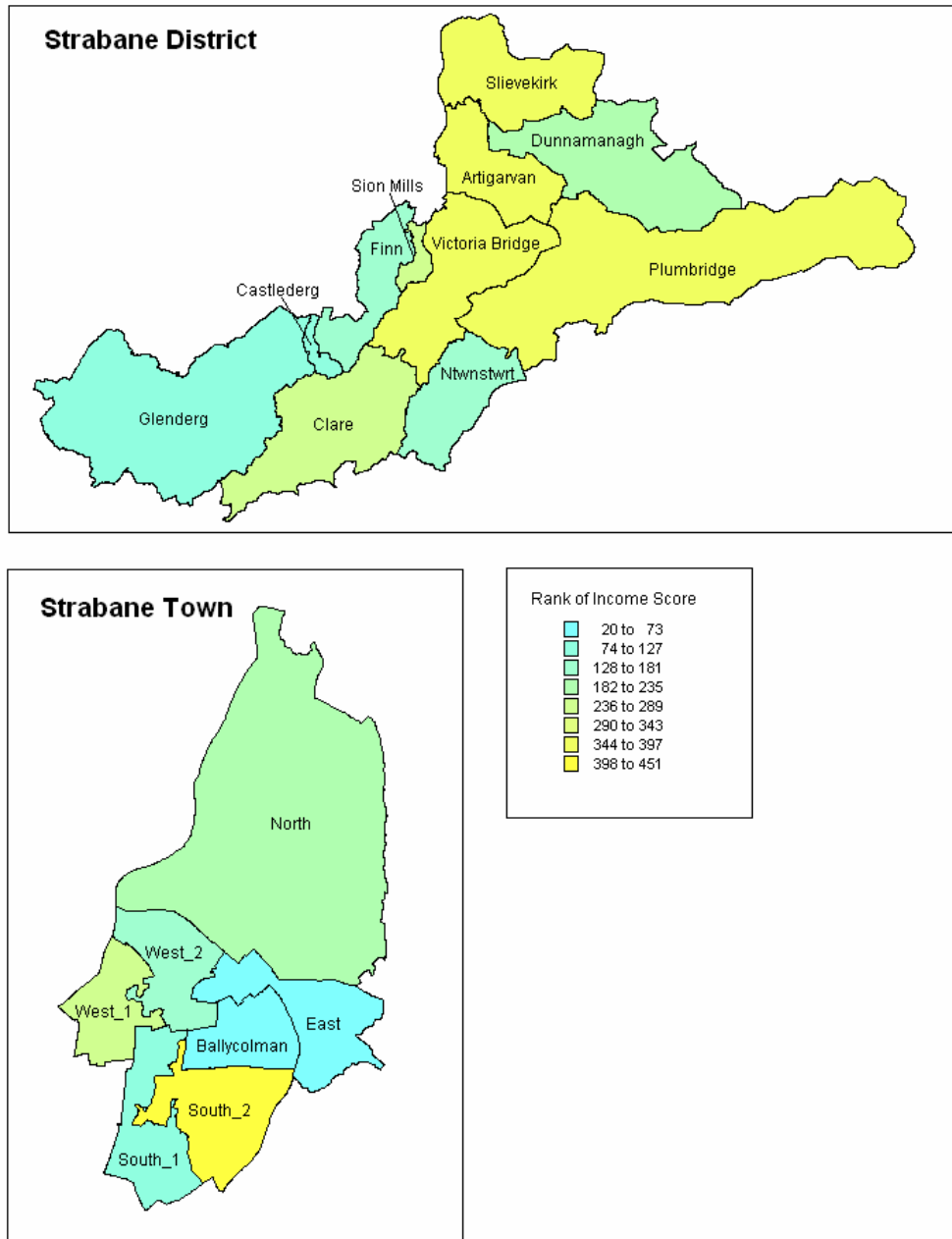
#### **3.2.4 *Employment Deprivation Domain***

The Employment Deprivation Domain is mathematically very similar to the Income Deprivation Domain. It is based on six employment related counts: Unemployment Benefit; Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance; New Deal (18-24), New Deal (25+) and Invalid Care Allowance

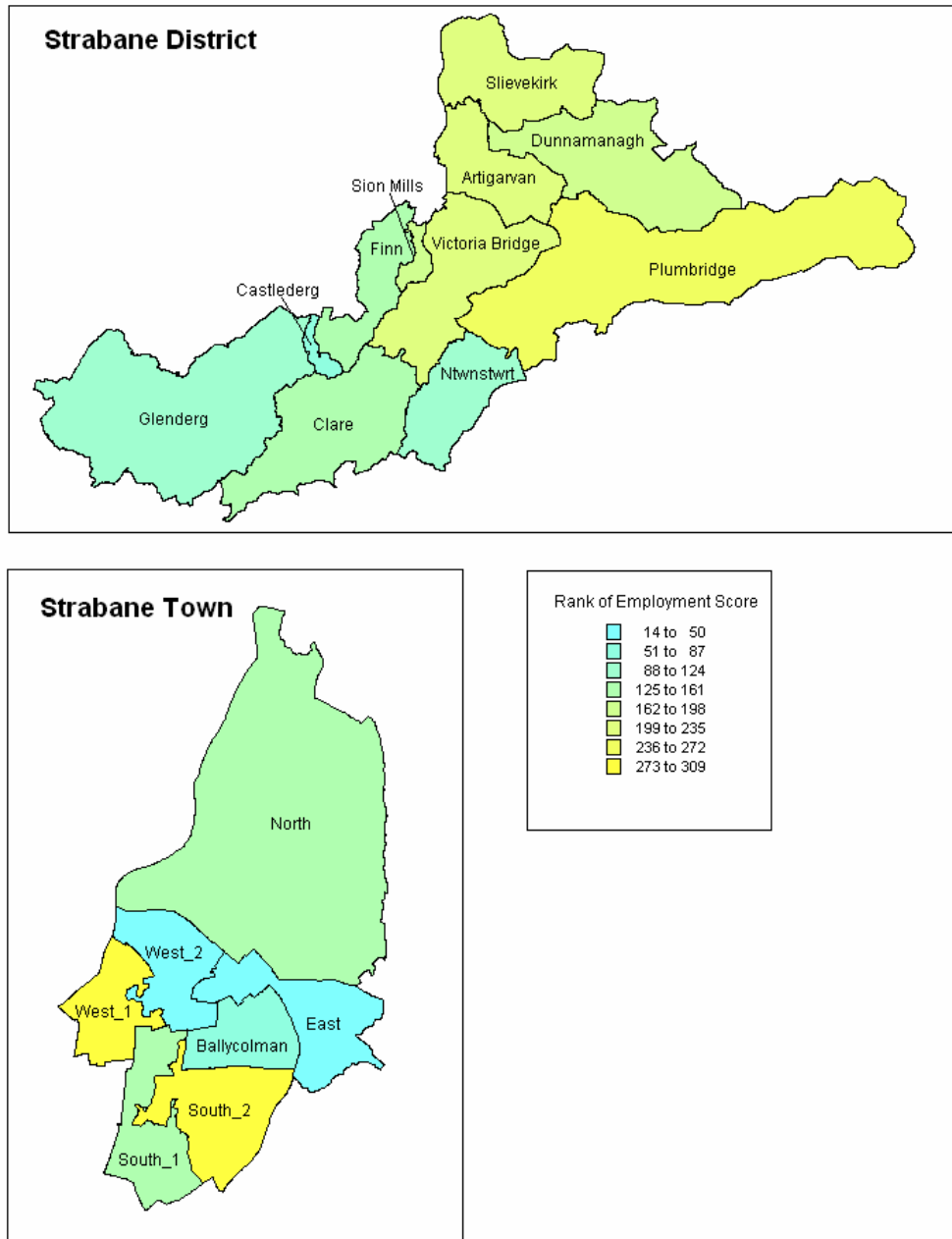
**Multiple Deprivation in Strabane District Council by Super Output Area**



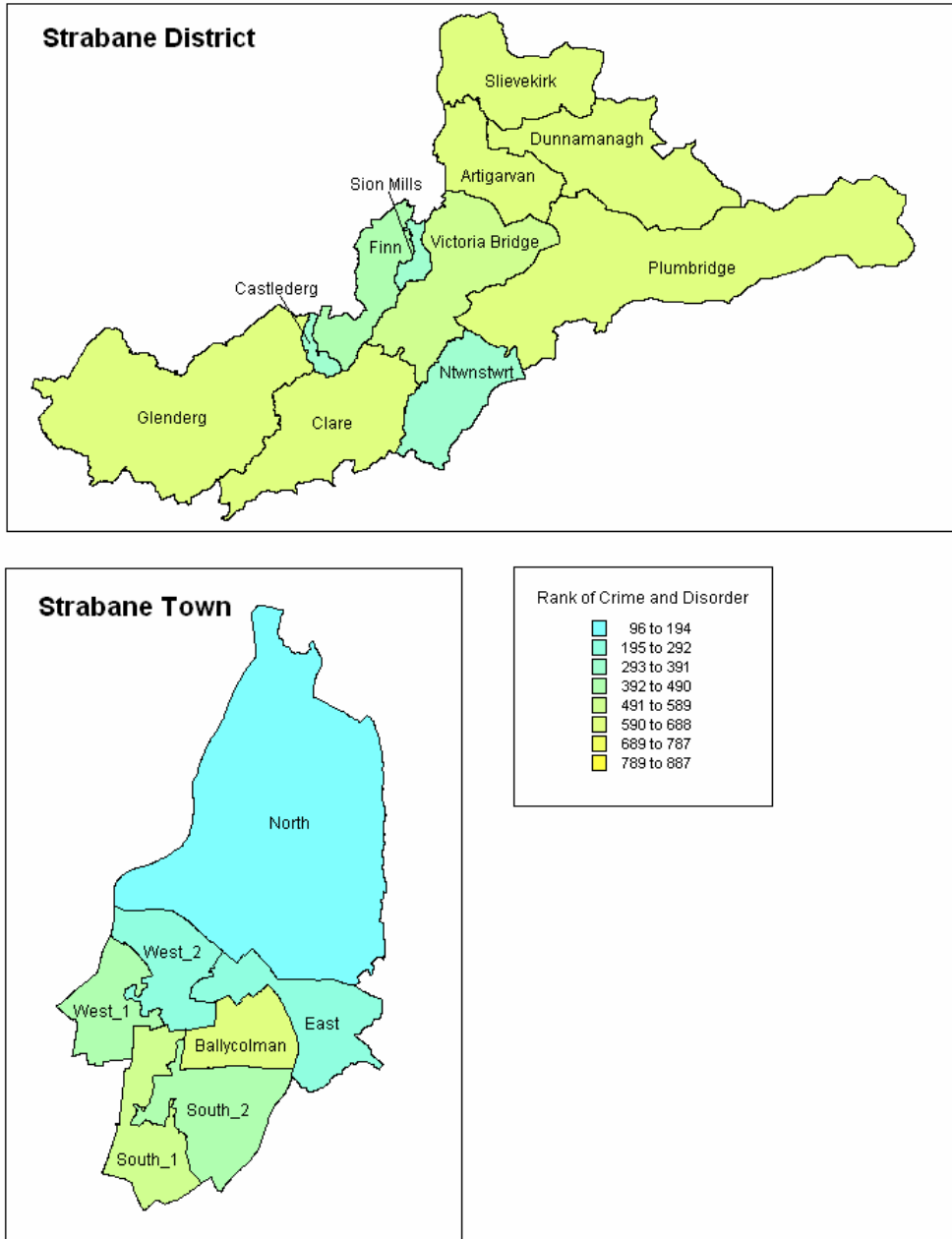
**Figure 1: Multiple Deprivation**



**Figure 2: Income Deprivation**



**Figure 3:** Employment Deprivation



**Figure 4:** Crime and Disorder Deprivation

These benefits are non-overlapping and the SOA Employment Deprivation Domain score results from summing recipients of these benefits, and expressing the total number of recipients as a percentage of the working-age population (the whole population aged 18-59 years plus men aged 60-64 years). At a Northern Ireland Level, the SOA Employment Deprivation Domain scores range from less than 0.03 in parts of in Lisburn and Antrim LGD, to 0.43 or more in the Whiterock area of Belfast.

