

## **Strategic Assessment**

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) undertook a Strategic Assessment to research and analyse Renfrewshire's key issues in relation to community safety. The assessment has enabled the partnership to formulate a draft strategy to respond to the issues raised.

The key findings are outlined below, which have been organised into five key themes:

### **1. Accident and injury prevention**

- Injury is the number one cause of death in children and adolescents aged 0-19 years in Scotland
- Children in the most deprived areas are twice as likely to be admitted to hospital and almost three and a half times as likely to die as a result of an injury compared to children in the least deprived areas
- There were 2,038 emergency hospital admissions in Renfrewshire as a result of an unintentional injury in 2006/07 (this does not take into account the majority of cases that are treated by GPs or by a child's parents/carers)
- The most common cause of injury is falls representing 60% of Renfrewshire's emergency hospital admissions
- 89 people were killed or seriously injured on Renfrewshire's roads in 2006, which is a declining trend on previous years
- Fire statistics for Renfrewshire reveal an overall decrease in the total number of incidents attended by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service, although fires involving damage to property show an upward trend

### **2. Violence**

- Renfrewshire has a high rate of violent crime when compared to other areas in Scotland (3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate of non-sexual crimes of violence, 4<sup>th</sup> highest rate of serious assault and 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate of offensive weapons<sup>1</sup>)
- 18% of violent crimes take place in Paisley town centre
- The Violence Reduction Unit estimates that only a third of violent crime is reported to the police

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<sup>1</sup> There are 32 local authority areas in Scotland

- There has been a significant increase in domestic abuse cases being reported in Renfrewshire since 2002/03 (from 1001 in 2002/03 to 1704 in 2006/07)
- Approximately one in five victims report domestic violence in Scotland
- The majority of domestic violence incidents in Renfrewshire involve alcohol
- Reports of racially motivated crimes has seen a significant increase (15% increase on the 5 year average)
- Reports of homophobic crimes remain significantly low

### **3. Antisocial behaviour (ASB)**

- There has been a reduction in the number of disturbance reports received by Strathclyde Police within the ASB target areas - from 10,908 reports in 2005/06 compared to 9786 reports in 2006/07
- Vandalism remains at a similar level to the 5 year average (3842 vandalisms in 2006/07)
- Renfrewshire's vandalism figures compare relatively favourably to other areas in Scotland (Renfrewshire has the 15<sup>th</sup> highest rate of vandalism in Scotland)

### **4. Drug and alcohol misuse**

- Substance misuse is a major contributory factor to the levels of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in Renfrewshire
- Alcohol related deaths in Renfrewshire rose by 56% for males and rose by 53% for females between 2001 and 2005
- Renfrewshire in the period 1998 to 2004 had the 4th highest alcohol related death rate in the UK for men and the 11th highest for women<sup>2</sup>
- 87 deaths were recorded in Renfrewshire in 2005 with alcohol as the underlying cause Operational Triplicate in 2006 resulted in 101 Class A drug dealers being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for 863 drugs charges
- 15 confirmed drug related deaths were recorded in 2006 in Renfrewshire
- Drug services in Renfrewshire have noted a significant increase in referrals for cocaine use, although heroin remains the main drug of choice

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<sup>2</sup> Rank out of 426 authorities across the UK. Figures unavailable for 53 authorities.

## 5. Theft

- Acquisitive crime has substantially reduced in the last five years in Renfrewshire (including vehicle crime and domestic burglary)
- Primary schools continue to be targeted and are subject to repeat break-ins
- Police statistics indicate a downward trend for bogus caller crimes, although the extent of unrecorded crimes is unknown. This type of crime can affect the victim's quality of life long after the crime is committed

### Setting Priorities

A risk matrix was applied to each community safety issue within the assessment. Those with the priority grading 'very high' represent the greatest risks faced by local communities and will receive a greater focus by the Community Safety Partnership.

In addition to these priorities, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will continue to monitor the levels of acquisitive crime (housebreaking and vehicle crime), secondary and deliberate fires, hate crimes, vandalism and bogus caller crime. The CSP will take steps to address these crimes and incidents if increases in their levels are observed.

Very High	High	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour</li><li>• Serious and simple assaults</li><li>• Domestic violence/abuse</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drug related crime and antisocial behaviour</li><li>• Youth disorder</li><li>• Possession of a bladed weapon</li><li>• Killed and Seriously Injured on the roads</li><li>• Emergency hospital admissions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Malicious and deliberate fires</li><li>• Homophobic crime</li><li>• Racially motivated crime</li><li>• Vandalism</li><li>• Domestic housebreaking</li><li>• Vehicle crime</li><li>• Bogus caller crime</li></ul>