

7. Substance Misuse

- *Warwickshire Context.* Recorded substance misuse crime statistics are broadly comprised of offences relating to the supply (trafficking) and possession of controlled substances. In 2003/04 there were 944 drug offences recorded across the county, representing a 38% increase on the level in 1998/99. Despite this increase, drug offences represent a very small proportion of total crime. The figure for 2003/04 is equivalent to just 1.8 incidents per 1000 population. Consequently it should be noted that periods of targeted police operations could have a significant impact upon the level of recorded drug crime for that policing year. However, despite the low quantity of drug offences it should be noted that substance misuse is a primary causal factor behind acquisitive crime (e.g. burglary, vehicle crime and shoplifting).
- Actions for tackling substance Misuse are devised locally across the county through Tackling Drugs and Alcohol Together Groups (TDATs), monitored by the CDRPs. There are three TDATs across the county, one of which represents South Warwickshire.

Year	All offences	Rate per 1000 Population	Change on previous year	Change on 1998/99
1998/99	683	1.3	-	-
1999/00	776	1.5	+ 93	+ 14%
2000/01	629	1.2	-147	- 8%
2001/02	659	1.3	+ 30	- 4%
2002/03	749	1.5	+ 90	+ 10%
2003/04	944	1.8	+ 195	+ 38%

- *South Warwickshire Context.* During 2003/04 there were a total of 451 recorded drug offences in South Warwickshire. This represents a 93% increase on the level of drug crime over the three-year cycle since the previous Crime and Disorder Audit (2000/01), far in excess of the rise across the county as a whole. Whilst the number of offences has increased in both districts, a noticeable drug problem has emerged in Stratford-on-Avon District in particular, with a 145% increase in 2003/04 compared with the previous twelve months. This was attributable to music festivals in the district during the summer of 2003 which were the subject of targeted police activity. 195 offences were recorded in the second quarter of 2003/04 alone. With the exception of cannabis possession, there were more drug crimes (possession and trafficking) in Stratford-on-Avon District in 2003/04 than any other area in the county.

Year	Drug Offences in Warwick District	Drug Offences in Stratford-on-Avon District	South Warwickshire Total
2000/01	132	102	234
Three Year Cycle			
2001/02	122	113	235
2002/03	114	119	233
2003/04	160	291	451

- The South Warwickshire Partnerships have established an intelligence officer post (through the Communities Against Drugs (CAD) funding stream), whose remit has been to analyse the nature and scope of the drug problem across South Warwickshire. The data provided has enabled the CDRPs to introduce and support community-based drug initiatives in areas where illicit drug use is known to be particularly prevalent. St. Mary's Church in Leamington Spa has received funding via the TDAT to support its work with local addicts. The Police have also conducted a target-hardening exercise on known drug dealers through Operation Alliance.

8. Emerging Priorities

- Based on the analysis of current trends in relation to crime, disorder and substance misuse presented in this audit, there are three clear themes which emerge as common priorities for Warwick District and Stratford-on-Avon District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. All three priorities identified also sit at the heart of the current thrust towards tackling neighbourhood and town centre related crime emanating from central government. These are:
 - *Violent Crime (particularly alcohol-related town centre violence):* Though the actual extent to which violent crime has increased across South Warwickshire is uncertain due to the changes in crime recording practices noted above, crime statistics reveal that the past twelve months have witnessed a large increase in alcohol and/or drug related violence. Further, GIS mapping reveals that there is a strong association between violent crime and the location of licensed premises in town centres. More than one third of all violent offences across South Warwickshire are alcohol-related. This proportion is even higher in the town centre areas of Leamington Spa and Stratford-upon-Avon.
 - *Anti-Social Behaviour:* Whilst the level of anti-social behaviour has remained relatively constant since the previous audit,⁴ there has been a marked increase in relation to the prevalence of youth nuisance and disorder. Current levels are 51% higher than the corresponding figures for 2000/01. Existing crime and disorder reduction strategy targets to reduce offending by 6% (2004/05) are therefore extremely unlikely to be achieved.
 - *Fear of Crime (Perception versus Reality):* Research focusing upon the age of victim/offender and residents' fear of crime suggests there is a significant reassurance gap between perception of crime and the actual likelihood of becoming a victim. Whilst the risk of victimisation falls incrementally above the age of 26, data taken from the Warwickshire County Council Best Value Survey indicates that the percentage of residents either 'very worried' or 'fairly worried' about being physically assaulted actually rises consistently. Furthermore, fear of burglary has risen each year in Stratford-on-Avon District since 2001, a figure which belies the low burglary rate in the south of the county. Significant Partnership activity around public reassurance, community confidence and awareness raising concerning the actual risk of victimisation will be necessary.

⁴ Though there has been a noticeable increase in relation to criminal damage from 11.2 to 14.2 offences per 1000 population

**CRIME, DISORDER AND DRUGS MISUSE AUDIT OF SOUTH
WARWICKSHIRE**
(Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Council areas)
NOVEMBER 2004

QUESTIONNAIRE

The Partnerships are very interested in your views on how best to tackle the issues raised in this document. Please help us by completing the questions below and indicate whether your comments refer to South Warwickshire or individual district areas.

Name (Optional):

.....

Contact details for you or your organisation (or postcode if you do not wish to be identified):

.....

.....

My comments relate to (*indicate where appropriate*):

**South
Warwickshire**

**Stratford-on-Avon
District only**

**Warwick District
only**

1. Has this Audit presented a clear and accurate picture of Crime and Disorder?

.....

.....

2. Are there any gaps in this Audit?

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Are the Emerging Priorities based on the problems outlined in the Audit?

.....
.....
.....

4. What actions can you identify to tackle the Emerging Priorities?

.....
.....
.....
.....

5. How can you or your organisation assist in the delivery of these actions?

.....
.....
.....
.....

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN 28th February 2005 BY

POST, FAX, E-MAIL, OR DOWNLOAD FROM THE WEB

To either:

Peter Cutts
Community Safety Manager
Warwick District Council
P O Box 1720
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
CV32 5QQ
Tel: 01926 456021
Fax: 01926 456324
Email:
pcutts@warwickdc.gov.uk
www.warwickdc.gov.uk

or Ruth Mounstephen
Community Safety Officer (Stratford)
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Chief Executive's Department
Elizabeth House
Church Street
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
CV37 6HX
Tel: 01789 290785
Fax: 01789 260521
Email:
ruthmounstephen@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.stratford-dc.gov.uk