

Four Year Rolling Action Plan 2008/12: 2010/11 Refresh

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Introduction

Background

The Safer Southwark Partnership (SSP) brings together a range of statutory and voluntary sector services to jointly determine how they can work together to reduce crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and substance abuse. The overall decision making body of the partnership is the SSP board.

Southwark is recognised as one of the most effective crime reduction partnerships in London. In 2004/05, the SSP received the beacon award for its crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) work; awarded for the wide range of agencies involved in the partnership and the innovative programmes to reduce crime and the fear of crime. In 2009, our preventing violent extremism (PVE) work was awarded Beacon status as part of the borough's cohesive communities programme. In addition to this, we have been shortlisted for prestigious awards such as the local leadership LGC awards and the Municipal Journal Award for our work with partners and the community on tackling gun, gang and weapon crime.

The three year rolling plan

The Crime and Justice Act 2006 brought in a new statutory framework for CDRPs in England and Wales that abolished the requirement to produce a three yearly crime audit, followed by a crime reduction strategy. The new framework requires CDRPs:

- ❖ To produce an annual strategic assessment (a document which analyses a range of partnership data, looking at the impact of a variety of social, economic, political or other factors that may impact on crime and nuisance. This document recommends strategic priorities for the crime and disorder reduction partnership to consider and highlights local, regional, national and international issues that may impact on Southwark).
- ❖ To produce a three year rolling plan setting out partnership priorities together with actions to deliver their priorities
- ❖ To meet the minimum standards for a CDRP as set out in Home Office guidance. These are:
 - ❖ Empowered and effective leadership.
 - ❖ Intelligence-led business processes.
 - ❖ Effective and responsive delivery structures.
 - ❖ Community engagement.
 - ❖ Visible and constructive accountability.
 - ❖ Appropriate skills and knowledge.

The minimum standards are owned by the SSP board and reviewed quarterly through the thematic sub groups, where the standards are embedded in their action plans.

The SSP produced its first rolling plan in the spring of 2008. At this time we decided to produce a four year rolling plan in order to ensure that our planning over the period had the 2012 Olympics in mind. This document is the second revision of that plan and was developed following a series of workshops that reviewed the work of the partnership during 2009/10 and along with the information provided in the 2009/10 strategic assessment, looked forward to identify the priorities for 2010/11. The workshops included representatives from all of our statutory partners as well as many non-statutory partners and were based upon the strategic priorities identified in last year's strategic assessment and rolling plan.

Our vision for Southwark

The SSP is committed to play a lead role to meet the sustainable community strategy vision contained in "Southwark 2016." The sustainable community strategy is owned by Southwark Alliance, our local strategic partnership.

The sustainable community strategy was developed in consultation with the community and sets out the vision, aims and objectives for Southwark.

The rolling action plan provides an outline of how the SSP will work towards achieving the community safety priorities of that vision over the next four years.

The SSP's vision for Southwark is:

To make Southwark a safe place to live, work and visit

The SSP's role is to develop a network of partnership services that will tackle the issue of crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and build confidence between community safety services and local communities. To achieve this we will:

- ❖ Provide opportunities and interventions for individuals that reduce the impact of crime and substance misuse on people's daily lives
- ❖ Work in partnership with our communities to deliver local solutions for local problems
- ❖ Make the most effective use of our joint services and focus on areas that cause the most concern

At the heart of our partnership approach are the principles of identifying and reducing the risk of harm as well as identifying and supporting vulnerable people. All of the agencies working within the SSP are committed to these principles and the SSP recognises the strong links to both the adult and children's safeguarding boards for Southwark. Members of the SSP are also represented on the Safeguarding boards and their executive groups.

