

**SAFER WATFORD**  
**STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**  
**JANUARY 2013**

Strategic Assessment For Development of Plans 2013/14

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Aim and purpose:**

The aim of the annual Strategic Assessment for Watford Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is to outline current crime and disorder issues and to identify emerging trends to inform the preparation of an annual Community Safety Action Plan, which the partnership aims to deliver through the processes defined in a rolling three-year Community Safety Plan. This will ensure that Watford Community Safety Partnership has a detailed understanding of crime and disorder issues, allowing for informed problem solving tactics to take place in line with the priorities this document outlines.

### **Demographics:**

The rounded Census 2011 figures give Watford a population of 90,300, and 36,700 households. Covering 2,142 hectares (8.3 square miles) Watford is the most densely populated district council in England. As the only non-metropolitan borough wholly contained within the M25, it is the centre of a sub-region serving 500,000 people who live within 20 minutes travelling time. The main shopping centre, retail parks, hotels and car parks are all located within close proximity of one another in central Watford.

The Borough is the fifth best connected district in the country, with direct mainline rail connections to London, Midlands and the North, under ground connections to London and key road connections via the M1, M25 and A41.

Watford's close proximity to London brings the influence and benefits of a buoyant economy, making it a sought after place for accommodation, work and tourism. However, this adds significant pressure on available land for development thus increasing prices on available commercial and housing stock.

### **Population:**

An age breakdown of the Community Safety Partnership is illustrated in the table below, taken from the rounded 2011 Census figures.

<b>Age</b>	<b>Count Watford</b>	<b>% of total Watford population</b>
Aged 0 - 4 yrs	6,700	7.4%
Aged 5 - 9 yrs	5,400	6%
Aged 10 - 19 yrs	10,600	11.7%
Aged 20 - 29 yrs	13,700	15.2%
Aged 30 - 39 yrs	15,400	17.1%
Aged 40 - 49 yrs	13,400	14.8%
Aged 50 - 59 yrs	9,800	10.9%
Aged 60 - 69 yrs	7,100	7.9%
Aged 70+	8,100	9%

### **Ethnicity:**

Ethnicity data has just been released from Census 2011. It shows a changed picture for Watford, summarised as:-

Overall, the British White population is now 61.9% from 79% in 2001 (although estimates since 2001 had indicated a fall from the 2001 level this was a higher fall than predicted).

In real terms the British White population has fallen from 63,082 to 55,875, although our population has increased.

Other noticeable changes are:

- the percentage increase in Other White from 2.1% (3,140 residents) to 7.7% (6,947 residents) - although the figure is not broken down any further this reflects what we have experienced in terms of the increase in residents from Europe - particularly Eastern Europe
- the percentage increase in Indian residents - up from 2.4% (1,884) to 5.5% (4,923)
- the percentage increase in Pakistani residents - up from 4.6% (3,709) to 5.5% (6,082)
- the percentage increase in Black African residents - up from 1.0% (784) to 3.5% (3,142)

Comparison data

- England overall = 79.8% White British
- Eastern region overall = 85.3% White British
- Hertfordshire overall = 80.8% White British

Religion – Watford 2011

- Christian = 54% (66% in 2001)
- Hindu = 5% (2% in 2001)
- Muslim = 10% (6% in 2001)
- No religion = 22% (16% in 2001)

Where born – Watford 2011

- UK = 75%
- Ireland = 2%
- Rest of EU = 6%
- Rest of world = 17%

**Visitors:**

Footfall figures of the night time economy highlight on average there are 2,000-4,000 visitors on Friday nights and 3,000-6,000 on Saturdays. At seasonal peaks these figures may increase with people visiting the town centre pubs and clubs.

Footfall figures of The Harlequin Centre also highlight the volumes of people visiting Watford, with approximately 16 million visitors to the Harlequin Centre each year. Most weeks the shopping centre experiences 200,000 visitors and on average 30,000 a day. During busy periods such as Christmas and Easter the Harlequin Centre sees an increase and approximately 500,000 visitors each week. Watford Football Club in Vicarage ward has a capacity of 20,000.

Both the Police Station in Central ward and Hospital in Vicarage ward serve not only the town but also the surrounding areas and therefore can skew 'per head' calculations.

