

Online — a newsletter for people involved in community safety in Stratford District

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Foreword - Paul Lankester

Chair, Stratford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

“Welcome to the first full edition of the Online newsletter in which we aim to share the good practice that is going on all around Stratford district.

There has been a great deal of talk in the press in recent months about major services such as Police forces, Ambulance trusts, health trusts and Fire and Rescue facilities being merged.

The government is driving this to maximise the efficiency of public services but whilst it is under consultation, and the proposals are some way off being finalised, I cannot possibly comment on what the likely outcome for Stratford people will be.....



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keeping Stratford safer

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Foreword continued

.....However, we have been listening to the public and appreciate that there is some concern that the services that we have in Stratford will suffer.

I can assure people that, whatever the outcome of the various consultations, Stratford will continue to ensure that local knowledge, contacts and expertise play an integral part in keeping our communities safe.

Stratford has pioneered a geographical approach to reducing anti-social behaviour and crime. The various partners that are involved in the Keeping Stratford Safer Partnership work across four neighbourhoods in the district; Stratford town, Shipston and the rural areas, Studley and Alcester and, finally, Southam.

This is because we know that problems are individual issues and that there is no elixir that will cure all ills, particularly in a district as varied as ours. So our approach to tackling crime and to preventing it from occurring in the first place will continue to be lead by local partners who know their areas, their communities and the specific problems they face.

There is a good reason behind us continuing this approach. Crime figures in Stratford district continue to show improvement in many of the key areas such as domestic burglary, vehicle crime, commercial crime and violent crime.

It is fair to say that anti-social behaviour is a concern but there are measures in place to stamp it out when it does occur and to strengthen communities to help to ensure that it does not come back. In later pages you will read of the excellent work that is being done to cut out incidents of ASB at source.

In fact, one of the main challenges that we find ourselves faced with in Stratford is convincing people that crime is low. We do find that when we ask people if they are concerned by domestic burglary or being attacked, their level of fear far outweighs the likelihood of them being a victim of such a crime.

I hope you enjoy this first edition. Its aim is to highlight good practice not to sing our own praises, although there is no harm in that. Rather, I hope it helps the good practice that is going on to spread throughout the district. If anybody reads this, sees a good scheme and decides to introduce it into their area, then this newsletter will have more than done its job.

Paul Lankester

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Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour has become part of the lexicon of modern day life. It is a term that has only really found its way into everyday speech in the last generation or so.

And yet, anti-social behaviour is by no means a new phenomenon; how long have people had inconsiderate noisy neighbours? Is it a sign of the times that young people are hanging around street corners, intimidating the older generations?

Some would say 'yes', some would say 'no' and some would say 'both are right'. We are more aware of anti-social behaviour, thanks to the media, and as a result notice it where once we might have ignored it or perceive it where it isn't really happening.

That said, there can be little doubt that nuisance behaviour is on the increase. Incidents reported in Stratford district have risen from 2,285 in 2003/04 to 2,640 in 2004/05. Similarly, vandalism is also on the rise with cases rising from 1,335 to 1,377 in the last year.

The good news is that there is something being done throughout the district looking at solving the problem of anti-social behaviour as it happens as well as pre-empting the problem and removing the causes.



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Anti-social behaviour continued 1

Where anti-social behaviour is taking place, the district now has the services of Kully Takhar, the anti-social behaviour officer, who has streamlined the process of dealing with the wrongdoers.

In cases where young people have been causing the community problems, Kully writes to parents explaining the situation and pointing out the sanctions if improvements are not made. Should this not have the desired effect, Kully arranges a home visit with a police officer and requests that the young person sign an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC). Any future breaches then result in the ASBO process.

Kully also liaises with agencies such as Connexions or CHARM (Children's Area Risk Management) to look at how they can help the young people to avoid trouble in future.

Importantly, Kully is also able to look at the other side of complaints. One of her tasks is to assess whether the complaint is genuine or simply a case of simple intolerance. She can save a great deal of time and trouble for various agencies by assessing whether a complaint about anti-social behaviour is genuine.

Working alongside Kully is Jo Smith, the community engagement worker whose role is to ensure that communities have access to all the expertise available to help solve any problems of anti-social behaviour.

That means bringing agencies in to work with communities to prevent them becoming fractured. For example, Jo might liaise with Positive about Young People or Connexions in areas where lack of diversion is causing young people to commit anti-social behaviour.