Employment deprivation scores within Strabane District Council Area range from rank 14, Strabane Town East (score: 0.36) to rank 306, Strabane Town West 1 (score: 0.17). Of the 890 Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland, three in Strabane District feature in the top 10% of most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. Employment Scale shows that 4,986 people, just under 13% of the population, experienced employment deprivation in 2003. Employment Deprivation by rank within the ward can be seen in Figure 3.

### **3.2.5 Crime and Disorder Deprivation Domain**

The Crime and Disorder Domain measure is based on three distinct yet complementary data sources: police recorded crime data, police incident data on disturbances, and fire brigade data on malicious and deliberate primary fires. The domain is presented as two sub-domains: a Crime sub-domain that reflects four major crime types and a Disorder sub-domain that reflects wider social disorder through fire brigade and police incident data.

Crime and Disorder deprivation scores within Strabane District Council Area range from rank 96, Strabane Town North (score: 48.36) to rank 663, Clare (score: 7.59). Of the 890 Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland, none from Strabane District feature in the top 10% of most deprived areas in Northern Ireland (Figure 4).

### **3.2.6 Free School Meals**

Pupils entitled to free school meals are those within families who receive Income Support (IS) or Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA). Those within families who receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 may also be entitled. Children who receive IS or IBJSA in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals. Also entitled are children whose parents or carers receive Child Tax Credit, do not receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by the HM Revenue & Customs) of below £14,155 (in 2006).

**Table 4:** FSM entitlement for pupils at post primary schools 2007/08

<b>School</b>	<b>Number of pupils</b>	<b>Number of pupils receiving FSM</b>	<b>% of pupils receiving FSM</b>
Holy Cross College	1,369	476	35
Strabane High School	271	81	30
Strabane Grammer School	398	37	9
	<b>2,038</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>29</b>

Source: DENI, 2008

Table 4 shows FSM entitlement for the three post primary schools in Strabane District. Holy Cross College has the highest percentage of children entitled to free schools meals (35%). This ranks the school 35th out of 225 post-primary schools in Northern Ireland. 30% of pupils at Strabane High School were entitled to free school meals in 2007/08 followed by Strabane Grammer School (9%). The three schools have a combined total of 594 pupils on FSM, representing 29% of the post primary population in 2007/08, 12% higher than the total for Northern Ireland. FSM is the most consistently used indicator of social makeup of schools but should only be used as a proxy for family poverty.

### 3.3 Crime

According to the 2005 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, 74% of respondents thought that crime in Northern Ireland had increased in the past two years when actually there was a fall in recorded crime in this period.

Equally, comparative studies of the Northern Ireland Crime Survey and British Crime Survey show that the actual risk of becoming a victim of crime in Northern Ireland is lower than in other countries. A comparison of the 2005 Northern Ireland Crime Survey and the 2005/06 British Crime Survey shows that the risk of becoming a victim of crime is lower in Northern Ireland (17.3%) than in England and Wales (23.5%). The risk of becoming a victim of household crime is also lower in Northern Ireland (13.2%) than in England and Wales (18.1%).

The following section considers recorded crime which occurred in Strabane District Council area in 2006/07.<sup>5</sup> To enable comparisons to be made, crime rates per 1,000 population have been calculated at Northern Ireland, district (DC) and ward levels using Census 2001 household population figures.

#### 3.3.1 Recorded Crime

Table 5 shows the recorded crime profile for Strabane District Council in 2006/07. The overall rate of crime recorded by Strabane District Command Unit was 51.5 crimes per 1,000 population<sup>6</sup>. In comparison, the crime rate at the Northern Ireland level was 73 per 1000 population, 30% higher than that at the Strabane District level. Comparison with 2002/03 also shows a significant reduction in all recorded crime over the period, falling by 23 crimes per 1,000 population.

The greatest variation by category when compared to a Northern Ireland level was in relation to theft. Within Strabane District Council, this totaled 8.6 per 1000 population, compared to 16.7 at a Northern Ireland level.

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<sup>5</sup> Provided for all crime for which a valid postcode was given and recorded on the dataset supplied by PSNI's Central Statistics Unit to the Community Safety Unit

<sup>6</sup> Care should be taken when interpreting the recorded crime data presented in the report, for not all crimes which occurred in a specific District Council / Ward may be included in the total as a result of missing or incomplete postcodes. Some crimes may have been reported to a different District Command

Compared to 2002/03, crime recoded as 'violence against the person', has reduced at a Strabane District Council level by 1.9 per 1000 population, countering the Northern Ireland trend which shows an increase of 8.3 per 1000 population.

Table 6 shows recoded crime in 2006/07 at ward level for Strabane District Council. In 12 of the 16 wards, the total number of offences committed was lower than the Northern Ireland average of 73 per 1000 population. Two wards (Strabane Town – East and Sion Mills) were around average and two (Strabane Town – North and Castlederg) were above average. Reported crime for Strabane Town – North was nearly three times higher than for the whole of Northern Ireland. There is a strong correlation between the high number of offences recorded in this ward and its Crime and Disorder Rank as discussed in Section 2.2.5.

**Table 5: PSNI 2006/07 recorded crime profile for Strabane District Council**

<b>Main category</b>	<b>Sub-category</b>	<b>NI total</b>	<b>NI per 1000 pop.</b>	<b>DCU total</b>	<b>DCU per 1000 pop.</b>
<b>Violence against the person</b>	All violence against the person	31846	19.2	689	18.1
	Wounding / GBH / AOABH <sup>1</sup> (inc. with intent)	16732	10.1	334	8.8
	Common / aggravated assault <sup>1</sup>	8104	4.9	180	4.7
<b>Sexual offences</b>	All sexual offences	1803	1.1	44	1.2
<b>Burglary</b>	All burglary	11562	7.0	119	3.1
	Burglary in a dwelling	6831	4.1	64	1.7
	Burglary in a non-dwelling	4630	2.8	54	1.4
<b>Robbery</b>	All robbery	1574	0.9	14	0.4
<b>Theft</b>	All theft	27766	16.7	328	8.6
	Shoplifting	5745	3.5	66	1.7
	Theft from a vehicle	3994	2.4	36	0.9
	Theft of a vehicle	3418	2.1	37	1.0
	Vehicle tampering /interference	1844	1.1	2	0.1
<b>Fraud and forgery</b>	All fraud and forgery	4495	2.7	67	1.8
	Deception	1815	1.1	20	0.5
	Making off without payment	1957	1.2	18	0.5
<b>Criminal damage</b>	All criminal damage	36321	21.9	589	15.5
	Arson	2428	1.5	49	1.3
	Criminal damage to a vehicle	12864	7.8	188	4.9
<b>Offences against the state</b>	All offences against the state	1285	0.8	35	0.9
<b>Other notifiable offences</b>	All other notifiable offences	4492	2.7	78	2.0
	Drug offences (total)	2411	1.5	35	0.9
<b>All offences</b>		121144	73.0	1963	51.5

Although crime at a District Council level show a significant reduction compared to 2002/03, comparison at ward level shows a more variable trend. Recorded crime within Strabane Town – North and Castledearg, although remaining above average has reduced by 22 and 8 crimes per 1000 respectively. Of those wards with levels around average in 2002/03, reported crime within Strabane Town – East has increased by 7 crimes per 1000 population and decreased within Newtownstewart by 26 crimes per 1000 population. Contrary to this trend reported crime in Sion Mills has increased markedly over this period, increasing from 49 to 67 per 1000 population.

**Table 6:** Recorded crime (ward and crime rate) for Strabane

Above average <sup>1</sup>		Around average <sup>2</sup>		Below average <sup>3</sup>	
Ward name	Crimes per 1000 pop.	Ward name	Crimes per 1000 pop.	Ward name	Crimes per 1000 pop.
North	200.6	East	82.5	West	56.9
Castledearg	84.1	Sion Mills	66.8	Newtownstewart	56.2
				Ballycolman	40.0
				Artigarvan	33.0
				Slievekirk	32.5
				Finn	32.4
				South	30.9
				Victoria Bridge	28.7
				Clare	21.6
				Glenderg	20.4
				Plumbridge	17.3
				Dunnamanagh	13.1

Notes:

1. Above average: crime rate is greater than or equal to 83.1 crimes per 1,000 population
2. Around average: crime rate is between 63.0 and 83.0 crimes per 1,000 population
3. Below average: crime rate is less than or equal to 62.9 crimes per 1,000 population
4. Northern Ireland average = 73.0 crimes per 1,000 population

Recorded crime in Ballycolman has seen the sharpest decrease of all wards in Strabane District, falling by 27per 1000 population, from 67 to 40. Because of the variability in reported crime from year to year, care should be taken when interpreting these findings. For a more robust analysis, data should be interpreted over a longer period to establish a comprehensive trend.

### **3.3.2 Ward Level Analysis**

The prevalence of recorded crime within Strabane Town – North, Castledearg and, to a lesser extent Strabane Town East and Sion Mills, determines that a more detailed examination of reported crime within these areas is undertaken. Table 8 shows the recorded crime profile for these wards. Details of those wards below the Northern Ireland average can be found in Appendix 2.

Strabane Town – North was above average<sup>7</sup> in 8 of the 22 sub-categories. These were:

- All violence against the person
- Wounding / GBH / AOABH (inc. with intent)
- Common / aggravated assault
- All theft
- Shoplifting
- All fraud and forgery
- All criminal damage
- Criminal damage to a vehicle

Strabane Town – North was significantly above average<sup>8</sup> in 3 of the sub-categories. These were: All violence against the person; all theft and all criminal damage.

