

This is the third audit produced in response to the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 subsequently amended by the Police Reform Act (2002).

The audit presents a picture of crime, disorder and drugs misuse in South Warwickshire and will be widely distributed to seek comments on the findings of the audit and actions proposed to reduce crime, disorder, drugs misuse and the fear of crime in the next strategies (2005 - 2008).

We are very interested in your views on the issues raised in this document.

A questionnaire is provided on page 35 for you to record your comments.

The South Warwickshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships produced this document in partnership with Crime Concern using a wide range of information provided by partner agencies.

**Acknowledgement** – The Partnerships would like to record their thanks in particular to Spencer Payne, Community Safety Information Analyst, of the Research Unit, in the Planning, Transport and Environmental Services Department at Warwickshire County Council, for his support in the production of this document.



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## 1. Introduction

### ***Background to the Audit Process***

- Crime, disorder and drugs misuse audits are carried out in England and Wales every three years. This is the third audit undertaken under the requirements laid down in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), as amended by the Police Reform Act (2002).
- The duty for the responsible authorities (local authorities, the Police, Police Authority, Fire and Rescue Service and Primary Care Trusts) is to work with other agencies and organisations in auditing the area and developing and implementing strategies to tackle crime, disorder and the misuse of drugs. The responsible bodies for the reduction of crime, disorder and drugs misuse across South Warwickshire are Warwick District and Stratford-on-Avon District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), which increasingly operate on a joint working basis (including the production of a shared South Warwickshire audit).
- This audit will inform the 2005-2008 Crime and Disorder and Drugs Misuse Reduction Strategies developed by Warwick District and Stratford-on-Avon District CDRPs.

### ***Geographical and Social Profile***

- **Warwickshire** is a two-tier local authority area comprising Warwickshire County Council, the districts of Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon (Warwickshire Police Southern Command Area), and the boroughs of North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth and Rugby (Warwickshire Police Northern Command Area).
- **South Warwickshire**. South Warwickshire constitutes 63% of the total area of the county, and 47% of the population (based on the 2001 census). Warwick District is characterised by a rural and urban mix with the area 80% agricultural and 75% Green Belt. Stratford-on-Avon District is more rural with 250 villages, and the urban areas of Stratford-upon-Avon Town, Alcester, Shipston-on-Stour and Southam.
- Recent estimates (August 2004) indicate that the population of Warwick District is 132,700 and Stratford-on-Avon District, 115,200. Population density is far greater in Warwick District, with approximately 80% of the population resident in four urban areas. In Stratford-on-Avon District the population is spread more evenly across the towns and villages.
- Compared with Warwickshire County, both Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon Districts have relatively low population proportions below the age of 16 (18%). Warwick has a high proportion between the ages of 20-29 (13.6% compared with 11.2% across the county), whilst 24.2% of residents in Stratford-on-Avon District are above the age of 60 (21.4% in Warwickshire).
- Warwick District has the highest proportion of black and minority ethnic residents in the county (7.1%) whilst Stratford-on-Avon District has the lowest (1.3%).
- The recently released Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 provides a ranking of deprivation across seven domain indices, namely: (i)

income; (ii) employment; (iii) health deprivation and disability; (iv) education, skills and training; (v) barriers to housing and services; (vi) crime and disorder; and (vii) living environment. Overall, out of 354 local authorities in England and Wales, Warwick District is ranked 250<sup>th</sup> nationally (1 being the most deprived) whilst Stratford-on-Avon District is ranked 315<sup>th</sup> although there are significant pockets of deprivation, with 12.7% of Stratford-on-Avon residents are on means tested benefits. According to the index, both districts are less deprived than the northern boroughs.

- South Warwickshire benefits from well-developed transportation links which enhance its accessibility and underlines its central location. The M40 London to Birmingham motorway runs through the area with a major junction at Longbridge, south of Warwick, and a service area at Barn Hill. There are good links to the M42 and the A46 allows easy access to the M1, M6 and M69. Important commuter facilities exist at the railway stations at Hatton, Lapworth, Leamington, Stratford, Warwick and Warwick Parkway. The region's principal airport (Birmingham International) is only six miles outside the area.
- The audit data to follow is split into six sections which reflect the South Warwickshire thematic groups.
  - Crime (and Anti-Social Behaviour)
  - Communities & Fear of Crime
  - Offenders
  - Victims
  - Young People
  - Drugs & Alcohol Misuse
- A Community Safety Event was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004 which included focus groups sessions for each of the thematic groups listed above. The findings have been incorporated within this audit document where appropriate.
- **Progress towards current strategy targets.** The current strategy (April 2002 – March 2005) contains 27 numerical targets, some of which are crime reduction targets, and some are fear of crime reduction. The six theme groups outlined above, have developed annual action plans to achieve the targets set, and report progress quarterly to the two CDRPs. At the time of the Community Safety Event, summary of progress was assessed using the traffic light system, red denoting that the target was unlikely to be achieved, amber that progress was on the right track, and green, that the target would be achieved. Of the 27 targets set, 6 were given red status, 4 amber and 17 green. The following sections indicate what specific progress has been made within individual crime types.
- The partnerships have developed over the current strategy, with the introduction of a more robust and focussed performance monitoring approach which clearly identifies where successes are taking place,

and also where remedial action is required. A self-assessment process, undertaken during year 2 of the current strategy, identified that each partnership has good, strong leadership and management, with good representation from our partner agencies. Structures for delivery are sound, and members of the partnership contribute well. Some work needs to be done on roles and responsibilities of members, and on raising awareness of the partnerships' existence and role.

- The CDRPs have developed their links to the Local Strategic Partnerships during the current strategic period, and have become the 'key groups' for community safety, which remains a top priority for our communities. These links will be further developed during the next strategy, as developing a community focussed plan is co-ordinated by the Strategic Partnerships.