But, more than anything, Jo engages the community. Communities that are busy and vibrant are less likely to be the source of anti-social behaviour. Likewise, if there are incidents of anti-social behaviour, it is less likely to take root in such communities.

Much of what Jo does brings together different aspects of the community. We highlight a cookery course later in this issue that joins the culinary talents of young and older generations. This typifies Joanne's approach; engage the community and it will help to look after itself.

So not only is Joanne making it less likely that young people will commit anti-social behaviour. She is also addressing the fear of young people among older generations. Sometimes this fear can lead to a gathering of young people being described as nuisance behaviour when all they are doing is gathering in numbers, outside. When the generations work alongside each other, such a gathering is seen for what it is.

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Anti-social behaviour continued 2

Bill McCarthy of Studley has seen the benefits of working alongside some of the younger generations. He helped organise a quiz at Christmas with several groups of younger people among the contestants. With a good relationship established, Bill feels that anti-social behaviour in Studley is no longer the problem it was. He is currently actively looking at several other events.

Bill says: “There is no doubt in my mind that anti-social behaviour is partly in the mind. Now, because we know some of the young people in the area, we see them as neighbours rather than threatening gangs.

“But there has also been a change in the young people’s attitudes towards us. The area, and I think the people living in it, has benefited enormously from the two generations coming together.”

This, then, appears to be the way forward in tackling anti-social behaviour. Rather than create a ‘them and us’ scenario, the various agencies working to make Stratford a safer place are adopting the approach that the entire community comes together to tackle the problems created by anti-social behaviour.



Cookery lessons in Studley have helped bring the generations together

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Bardwatch – keeping Stratford ‘As You Like It’

The bars and pubs in Stratford’s town centre enjoyed an uneventful festive season as the Bardwatch scheme continued to grow and enjoy success in keeping anti-social behaviour at bay.

Not that the festivities in the town’s bars were dull. There was, however, a massive drop in incidents of alcohol related disorder as only one arrest was made in Stratford over the entire holiday period.

Bardwatch is a partnership scheme between the district council, Stratford Town Management Partnership, the town council and the Police. It was set up with grants from the district council and the town council with the Town Management Partnership providing administrative and management support.

The strong lines of communication between the bars, pubs and the Police ensures that all licensees are aware of any people who have been causing trouble in bars.

Bardwatch meets every month where the Police report back on all incidents of alcohol related violence or disorder, anti-social behaviour, underage drinking or supply of drugs.



The famous Encore pub is just one of the bars that have signed up to the Bradwatch scheme

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Bardwatch – keeping Stratford ‘As You Like It’ continued

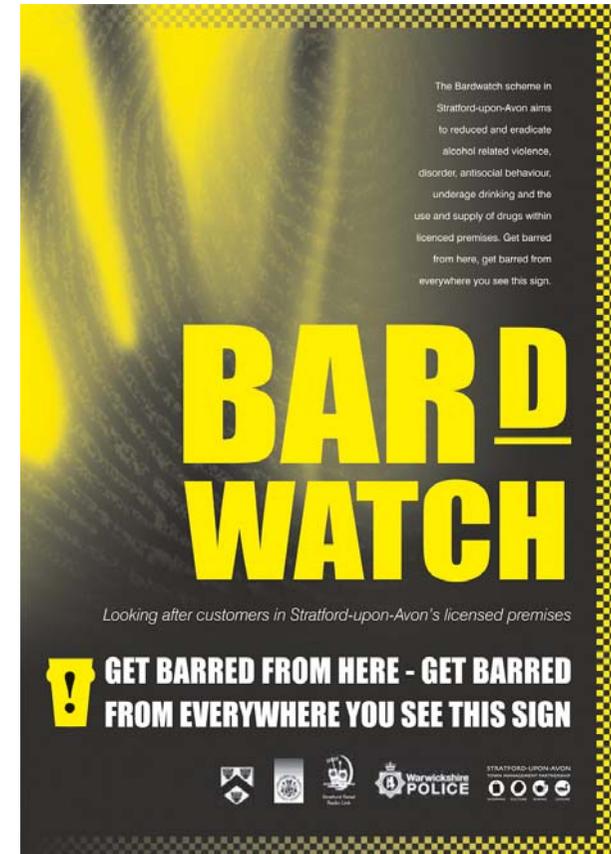
The committee which is comprised of licensees and representatives of the Police and district council decide if a person is to be barred. If so, a letter is sent informing them of the sanction and their photograph is also distributed to all licensee members of the scheme so that the ban can be enforced.