Castledearg was above average in 3 of the 22 sub-categories listed. These were: All violence against the person; Wounding / GBH / AOABH (inc. with intent) and all criminal damage. The ward was not significantly above average in any category. Sion Mills was not above average within any of the sub-category types listed.

### **3.4 Anti-social Behaviour**

There is no rigid definition of what constitutes anti-social behaviour. Certain behaviour could be considered by different people to sit anywhere on a spectrum from normal to anti-social to disorderly to criminal.

It is generally considered, to be that which is outside “commonly held standards” including noise nuisance, litter, dumping of motor vehicles, youth’s loitering, vandalism, graffiti, pet nuisance, dog fouling, cycling on pavements and drinking.

Table 7 provides a snapshot of anti-social behaviour in Strabane District for two periods between April and January 2006/07 and 2007/08. Comparison shows an increase of 5% in the incidents of anti-social behaviour between the two periods. By category, reports of ‘rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour’ showed the greatest increase,

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<sup>7</sup> Above average: crime rate is greater than or equal to x+10.1 crimes per 1,000 population

<sup>8</sup> Significantly above average: crime rate greater than or equal to x+20.1 crimes per 1,000 population

up 37%. In comparison, there was a marked reduction in the 'inappropriate use, sale or possession of fireworks', down by 72%.

**Table 7:** Anti-social behaviour incidents in Strabane District by category

<b>Category</b>	<b>April-January (06/07)</b>	<b>April-January (07/08)</b>	<b>Actual Change between Periods</b>
Abandoned Vehicles (not stolen or causing an obstruction)	12	45	33
Animal problems	140	111	-29
Begging /Vagrancy	1	1	0
Hoax calls to Emergency Services	43	40	6
Inappropriate Use/sale/possession of Fireworks	54	15	-39
Noise	16	26	10
Malicious Communications	115	93	-22
Rowdy/Nuisance-Environmental damage/littering	2	6	4
Rowdy/Nuisance – Neighbours	215	162	-53
Rowdy/Nuisance- Rowdy or Inconsiderate behaviour	513	706	193
Street Drinking	11	9	-2
Substance Misuse	0	0	0
Trespass	4	7	3
Vehicle Nuisance/Inappropriate Vehicle use	111	74	-37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>67</b>

Source: Chief Inspectors 9 monthly report

### 3.5 Domestic Violence Incidents

Between 2005/06 and 2006/07 the number of domestic incidents in Northern Ireland increased by 397 (+1.7%) to 23,456. The total number of domestic incidents that took place in Strabane in 2006/2007 were 479 this figure represents decrease of 19 (-3.8%) compared to 2005/06. *(It is worth noting that there is a huge under reporting of domestic violence)*. Comparable figures for 2003/04 show there were 408 incidents during that period.

As well as violence in the home there have been a substantial number of attacks and assaults of women in Strabane. There were 10,115 domestic crimes recorded in 2006/07, a decrease of 653 (-6.1%) on 2005/06. During 2006/07 more than two thirds of all crimes with domestic motivation fell within the category of violent crime (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery). There were 7,080 such offences, representing 70% of the total. Of the remaining offences, criminal damage

accounted for 15.2% and breach of non-molestation orders represented 10.1% of the total.

**Table 8:** Recorded crime profile for wards around or above NI Average

Main category	Sub-category	NI total	NI per 1000 pop.	NORTH		CASTLEDERG		EAST		SION MILLS	
				Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.
<b>Violence against the person</b>	All violence against the person	31846	19.2	179	72.4	72	35.2	65	31.0	54	23.3
	Wounding / GBH / AOABH <sup>1</sup> (inc. with intent)	16732	10.1	95	38.4	49	24.0	34	16.2	22	9.5
	Common / aggravated assault <sup>1</sup>	8104	4.9	42	17.0	10	4.9	17	8.1	13	5.6
<b>Sexual offences</b>	All sexual offences	1803	1.1	8	3.2	2	1.0	6	2.9	2	0.9
<b>Burglary</b>	All burglary	11562	7.0	18	7.3	2	1.0	7	3.3	12	5.2
	Burglary in a dwelling	6831	4.1	5	2.0	0	0.0	4	1.9	5	2.2
	Burglary in a non-dwelling	4630	2.8	13	5.3	2	1.0	3	1.4	7	3.0
<b>Robbery</b>	All robbery	1574	0.9	3	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.5	2	0.9
<b>Theft</b>	All theft	27766	16.7	111	44.9	13	6.4	25	11.9	21	9.1
	Shoplifting	5745	3.5	49	19.8	1	0.5	7	3.3	2	0.9
	Theft from a vehicle	3994	2.4	9	3.6	4	2.0	5	2.4	3	1.3
	Theft of a vehicle	3418	2.1	4	1.6	4	2.0	4	1.9	1	0.4
	Vehicle tampering /interference	1844	1.1	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Fraud and forgery</b>	All fraud and forgery	4495	2.7	37	15.0	6	2.9	2	1.0	2	0.9
	Deception	1815	1.1	11	4.4	2	1.0	0	0.0	2	0.9
	Making off without payment	1957	1.2	9	3.6	2	1.0	1	0.5	0	0.0
<b>Criminal damage</b>	All criminal damage	36321	21.9	114	46.1	67	32.8	55	26.2	54	23.3
	Arson	2428	1.5	4	1.6	3	1.5	5	2.4	11	4.7
	Criminal damage to a vehicle	12864	7.8	34	13.7	29	14.2	22	10.5	15	6.5
<b>Offences against the state</b>	All offences against the state	1285	0.8	10	4.0	1	0.5	4	1.9	3	1.3
<b>Other notifiable offences</b>	All other notifiable offences	4492	2.7	16	6.5	9	4.4	8	3.8	5	2.2
	Drug offences (total)	2411	1.5	7	2.8	3	1.5	3	1.4	5	2.2
<b>All offences</b>		121144	73.0	496	200.6	172	84.1	173	82.5	155	66.8

## **3.6 Racial, Homophobic and Sectarian Incidents**

### **3.6.1 Racist Incidents**

During 2006/07 there was a total of 1,047 racist incidents across Northern Ireland, an increase from 2005/06 (936) of 111(11.9%). According to PSNI statistics in 2003/2004 Strabane had no racial incidents in this period. Incidents reported in the 2005/06 and 2006/07 period total 5. In relative terms this is low as other towns in Tyrone in 2006/07 are as follows, Omagh (23) and Dungannon (58).

### **3.6.2 Homophobic Incidents**

During the period 2005-2007 there were 375 homophobic incidents across Northern Ireland. The number of homophobic incidents across Northern Ireland fell by 65 (-29%) between 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Figures from the previous audit tell us that Strabane had no homophobic incidents between 2000-2004. The situation remained very much the same for the period 2005-2006. However, according to Police data on Homophobic incidents in 2006-2007 there were 3 incidents.

### **3.6.3 Sectarian Incidents**

During the 2005/06-2006/07 period there were a total of 3,396 sectarian incidents across Northern Ireland, 1,701 and 1,695 respectively. The 2007 figure represents a decrease of 6 (-04%). In Strabane there were 10 sectarian incidents in 2005/06 and 26 sectarian incidents in 2006/07.

## **3.7 Complimentary Crime Reduction Strategies**

There are a number of other strategies in place, which will compliment the community strategy arising from this audit. These include the District Policing Plan for Strabane and the Northern Ireland's Strategy on Community Safety

### **3.7.1 District Policing Plan for Strabane 2007-2008**

The Strabane District Policing Plan 2007-2008 set out the key objectives for the policing of the district during the coming year. The objectives are;

- To reduce crime
- To reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour
- To reduce the fear of crime and promote a safer community
- To reduce casualties on the road

Other Strategies include the Department of Social Development's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (2007-2010) and the Strabane Community Plan, which focus on improving the social and economic fabric of the district.

### **3.7.2 DCU Crime Reduction Strategies**

A Farm Group ID has been implemented in the Ballylaw and Newtownstewart areas. It involves the security marking of farm equipment, in particular trailers and quad motorcycles and general home/farm security advice.

### **3.7.3 Bluetooth Transmitter**

Strabane DCU purchased a Blue-tooth device to broadcast crime-prevention and personal safety messages to mobile phones. This is seen as an innovative way of distributing a message from local police to the community. Examples of potential use include:

- Anti drink/drug drive messages
- Domestic violence
- Bullying at school
- Theft from vehicles
- Drugs
- Underage drinking/anti-social behaviour

### **3.7.4 Age Concern Northern Ireland – Community Safety Policy Position Papers**

Age concern is working to fulfill their policy to address the following: Addressing the occurrence of crime and community safety; Fear of crime; Social Exclusion and crime and Promoting a Safe Environment. Age concern N.I. is currently involved in the following:

- Promoting a range of practical initiatives such as befriending schemes, information seminars, promoting availability of grants are undertaken by local groups.
- The promotion and distribution of the Aid-Call System
- Ongoing liaison with senior policy makers to discuss both individual incidents and wider issues of community safety and organise events at which the police can hear directly the views and concerns of older people.
- Undertaking intergenerational activity, including work with young people with emotional and behavioral difficulties.
- Ongoing discussions with the Northern Ireland Office Criminal Justice Policy Branch aim to explore ways in which Age Concern NI could be involved in the development of restorative justice approaches recommended by the Criminal Justice Review (2000)

### **3.7.5 Strabane District Policing Partnership**

Strabane District Policing Partnership (DPP) is a partnership between Strabane District Council and members of the communities in the district. The DPP currently has 14 members, 7 independent members and 7 elected (political) members which represent all areas of the community. Findings from the DPP Public Consultation Report (2007), indicates the activities the public would like police resources concentrated on for 2008/2009.

From this research, 5 areas of crime have been highlighted as a priority:

- Alcohol related anti-social behaviour and crime encompassing underage drinking, on street drinking, late night drinking, assaults and criminal damage
- Speeding and dangerous driving
- Sexual assaults
- Drug use
- Domestic violence

### 3.8 Enforcement Statistics

#### 3.8.1 Magistrates 'Court Defendants entered

Across N.I. in 2006, a total of 58,465 adult defendants were entered with a total of 53,710 dealt with. In youth court there were 2,768 defendants entered. In relation to the number of defendants entered for the Strabane District 1,769 adults were entered and 89 youth were entered. Please note that no comparison with previous year's figures is possible due to changes in how data was collected in 2006.

#### 3.8.2 Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI)

From the table below, the number of probation orders for the area in 2006/2007 totaled 36 which represents ?% of the total number of probation orders across Northern Ireland which totaled 1427.

A summary of the number of PBNI orders made on offenders supervised by BPNI in LGD is shown in Table 9.