**Employment:**

Summary of data on unemployment shows that the claimant count for Jobseekers Allowance in Watford for July 2012 (1,816) is still broadly level with the figures from July 2011 (1,773). The proportion of Watford's resident working age population claiming jobseekers allowance at July 2012 is 3.1%. A higher percentage of 18-24 year olds are unemployed however and for this age group the percentage is 5.9%(430).

**iQuanta family groups and in county comparison:**

From iQuanta data most similar group comparisons are made between Watford and the 14 other most similar Community Safety Partnerships nationally, and are based on comparisons made in the 12 months up to 31 July 2012. Watford's most similar group includes: Bracknell Forest (Thames Valley), Bristol (Avon & Somerset), Crawley (Sussex), Hounslow (Metropolitan Police), Kingston upon Thames (Metropolitan Police), Northampton (Northamptonshire), Poole (Dorset), Reading (Thames Valley), Rushmoor (Hampshire), Slough (Thames Valley), Stockport (Greater Manchester), Trafford (Greater Manchester), Woking (Surrey), and Worthing (Sussex).

Comparisons within the county are between all 10 Community Safety Partnerships in Hertfordshire. For both most similar group and in county comparison 1<sup>st</sup> place reflects the lowest rate per 1000 population or count, depending on the indicator

## STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS

### Theme One: Reducing Crime Burglary in a Dwelling

#### Risk assessment shows a 'Medium Risk'

County position: 10<sup>th</sup>/10 (up 1 place from 9<sup>th</sup>/10 last year)  
 Most similar CSPs position: 9<sup>th</sup>/15 (no change)  
 Direction of travel since last assessment: Decrease of 4.5%

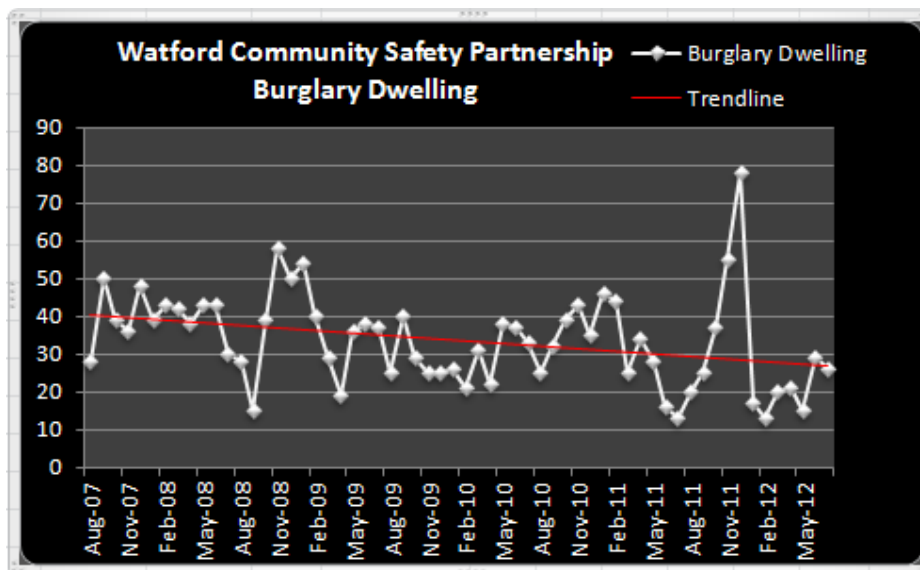
#### Burglary Dwelling 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – Year on Year Comparison

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	25	32	39	43	31	46	44	28	33	31	16	10	378	
2011/12	21	26	35	56	76	22	14	20	19	16	26	30	361	down 17

Watford has generated a medium risk assessment for burglary dwelling, which is no change when compared to the previous year. As the table above illustrates there were 361 dwelling burglary offences recorded in the period, which included 68 attempts, 19 distractions and 1 aggravated. This is a 4.5% decrease from 378 offences the previous year, 54 of which were attempts, 8 distractions and 2 aggravated. When compared with the rest of the county Watford is ranked highest for burglary dwelling (10<sup>th</sup>/10), which is an increase from 9<sup>th</sup>/10 position the previous year.