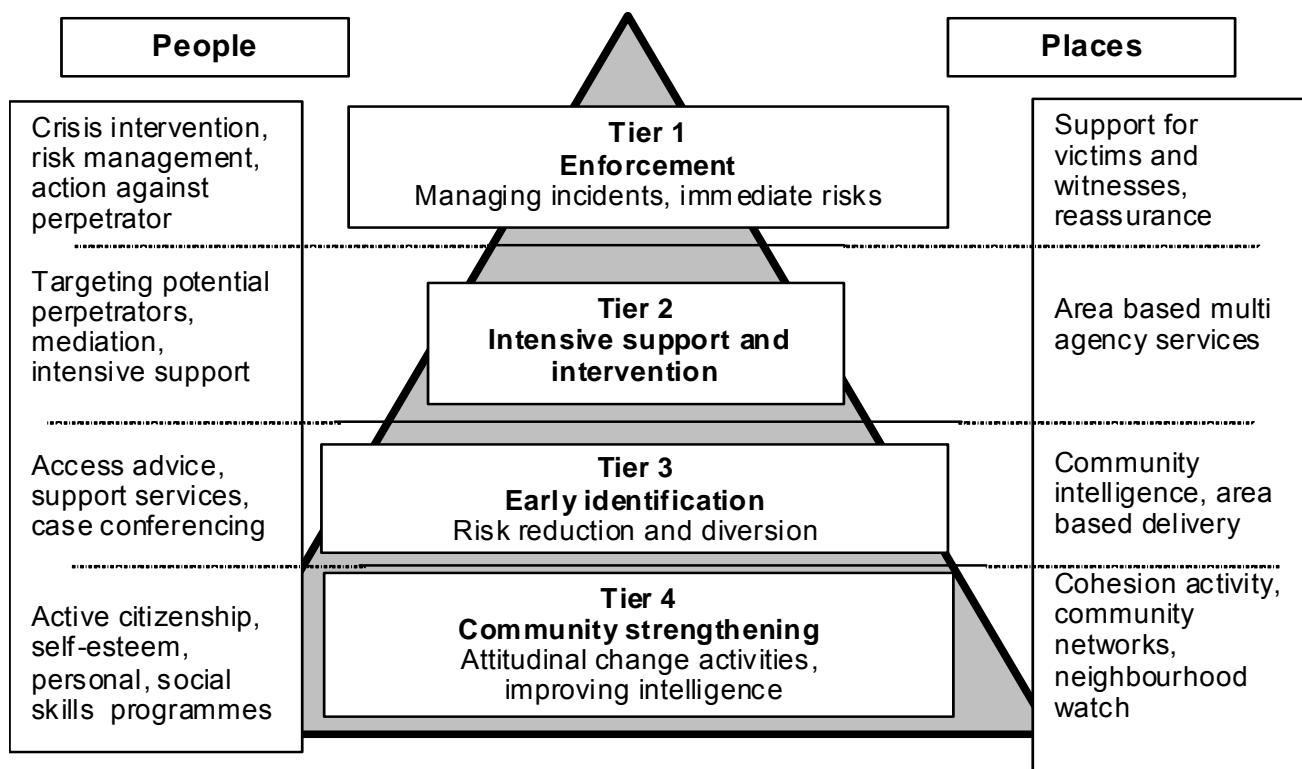
Southwark whole systems approach

The SSP has developed a whole systems approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Our experience tells us that investing in one type of intervention alone does not resolve the problem. For example, enforcement can only be effective if it is supported by local communities and other activity is taking place to change behaviour. Our whole systems approach is based on four tiers which consist of:

- ❖ **Prevention** - providing a network of diversionary and engagement programmes that can identify those at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti social behaviour
- ❖ **Early intervention** - providing educational and partnership support programmes together for those that are known to be on the fringes of crime and anti social behaviour
- ❖ **Intensive support and intervention** - structured intensive support for those who are or have been involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- ❖ **Enforcement** - direct intelligence lead enforcement action focusing on those individuals who are committing crime and anti-social behaviour

We ensure successful outcomes at each of the four levels of the intervention; the package of options developed and commissioned ensures successful interventions for individuals, areas or groups. The activities within the programme deliver short, medium and long term outcomes.

SSP triangle of Intervention



We also recognise that our communities and their community safety issues exist across local authority borders and that in many cases our response must be a cross border one. We currently work on a number of joint initiatives and action plans with our colleagues in Lambeth and Lewisham to offer a coordinated response to community issues, examples of this are our joint work in tackling street populations and their associated crime and disorder in the north of the borough along the river and in the Camberwell area and also the Network Alliance, that is a cross border programme aimed at tackling serious violence.

Delivery of the rolling plan - governance and action plans

The rolling action plan sets out the SSP's priorities and objectives to achieve our vision. It is also aligned to Southwark's planning, performance and delivery frameworks as well as referencing regional and national strategies, policies and plans.