**Table 9:** New Orders made during 2006/2007

ORDER	2006/2007	
	LGD	N.I.
Probation Order	36	1,427
Community Service Order	16	746
Combination Order	<5	188
Custody Probation Orders (post release)	5	461

Sixteen Community Service Orders were served in 2006/2007 of the total in Northern Ireland (746) this figure is relatively low.

## **3.9 Housing**

### **3.9.1 Housing Market Dynamics**

House prices in Strabane District have increased on average by 134.5% since 2002. Affordable housing is increasingly an issue with no properties deemed to be affordable to purchasers on a median income during 2006. The average house price of all properties within the Strabane district in 2006 was £147,300.

The number of Housing Executive house sales to sitting tenants has decreased in the last four years from 181 in 2003 to 70 in 2007. At December 2006 there were 534 applicants (including homeless applicants) registered on the waiting list, of which 186 were deemed to be in housing stress with 188 allocations in the year. The number of claimants receiving Housing Benefit in the private sector has again increased from 1,529 at March 2006 to 1,751 at March 2007. The average weekly rent of a three bedroom house in the private sector is £87.00

### **3.9.2 Northern Ireland Housing Executive Profile**

Public Sector/social housing is provided by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and Housing Associations. All new housing in this sector is provided by Housing Associations in response to housing need identified by the NIHE. The decline in the social housing sector is in part due to the sale of Public Sector homes to the occupants, under the House Sales Policy. However changes to the Policy have resulted in a slow down in sales over the last four years.

Within Strabane District the number of Housing Executive dwellings decreased from 2,985 in 2001 to 2,255 at March 2007. The number of Housing Association dwellings increased from 314 in March 2001 to 469 at March 2007. These include general needs, sheltered, supported housing and hostel accommodation. A total of 70 dwellings have been sold in the year ending March 2007. The average discount was £21,489 with an average market value of £59,707.

### **3.9.3 Housing Conditions**

The housing conditions in Northern Ireland have improved according to the latest information from the Interim 2004 House Condition Survey. At 2004, approximately

3.8% of all stock was deemed unfit, a reduction from the 2001 figure of 4.9%. Unfitness remained higher in rural areas at 6.8% compared to urban areas which recorded 2.5%. Within tenures there was a higher incidence of unfitness in the private rented sector at 5.4% with only 1.6% of owner occupied stock deemed unfit. It is important to note that more than half of all unfit properties (56%) were vacant and more than two thirds (71%) were built prior to 1919.

#### **3.9.4 Complaints**

In 2007/08 the number of complaints received by NIHE described as 'community safety related' totaled 92. Twenty one of these were considered 'complex', requiring the intervention of external agency bodies to resolve. The vast majority of complaints made related to noise (37%), gardens (20%) and pets/animals (14%).

### 3.10 Health

Possibly as a consequence of the high levels of multiple deprivation highlighted in an earlier section, Strabane District Council Area also suffers significant health inequalities. These are highlighted by the following statistics<sup>9</sup>:

- Strabane has the second lowest male life expectancy (74 years) of all Council areas.
- In 2001/02, Strabane District Council Area had a significant higher than average Standard Mortality Ratio of 104
- In 2003, 25% of all births in Strabane were to mothers who smoked.
- Strabane has a higher rate of breast cancer than the NI average (41 per 100,000 compared to 33 per 100,000)

In keeping with the understanding that poverty and ill health are linked, health and care statistics for Strabane District Council Area show that:

- Almost 1 in 3 (27.6%) people had a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability;
- 699 people noted that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others.

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<sup>9</sup> Strabane Neighbourhood Partnership

### **3.11 Strabane District Economy**

The working age employment rate<sup>10</sup> in Strabane District Council is 60.1%, 8.6 percentage points lower than Northern Ireland as a whole. Northern Ireland's working age employment rate remains below the UK average and is the second lowest amongst all UK regions.

Median gross weekly earnings in Strabane District Council at April 2006 were £319.2 per week. This was 21.2 per cent lower than those for Northern Ireland as a whole and ranked 23 out of the 24 Councils for which data was available<sup>11</sup>

At September 2005, 68.3% were employed in the service sector, 13% lower than Northern Ireland as a whole. 16.8% of employees in Strabane District Council were employed in the manufacturing sector (a reduction of 36.8% compared to 2003). This compares with 12.8% for Northern Ireland as a whole. There has also been a significant growth in the industrial group Real Estate, Rent and Business Activities growing by 142% between 2003 and 2005. This group now constitutes 5% of the proportion of employee jobs in the District. The number of employee jobs in Strabane District Council decreased by 2.6% between 2003 and 2005. Northern Ireland increased by 3.7%.<sup>12</sup>

#### **3.11.1 Claimant Count**

Table 10 shows the number of unemployment claimants in Strabane District Council for 2007 and 2004. In 2007 there were a total of 1,025 claimants, a reduction of 190 compared to 2004. As a percentage of total Northern Ireland claimants, this represents 4.2%, a slight increase of 0.32% since 2004. In February 2008 the number of claimants represented 4.3% of the working age population, a reduction of 1% on the same period in 2004.

Thirty two percent of claimants were aged between 18-24, 51% between 25-49 and 16% 50 and over. This percentage breakdown is largely consistent with the Northern Ireland total.

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<sup>10</sup> Employment rate is total employee jobs plus self-employed people referred to as total employment as a percentage of working age population

<sup>11</sup> Northern Ireland Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2006

<sup>12</sup> DETI

**Table 10:** Unemployment Claimants in Strabane District Council

	Number of Claimants			% Of Working Age			Change over Year		Jobs Density Indicator
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Number	%	
<b>08</b>	761	264	1025	6.0	2.3	4.3	-29	-2.8	0.51
<b>04</b>	919	296	1215	7.6	2.7	5.3	na	na	na

Source: DETI, February 2008

Notes: Job density equals the total number filled jobs in the Strabane District divided by resident population of working age and is an indicator of labour demand

In 2008, Strabane District job density was 0.51, compared to 0.79 for Northern Ireland as a whole. Compared to 2004, this represents a reduction of 0.2.

**Table 11:** Unemployment Claimant count by Super Output Area

	2005	2008	% of total claimants (2008)	% change (05-08)
Artigarvan	55	55	5	0
Ballycolman	85	95	9	12
Castledearg	55	40	4	-27
Clare	65	40	4	-38
Dunnamanagh	40	35	3	-13
Strabane Town - East	135	115	11	-15
Finn	50	75	7	50
Glenderg	65	45	4	-31
Newtownstewart	70	75	7	7
Strabane Town - North	75	115	11	53
Plumbridge	40	35	3	-13
Sion Mills	65	50	5	-23
Slievekirk	50	25	2	-50
Strabane Town - South_1	70	50	5	-29
Strabane Town - South_2	30	25	2	-17
Victoria Bridge	45	35	3	-22
Strabane Town - West_1	45	65	6	44
Strabane Town - West_2	50	50	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-6</b>

 Source: [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

Notes: 1. Figures for each year taken from the February survey; 2. Comparative figures at SOA level only available from February 2005

The SOAs with the most claimants in 2008 were Strabane Town – East (11%) and Strabane Town – North (11%) (Table 5). 9% of claimants came from Ballycolman SOA, with a further 7% from Finn. As a percentage of total claimants for the Strabane District, the lowest level of claims came from Strabane Town – South\_2 (2%) and Slievekirk (2%).

Strabane Town – North, has seen the number of people claiming unemployment benefit increase by 53% since 2005; Finn, an increase of 50% and Strabane Town – West\_1 an increase of 44%. A number of SOAs have also seen substantial reductions in the number of claimants. The percentage of claimants in Slievekirk has fallen by 50% since 2005; 38% in Clare and 31% in Glenderg, although it should be remembered that claimant levels here constitute a relatively small percent of the overall District count.

### **3.11.2 Training**

At the end of September 2007, there were 126 young people aged 18-25 participating on the New Deal scheme<sup>13</sup>. This represents 5.48% of the Northern Ireland total. Compared to 2004, this represents an 18% reduction in the number of participants.

There were 123 people employed on the New Deal for 25+ at the end of September 2007. This represents 5.03% of the Northern Ireland total. Compared to 2004, this represents a 4% increase in the number of participants<sup>14</sup>.

### **3.11.3 In-Migration**

Statistics from a number of registration schemes are available to assess levels of international in-migration at a local and Northern Ireland Level. One recognised scheme is the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS). This scheme is managed by the Home Office and is used to formally register migrant workers from the eight new EU Eastern European Accession countries that acceded in May 2004. Between 1 May 2004 and 31 March 2007, a total of 605,000 people registered with the WRS in the UK. Of these just under 24,000 people (4%) were working in Northern Ireland

Between mid-2005 and mid-2006, 8,700 people registered for this scheme in Northern Ireland, an increase of 7,200 for the same period the previous year.

**Table 12:** WRS Registration Scheme (May 2004 – March 2006)

	<b>WRS Count</b>	<b>Percentage of NI</b>	<b>Per 1,000 resident population</b>
Strabane	175	1	5
Northern Ireland	14,395	100	8

Source: NISRA, 2006

<sup>13</sup> Based on figures calculated by Jobcentre

<sup>14</sup> DEL

Table 12 shows that 175 migrant workers had registered for work within Strabane Local Government District between 2004 and 2006. This constituted just over 1% of the registered immigrant population in Northern Ireland and is substantially lower than migrant populations in neighbouring Districts. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the main employers of Strabane's migrant population includes an employer specialising in frozen food, a light engineering firm and a cement factory in the area. This is consistent with the working profile for this section of the community, characterised by low pay manual labour.

### 3.12 Education

The highest qualification of school leavers within Strabane District at either A Level or GCSE was only slightly lower than that achieved at the Northern Ireland level (table 13). At GCSE, 60% of leavers achieved at least 5 GCSEs (grade A\*-C), compared to 64% at the Northern Ireland level; at A Level, 43% of leavers achieved 2 or more A Levels, compared to 45% at the Northern Ireland level. At GCSE level, this represents a significant improvement in the percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs compared to 2001/02.<sup>15</sup>

**Table 13:** Highest Qualification of School Leaver by LGD 2005/06

	<b>Leavers achieving 2 or more A Levels</b>	<b>Leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C</b>	<b>Leavers achieving no GCSE's</b>	<b>Total Number of School Leavers</b>
Strabane (n)	286	396	28	659
Leavers as % of total	43	60	4	100
NI % total	45	64	5	100

Source: DENI, 2008

Note: Figures relate to pupil residence

In 2005/06, there were 659 school leavers within the Strabane District (table 14). The largest percent of these (37%) chose to enter Institutes of Higher Education, a figure consistent with the Northern Ireland total. Thirty one percent of leaver chose to enter training, substantially higher than the Northern Ireland total of 18%. In comparison, the number of leavers entering Institutes of Further Education or employment was lower than the figures for Northern Ireland at 19% and 7% respectively.