IQuanta data reflects Watford as 9<sup>th</sup>/15 in comparison of its most similar group, which is no change when compared to the previous year. Watford has reported 10.86 offences per 1000 households and the average for the most similar group is 11.62 crimes per 1000 households. The Community Safety Partnership has continued to perform in line with its peers and better than the most similar group average.

#### 5 Year Trend Graph 01/08/2007 – 31/07/2012



**Key Achievements:**

- An increase in OWL & neighbourhood Watch sign ups this calendar year of 1892 taking us to 5,702
- Positive media strategy including leaflets, local media messages and Owl updates (resulting in one burglary detection from an OWL message)
- Op Convector (pro-active burglary patrols) in hotspot areas particularly North Watford resulting in a reduction of 17 offences in those areas
- Distribution of crime prevention packs in locality of all burglaries
- Forensic reviews of all burglaries by Detective Inspector
- Tailored crime prevention road shows and presentations including one specifically in relation to Asian jewellery burglaries
- Monitoring and liaison with all PPOs
- Implementation of targeted operation focussing on long term vulnerable areas
- Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) equipment obtained and utilised in pro-active prevention/detection

**Vehicle crime** (excluding criminal damage /interference)  
**Risk assessment shows a ‘Low Risk’**

County position: 7<sup>th</sup>/10 (improvement of 1 position from 8<sup>th</sup>/10)  
 Most similar CSPs position: 7<sup>th</sup>/15 (from 11<sup>th</sup>/15 last year)  
 Direction of travel since last assessment: Decrease of 22.6%

Vehicle Crime 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – Year on Year Comparison

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	45	55	59	61	34	73	62	49	46	87	52	59	682	
2011/12	53	40	49	55	45	57	42	40	31	47	38	31	528	down 154

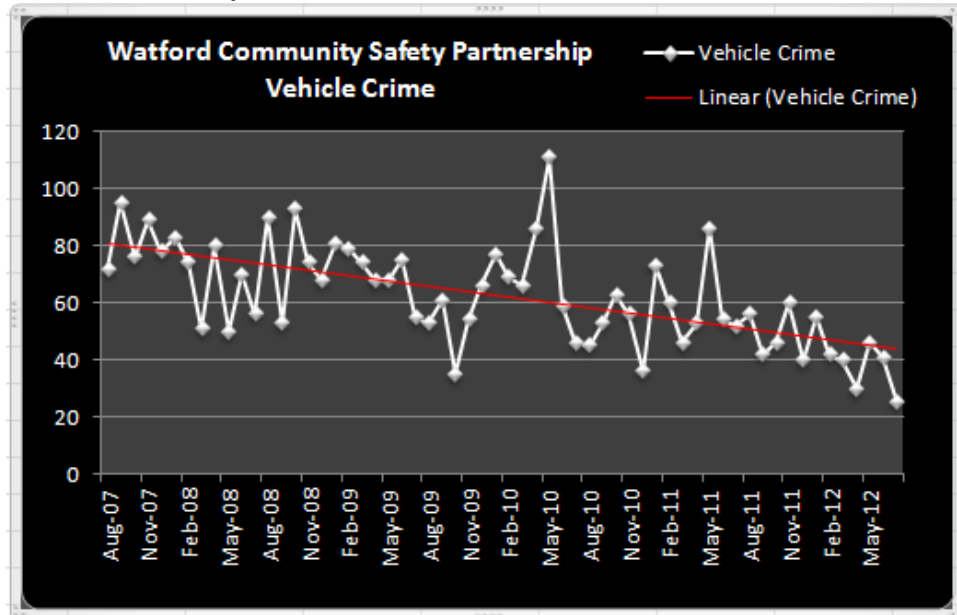
A low risk assessment has been generated for vehicle crime, compared to a medium risk from a local knowledge assessment the previous year. During the 12 month period as shown in the table above there were 528 offences recorded. This is a 22.6% decrease when compared to 682 offences the previous year.

Watford is 7<sup>th</sup>/10 in county position for vehicle crime, which is an improvement compared to 8<sup>th</sup>/10 the previous year. IQuanta data reflects the Community Safety Partnership as 7<sup>th</sup>/15 in its most similar group, reporting 6.14 offences per 1000 residents. This is also an improvement in position compared to 11<sup>th</sup>/15 the previous year. Over the 12 months assessed the average for the most similar group was 7.33 crimes per 1000 residents. Watford has recorded a lower rate of offences than this average.