The SSP board is the accountable body for the rolling action plan and delivery against its objectives. Currently there are five sub groups accountable to the SSP that reflect the rolling plan priorities. The sixth (communities & communications) will be established in 2010 following the disbanding of the Safer Stronger Communities board that previously governed this element of the plan. These subgroups are responsible for developing detailed thematic area action plans, with sign off from the board. During the first quarter of 2010/11, work will take place across all of the thematic groups to develop their action plans and secure sign off. These more detailed action plans will identify lead agencies that will be accountable for specific projects.

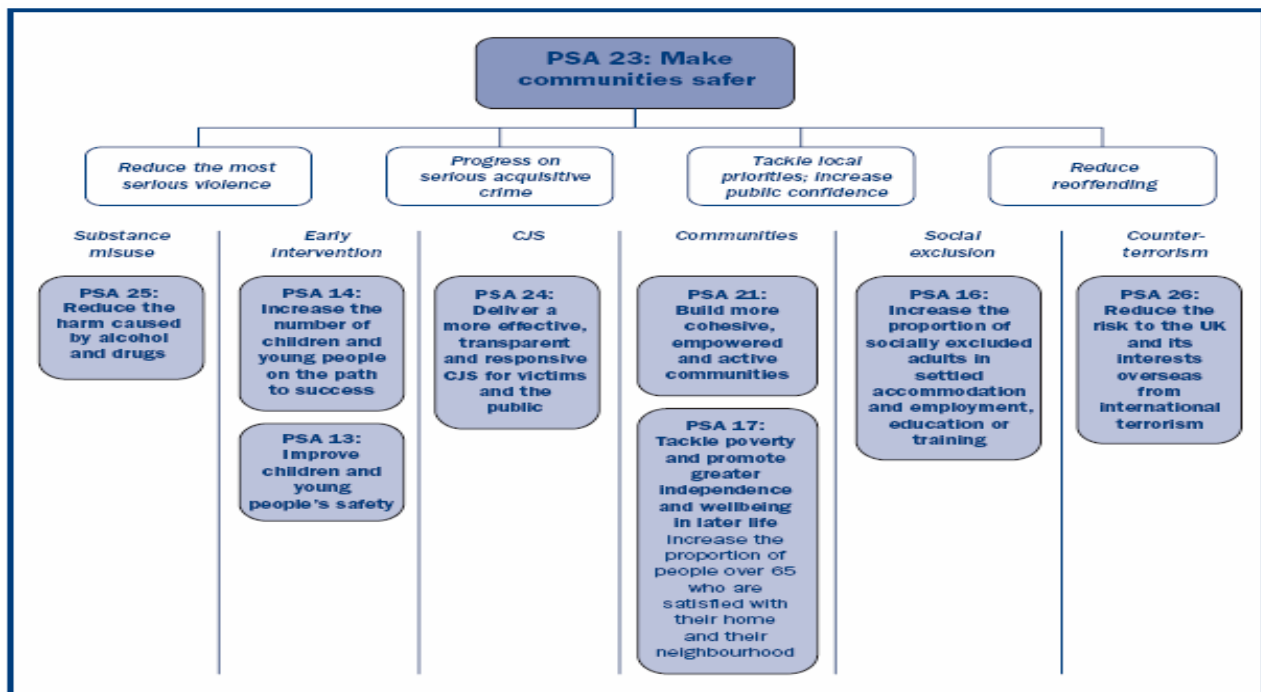
The thematic groups will also take ownership of the relevant national indicators, which form our local area agreement (LAA). This will involve developing and managing the LAA improvement plans and reporting back to the Southwark Alliance on progress against those plans. 2010/11 is the final year of the current

LAA cycle and our performance over the coming 12 months will need to focus on these targets as they contribute to the final financial settlement for the local strategic partnership (LSP).

Our changes in the governance of the partnership will ensure that all partners are engaged in the breadth of work across the partnership and ensure that the partnership is well linked in with the work of other local partnerships and the local strategic alliance.

Performance management

The performance of the SSP is measured through the national public service agreement (PSA) 23 which is "Make communities safer". PSAs set out the key outcomes that the government want to achieve for the spending period which is currently 2008/11. PSA 23 is linked to a number of other PSAs as illustrated in the diagram below.