Where bans aren't imposed, letters are still sent to offenders warning them about their behaviour. Posters put up in pubs reinforce the message that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.

It seems to be working. Andrew Cooper of Stratford Town Centre Management says: "Incidents of trouble have been reduced in and around the town's night time economy. The little pockets of anti-social behaviour have largely come from people living outside Stratford. The message has got through to local people that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. Incidents will be reported and bans will be imposed."

This is a view reflected by Sam Jackson, licensee of The Dirty Duck. He said: This scheme is a great help to licensees. It helps us get the message across to would be troublemakers that there is a group of people who will not tolerate their behaviour and who can now do something about it."

The scheme is now looking to address the problem of underage drinking with posters being created asking for proof of age.



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Shopwatch in Alcester

The fight against commercial crime, which has been falling steadily across the district, has been boosted with the success of the Shopwatch scheme in Alcester.

Despite only having been established in the last six months, it now boasts nearly 70 businesses, nearly 90% of the shops in the area.

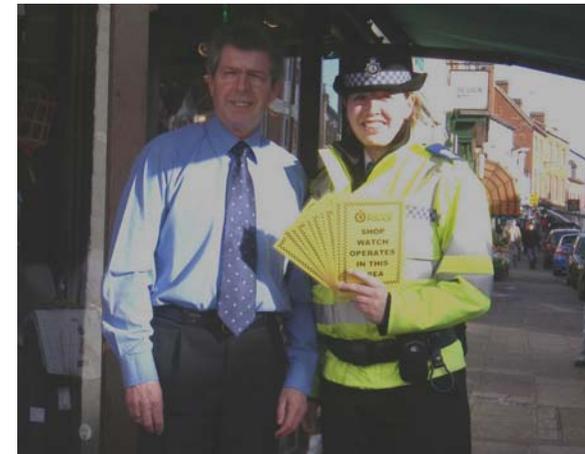
Initially created by PCSO Anita McKinlay, Shopwatch is a communications system that ensures immediate relaying of important information which can help shops defend themselves against crime.

When she first speaks to shops, Anita asks what their favoured method of receiving information is. When crimes are reported, the information immediately goes out from Police HQ to shopowners in Alcester warning them of what has happened and giving them as much information as possible such as what happened, a description of the perpetrators, where they were heading.

What makes the system special is that it can simultaneously send out the message in a variety of formats; email, fax, text message or phone call, whatever the shopowner's stated preference.

Bill Evans of Guy's Menswear, gave the scheme the thumbs up, saying: "The automated messages are a useful tool in keeping you informed, and for keeping staff aware of what is going on in the area. The only way we can know what to look out for is if people share information and we feel much more secure knowing that so many other businesses in Alcester are keeping their eyes open."

Anita said: "I am thrilled with how quickly businesses have signed up to the Shopwatch scheme. We have seen how Neighbourhood Watch has brought communities together and made them more resistant to crime. Shopwatch has done the same for the Alcester business community."



PCSO Anita McKinley with Les Andrews of Guy's Menswear

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Referral order panel volunteers needed

Warwickshire's youth offending team is looking for help from the community as it looks to build on the success of the referral order panels.

Referral order panels are a way that the Youth Justice Board has been using to involve the community and the victim in the justice process and, importantly, to engage the young offender in the community.

Referral orders have been the primary means of dealing with crime committed by young offenders who have pleaded guilty and are appearing in court for the first time since their inception in 2002.

Panels meet to discuss the effects of crime on the young person, parents, the community and, most importantly, the victim. The panel designs a package of work relevant to that young person's needs and offending behaviour.

The young person will also have to complete a number of hours voluntary work that benefits the community they offended against. The panel holds meeting every three months until completion.

During 2005, 27 referral orders were made for young people from the Stratford area.

Councillor Richard Hobbs, a district councillor and the county councillor with the portfolio for community safety, urges people to give their time to the panels, describing the important role that they are playing in community justice.

"Volunteers play an integral role in the success of the panels in reducing the rates of re-offending amongst young people. Nipping offending in the bud, as these panels do, is critical to maintaining good levels of community safety not only now but for future generations."

Anybody interested in joining the referral order panels should call Warwickshire's Youth Offending Service on 01926 736200.