Theft from motor vehicle offences account for 76.5% of vehicle crime recorded (excluding interference). These offences have decreased by 24.8%, from 537 in the

previous year to 404 in the current period. Levels of vehicle taking including attempts have also decreased (down 22 offences); from 136 to 114 offences. However, aggravated vehicle taking offences have increased (up 1 offence); from 9 to 10.

#### 5 Year Trend Graph 01/08/2007 – 31/07/2012



#### Key Achievements:

- Vehicle crime in Town Centre car parks reduced to negligible (none in Harlequin).
- Crime prevention campaign run with hotels ensuring staff advice, signs and adequate lighting reduced hotel car park vehicle crime
- Police Crime Support Officer (PCSO) crime prevention initiative checking vehicles for insecurities and writing to owners of vulnerable vehicles with advice and crime prevention leaflet
- Scenes of crime attendance at all vehicle crime
- Media strategy around prevention and appeals for witnesses
- Plan in place around Watford General Hospital, increased security arrangements and PCSO on site
- Criminal damage plans in place for hotspot areas for damage to vehicles with Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) visits to all victims



## Theft from the person

Risk assessment shows a 'Medium Risk'

County position: 10<sup>th</sup>/10 (no change)

Most similar CSPs position: 15<sup>th</sup>/15 (no change)

Direction of travel since last assessment: Decrease of 21.7%

Theft from a Person Day/Night 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – Year on Year Comparison

	Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Total	
	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2010/ 11	2011/ 12
Day	8	13	5	10	18	9	20	18	19	22	20	11	22	4	12	11	19	14	16	15	22	15	22	14	203	156
Night	19	18	26	26	34	19	36	19	44	16	47	37	40	23	25	13	20	31	22	20	21	29	26	34	360	285
Total	27	31	31	36	52	28	56	37	63	38	67	48	62	27	37	24	39	45	38	35	43	44	48	48	563	441

Watford has generated a medium risk assessment for theft from person offences. This is an improvement compared to a high risk the previous year. During the 12 month period 441 offences were recorded, which is a 21.7% decrease when compared to 563 offences the previous year. Watford Community Safety Partnership is ranked highest in county (10<sup>th</sup>/10), which is no change when compared to the most recent financial year (ending March 2012), and previous strategic period (ending July 2012).

Watford is also highest in comparison of its most similar group (15<sup>th</sup>/15) and has reported 5.15 crimes per 1000 residents. The average for the most similar group is 1.90 crimes per 1000 residents, with Watford recording a considerably higher rate of offences.

### Key Achievements:

- New police town centre team with priorities around theft
- A focus on target criminals which reduced theft in both day and night time
- Media messaging including targeting vulnerable persons in the daytime – predominantly the elderly – with leaflets and advice and a poster campaign in key places such as coffee shops, churches etc
- Work with the banks on identifying vulnerable person withdrawing large amounts of money and offering advice and providing extra security measures
- Special operation run over weekends to do drug testing at door entry for pubs/clubs
- Introduction and advertisement of the “find my phone” application for visitors to the night time economy (NTE) and Scan net id checking for premises
- Undercover NTE operations at both the door entry and internally using police officers and licencing Special Constables
- Work with hospital including PCSO on site visiting wards etc, an audit of personal property security and a “mystery shopper” operation to identify vulnerabilities

## Violent crime

### Risk assessment shows a 'Medium Risk'

County position: 9<sup>th</sup>/10 (no change)  
Most similar CSPs position: 8<sup>th</sup>/15 (Increase of 2 places from 6<sup>th</sup>/15)  
Direction of travel since last assessment: Increased by 12.7%

### Violent Crime 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 - Year on Year Comparison

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	106	115	129	107	111	101	94	110	107	129	138	118	1365	
2011/12	110	120	142	153	148	120	124	132	137	113	110	130	1539	up 174

Watford has generated a medium risk assessment for violent crime. Levels of violent crime have increased by 12.7% when compared to the previous year; 1539 violent crime offences were recorded compared to 1365. Watford Central (C1A) continues to be the top beat accounting for 46.3% of the total (713 offences).