**Table 14:** Destination of School Leavers by LGD of pupil residence 2005/06

	<b>Institutes of Higher Education</b>	<b>Institutes of Further Education</b>	<b>Employmt.</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>Unemployed/unknown destination</b>
Strabane (n)	242	126	49	202	40
Leavers as % of total	37	19	7	31	6
NI % total	37	28	11	18	5

Source: DENI, 2008

<sup>15</sup> Year of education figures quoted in Strabane Community Safety Audit, 2004

Table 15 shows the participation rates of over 16 year olds in post primary schools in 2007/08. As a percentage of the total participation rate, 51% were aged sixteen and 47% seventeen, compared at a total Northern Ireland level to 54% and 44% respectively.

**Table 15:** Participation rates of 16+ year olds in post primary (2007/08)

	Age					Total
	16	17	18	19	20	
Strabane	316	290	9	0	0	615
Participation as % of total	51	47	1	0	0	100
Northern Ireland % total	54	44	2	0	0	100

Source: DENI, 2008

### 3.13 Road Traffic Incidents

Comparison between casualties in road traffic collisions between 2002/03 and 2006/07 (table 16) reflects a significant improvement in the number of casualties, although there remained significant variation in numbers between the two years. The total number of casualties by all categories fell by 55% between 2002/03 and 2006/07.

As a percentage of the Northern Ireland total, the total number of casualties recorded in Strabane District between the two years fell slightly by 0.3%. There was however, an increase in the percentage of casualties killed, increasing from 2.02% to 3.90%.

**Table 16:** Casualties in Injury Road Traffic Collisions by Severity of Injury

	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total
<b>2002/03</b>	7	57	344	408
<b>2006/07</b>	5	27	150	182
<b>% of NI Total (06/07)</b>	3.90	2.26	1.89	1.97
<b>% change (02/03 to 06/07)</b>	-29	-53	-56	-55

Source: [www.psnipolice.uk/5\\_injury\\_road\\_traffic\\_collisions\\_and\\_casualties.pdf](http://www.psnipolice.uk/5_injury_road_traffic_collisions_and_casualties.pdf)

## 4 Consultation Process

Momentum Research Consultancy gathered a range of information from a number of sources including focus groups and a student survey. Where possible, the focus groups consisted of already established groups and forums. The focus groups targeted three specific groups of respondents:

- Town Centre Safety (group1)
- Community /Voluntary Sector (group 2)
- Elected Members (group 3)

Each focus group lasted approximately between 60 to 90 minutes and was moderated by an MRC executive.

A topic guide was developed to explore a number of key issues. This topic guide was used as an 'aide memoire' for the moderator to ensure that all important issues were covered and to allow the moderator to stimulate, but not lead, the discussion. All consultations were recorded with the respondents' permission. The findings from all three focus groups are reported collectively under thematic headings based on issues identified throughout the consultations.

### 4.1 Major crime and disorder concerns

All of the respondents identified anti-social behaviour as the major issue of concern, in particular, the crowds of young people being drunk or rowdy on the streets late at night in the centre of town, all looking for transport at the same time, when pubs and clubs close. It was reported that the numbers of young people involved are quite significant, over 1000.

Due to the fact that many of these establishments are located in the same area of the centre of town this situation can cause significant disorder.

***'The biggest drawback for the town would probably be the crowds, the behaviour of the crowds ...at certain nights at the weekend when pubs empty'***

***'...unfortunately we have a culture of late drinking – lot of people having carry outs then coming out down into the town late - half eleven or twelve or after- that just seems to be the culture here'***

It also emerged that respondents felt that, in part, the reason for the large numbers of young people coming into the town centre at night is a direct consequence of the changing image of Strabane.

***'a lot of them wouldn't have come to Strabane because of the reputation Strabane had – young people wouldn't have wanted to come into the town because it was such a rough place to come to the image of Strabane has changed greatly over the last 2 or 3 years'***

However, it should be noted this problem is not specific only to Strabane, there are many towns across Northern Ireland, for example, Cookstown and Portrush, faced with the same dilemma. However, in all cases there is a need to balance the concerns and views of residents and the economic realities of operating commercial concerns such as nightclubs.

Anti-social behaviour generally attributed to young people, alcohol abuse, in particular underage drinking and possibly drug abuse, within some community areas was also highlighted as an area of major concern. Respondents also put forward their reasons why they believed young people resorted to this type of behaviour.

***'I would say the main issues would be boredom, lack of anything to do – young people are hanging about the streets, they are bored they are frustrated – there is nothing there for them to do'***

***' there would be low level noise, a bit of truancy and that type of thing, and a bit of vandalism /graffiti – but as far as crime is concerned it would be low level – a lot of complaints from neighbours/ shop owners – that type of thing – young people hanging about and getting into nuisance type behaviour'***

A number of respondents identified several areas in particular where anti-social behaviour is perceived as problematic: Sion Mills, Ballycolman and Newtownstewart.

Discussion turned to past and current interventions and the available facilities for young people in the Strabane district as a whole. Whilst it was acknowledged that recreational facilities in Strabane town were excellent, with more development planned, this was not the case in all localities. Consequently not all young people had access to the same opportunities or experiences. In terms of interventions one respondent articulated the following observation:

***'you are depending on volunteers putting a lot of commitment into programmes in their area, in partnership with the young people but it should really be the other way about. The statutory services should be drawing money in to maybe employ a couple of part-time workers for the area'.***

***'This would allow them to run programmes and run them over a longer period of time rather than piecemeal – not to say it doesn't make a contribution, but if you had a longer term plan – you definitely would reach more young people and be more effective.'***

## **4.2 Reduced anti-social behaviour**

Despite the fact that anti-social behaviour was cited as the main concern, respondents also made reference to the fact that they felt the situation with regard to the anti-social behaviour in the town centre had improved in recent years. Discussion revealed that this positive shift has been largely driven by several factors. The first of these relates to a more targeted approach being adopted by the police, combined with their increased visibility on the streets, proactive partnership working with local landlords to try and mitigate the situation, increased education and awareness raising, has respondents believe had a positive impact on the levels of anti-social behaviour.

## **4.3 Sectarian Assaults**

When respondents were asked about sectarian assaults they reported that the area of Castlederg would have more sectarian assaults than anywhere else in the district. However, reference was made to the fact the due to pubs in the town being in close proximity to each other there was a tendency for conflict at times in that area.

***'Again the reputation is probably worse than it actually is – but there would still be some dissidents running about and more serious crime – but that doesn't really affect the town centre directly that much- affects it indirectly because of the reputation but there wouldn't be a lot of crime associated with that in the town centre.'***

The issue of sectarian assaults was also discussed in relation to young people in the outlying areas of Strabane.

***'There is a sectarian split there to – it happens regularly – fights between protestants and catholics – and that's borne out of nothing there to engage them'***

#### 4.4 Crime affecting businesses

In terms of crimes affecting businesses in Strabane one respondent reported that he had lost hundreds of pounds worth of stock as a result of two armed robberies in the last seven months. Reference was also made to 'tiger kidnapping' and despite the fact that the last tiger kidnapping occurred in 2006 it was clear that the 'fear' of it happening again remained quite strong.

***'Think we have probably inherited the fear of large scale robberies as well – it is always in the background, after a few big ones – what we would call tiger kidnapping- there has been nothing for a good while – but it will take a long time to erase that from some people's memories'***

Several of the respondents also stated that theft from shops was an area of concern and that it was difficult to detect. By contrast, one other respondent claimed that he felt the situation was manageable.

***'We would have pilferers and theft in the shop but we can manage ourselves on the basis of identifying the people'***

In terms of possible crime prevention methods the issue of CCTV in the town centre raised the most discussion for Group 1. The main concern focused on the sustainability of the system and who was going to pay for it, an issue made all the more pertinent with the announcement that the City Lisburn had faced a cash crisis and consequently was left without any anti-crime CCTV cover when the system was turned off by its operators after a long running feud over funding.

The argument put forward by the Chamber of Commerce was that relatively few of its members are located in the town centre and as they would not directly benefit from the operation of CCTV it was difficult to get 'buy in' particularly when traders are experiencing difficult times and when they already contribute to the operation of radio handsets to reduce crime and in some cases the operation of CCTV to protect their own premises. The consensus was it is a 'community issue' as it would ultimately protect the whole community while at the same time help Police to detect crime.

***'We will work with anyone who wants to do it but we want to make sure it is done in a business like fashion and it is seen to be sustainable - we are not going to throw good money after bad'***

Discussions also highlighted the fact that crime trends are in the decrease and this being the case the question was posed 'does a town the size of Strabane warrant such an expensive system?' - in short, it was acknowledged that there needed to a balance between the cost of CCTV and the need for it . It was suggested that the substantial amount of money required to maintain the system may possibly be better spent and more effective if directed towards community activity to help educate young people on issues such as alcohol and drugs. Suggestions were also made that consideration should be given to existing crime prevention methods in operation and how these could be maximized.

#### **4.5 Domestic Violence**

Two of the three groups consulted raised the issue of domestic violence as an ongoing concern in the area. In order to tackle the issue of domestic violence in Strabane it was felt that their needs to continue a co-ordinated approach by tackling domestic violence under the following strands.

- Prevention – preventing domestic violence happening in the first place. Targeting the young -through educating children and young people in schools on healthy relationships. By teaching them what's acceptable and unacceptable in relationships the early warning signs of abusive relationships, conflict management and the consequences of violence. It was recommended that existing programs should continue and be a high priority.
- Protection and Justice- this should be addressed through delivering educational programs to professionals working with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Accredited training courses should be rolled out in the Strabane area to build capacity among agencies both Statutory and Voluntary in order to tackle domestic violence, protect victims, investigate domestic violence and hold perpetrators accountable.
- Support – educational programmes will also help enhance the ability of agencies to provide appropriate support to victims and referral to specialist agencies. In order to increase support given to all victims of domestic violence the development of workplace domestic violence policies need to happen

## 4.6 Alleged Attacks

Discussion also focused on a number of alleged attacks on young girls in the district and the media's coverage of these incidents. Despite the fact the attacks were shown not to have taken place, respondents claimed that the local media unnecessarily fanned anxiety and fear within the community.

***'...the press leapt on it 'sexual predator' when there wasn't actually one – perception around the area is that there are a lot of sex offenders living in various pockets of the community – which may not be totally accurate, but things like that escalate and young people get worried about it' – we have a couple of high profile ones in the district and anything at all that can be attached to that to sell newspapers.'***

***'Strabane has a very low incident of sexual assaults – but people are afraid of that, it doesn't matter if it is low or not – it is people's perceptions and fear of it'***

Clearly, respondents believe the local media are to blame for this perception and went on to argue that 'good news', declining crime or unemployment rates - is seldom conveyed by the local media, and accordingly is less likely to be assimilated by the public.