Geese Theatre entertained at the recent referral order panel conference

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Studley Neighbourhood Watch

Jim Bacon has been co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch in Studley for two years and has seen many changes to the area in that time.

One thing that has remained constant however is the principle that has underpinned what he is encouraging from the Neighbourhood Watch members in his area.

“Carrying on the excellent work of my predecessors, I too realised the value of giving everyone the tools and the knowledge to look after their own properties, roads and areas. When everyone knows what to do and what to look out for, as well as what help is available, it makes communities much stronger and able to protect themselves against crime.”

Many of the tools that have come into use in Studley over the two years of Jim’s tenure are geared towards improving communication. A quarterly newsletter, funded by the Neighbourhood Watch Association, goes to all houses in the area and contains information on recent crime trends, reminds readers of a topical issue, domestic burglary for example, and tells readers who to contact in a variety of circumstances.

Similarly, new arrivals to the area are given a welcome card via the estate agents which lists key numbers to call in the event of an emergency. A residents’ recommended tradespersons list is also available, taking the chance element out of inviting bogus tradespeople into the house.

The CAPS messaging system, sent out by the Police, is also disseminated as quickly as possible to other scheme members in Studley so they are aware of what to look out for at that time. The Studley scheme has also added its own quick alert system, where residents can notify neighbours of any potential problems such as scams and bogus traders.

Jim says:

“There’s no point being aware of what was happening in your street two weeks after the event. Our policy is to make sure our residents know straight away if there is anything to keep an eye open for.”

Jim has also been keen to give scheme members a bigger picture in the fight against crime. At the twice yearly meetings of Studley Neighbourhood Watch, guest speakers attend from various agencies including Police, Connexions, housing associations the parish and district council and the probation service and talk about how their work improves Studley’s community’s resistance to crime.

As Jim says:

“We understand our part as members of Neighbourhood Watch scheme in keeping our streets safe and realise it is helpful to look at the wider picture, know what other people are doing.”

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Studley leads anti-social behaviour a dance

The young people of Studley were treated to a Valentine's Day disco as various partner agencies, working at keeping young people in the area occupied came together.

The Village Hall was the scene of the entertainment as local agencies promoted the government's 'Respect' agenda.

'Respect' involves bringing the community together to work on neighbourhood renewal and anti-social behaviour agendas and seeks to encourage respect for young and old. The main thrust, however, sees communities setting the standards of behaviour for their neighbourhoods and supporting neighbourhood policing.

The night promoted zero tolerance to drugs, alcohol, violence or bullying. The anti-social behaviour officer was present to write out letters on the spot to anyone flouting the rules.

Jo Smith, the community engagement worker, said: "There was a great deal that came out of the night that we can build on.

"We have made a lot of contacts with young people and now that we have engaged them it will be much easier to help them to make positive contributions to the community rather than indulge in any kind of anti-social behaviour."

POD Squad descends on Studley

A positive operational drop-in, thankfully known as a POD, is to be installed at Studley in a partnership venture between Warwickshire County Council, Stratford District Council and Connexions.

Community consultation is currently underway in the community to see where residents feel the best place for a POD would be.



PODs are steel 24 x 8ft cabins equipped with heating, lighting, music centres, seating and sports and games equipment and intended to act as a drop in facility for young people in the area for social gatherings and educational purposes. When open, staff are on site to work with and encourage young people in leisure activities.

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Mini motor bikers to be outlawed

Steps are being taken to deal with the nuisance of mini motors in and around Studley.

The bikes which can travel at speeds of up to 20mph but cannot be insured and are not allowed on public roads. However, some riders have been using their bikes on the roads, causing problems to drivers and pedestrians alike.

Letters are being sent to parents warning them of Police powers under section 59 of the Police Reform Act. This allows Police to warn someone found riding the bike illegally – i.e. on the road – and then to confiscate the bike in the event of any subsequent misdemeanour.

Dispersal order in place at Studley

A small part of the Studley area is to receive the protection of a dispersal order. The block around the village hall and the sorts centre has been made the subject of a dispersal order. This gives Police the powers to move on gangs as Sergeant Stuart Wilde explains:

“The dispersal order allows us to disperse a group instantly if they are making too much noise or becoming a nuisance to local residents.

“It requires people to move on immediately and if they are not from the locality, bars them from the area for up to 24 hours.”