Watford is ranked second highest in county position (9<sup>th</sup>/10) for violent crime. When compared to the previous year, this is no change in position. IQuanta data reflects the Community Safety Partnership as 8<sup>th</sup>/15 in its most similar group; reporting 17.81 crimes per 1000 residents. This is an increase in position when compared to 6<sup>th</sup>/15 the previous year. During the 12 months assessed Watford has recorded a slightly lower rate than the most similar group average of 17.91 crimes per 1000 residents.

#### Key Achievements:

- Introduction of police town centre team
- Purple flag accreditation
- Specialist NTE policing operation revisited and updated
- Matrix in place to identify key operational risk nights and resourcing
- A number of reviews of Takeaway premises and Area closure
- Introduction of Scan net into premises
- Undercover operations with door supervisors and licensing checks by Special Constabulary
- Walk throughs for local councillors and partners to understand dynamics
- Introduction of St Johns Ambulance and Red Cross within town centre during NTE to alleviate attendance at hospital
- Regular police and Local Authority meetings with pubwatch and door supervisors
- Op Advisory – safety in the NTE campaign with lip balms etc and followed by intrusive intervention by staff during the early hours of the morning
- God After Dark(GAD) further developed their offer of respite care and support
- Summit event for all NTE stakeholders

## Theme Two: Domestic Violence and Hate Crime

### 1) Domestic Violence

#### Domestic violence Risk assessment shows a 'Medium Risk'

Domestic Violence  
 County position: 7<sup>th</sup>/10 (up 1 place from 6<sup>th</sup>/10)  
 Most similar group position: not available  
 Direction of travel since last assessment: Increase of 11.3%

Racial/Religious Hate Crime  
 County position: 10<sup>th</sup>/10 (no change)  
 Most similar CSPs position: not available  
 Direction of travel since last assessment: Decreased by 9.3%

#### Domestic Violence 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – Year on Year Comparison

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	24	26	25	19	30	17	18	25	21	24	37	25	291	
2011/12	29	31	27	27	18	27	25	33	28	22	25	32	324	up 33

The number of notifiable offences recorded and flagged with an aggravating factor of domestic violence have increased in Watford, when compared to the previous year; from 291 offences to 324. 85.5% of offences were of a violent nature during the current period, compared to 83.2% the year before. Watford Community Safety Partnership is 7<sup>th</sup>/10 in county for offences recorded per 1000 population; recording 3.59 crimes per 1000 residents. The number of non-crime domestic incidents recorded are shown to have decreased, from 942 in the previous year to 916 in the current period.

### 2) Hate Crime

#### Risk Assessment shows a 'Medium Risk' for Racial/Religious Hate Crime

#### Racial/Religious Hate Crime 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – Year on Year Comparison

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	9	10	9	9	6	10	6	9	9	8	8	14	107	
2011/12	7	4	13	3	17	6	6	6	9	4	10	12	97	down 10

For the purpose of this assessment race and religious hate crime offences, are those offences which have an offence description of racial / religious or an aggravating factor of racial/ religious flagged.

There were 97 notifiable race and religious hate crime offences recorded during the period, which is a 9.3% decrease from 107 offences the previous year. Hate crime is not currently recorded on iQuanta. Watford is highest in county (10<sup>th</sup>/10) for race and religious hate crime reporting 1.074 offences per 1000 population. This could however

be seen as a positive reflection on local police being vigilant, in recording racially or religiously aggravated crime. Given that Watford has one of the most diverse and densely packed populations in the county, this could in itself skew local comparisons.

Watford recorded 6 notifiable offences with homophobic or transphobic flagged as an aggravating factor, this is an increase compared to no notifiable offences the previous year. Levels of offences recorded remain low indicating a need to continue to look for ways to encourage willingness to report. In relation to disability hate crime (including physical, sensory and learning) Watford recorded 19 notifiable offences, which is an increase compared to 15 the previous year. These figures should however be treated with caution, as the data set is not based on mandatory collection and may therefore be incomplete.

#### Key Achievements:

- Police Domestic Abuse Officer attends Anti Social Behaviour Group (ASBAG) which has supported a more 'joined up' approach to tackling DV
- Development & support of the Watford & Three River Domestic Abuse Forum
- Actively engaged with the introduction of Thinking Families & Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism Group
- Youth Projects run by Youth Connexions address key issues of relevance to young people to reduce harm to themselves and others and also to encourage cultural awareness and tolerance. Over the past year, these have included topics on: cyber and other bullying; celebration of cultures and reporting crime including use of fearless.org (part of crimestoppers uk).