Each PSA has a number of associated performance indicators to measure the progress being made against the PSA. These performance indicators are known as national indicators (NIs). The thematic subgroups will take ownership of the relevant national indicators that form our local area agreement (LAA). Our LAA sets out the local priorities for Southwark that have been agreed between the local strategic partnership (Southwark Alliance) and central Government and details the indicators that will be at the centre of our performance management framework. The SSP has responsibility for five of the indicators within Southwark's LAA which are:

- ❖ NI 15 Serious violent crime
- ❖ NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence
- ❖ NI 143 Proportion of offenders living in settled accommodation at the end of their order or licence
- ❖ NI 144 Proportion of offenders in employment at the end of their order or licence
- ❖ LI 1 Personal robbery

The thematic groups' performance will be monitored regularly throughout the year, through quarterly performance review reports to illustrate progress made against the relevant NIs. The subgroups will also be responsible for developing and managing the LAA improvement plans and reporting back to the Southwark Alliance on progress against those plans.

Our progress so far – a review of 2009/10

Crime trends

During 2009/10 we made good percentage reductions against many of our crime indicators. We have performed at, or better than, the London average in many areas, doing particularly well on residential burglary, -2% compared to a London wide increase of 3% and overall serious acquisitive crime, -11% compared to London reduction of -3%. In real terms, our overall reduction in serious acquisitive crime is approximately 900 fewer victims of crime. Police recorded incidents of domestic violence have also been reducing in the second half of 2009/10, which has resulted in a 4% reduction. In all, the recorded number of total notifiable offences in Southwark fell by 6%, compared to a 2% reduction across London. This equates to approximately 2,000 fewer recorded offences in 2009/10 compared to the previous financial year.

Reducing violence and the impact of the threat of violence on our communities remains a key priority for the SSP. 2009/10 has been a challenging year for Southwark, like many other inner London boroughs, with most serious violence incidents increasing by 3%. Whilst recorded youth violence has reduced by 3%, serious youth violence increased by 13% which is 55 more recorded victims in 2009/10 compared to the previous 12 months. Personal robbery offences increased by 9% and the rise in robbery across London has resulted in an increased focus by the police and its partner agencies.

We have seen an increase in the numbers of offenders under probation supervision who are living in settled accommodation and employment. Both of these factors are pathways to offending so therefore, if successfully addressed, will aid in preventing re-offending. The partnership will be working to further our performance in this area during the coming year.

	07/08	08/09	09/10	T/L	Target 09/10
NI 143 Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or licence (LAA)	74%	76%	81%	G	77.50%
NI 144 Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence (LAA)	27%	30%	34%	A	36%

Over the last year the SSP has been working in partnership with Lambeth and colleagues in Public Health to develop our relationships with local A&E departments. This work falls under the umbrella of the tackling knives action programme (TKAP) and in April 2009 we became one of the first boroughs in London to start receiving assault related data from our two local A&E departments, St Thomas's Hospital and Kings College Hospital. This data adds a new dimension to our ability to profile assaults that are happening in Southwark through identifying locations of incidents, admission times and the nature of injuries.

What have our communities told us?

The strategic assessment gives information about the performance of the partnership over the last year. It shows that residents now find Southwark a safer place to live with 92% of residents now feeling safe in the day time. Night time safety has also seen a significant improvement; increasing from 46% in 2006 to 54% in 2008.

The SSP has always recognised the value of regular and open dialogue with our communities to help shape and deliver crime prevention programmes. The Government white paper “**Real People Real Communities**” places an increasing emphasis on the importance of community engagement and an intention to move toward more face to face communication. We have already started this approach with our community road shows and public events, particularly on the subject of serious violent crime.

The **Sustainable Communities Act 2007** offers the partnerships more freedom in the way that we work together to perform our statutory duties. This means we can work out the best way to do things locally rather than being bound by prescriptive legislation and regulations.

With the establishment of the communities and communications thematic group we will be re-focussing our efforts to ensure we have engaged communities and to ensure that our priorities are their priorities.