Ready Steady Cook

The young people of Studley are joining forces with older residents to learn the art of cooking in a scheme aimed at bringing the two generations together.

Tutor Alan Deegan will give classes at Stratford College every Wednesday throughout March and April between 4.30 and 6.30. The anti-social behaviour officer will work alongside the students to come up with long term proposals for how future projects can help bridge the generational gap.

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Stratford-on-Avon's rural areas

Wellesbourne is to have its own action group as the community looks to take the lead and play an active role in addressing its own issues.

A community day has been organised for 25 March to be held at Wellesbourne C of E Primary School between 1pm and 4pm. The day will bring together Warwickshire Police, Stratford District Council, Connexions, Neighbourhood Watch, Warwickshire Youth Service and local businesses.



The day will have a fun theme with attractions such as street dancers, karate demonstrations, arts and crafts, refreshments and a bouncy castle.



However, the day's purpose will have longer lasting benefits for the community as residents get involved in community affairs.

Jo Smith, community engagement worker with Stratford District Council, says: "Communities are far better able to resist crime when there is a strong togetherness. Crime cannot grow in communities where people know their neighbours and look out for them.

"Nuisance behaviour tends to be less of an issue in this type of community also as young people have more to occupy them and a sense that they are part of the community rather than somehow remote from it."

Anybody interested in joining a Wellesbourne Action Group should contact Jo Smith on 01789 260128.

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Changes to Police personnel

There have been a few changes in Stratford-on-Avon recently with a new district commander coming in and two former district commanders moving on to new roles.

Stratford welcomes Chief Inspector Chris Ward who returns to the area after a two and a half year spell with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to take up duties as Chief Inspector Andy Johnson moves on.

Mr Johnson moves to Warwick district having served at Stratford for nearly three years. Mr Johnson's previous roles have seen him work as sector commander in Rugby and North Warwickshire and as an inspector in Bedworth.

Mr Ward will take up the neighbourhood policing initiative and look to work with the community to tackle the district's priority of tackling anti-social behaviour.

He said: "I am coming to Stratford with the district in fine shape. Crime has been falling steadily for the last few years in many of the priority areas such as domestic burglary, vehicle crime and violent crime.

"There is plenty of work still to do but the community in Stratford is always very supportive. When neighbourhood policing has been tried and tested for some time, I anticipate further progress in the district."

Mr Johnson agreed with the shape that the district is in saying.

"In my time as district commander, I have seen partnerships strengthen and the end result has been a safer Stratford which is one of the safest places in the country to live and work.

"More and more agencies are bringing their expertise to the fight against crime and I look forward to working with many of my former colleagues at Stratford in the future."



It's goodbye from him—Andy Johnson

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PCSO Contacts - Stratford

PCSOs are an integral part of the community policing that has been keeping the streets of Stratford safer. They work with the community on schemes to prevent crime, improve areas and reduce fear of crime.

Here are the contact details for PCSOs in Stratford.

Officer	Post	Extension number 01926 415000 + ext
Tristan Jelfs tristan.jelfs@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk	Henley in Arden	4660
Anita McKinley anita.mckinley@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk	Alcester	4850
Martin Sanford martin.Sanford@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk	Bidford	4850
Geraldine Mander geraldine.mander@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk	Wellesbourne	4600

Officer	Post	Extension number 01926 415000 + ext
Sharon Southam sharon.southam@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk	Shipston	4670
Anthony Tolman anthony.tolman@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk	Stratford	4628
Katie Connor katie.connor@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk	Stratford	4628
Anita Reading anita.reading@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk	Southam	4982

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Stratford Crime statistics - Oct - Dec 2005

The crime figures for Stratford district saw a healthy reduction at the end of last year on the same period in 2004 year (Oct-Dec inclusive).

A survey carried out by Warwickshire County Council has shown that figures for domestic burglary, vehicle crime and business crime have all been substantially reduced from the same period in 2004. Violent crime has remained stable in the Stratford district with a total fall of 0.3% bucking the national trend.

Other good news has showed that residents are changing their opinions on their areas, with 27% of residents indicating that they do not feel that anti-social behaviour is a problem in their local area - an increase of 3% on the number of people who felt this to be the case in December 2004.

Vehicle crime has seen a 24.7% drop in the total incidents of thefts of and from cars.