### Theme Three: Alcohol Related Crime Risk assessment shows a 'Medium Risk'

County position: 10<sup>th</sup>/10 (no change)  
Most similar CSPs position: not available  
Direction of travel since last assessment: 0.6% increase (up 5 offences)

#### Alcohol Related Crime 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – Year on Year Comparison

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	61	81	85	69	76	60	62	66	76	77	78	80	871	
2011/12	68	80	88	77	82	58	61	69	82	60	59	92	876	up 5

#### Alcohol-related crime

Alcohol related crime is not currently recorded on iQuanta. There were 876 alcohol related offences recorded during the 12 month period. This is a slight increase of 0.6% from 871 offences the previous year (ending July 2011). In comparison last year's assessment recorded a 17.5% decrease in offences. For the purpose of these figures, incidents where alcohol is recorded as a factor are considered to be alcohol-related.

Watford is currently highest in county (10<sup>th</sup>/10), reporting 9.70 crimes per 1000 population. This is no change in county position when compared to the previous year.

**Key Achievements:**

- Awarded Purple Flag
- High-level policy discussions around Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMROs) and late night levies including Licensing Master class for Councillors and police.
- NTE Summit
- Specialist targeted operations such as Op. Advisory & Op. Chansom
- Youth Connexions have worked to raise awareness with young people about the negative effects of alcohol and other substance abuse and the relationship of this abuse to crime

## Theme Four: Anti-social behaviour

### ASB

County position: 10<sup>th</sup>/10 (no change)

Most similar CSPs position: not available

Direction of travel since last assessment: Decrease of 16.8%

### Criminal Damage

County position: 8<sup>th</sup>/10 (no change)

Most similar CSPs position: 5<sup>th</sup>/15 (up 1 place from 4<sup>th</sup>/15)

Direction of travel since last assessment: Decrease of 12.9%

### Deliberate fire

County position: 4<sup>th</sup>/10

Most similar CSPs position: not available

Direction of travel since last assessment: Decreased by 32%

## Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

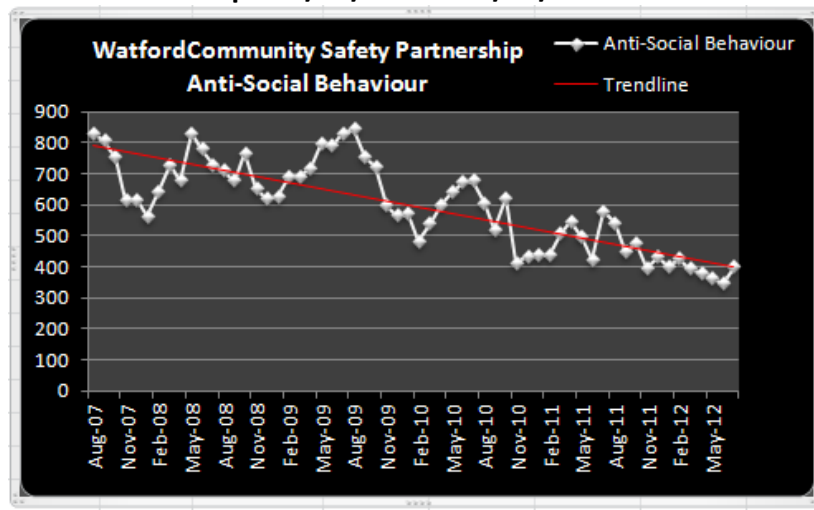
### Risk assessment shows a 'Medium Risk'

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	605	518	620	412	434	440	436	507	546	496	422	577	6013	
2011/12	541	451	475	395	430	401	426	394	379	363	345	400	5000	down 1013

During the 12 months assessed (to the end of July 2012) levels of ASB recorded by the police have decreased in Watford by 16.8%. As shown in the above table 5000 incidents were recorded compared to 6013 the previous year. The Community Safety Partnership is currently highest in county for ASB (10<sup>th</sup>/10), reporting 55.37 incidents per 1000 population.