Changes in legislation

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 received royal assent on November 14th 2009. This Act introduced a number of key changes for crime and disorder reduction partnerships, most notably;

- ❖ Partnerships will have a statutory duty to reduce re-offending;
- ❖ Responsible authorities will each be required to routinely reduce re-offending through an extension of their section 17 duties;
- ❖ As of April 2010, the Probation Service among other partners such as Transport for London (TFL) will change in legal status from a co-operating body to a full responsible body as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998;
- ❖ The court will be able to impose gang injunctions if they believe a person has been involved in gang-related violence. These civil injunctions can either prevent the person from doing something or require them to do something;
- ❖ Strengthening our responsibilities to safeguard the vulnerable.

The emphasis on reduction of re-offending will require a review of the current focus of priorities by CDRPs with both offences and offenders requiring consideration. The London borough offender profile report 2009 lists Southwark as committing the most people (1894) to custody in the previous year. 1189 of these were received into custody on remand or convicted awaiting sentence. The inclusion of the probation service as a statutory authority will bring a new dimension to partnership working, including much closer links with wider local strategic partnership planning and delivery to support pathways around integrated offender management.

The SSP has been working closely with the Home Office and London Criminal Justice Partnership to tackle re-offending. We are aware that Southwark has a number of offenders that are released from custody without supervision from statutory agencies (either post sentence or following a period on remand). Working with regional and central government we are looking to expand existing services in the community to assist these offenders to turn their back on crime. This means providing help, from a range of services, to individuals who wish to exit a criminal lifestyle by offering choices and pathways away from criminal behaviour. Southwark is involved in both the Pathways programme and the London Diamond initiative¹.

The London Diamond Initiative has shown promising early results in reducing the re-offending rates of those serving short custodial sentences returning to wards in Southwark. We have successfully increased the number of wards that the initiative covers from one ward to six. The first year evaluation is due to be published in summer 2010. Early indications suggest that the scheme has already had a positive effect on people’s likelihood of re-offending.

¹ For a description of the Pathways programme and the London Diamond initiative, please see the reducing re-offending section of this rolling plan (page 20)

Safeguarding

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is embedded in all of our work in Southwark. There are a number of measures in place to ensure that all agencies in Southwark are working together to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm and take shared responsibility for safeguarding. For example, front line staff participate in regular safeguarding training, providing them with an awareness of the signs of abuse, their responsibilities as well as the relevant referral procedures. Our aim is to ensure that staff are provided with the information required to take appropriate action to prevent the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and safeguard them if abuse has occurred. We are also aware of the importance of effective information sharing between our partner agencies to ensure that safeguarding issues are highlighted quickly and appropriate measures are put into place to prevent harm. Safeguarding forms an integral part of the work in each of the priority areas of the SSP and is in the forefront of all of our community safety interventions. There are also strong links between the SSP and the Safeguarding Adults partnership board and the Southwark Safeguarding Children's board to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to protect and promote the welfare of vulnerable adults within the borough.

We actively promote the message that everyone has the right to live a life free from abuse and significant harm and there is a zero tolerance of abuse within the SSP. Staff working within the partnership are aware of the safeguarding adults policy and procedure as well other relevant documents such as the safeguarding adults whistle-blowing protocol which outline the steps to take if there is a suspicion or allegation of abuse. In addition, we ensure that any services commissioned by the partnership also have comprehensive policies and procedures in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

SSP at the cutting edge of innovation

In early 2010, Southwark was identified as a pilot borough for a new Home Office initiative around tackling organised crime. This will be of particular benefit to us in building upon the existing work we are doing to tackle organised crime in the borough, especially with regards to illegally operating businesses linked to organised criminality, gangs, illegal drugs markets and gun supply.

The Southwark Pathways programme has delivered tailor made multi-agency interventions to almost 50 young people who are involved in gang related violence, with the aim of reducing serious violence. Only two individuals so far have committed a violent offence after the call in or home visit. By linking these individuals with local advocates and diversionary programmes we make positive inroads to prevent their behaviour escalating.

Southwark's alcohol strategy was launched in early 2010. The strategy (which is aligned to the Southwark health inequalities strategy 2010-12) has three key priorities:

- ❖ Children and young people
- ❖ Health and social care
- ❖ Crime and disorder

In 2009, Southwark revised its CCTV strategy. Part of this work included a new agreement with partners in TFL to have a camera sharing project in Southwark, which increases the number of cameras that we have access to. This will increase our coverage across the borough and will have huge benefits to our operational capacity to use CCTV to tackle crime and ASB.

