

Chapter 4 Enforcement

NATIONAL TARGETS

PSA 1 – Reduce crime by 20% and further in high crime areas by 2007-8 compared to 2003-4.

PSA 3 – Improve the delivery of justice by increasing the number of crimes for which an offender is brought to justice to 1.25 million by 2007-08. Target contributing to the Criminal Justice System PSA.

Drugs and Alcohol

What do we mean by enforcement of drugs and alcohol?

Criminal offences linked to drugs and alcohol misuse are:

- Domestic burglary
- Crack houses
- Theft from a person
- Personal robbery
- Begging
- Prostitution.

Effective enforcement has to incorporate:

- **Effective treatment** – The Drugs Intervention Programme ensures that there is immediate access to support and treatment programmes at each stage of the criminal justice process from the point of charge in the custody suite to post prison release.
- **Effective communication** – which highlights the outcomes of those committing drug and alcohol-related crime. This includes those who fuel drug and alcohol-related crime in our borough through their social habits.

The path that a drug offender would take through the Drug Intervention Programme would be as follows:

Arrest > **Drug Test** > **Drugs Worker** > **Treatment** > **Aftercare**
encompassing Prison, Probation, Housing and Education

What did the audit tell us?

- The Metropolitan Police data shows 3,078 offences during 2003-4. There were 3,194 offences in 2002-3, hence a decrease of 3.6% (116 offences) from year to year.
- Over ³/₄ (75.9%, 2335 offences) of the drug-related offences in 2003-4 were drug possession offences. Drug trafficking and prostitution (including kerb-crawling) each accounted for more than 10% of the total number of offences (10.7% or 330 offences and 12.2% or 375 offences respectively).

- 66.7% (2052) of drug-related offences in 2003-4 were cannabis related, as compared to 2002-3.
- There was a 5.3% increase in the number of crack (excluding cocaine) related offences, from 227 offences in 2002-3 to 239 offences in 2003-4.
- There was a 39.8% decrease in the number of heroin (excluding other opiates) related offences, from 133 offences in 2002-3 to 80 offences in 2003-4.
- Drug misuse-related hospital admissions increased from 264 to 382 (45% or 118 admissions) and drug poisoning-related hospital admissions increased from 309 to 379 (22.7% or 70 admissions).
- There were 224 crack house raids in 2003-4 compared to 240 in 2002-3, a reduction of 6.7%. In total, there were 464 crack house raids over the two-year period.
- During 2003-4, 34 council properties were closed after drug activity had been identified on the premises.
- Calls relating to drunkenness increased by 9% from 499 in 2002-3 to 544 2003-04.
- Alcohol-related hospital admissions increased from 774 to 944 (22% or 170 admissions).

Violent Crime

What do we mean by enforcement of violent crime?

Those people at the heart of violent crime affect not only the lives of their victims but of their families and the communities around them. They affect the businesses that they target, intimidate others into criminality and limit the choices of our most vulnerable residents. We include gun enabled crime as there is a clear need to continue focusing on gun criminality in our borough building on the success of Trident initiatives.

Whilst we want to create an environment, which prevents violence and support victims of violence, we also believe that we must tackle those who cause violence and we will take a strong partnership approach, focusing on those people who cause intimidation, fear and harassment in our community.

What did the audit tell us?

- Violent crime is on the rise throughout London boroughs, Lambeth is no exception.
- Ward totals of Crimes Against the Person in Lambeth have increased by 2.7% or 433 offences in 2003-4 when compared to 2002-3.

- In Lambeth 11 murders took place in 2003-4 compared to 15 in 2002-3.
- There were 2516 recorded incidents of ABH in 2003-4 compared to 2274 in 2002-3, an increase of 10.6%.
- In 2003-4 there were 352 recorded incidents of GBH compared to 274 in 2002-3, an increase of 28%. The highest levels recorded for GBH incidents in 2003-4 were Coldharbour with 72 and Ferndale with 50.
- There were 5977 crime-related ambulance calls in 2003-4. The highest levels of calls were made in Coldharbour, Vassall and Ferndale. This compares to 5241 for 2002-3.
- Recorded violent crime cost Lambeth £180m in 2003-4 compared to £185m in 2002-3 and £192m in 2001-2.
- Personal robbery offences have decreased substantially over the last three years. Lambeth has experienced a 49% or 3166 reduction in robbery compared to the position in 2001-2.
- 53% of those people who responded to our face-to-face survey, who had experienced violent crime, reported it to the Police.
- Arterial routes and transport hubs were commonly found within the hotspots of the three priority wards.
- Guns and gangs were a constant concern amongst our communities from our surveys.

Young People

What do we mean by enforcement and young people?

- Enforcement is the last resort – where previous attempts at prevention, engagement and intervention have tried and failed.
- Enforcement cannot be used alone it needs a package of support with it.
- Enforcement is a time to reassess that individual's needs and evaluate support they have already received.
- Placing responsibility on a young person and their family to take a more positive route.
- Making young people face the consequences of what they have done in order to make them more responsible for their future actions.

What did the audit tell us?

- In 37% of all crimes where the suspect was known they were under 21. The majority were male.
- Young people are both the victims and perpetrators of a substantial amount of crime in the borough.
- One in five 16-18 year olds are not in education, training or employment.