Whilst ASB has greatly reduced a proactive approach and continued development of partnership working is required to effectively develop new effective approaches to tackling ASB. Criminal damage is seen as ASB by the public, so it is recommended that criminal damage is included as part of ASB but targets remain separated to reflect the police category of 'crime other'.

### 5 Year Trend Graph 01/08/2007 – 31/07/2012



## Criminal Damage

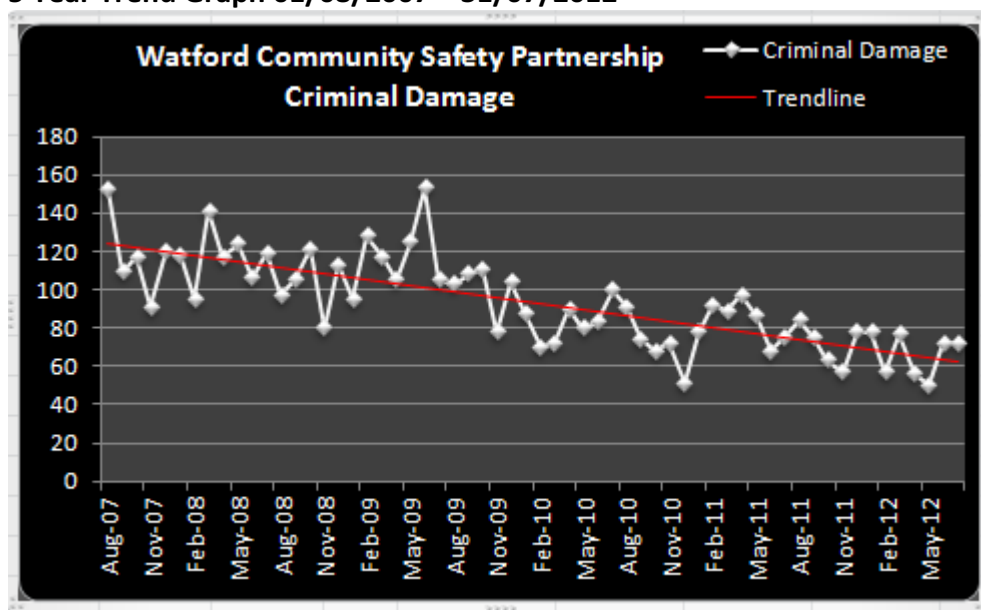
### Risk assessment shows a 'Low Risk'

Criminal Damage 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – Year on Year Comparison

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	96	75	64	71	47	83	95	89	95	85	72	75	947	
2011/12	81	77	58	55	78	83	53	80	60	50	71	79	825	down 122

Watford has generated a low risk for criminal damage, compared to a medium risk previously. The Community Safety Partnership has recorded a 12.9% decrease in criminal damage offences. 825 offences were recorded in the current period, compared to 947 the previous year. The most prevalent offence type within the category of 'criminal damage' was found to be vehicle damage, accounting for 48.6% of the total (401 offences). The Community Safety Partnership remains 8<sup>th</sup>/10 in county position for criminal damage.

### 5 Year Trend Graph 01/08/2007 – 31/07/2012



## Deliberate Fire

(Risk not assessed)

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total	change (count)
2010/11	20	12	7	6	3	9	5	6	16	11	16	17	128	
2011/12	10	8	13	2	7	3	10	9	5	4	6	10	87	down 41

Watford is currently 4<sup>th</sup>/10 in county for deliberate fire calls, reporting 1.0 call per 1000 population. The number of deliberate fire calls have decreased from 128 in the previous year to 87 in the current period. Refuse /rubbish tip/ wheelie bin/skip is the highest sub category (28 incidents), followed by Tree/Scrub and Car/Van (7 incidents

each). Watford Central (C1A) is the top beat recording 18 calls, which is a decrease compared to 30 the previous year. Meriden (C4E) which was the second highest beat also recorded a decrease, from 18 calls in the previous year to 15 in the current period. Whilst there was an overall decrease the following three wards recorded slight increases: Callowland (C4A), Park (C1G) and Tudor (C4F).