After a very successful five years, we decided during 2009/10 that our operational delivery arm of the SSP, the partnership operations group (POG) would merge with the police tactical tasking & coordination group (TTCCG). We anticipate that moving into 2010/11 this will have huge benefits to our intelligence led business process that fall under the minimum standards for CDRPs, with us now working even closer with partners to pool resources, which in the current economic climate is crucial.

Our SSP training offer for 2010/11 has been developed to take into consideration and address the minimum standards framework, new statutory duties, new statutory partners, quality assurance as well as new learning and development opportunities e.g. knowledge bites. The programme currently incorporates nine subjects covering areas as diverse as domestic violence, young people & dating violence, violent crime, drug & alcohol misuse and preventing violent extremism. Over 1000 candidates have taken part in training sessions since the programme began in April 2008 and over 400 attended since April 2009. Our training programme is based upon operational staff delivering the training to provide real insight into how we work together in Southwark and problem solve together in a multi-agency environment. Our trainers now have nationally recognised training qualifications as well as invaluable operational experience and many of our courses are now accredited.

A renewed focus on addressing anti social behaviour (ASB)

In late 2009, the Home Office announced that those CDRPs with an ASB perception rate of greater than 25% would be required to produce a local delivery improvement plan (DIP) that set out how they would tackle ASB in 2010. This DIP had to address 6 key priorities outlined by the Home Secretary including more support for victims and witnesses, developing minimum standards for ASB and to step up action on breach of ASBOs. With a perception rate of 29%, Southwark was identified as one of the boroughs for this programme and these priorities are now also reflected within our own strategic priorities for ASB.

Providing information to Southwark residents is extremely important. In line with the priorities outlined above, a Victim's Charter has been written and will be distributed to residents providing information about the support services available for all victims of crime and or anti-social behaviour. The Victim's Charter will complement the new minimum standards for anti-social behaviour which outline how ASB can be reported and dealt with. Both documents will make clear the level of service a victim or witness can expect from the range of organisations in the borough.

Breaches of anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) is a prominent issue that we will be prioritising over the coming year. We recognise that where breaches occur and in some circumstances and where low level sanctions are issued by the courts, communities can often feel that the criminal justice system is on the side of the perpetrator. We are working with the Crown Prosecution service and the police to ensure that breaches of ASBOs are dealt with efficiently and effectively. This will begin with embedding a new process whereby the courts are provided with information outlining why the order was imposed in the first instance. This in turn will assist the court in a more informed decision making when a breach occurs.

What's on the horizon?

Part of the role of the SSP is to look at how community safety issues may change in the future and start planning for those changes now. This section provides a brief outline of some of the issues that we believe will have a major influence on the community safety agenda. These issues and their possible impact on community safety in Southwark are further considered in the strategic assessment. The areas highlighted in this section will influence our active risk management process and contingency planning to ensure that the SSP put systems in place to counteract threats to community safety service delivery.

Local and national elections

Moving into a year of both local and national elections we recognise that this will impact upon priorities and funding decisions from central government downwards. The rolling plan and subsequent thematic action plans need to remain flexible to any changing priorities. This document will be reviewed again in the late summer/early autumn to reflect the key priorities set by both the local and national governments.

Economic climate

The economic downturn is likely to continue to impact on community safety in the borough as, like many other areas, Southwark are looking to make huge efficiency savings over the coming years. With this comes the potential risk in our partners' ability to continue delivering the huge range of programmes that we currently do. In 2010/11 we will need to work closely as a partnership and with our communities to prioritise the community safety services that have the greatest benefit in reducing crime, reducing the fear of crime and improving public confidence. In addition, we will be working with our colleagues in adult health and children's services to find ways of working together to support vulnerable residents so that our adult and child safeguarding principles are maintained.

Locally, the change in local authority funding regimes means that in Southwark funding is increasingly geared to local priorities. Reducing worklessness (this funding stream ends this year), increasing opportunities to access education, vocational training and employment is at the heart of our priorities. The partnership needs to consider all its grant funded programmes against this priority which supports our largest single grant programme. Finally partners involved in the SSP will be subject to closer scrutiny of what the partnership delivers and its priorities which are set out under new Home Office proposals.