Domestic burglary has improved with a 15.2% drop in reports compared with the 2004 figure. Neighbourhood Watch has continued to flourish with 1379 schemes operating in the district, showing an increase of 3.6%.

Businesses are also feeling the benefits of the improved crime rates with figures for commercial burglary down 17.7% from last year whilst shoplifting has seen a 5.4% fall since December 2004.

Councillor Chris Williams, portfolio holder for community safety with Stratford District Council, said: "These results demonstrate the benefit of effective partnership working where the combined strengths of the partners can make a real difference to the level of crime in the district."

David Whitehouse, area commander for Southern Warwickshire, agreed: "I welcome the results of this survey which gives us a strong steer not only about crime trends but about public opinion."

[Click here to view the Community Safety Performance Monitoring Report for Q3 2005-2006](#)

Community Safety Performance Monitoring Report

Stratford-on-Avon CDRP

2005/2006 Report 3

1. British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crime

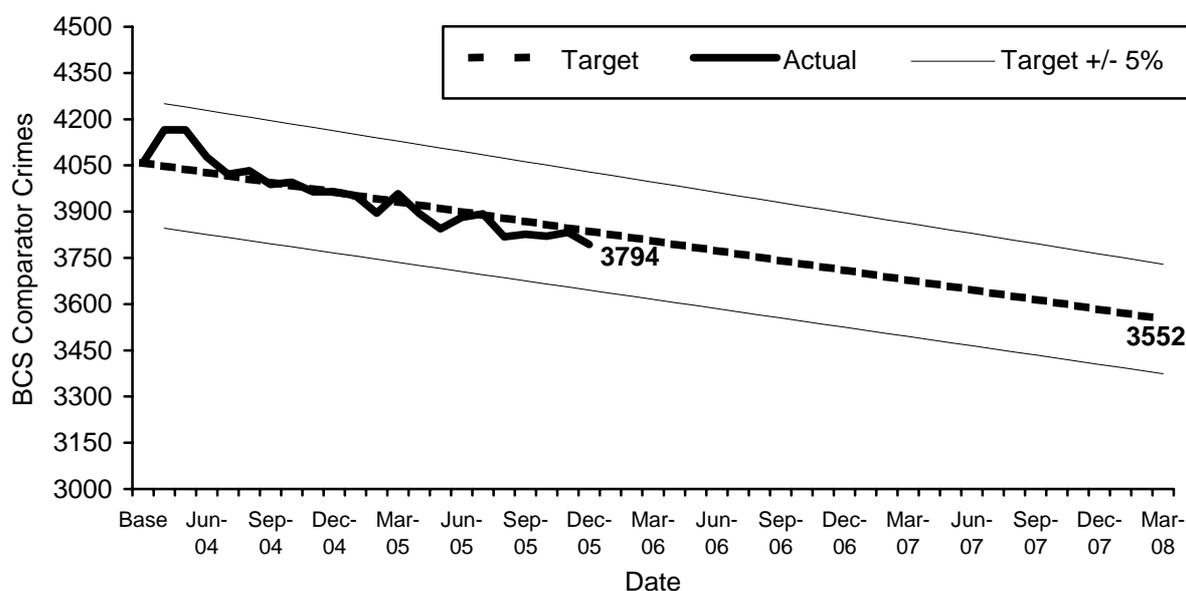
Crime Type	2003/04 Baseline	2007/08 Reduction Target	2007/08 Target	Last 12 months	Change on Baseline	Status
Theft or unauthorised taking of vehicle	244	-16.75%	203	222	-9.0%	Amber
Theft from a vehicle	845	-16.75%	703	834	-1.3%	Red
Vehicle interference	159	0.00%	159	120	-24.5%	Green
Domestic burglary	374	-16.75%	311	317	-15.2%	Green
Theft or unauthorised taking of a cycle	142	0.00%	142	124	-12.7%	Green
Theft from person	68	0.00%	68	54	-20.6%	Green
Criminal damage	1,320	-16.75%	1,099	1,318	-0.2%	Red
Common assault	325	-16.75%	271	223	-31.4%	Green
Woundings (serious and other)	551	-16.75%	459	557	1.1%	Red
Robbery of personal property	31	-16.75%	26	25	-19.4%	Green
Total of selected offences	4,059	15.23%	3,441	3,794	-6.5%	Amber
Overall BCS reduction target	4,059	-12.50%*	3,552	3,794	-6.5%	Amber

Green = current levels at least 5% below extrapolated target

Amber = current levels within +/- 5% of extrapolated target

Red = current levels at least 5% above extrapolated target

* Although the overall BCS reduction target is 12.5%, the target for the individual crime types combine to make a reduction target of 15.2%.