## 4.7 Communication

There is strong evidence that media plays a key role in both the perception of rising crime and the gap between perceptions and local crime rates. One way of counteracting the media negativity is through information provision. Research<sup>16</sup> has highlighted the positive correlations between information provision and confidence in local agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour. Residents who feel better informed about how anti-social behaviour is being tackled in their areas are more likely to express confidence than those who do not. Attitudes can be changed through providing more information; however, information should be published in an accessible way at a local level and frequently- at least monthly. Clearly, the nature and tone of this sort of information will be key and should not be limited to bare statistics.

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<sup>16</sup> Evaluation of Together research 2004-6, Ipsos MORI/Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour Unit.

It should also be noted, as society becomes more normalised these less serious crimes have taken on greater importance and significance and have become the focal point for many people as paramilitary type violence subsides.

#### **4.8 'Boy Racer's'**

A concern raised by one respondent was the issue of what is termed as 'boy racer's' who congregate in certain areas of the town and then drive dangerously through the area upsetting residents . It was unclear as to the numbers of young people involved in this activity as it would appear groups don't always congregate in the same areas.

*'They seem to move about the town –maybe it is the same one's I don't know'*

#### **4.9 Rural Isolation**

It was pointed out in one focus group that community safety issues differ depending on where you live in the district. In particular elderly people living in rural areas are isolated and vulnerable and feel that their personal safety is at risk due to the *fear* of crime.

#### **4.10 Crime Interventions**

Throughout the course of the consultations respondents were asked to suggest possible crime prevention methods they thought appropriate to reduce crime and disorder in the Strabane area. Suggested methods fall into either one of two approaches

The Situational Approach (Designing out Crime) involves altering the physical conditions of potential sites where a crime might take place. Another approach to crime and disorder reduction is social. This involves working with potential or actual offenders to divert them from committing a crime. It also includes improving the quality of life for victims, potential victims of crime and people in general. The fusion of situational and social crime prevention provides the core of community safety, blocking opportunities, (potential or actual) for crime while simultaneously tackling criminal motivations (potential or actual). Using situational and social approaches can also reduce the fear of crime in an area. Examples suggested by focus groups include the following :

- Forming neighbourhood watch schemes

- Implement communication strategy
- Providing alternatives to crime for young people such as clubs or youth shelters/education programmes
- Domestic violence support
- Setting up informal support networks for vulnerable groups such as older people in rural areas.
- Regenerating areas by improving their appearance and improving facilities and then maintaining these improvements (e.g. Bus shelters, area near ASDA)
- Anti-social behaviour issues is at the forefront of local concerns.

#### **4.11 Community Safety Partnership Youth Survey**

This section reports the main findings of an extensive youth survey undertaken by Strabane Community Safety Partnership with a sample of post-primary school children and young people in the district. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain young people's views on a range of community safety issues; to identify their concerns and experiences of crime and to determine the types of initiatives they would like to see implemented. A total of 268 young people, (108 male and 156 females), returned completed questionnaires.

##### **4.11.1 Anti-social Behaviour**

The children and young people were asked about their fears and concerns in relation to a range of problems or aspects of anti-social behaviour and to score according to their level of concern: 1 = low and 5 = high. The survey revealed that their top three concerns were:

1. Teenagers/gangs hanging around
2. Using/ dealing drugs
3. Dangerous Drivers

When asked '*What type of initiatives would help you make safer?*' The majority of young people stated the following as their top four initiatives:

1. More youth provision/activities
2. Action against those responsible for anti-social behaviour
3. Personal alarms
4. More police patrols

#### **4.11.2 Traveling to and from School**

The majority (126) of the young people who took part in the survey travelled to school by bus. On the whole, most young people felt safe while travelling by bus. However, 16% of young people did add that this was only the case if other people were around. Concerns were also raised in relation to the possibility of exposure to verbal abuse while waiting for the bus and the presence of gangs or large groups of teenagers around the bus stop which they found intimidating. A lack of appropriate street lighting at bus stops was a further concern raised by several young people.

***'It would be good to have more street lighting for when you have to get a bus late or in the dark'***

***'Groups hanging about and having no actual bus shelter to stand in'; 'Never at night as there are always drunk and dangerous people lurking about'; 'Large groups of teenagers are intimidating'***

When asked if they felt safe when walking or cycling to and from school 84% of young people reported they did not feel safe. The following comments reveal some of the reasons why young people feel unsafe:

***'Might get knocked down, kidnapped and people start to pick on you'; 'I would feel unsafe if I wasn't with my friends'; 'Might get knocked down. Might get abducted. Be made fun of'; '...because I live beside the Holy Cross which is a Catholic school and I go to a mixed school even though I am a Catholic so some people shout things'***

#### **4.11.3 Social Habits**

The survey revealed that over half (154) of the young people had drunk alcohol. Whilst the majority stated that they drank less than once a week, 50 (33%) admitted to drinking once a week. When asked why did they drink? 74 (58%) young people said it was to be sociable and 31 (24%) stated it was because they liked the taste. The survey also asked (a) where the young people get the alcohol, (b) who bought the alcohol and (c) how much would they spend on alcohol per week/month. Responses reveal that the majority of young people buy the alcohol themselves (79 (53%)) with a further 34 (23%) stating that someone else aged between 18-25 buys the alcohol for them. Bars, clubs and restaurants were the most common places that young people would acquire alcohol from 44 (31%), with off-licences being the next most common for 42 (30%) of young people. In terms of how much young people spend on alcohol the Table 17 below details the responses.

**Table 17:** Young people's spend on alcohol per week/month

Less than £5 per week	28	Less than £5 per month	10
Less than £10 per week	20	Less than £10 per month	10
Less than £15 per week	14	Less than £15 per month	10
Less than £20 per week	21	Less than £20 per month	6

#### **4.11.4 *Illegal Drugs***

Of the 268 young people who took part in the survey a minority, 23 (9%), had used illegal drugs and of that figure, four young people did not know what type of drug it was they had used. Seven young people said that they were either given them or had bought the drugs at school, nine said they were either given them or had bought them from someone they knew who sold drugs and eight said they had bought them from a friend. The drug most commonly used by young people was cannabis

#### **4.11.5 *Truancy and Bullying***

In terms of young people's experiences of truancy and bullying, 29 (12%) claimed they had missed school without permission and 4 (2%) young people said they missed school quite often. 111 young people (41%) claimed they had been bullied and 115 (67%) stated that the bullying had taken place at school.

#### **4.11.6 *Vandalism***

When asked if they had ever committed an act of vandalism 108 young people said yes, of that figure 84 claimed that it '*was a one of*'. However, if the young people themselves had witnessed an act of vandalism, 145 (60%) claimed they would not report the incident. Of those who said they would report the incident, 48 (20%) said they would report it to their parents with a further 27 (11%) stating they would report it the police.

Young people were also asked if they thought it was fair that they are often held accountable for vandalism and anti-social behaviour in local communities. Approximately to thirds (178) of young people felt this was an unfairly held perception.

***‘Children in the community learn things from older people’; ‘There should always be proof before judgment’; ‘Young people always get blamed for things they don’t do. There are times they do it but not always’***

***‘The vandalism could have been done by older people or by people from other communities but it is the local kids get blamed’; ‘It depends on the life of the young person, they should help young people who have bad lives’***

#### **4.11.7 Factors that influence crime rates**

When asked to consider a range of contributory factors that influenced crime levels in their area, young people believed that the lack of facilities /activities was the main factor that had an impact on the crime and the misuse of alcohol was the second main factor.

Risk indicators drawn up by the Home Office suggest the following increase the likelihood of young people becoming involved in crime:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Risk Factor</b>
<b>Family</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parental criminality</li> <li>▪ Poor parental supervision and discipline</li> <li>▪ Low family income/social isolation</li> <li>▪ Family conflict</li> </ul>
<b>School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of commitment to school (truancy/exclusion)</li> <li>▪ Disruptive behaviour (including bullying/aggressive/hyperactive behaviour)</li> <li>▪ Low achievement</li> <li>▪ School organisation</li> </ul>
<b>Individual</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alienation and lack of social commitment</li> <li>▪ Early involvement of children in problem behaviour</li> <li>▪ Peer involvement in problem behaviour</li> <li>▪ High proportion of unsupervised time spent with peers</li> </ul>
<b>Early adulthood</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of skills or qualifications</li> <li>▪ Unemployment or low income</li> <li>▪ Homelessness</li> </ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community disorganisation</li> <li>▪ Availability of drugs</li> <li>▪ Opportunities for crime</li> <li>▪ High percentage of children in the community</li> <li>▪ Low income communities</li> </ul>

Conversely the Social Exclusion unit also recognises **protective factors** that have been shown to help young people overcome disadvantage-these include:

- Strong relationships with parents, family members, teachers and other significant adults
- Clear, high expectations
- Mentoring and positive role models
- Active participation with family, school and the community
- Recognition and praise
- Parental interest and involvement in education

Over the last generation children's lives have undergone profound change. Whilst there are more opportunities for young people and rising prosperity there are also more uncertainty and risk. Children and young people are exposed earlier to sexual activity, drugs and alcohol. Family life is changing and families have become more complex. Children are more aware of their environment and the risks exposed to them, however they still retain fears around being a victim of crime and the possible repercussions of this.

The next immediate challenge for the Partnership is to devise imaginative responses to, for the most part, the endemic problems identified above.

**Issues to consider...**

- Should SCSP move away from a project funding approach to a programme funding approach; in other words, rather than making a host of small to medium grants, should the Partnership focus on a small number of strategic themes and develop a programme around those themes in conjunction with local providers?
- Should greater emphasis be placed on achieving sustainability which is defined as supporting initiatives which have the capacity to continue beyond the timeframe of the strategy?