- 45% of those accused of possession of cannabis were under 25. 33% of those were accused of supplying cannabis. 14% of those accused were in possession of Class A drugs and 30% of those accused of supplying and with the intent to supply were under 25.
- Young people want to see more Police on the streets and estates.
- Through a young people and guns survey in 2003, 70% of the youths (from 860 interviewed) did not expect to live beyond the age of 25.
- Young people have not had positive experiences from stop and search.

Victims and Witnesses

Enforcement for victims and witnesses means:

- Knowing that those people who commit crime are brought to justice.
- Appropriate interventions by agencies to ensure that similar offences will not occur.
- Victims will have the ability to address the offender through a Restorative Justice process.
- Victims and witnesses will have information during and after the Criminal Justice System process to keep them safe and so they can be aware of any action being taken.
- The victims or witnesses will be protected and supported from offenders when they take a stand to address criminal or anti social behaviour.

It was clear from our audit that victims and witnesses want to stay in control of the legal process. Often they report feeling that they lose that control particularly in the last stages of a case. Similarly victims and witnesses want to feel that the outcome of legal action, particularly for hate crime, domestic violence and anti social behaviour, reflects the impact on them or the community. In many instances this is not the case and we still have a lot to do if victims and witnesses of crime are to feel that a just society reflects the impact of the crime on their lives.

What did the audit tell us?

- One third of known victims are aged between 20 and 29 years.
- Referrals to Victim Support decreased by 27% in 2003-4.
- Most victims of serious crime know, or know of, their attacker (Tackling Gun Crime in London, 2004-7).
- National research tells us that it takes on average 35 incidents of domestic violence abuse before a victim reports it to anyone.
- Of those respondents who had experienced a violent incident, nearly 90% reported the incident to family or friends.
- 73% of respondents, who had experienced a violent incident said that the incident was carried out by a stranger.
- Respondents to our face-to-face survey identified the Police, CCTV and wardens or visible presence as priorities in making them feel safer.

There is clearly a need for radical improvements if we are to regain the confidence of our community, particularly those who experience crime more than others.

Priority Crime

What do we mean by enforcement of priority crime?

Priority crimes are defined by Public Service Agreement 1 and the following table highlights the targets set for the crimes that make up PSA 1 for this year and proposals for the life of the strategy.

Additional targets table for PSA 1								
PSA 1 To reduce crime by 20% in 2007-8 compared to 2003-4					Proposed reduction targets for FY 06/07 and FY 07/08			
Category	FY 04/05 % Contribution to BCS	FY 04/05 projection	Reduction	FY 05/06	Reduction	FY 06/07	Reduction	FY 07/08
Theft of motor vehicle	6.4%	1665	3%	1615	5%	1534	5%	1458
Theft from motor vehicle	13.4%	3484	4%	3345	5%	3178	5%	3019
Motor vehicle interference and tampering	0.2%	42	0%	42	0%	42	0%	42
Burglary in a dwelling	11.3%	2936	5%	2789	7%	2594	7%	2412
Theft/taking of pedal cycles	3.6%	951	0%	951	2%	932	2%	914
Criminal damage	21.9%	5712	0%	5712	5%	5426	5%	5155
Wounding (ABH & GBH)*	11.0%	2857	3%	2771	3%	2688	3%	2607
Common assault	13.1%	3423	0%	3423	3%	3321	3%	3221
Theft person – pick pocketing	4.3%	1110	0%	1110	0%	1110	0%	1110
Theft person – snatch	4.5%	1176	3%	1141	5%	1084	5%	1029
Robbery of personal property	10.5%	2726	3%	2645	5%	2512	5%	2387
Total	100%	26076	-	25545	-	24422	-	23354

*This figure includes hate crime, the reduction has been adjusted to reflect this

NB. These figures are indicators only

In addition to the above, anti social behaviour and domestic violence, hate-related crime, and Persistent and Prolific Offenders will be considered as part of the priority crime definition for Lambeth.

Persistent Prolific Offenders

There is clear evidence that a small minority of people commit the majority of crime in the borough. To tackle the problem of persistent and prolific offenders partner agencies intend to work together. We will do this under three strands:

- **Catch and Brought to Justice** – which will actively target and tackle those who are already prolific offenders.
- **Resettle and Rehabilitate** – will work with identified prolific offenders to stop their offending by offering a range of supportive interventions. Offenders will be offered the opportunity for rehabilitation or face a very swift return to the courts.
- **Prevent and Deter** – will work to stop young people engaging in offending behaviours and graduating into prolific offenders.

Communications

In relation to enforcement, effective communication includes:

- Delivery of clear messages on how we, and our communities, can support enforcement.
- Establishing who is responsible for delivering effective communication.
- Understanding who our audiences are. Particularly in terms of enforcement, this will inform the effectiveness of how, where and why we deliver our communications strategy.

Traditionally, there has been an assumption that the police and the Criminal Justice System should take sole responsibility for enforcement. Our aim is to engage numerous different partners and the wider community in enforcement. Our primary task is to let other people know that they have a role to play. Sometimes this is clear, for instance in the area of mental health legislation and the sectioning of individuals where medical professionals take responsibility. At other times it is less obvious, perhaps when parents need to make sure that their children behave well in public or attend school regularly.

When a number of partners are involved it is especially important that communications between different agencies and individuals are effective.

This is particularly true of the reporting of crimes to and between the Police and other statutory bodies and their subsequent response.

Another role for communications is to improve people's understanding of the Criminal Justice System whilst simultaneously improving the system to meet their needs and realistic expectations. At the same time, improved and/or increased reporting requires an improved initial response and a better process including feedback about final outcomes.