**Key Achievements:**

- Managed the impact of changes to resources
- Maintained the current level of service in compliance with Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Minimum Standards.
- ASBAG visited by other partnerships as it is a best practice model in the County
- ASB reduced at an above target rate across the borough
- Targeted work with hotels and hospitals to successfully reduce ASB
- Introduction and good use of Safety Net ASB project management system
- To help to divert young people (13-19) from ASB, Youth Connexions run 17 evening or after-school Youth Projects across Watford each week. Detached Youth Worker teams also go out to areas where large numbers of young people are congregating. Successful diversionary programmes were organised especially for key times such as Halloween and bonfire night
- Through partnership working with Joint Action group (JAG) and ASBAG reducing deliberate fires to their lowest recorded level.



## **Theme Five: Managing offenders/ Reducing Re offending**

### **Integrated Offender Management**

Hertfordshire has been working within the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Scheme to manage Priority Prolific Offenders (PPO) since April 2011. A scoring matrix designed to identify the top 200 offenders; those who commit high levels of acquisitive offences utilises police, probation and youth offending data. The scheme was launched in April 2011 and has led to greater partnership working. At the time of writing there are currently 192 PPOs adopted under the IOM Scheme in Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire Police maintain the lead for one of the PPO strands, 'Catch and Convict' however police offender managers now work even more closely with Hertfordshire Probation Trust on the 'Rehabilitate and Resettle' strand, with a shared aim to break the cycle of offending and to permanently rehabilitate offenders. The partnership includes Probation, the Choices and Consequences (C2) Programme, Hertfordshire County Council, Health, Crime Reduction Initiative (CRI) drugs services, Hertfordshire Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (HACRO) and third sector agencies all working within the IOM Hertfordshire Horizons PPO scheme; these together make a significant impact on reducing offending and rehabilitating offenders and continue to drive forward a number of interventions which to date have had impressive results on the reduction of offending.

As at the end of quarter one (1<sup>st</sup> of April 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2012) Watford Community Safety Partnership has 22 PPOs adopted under the IOM scheme. When compared to the same quarter the previous year, the number of detected offences committed by these PPOs have decreased by 16; from 28 to 12. Additionally the number of PPOs committing offences have also decreased from 10 to 6. Watford is ranked 7<sup>th</sup>/10 for the number of PPOs in the IOM cohort. Whilst a decrease has been noted this highlights a continued need for Integrated Offender Management in Watford.

### **Youth Offending**

Data provided by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Youth Support Services records 170 youth offences in the Community Safety Partnership, during the strategic period. This places Watford 6<sup>th</sup>/10 within Hertfordshire. To confirm - a youth offence is defined in the above as an offence with a substantive outcome for example Police Reprimand, Final Warning, Community Penalty given at court or a Custodial sentence. For the number of youth offenders Watford stands 2<sup>nd</sup>/10 in the county with 73 offenders for the same period.

### **Probation (including Community Payback)**

Watford had 279 unique clients on the probation caseload during the 12 month period. This places the Community Safety Partnership 6<sup>th</sup>/10 in county position. Watford currently stands 5<sup>th</sup>/10 within Hertfordshire for the number of unique clients taken on to the probation caseload with an unpaid work order; 101 unique clients for the same 12 month period.

Watford Borough Council work closely with Probation in hosting Community Payback reparations on a weekly schedule. Works include litter picking, cleaning graffiti and ground clearance.

During the period 1st July – 30th September 2012, a total of 8379 hours work in the community in the Western Area. The total consists of 1816 hours worked on Individual Placements, and 6563 hours of Community Payback group working, within the Watford Area 4540 hours were worked, including;

Lincolnsfield Childrens Centre 414 hours

Watford Parks Dept 641 hours

Watford Council / Herts Highways 1569 hours

Hare Krishna Temple 443 hours

Watford FC 342 hours

Oxfam 464 hours

British Hear foundation 392 hours

YMCA 172 hours

PDSA 103 hours

#### **Key Achievements:**

- Data on re-offending cohorts on Local Delivery Unit and Centre (Watford) have highlighted the main issues concern alcohol and drug misuse with a link to anti-social behaviour and to a less extent domestic violence, a working group is being set up to examine brief interventions.
- Drug Rehabilitation Requirement and Alcohol Treatment Requirement Provision is above target. The process has been revised and now delivering above target.
- Single points of contact are in place.
- Anne Frank Diversity Group is now up and running, working extremely well with positive feedback.
- The Integrated Offender Management report is showing success, with a reduction in re-offending.