## Appendix 1 – Deprivation Domains

### Multiple Deprivation

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>MDM SCORE</b>	<b>RANK OF MDM</b>
Artigarvan	26.40	268
Ballycolman	46.99	71
Castledearg	43.10	95
Clare	36.93	140
Dunnamanagh	33.26	168
Strabane Town East	63.36	26
Finn	35.46	153
Glenderg	45.57	79
Newtownstewart	40.79	110
Strabane Town North	29.50	214
Plumbridge	31.31	188
Sion Mills	30.02	208
Slievekirk	29.17	220
Strabane Town South_1	35.74	149
Strabane Town South_2	19.66	396
Victoria Bridge	28.17	233
Strabane Town West_1	22.29	337
Strabane Town West_2	38.28	126

Source: NISRA, 2005

### Income Deprivation

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>MDM SCORE</b>	<b>RANK OF MDM</b>
Artigarvan	0.22	352
Ballycolman	0.48	63
Castledearg	0.44	81
Clare	0.26	266
Dunnamanagh	0.28	232
Strabane Town East	0.62	20
Finn	0.32	176
Glenderg	0.38	123
Newtownstewart	0.34	155
Strabane Town North	0.28	221
Plumbridge	0.22	355
Sion Mills	0.26	259
Slievekirk	0.22	369
Strabane Town South_1	0.39	115
Strabane Town South_2	0.19	438
Victoria Bridge	0.22	351
Strabane Town West_1	0.25	278
Strabane Town West_2	0.34	159

### Employment Deprivation

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>MDM SCORE</b>	<b>RANK OF MDM</b>
Artigarvan	0.20	203
Ballycolman	0.28	63
Castledearg	0.28	56
Clare	0.21	159
Dunnamanagh	0.20	185
Strabane Town East	0.36	14
Finn	0.22	131
Glenderg	0.25	96
Newtownstewart	0.24	108
Strabane Town North	0.21	157
Plumbridge	0.19	250
Sion Mills	0.20	181
Slievekirk	0.20	204
Strabane Town South_1	0.21	150
Strabane Town South_2	0.18	281
Victoria Bridge	0.20	208
Strabane Town West_1	0.17	306
Strabane Town West_2	0.29	49

### Crime and Disorder

<b>Super Output Area</b>	<b>MDM SCORE</b>	<b>RANK OF MDM</b>
Artigarvan	8.05	645
Ballycolman	9.85	593
Castledearg	21.84	344
Clare	7.59	663
Dunnamanagh	7.41	667
Strabane Town East	33.11	198
Finn	15.92	446
Glenderg	8.12	643
Newtownstewart	21.99	342
Strabane Town North	48.36	96
Plumbridge	9.23	611
Sion Mills	19.16	387
Slievekirk	9.92	590
Strabane Town South_1	13.06	513
Strabane Town South_2	15.07	469
Victoria Bridge	10.62	573
Strabane Town West_1	16.28	441
Strabane Town West_2	26.61	276

## Appendix 2 – Reported Crime by ward (2006/07)

Main category	Sub-category	NI total	NI per 1000 pop.	ARTIGARVAN		BALLYCOLMAN		CLAIRE		DUNNAMANAGH	
				Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.
<b>Violence against the person</b>	All violence against the person	31846	19.2	24	10.1	33	13.6	11	4.5	11	5.3
	Wounding / GBH / AOABH <sup>1</sup> (inc. with intent)	16732	10.1	12	5.1	10	4.1	5	2.0	2	1.0
	Common / aggravated assault <sup>1</sup>	8104	4.9	6	2.5	15	6.2	5	2.0	3	1.5
<b>Sexual offences</b>	All sexual offences	1803	1.1	0	0.0	3	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Burglary</b>	All burglary	11562	7.0	3	1.3	7	2.9	9	3.7	1	0.5
	Burglary in a dwelling	6831	4.1	1	0.4	5	2.1	6	2.4	1	0.5
	Burglary in a non-dwelling	4630	2.8	2	0.8	2	0.8	3	1.2	0	0.0
<b>Robbery</b>	All robbery	1574	0.9	1	0.4	2	0.8	1	0.4	0	0.0
<b>Theft</b>	All theft	27766	16.7	13	5.5	11	4.5	11	4.5	5	2.4
	Shoplifting	5745	3.5	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Theft from a vehicle	3994	2.4	4	1.7	1	0.4	3	1.2	1	0.5
	Theft of a vehicle	3418	2.1	0	0.0	2	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.5
	Vehicle tampering /interference	1844	1.1	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Fraud and forgery</b>	All fraud and forgery	4495	2.7	5	2.1	2	0.8	2	0.8	0	0.0
	Deception	1815	1.1	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Making off without payment	1957	1.2	3	1.3	0	0.0	1	0.4	0	0.0
<b>Criminal damage</b>	All criminal damage	36321	21.9	28	11.8	33	13.6	15	6.1	10	4.9
	Arson	2428	1.5	2	0.8	2	0.8	1	0.4	2	1.0
	Criminal damage to a vehicle	12864	7.8	10	4.2	10	4.1	9	3.7	0	0.0
<b>Offences against the state</b>	All offences against the state	1285	0.8	1	0.4	3	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Other notifiable offences</b>	All other notifiable offences	4492	2.7	3	1.3	3	1.2	4	1.6	0	0.0
	Drug offences (total)	2411	1.5	2	0.8	1	0.4	4	1.6	0	0.0
<b>All offences</b>		121144	73.0	78	33.0	97	40.0	53	21.6	27	13.1

Main category	Sub-category	NI total	FINN		GLENDERG		N'STEWART		PLUMBRIDGE		
			NI per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.
<b>Violence against the person</b>	All violence against the person	31846	19.2	22	9.1	7	2.8	45	21.4	17	7.8
	Wounding / GBH / AOABH <sup>1</sup> (inc. with intent)	16732	10.1	7	2.9	2	0.8	22	10.5	7	3.2
	Common / aggravated assault <sup>1</sup>	8104	4.9	5	2.1	2	0.8	14	6.7	6	2.7
<b>Sexual offences</b>	All sexual offences	1803	1.1	3	1.2	1	0.4	1	0.5	0	0.0
<b>Burglary</b>	All burglary	11562	7.0	3	1.2	10	4.0	10	4.8	8	3.7
	Burglary in a dwelling	6831	4.1	3	1.2	4	1.6	5	2.4	4	1.8
	Burglary in a non-dwelling	4630	2.8	0	0.0	6	2.4	5	2.4	4	1.8
<b>Robbery</b>	All robbery	1574	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.0	0	0.0
<b>Theft</b>	All theft	27766	16.7	16	6.6	8	3.2	17	8.1	3	1.4
	Shoplifting	5745	3.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.0	0	0.0
	Theft from a vehicle	3994	2.4	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.5	0	0.0
	Theft of a vehicle	3418	2.1	1	0.4	0	0.0	2	1.0	0	0.0
	Vehicle tampering /interference	1844	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Fraud and forgery</b>	All fraud and forgery	4495	2.7	3	1.2	1	0.4	4	1.9	0	0.0
	Deception	1815	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5	0	0.0
	Making off without payment	1957	1.2	1	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.5	0	0.0
<b>Criminal damage</b>	All criminal damage	36321	21.9	29	12.0	22	8.8	36	17.1	8	3.7
	Arson	2428	1.5	5	2.1	4	1.6	1	0.5	0	0.0
	Criminal damage to a vehicle	12864	7.8	9	3.7	9	3.6	13	6.2	0	0.0
<b>Offences against the state</b>	All offences against the state	1285	0.8	1	0.4	0	0.0	1	0.5	0	0.0
<b>Other notifiable offences</b>	All other notifiable offences	4492	2.7	1	0.4	2	0.8	2	1.0	2	0.9
	Drug offences (total)	2411	1.5	0	0.0	1	0.4	2	1.0	0	0.0
<b>All offences</b>		121144	73.0	78	32.4	51	20.4	118	56.2	38	17.3

Main category	Sub-category	NI total	NI per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.	Ward total	Ward per 1000 pop.
<b>Violence against the person</b>	All violence against the person	31846	19.2	27	12.9	28	8.7	21	9.9	72	22.3
	Wounding / GBH / AOABH <sup>1</sup> (inc. with intent)	16732	10.1	11	5.3	16	5.0	10	4.7	32	9.9
	Common / aggravated assault <sup>1</sup>	8104	4.9	7	3.3	7	2.2	7	3.3	21	6.5
<b>Sexual offences</b>	All sexual offences	1803	1.1	4	1.9	4	1.2	0	0.0	8	2.5
<b>Burglary</b>	All burglary	11562	7.0	8	3.8	5	1.6	5	2.4	13	4.0
	Burglary in a dwelling	6831	4.1	3	1.4	5	1.6	4	1.9	9	2.8
	Burglary in a non-dwelling	4630	2.8	5	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.2
<b>Robbery</b>	All robbery	1574	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
<b>Theft</b>	All theft	27766	16.7	11	5.3	16	5.0	13	6.1	31	9.6
	Shoplifting	5745	3.5	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	5	1.5
	Theft from a vehicle	3994	2.4	2	1.0	2	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Theft of a vehicle	3418	2.1	3	1.4	3	0.9	2	0.9	7	2.2
	Vehicle tampering /interference	1844	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Fraud and forgery</b>	All fraud and forgery	4495	2.7	1	0.5	3	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Deception	1815	1.1	1	0.5	3	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Making off without payment	1957	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Criminal damage</b>	All criminal damage	36321	21.9	12	5.7	33	10.3	17	8.0	47	14.5
	Arson	2428	1.5	0	0.0	3	0.9	2	0.9	4	1.2
	Criminal damage to a vehicle	12864	7.8	3	1.4	5	1.6	3	1.4	10	3.1
<b>Offences against the state</b>	All offences against the state	1285	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.9	1	0.5	7	2.2
<b>Other notifiable offences</b>	All other notifiable offences	4492	2.7	5	2.4	7	2.2	4	1.9	5	1.5
	Drug offences (total)	2411	1.5	2	1.0	1	0.3	2	0.9	1	0.3
<b>All offences</b>		121144	73.0	68	32.5	99	30.9	61	28.7	184	56.9

## Appendix 3 - Effective Practice

This section briefly reviews the range of activity undertaken by Community Safety Partnerships in Northern Ireland since 2005/06.

The limited amount of available evaluation evidence created using a consistent framework creates difficulty in identifying best practice. However, in reviewing activity over this period a range of effective practice has been identified in some cases by drawing on evaluation evidence from similar activity outside the boundary of Partnership activity.

A huge range of initiatives have been employed by Partnerships since 2005/06, targeting a plethora of local issues including young people 'at risk', drug and alcohol addition, anti-social behaviour and community safety. Often these issues are tackled at a strategic level, led by community / voluntary organizations level, but just as visible are the one-off initiatives utilizing creative solutions to local issues and which involve the community at their core. The success of these initiatives provides the visible sign of Partnership effectiveness to the community and other partners.

### Good Morning Initiatives

A number of Good Morning initiatives across Northern Ireland have been developed where older people receive a call in the morning to check they are safe and feeling well. A recent evaluation of Good Morning initiatives highlighted their benefits and the need for greater collaboration to share good practice and develop strategically. A Good Practice Guide for the development and operation of the initiatives was also developed.

### Intergenerational Initiatives

Intergenerational work can help build bridges between the generations and negate some of the mutual mistrust. Growing evidence also suggests that intergenerational practice has an important role to play in neighbourhood renewal and in building vibrant, cohesive and safer communities.

Age Concern has applied its experience in intergenerational work to develop a scheme with the Youth Conference Service to build positive relationships between young people and older people. Through the scheme, support is offered to older victims and programmes are devised for young offenders to help divert them from

victimising others in the future. VSNI has also worked with the Youth Conference Service to design a training programme which aims to make young people aware of the impact crime has had on their victims, including older people.