2. All Recorded Crime

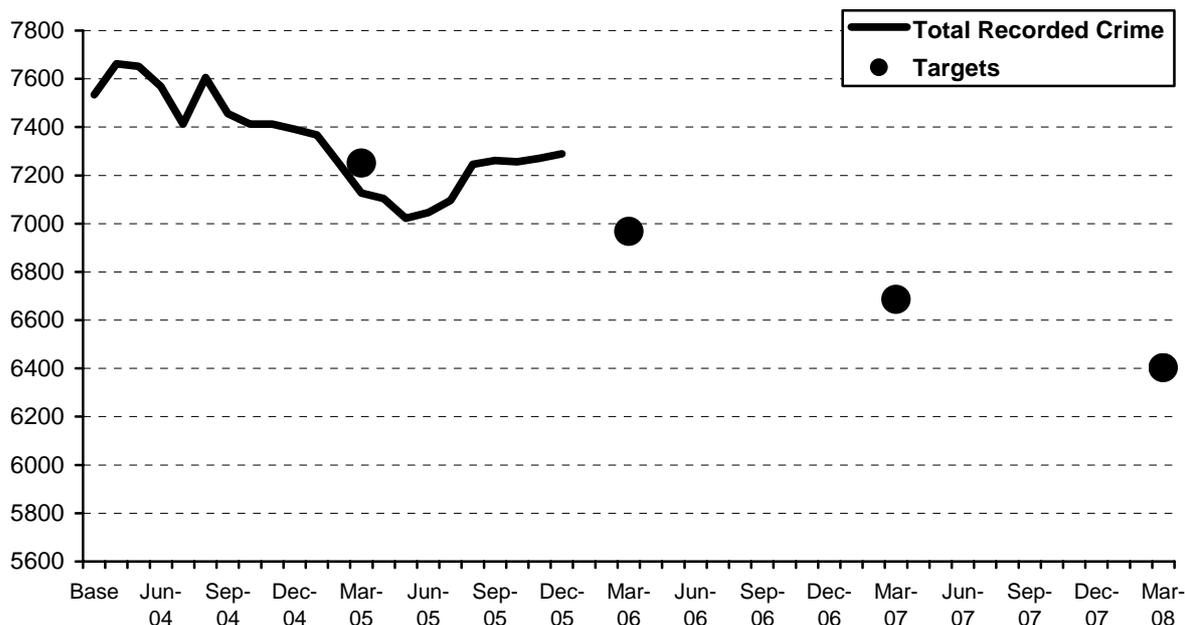
Crime Type	2003/04 Baseline	Last 12 months	Change on Baseline
Domestic burglary	374	317	-15.2%
Violent crime	1,186	1,182	-0.3%
- violence against the person	1,071	1,080	0.8%
- robbery	45	40	-11.1%
- sexual offences	70	62	-11.4%
Vehicle crime	1,089	1,056	-3.0%
- theft of vehicle	244	222	-9.0%
- theft from vehicle	845	834	-1.3%
Business crime	3,023	2,996	-0.9%
- commercial burglary	429	353	-17.7%
- shoplifting	332	314	-5.4%
- other	2,261	2,329	3.0%
Criminal damage	1,320	1,318	-0.2%
Drug offences	291	416	43.0%
Total Recorded Crime*	7,534	7,290	-3.2%

* total recorded crime does not equal sum of listed categories

Warwickshire has a countywide target to reduce total recorded crime by 15% by 2007/08 (with a 2003/04 baseline). The graph below plots progress towards this target locally, with annual targets indicated.



Total Recorded Crime: Stratford-on-Avon District



3. Priority Themes

Stratford-on-Avon CDRP has the following priority themes:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Business crime
- Fear of crime
- Alcohol-related violence

There is an additional target to reduce people's perception of the harm cause by drugs.