### Befriending initiatives

Befriending initiatives can provide companionship and practical support to lonely and isolated older people within communities. They are particularly beneficial in rural areas where older people are more likely to feel isolated and may not have access to transport or social activities within the community and can have a positive impact on reducing the fear of crime experienced by older people.

### Midnight Soccer

Midnight Soccer was an initiative employed by a number of partnerships with considerable success. Targeted at young people between the ages of 14 and 17 and often involving leagues, matches were held during the evening when the majority of anti-social behaviour was known to be a particular problem. During these initiatives there was frequently a noticeable downturn in reports of nuisance behaviour.

### Domestic Violence

Domestic violence was addressed in some form by the majority of partnerships in 2007. Domestic Violence Drop-in centres were supported, as was the employment of full or part-time workers to co-ordinate and further enhance the services available to victims of this crime. In another instance, a worker was employed to promote more effective interagency responses to domestic violence.

Awareness raising events using publicity, the production of short films and staged performances were also used to highlight the issue within local communities. One scheme funded the installation of various devices to increase the general security, safety and feeling of well-being of potential victims of domestic violence.

### Bee Safe

Bee Safe is a proactive, multi-agency community initiative designed to promote a range of safety issues including personal safety, community awareness, fire safety,

safe bus travel, road safety, racism and safety in the home. The initiative is targeted at primary seven pupils in preparation for transition to secondary level education. Agencies involved include Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service PSNI, Save the Children, NIE, Translink and DoE.

#### 'At Risk' Initiatives

A number of initiatives have been designed by partnerships in collaboration with key stakeholders to identify young people at risk of offending and engage them in a range of suitable diversionary programs. Initiatives are often held during periods of high crime such as after school and school holidays. Activities are age appropriate and involve consultation with young people but often involve sporting activities. In a number of cases, these initiatives were linked to social, emotional and educational interventions with the young people and families at risk.

#### Drug and Alcohol Misuse

The issues of drug and alcohol misuse were often addressed by partnerships collectively. A range of effective reactive and proactive methods were employed including:

- Providing reassurance, assistance and support at the weekend evenings to young people vulnerable to distress caused by drug or alcohol abuse.
- Accredited training for local people in drug and alcohol misuse
- Campaigns involving billboard advertising, local media and leaflet drops
- Addressing issues around drug and alcohol misuse as part of wider considerations relating to provision for young people within local communities
- The recruitment of mentors to provide individual support to young people with drug and alcohol addictions.

#### Town Centre Initiatives

Community Safety Partnerships have worked closely with a range of agencies to improve safety within town and city centres across Northern Ireland with initiatives designed to tackle business and retail crime, anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, drug abuse and aggressive begging.

The introduction of CCTV systems within some of the larger towns and cities such as Lurgan, Portadown and Derry has enabled Community Safety Partnerships to incorporate a surveillance component within broader initiatives designed to create safer town/city centres.

Preliminary results from CCTV initiatives in Northern Ireland suggest a significant reduction in violent assault. However, longitudinal evaluations conducted elsewhere suggest that CCTV systems may be more effective as detection tool rather than a deterrent, with little evidence they prevented violent crime. There is however a widespread recognition that to be effective, CCTV systems need to be introduced as part of a well co-ordinated and integrated crime reduction strategy.

Examples of Community Safety initiatives that have designed CCTV systems into interventions include:

- Linking retailers within the city centre with PSNI and the CCTV control room via radio to reduce retail crime. Impacting positively on the daytime economy in Ballymena this integrated initiative became financially self-sustaining, increasing safety.
- Targeting the evening and night time economy, 'safety zones' were created within designated town centres areas to provide reassurance, immediate assistance and support at weekend evenings to those who were vulnerable to drug or alcohol abuse. Designated zones were monitored by PSNI via an intercom, radio or CCTV system and in one example, a mobile unit, supervised by volunteers, provided important sign-posting to support services for domestic violence and substance abuse.

One example of a town centre initiative that did not include a CCTV dimension involved the employment of 'Rangers'. These rangers were employed in Coleraine and Derry to liaise with local government agencies and report hazards and incidence of fly-posting, litter and graffiti. They also provide assistance and information to city centre traders and convey a feeling of safety, well-being and civic responsibility to all users of the town centres

### Initiative Delivery Structures

A number of examples have been sourced from England and Northern Ireland to illustrate effective practice in the structures used to deliver initiatives.

In England, crime is tackled in every local area by Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) - a combination of police, local authorities and other organisations and businesses who have banded together to develop and implement strategies for tackling crime and disorder on a local level. In recognition of the change in landscape since legislation was first introduced in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Home Office, in conjunction with stakeholders carried out a formal review of the partnership provision of that Act. The suggested improvements were reflected in the Police and Justice Act 2006, and in subsequent regulations, which came into force on 1 August 2007.

These new statutory requirements form part of the 'Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships' and represent the key aspects of recognised partnership working that underpin effective delivery through partnerships. Partnerships can use them to check their own effectiveness and to identify areas for improvement. The six Hallmarks of Effective Partnership are:

- Empowered and Effective Leadership;
- Visible and Constructive Accountability;
- Intelligence-led Business Processes;
- Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures;
- Engaged Communities; and
- Appropriate Skills and Knowledge.

The following table sets out effective practice examples identified through partnership activity in England and Northern Ireland within the last 3 years.

Action Area	Effective Practice	Delivery Structure Initiative	Initiative Description
Engaging the Community	<p>The community can play an important role in helping to resolve issues and tensions as well as identifying priorities. In this, they can be viewed as an additional resource to assist the partnership achieve its objectives. By involving the community in this way, the partnership can improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The sustainability of response – particularly where potential offenders can be involved as a means of preventing a crime or anti-social behaviour</li> <li>○ Public confidence and reassurance – by ensuring the public are aware of the true nature and level of issues in their community.</li> <li>○ Visibility and accountability – by being transparent and open about processes and reasons for actions</li> <li>○ Future community participation – by increasing awareness and building interest and buy-in to the work that the partnership is doing in the area.</li> </ul>	Lisburn – Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	As part of their ongoing aim to develop community participation in preventing crime, LCCSP, PSNI and the District Policing Partnership oversee the development of Neighbourhood Watch schemes across Lisburn and all partners are engaged in research, audits and public consultations.
		Cookstown Partnership - Midnight Soccer and 'What a Risk' Programme	Initiatives target young people at risk of committing crime or anti-social behaviour.
		Ards Partnership – The Link	<p>Initiative involving a series of diversionary and development programmes that address issues affecting those young people who are marginalised, socially excluded, and who are at risk.</p> <p>The aim of the initiative was to encourage greater and a more positive contribution to society and reduce levels of anti-social behaviour.</p>

<b>Action Area</b>	<b>Effective Practice</b>	<b>Partnership / Initiative</b>	<b>Initiative Description</b>
Engaging the Community (continued)		Barking and Dagenham CSP	Barking and Dagenham CSP wanted to tackle the problems that residents were experiencing on a council estate that experienced crime and anti-social behaviour. By undertaking a programme of community consultation and awareness raising events the partnership was able to improve relations with residents and also highlight to them the services that were available.
Creating Processes and Structures to Support Delivery	<p>To support the delivery process, the partnership could consider how joint working can be managed in order to deliver effectively.</p> <p>For example, groups consisting of personnel from many different partner agencies could be created to address particular issues either across a number of neighbourhoods (thematic); or to address a number of issues in one neighbourhood (geographic).</p>	Wrexham and Flintshire CSP – Joint Action Groups	Wrexham and Flintshire Joint Action Groups (JAGs) were established in 2004 to support the operational side of the CSP. They comprise of stakeholders and partners from a wide variety agencies who meet to address key targets relating to crime and disorder and also to share intelligence to support the identification of any new crime trends

<b>Action Area</b>	<b>Effective Practice</b>	<b>Partnership / Initiative</b>	<b>Initiative Description</b>
Tackling Diverse Problems	<p>Drawing on the resources available within the partnership can offer real opportunities to address the key issues facing the communities that the partnership represents. Techniques for successfully managing delivery include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work closely with private sector and voluntary organisations e.g. involving pub landlords in initiatives to tackle alcohol related crimes</li> <li>○ Commissioning services from the voluntary sector – e.g. involving youth outreach groups in initiatives to tackle substance misuse in youths</li> <li>○ Involving the community in problem-solving – e.g. identifying community champions to help mediate concerns in local council estates</li> <li>○ Focusing actions around specific campaigns – e.g. Weeks of Action programmes to address anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>	Preston CSP	<p>In order to combat alcohol related crime, Preston Community Safety Partnership appointed a secondee from Lancashire Police to the role of Alcohol Initiative Manager. The initiative manager worked alongside public health officials to engage local businesses and successfully reduce the opportunity for alcohol related crime and harm in the area.</p>
		Ballymena Retailers Against Crime – Radiolink	<p>The initiative funded a initiative manager to link retailers with PSNI and the CCTV control room in order to reduce retail crime. The scheme is now financially self-sustaining and comprise a system of over 170 handheld radios</p>

<b>Action Area</b>	<b>Effective Practice</b>	<b>Partnership / Initiative</b>	<b>Initiative Description</b>
Tackling Diverse Problems (continued)		Bin the Binge – Limavady	Off Licence Code of Practice initiative, delivered in partnership with the Western Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Team, sought increased partnership working between local off licences and delivered an awareness raising campaign around underage drinking and binge drinking. This scheme is receiving significant support from both businesses and the local community.

## Appendix 4 - Potential External Funding Sources

### **Peace III Programme – Latest Call**

<http://www.seupb.eu/programmes.htm>

The Call is being made under priority 1: - Reconciling Communities. The Theme within this Priority for which applications are invited is: Building Positive Relations (REGIONAL PROJECTS ONLY).

The element of this theme that is open is for regional projects. Applications are sought which will promote activities on a regional level where some dimensions of building positive relationships may be best addressed. This could include, for example, actions to ensure the active involvement of women, youth or other identified groups in strategic actions that contribute to Programme objectives.

Proposals must be strategic in focus and implemented on a regional basis across the whole eligible region of Northern Ireland and the six border counties. Proposals should focus on areas and groups that have been affected by the conflict.

Closing Date: The call for applications is made on a rolling basis .This means that presently there is no advertised closing date. However, a closing date will be announced at a later date as the funding under this scheme is distributed.

### **Peace III – Latest Call**

<http://www.seupb.eu/programmes.htm>

A shared society is one in which public spaces are shared by all members of that society. This objective aims to regenerate urban, rural and border areas that appear derelict, segregated, underused, threatening and/or unwelcoming and transform them into shared spaces.

Closing Date: The call for applications under the theme of Creating Shared Public Spaces is being made on a rolling basis. This means that presently there is no advertised closing date. However, a closing date will be announced at a later date as the funding under this theme is distributed.