Theme	2007/08 Target	2003/04 Baseline	Last 12 months	Change on Baseline	Status
To reduce people's perception of anti-social behaviour	6% increase in the percentage of residents that do not think anti-social behaviour is a problem in their local area	24%	27%	+ 3	GREEN
To reduce anti-social behaviour	5% reduction in the number of recorded ASB incidents (as defined in Audit 2004)	6,685	n/a*	-	-
To reduce business crime	15% reduction in the number of recorded business crimes	3,023	2,996	- 0.9%	AMBER
To reduce the fear of crime	Reduction in the percentage of residents that are very or fairly worried about...				
	Having their home broken into and having something stolen to 50%	59%	51%	- 8	GREEN
	Being physically attacked by strangers to 31%	37%	39%	+ 2	RED
	Having their car stolen to 41%	48%	41%	- 7	GREEN



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To reduce alcohol-related violence	16.75% reduction in reported incidents of violent crime	1,186	1,182	- 0.3%	AMBER
To reduce peoples perception of the harm caused by drugs	To reduce the percentage of people that think drug dealing/use is a problem in their local area by 2% each year	45%	47%	+ 2	RED

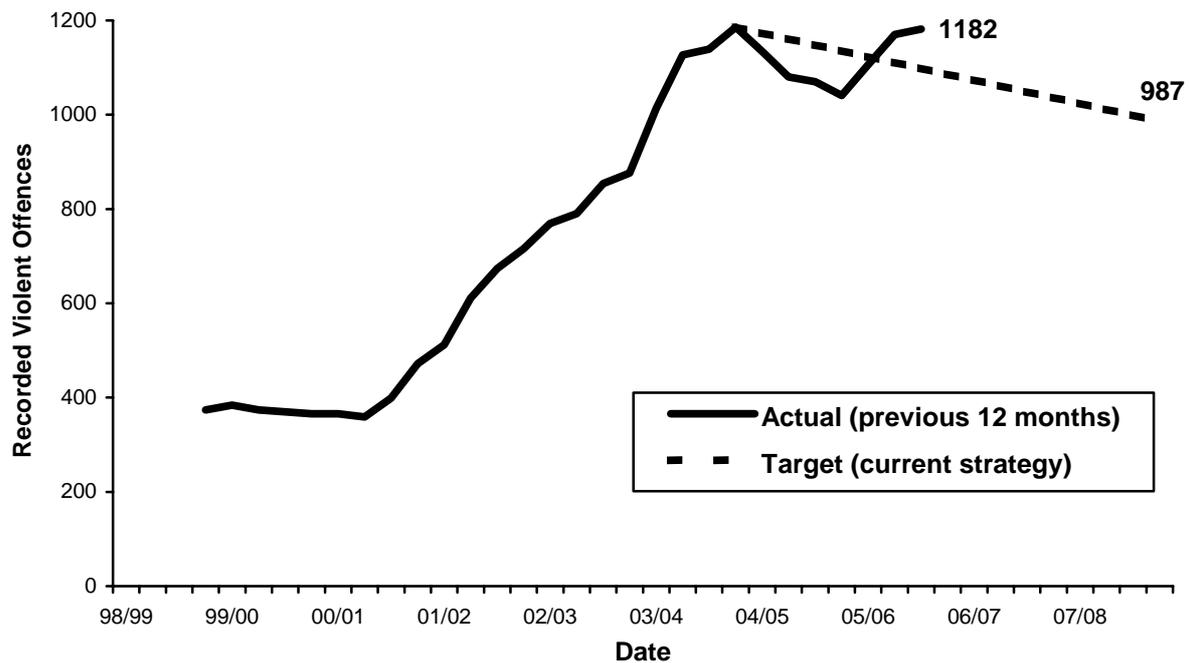
GREEN – Forecast to achieve by target date

AMBER – Some risk of not achieving by target date

RED – Target unlikely to be achieved by target date

* This is no longer available under the old definition of ASB due to changes in the Police incident coding system.

Violent Crimes, Stratford-on-Avon District



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4. Best Value Performance Indicators

BVPI	2003/04 Rate	2004/05 Rate	2005/2006 (actual numbers per quarter)				Last 12 months (rate)	2005/06 (projected rate)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
126 Domestic Burglary	7.8	6.4	90	59	88		6.5	6.4
127a Violent Crime	10.5	9.0	331	338	275		10.1	10.8
127b Robbery	0.4	0.2	7	14	11		0.3	0.4
128 Vehicle Crime	9.6	9.5	220	269	306		9.0	9.1

All figures are crimes per 1000 population, except BV126 which is per 1000 households, and cover the Stratford-on-Avon District area.

Projections based on current levels continuing throughout remainder of year.