Regeneration

Regeneration programmes at the Elephant and Castle and Heygate estates, Canada Water and Bermondsey Spa will transform these areas into new and thriving districts in south London. The SSP will need to ensure that the regeneration is managed to minimise the disruption to existing communities and monitor any tensions between existing and new, expanding communities.

The development of business districts will increase the number of people working in and visiting the area. This will be positive for Southwark but also poses the risk of an increase in crime and disorder in the north of the borough.

Transport infrastructure

London is embarking on an ambitious programme of investment that will see real changes in its transport infrastructure such as cross river rail, a new tram service and underground extensions. Whilst the improvements will connect Southwark communities with other parts of the capital, community safety will need to take a central role in ensuring the new infrastructure is not seen as a gateway to crime and ensuring safe journeys for people travelling into and around Southwark.

Olympics

The 2012 Olympics offers London major opportunity for prosperity and growth and, for the residents of Southwark, it provides increased employment opportunities, increased tourism and greater opportunities for sports education and training for our young people. The SSP are working closely with other boroughs to ensure that we minimise the risk of increased criminality as a result of the anticipated rise in visitors, commuters and tourists to Southwark during the Olympics. We will continue to use our expertise to ensure there is a co-ordinated London approach to reducing the impact of crime and the threat of terrorism before, during and immediately after the Olympic and Para Olympic games.

The threat of terrorism

The threat of terrorism remains a real issue for London and Southwark, with its iconic buildings and major transport hubs, is a key location within the heart of the capital. Over the next two years local and regional agencies will be working together to both identify and prevent the impact of terrorism but also take appropriate steps to protect our key locations and local communities from potential threats.

Economic migration

Southwark are continuing to see an increase in people migrating to the borough, particularly from eastern European countries. This is primarily driven through economic migration which is often difficult to quantify and manage. The challenge facing the SSP is three fold:

- ❖ Ensure that these new communities have access to the support they need to keep safe, including health advice and support
- ❖ To minimise the exploitation of these new communities through housing, pay or other conditions. In particular the partnership will address the issues of unauthorised occupation of housing and the multiple letting of rooms to migrant workers
- ❖ Ensure that we identify and address organised criminality which can take advantage of increased migration.

SSP priorities

The SSP priorities in the rolling plan for 2008–2012 were:

- ❖ Violent crime
- ❖ Preventing youth crime
- ❖ Tackling anti-social behaviour
- ❖ Drugs and alcohol
- ❖ Reducing re-offending
- ❖ Safer communities and communications

As part of the annual strategic assessment/rolling plan workshop process we have reviewed as a partnership the existing priorities of the rolling plan. Pooling resources was a key theme throughout our workshops and it was agreed that we needed to continue where possible to simplify and share our strategic groups with other thematic partnerships. For example, last year it was agreed that the Youth Crime Management board will be accountable to Young Southwark Executive as well as the SSP board. In a similar fashion, we need to ensure that the rolling plan for drugs & alcohol, reflect not only the substance misuse needs assessment but also the treatment plan and the priorities identified through the recently published alcohol strategy.

Those attending the partnership workshops also recognised learning from previous years' plans in that they had been very ambitious and wanted the revised plan to be simpler, focusing on the key tasks that need to be achieved over the next year.

The outcome of the partnership workshops and 2009/10 strategic assessment was that the priorities in the four year SSP rolling plan for 2008/12 are still relevant and do not need to be amended as we move into 2010/11. The priorities align with the national public service agreements, Home Office priorities and our LAA priorities. However we do recognise that these priorities should always be considered in the context of the social and physical regeneration underway in the borough and the effects of the economic downturn on community safety in Southwark.

The revised priorities for 2010/11 are:

- ❖ **Reducing re-offending**
 - Managing offenders to ensure the community is protected and enabling individuals to exit the cycle of crime
- ❖ **Tackling violence**
 - Reducing violence in Southwark, including robbery, weapons, domestic abuse and preventing violent extremism (PVE)
- ❖ **Tackling youth crime**
 - Reducing the number of young people who become involved with crime, and empowering young people to exit the cycle of crime
- ❖ **Tackling anti-social behaviour**
 - Reducing anti-social behaviour in Southwark and improving public perceptions about the environment
- ❖ **Drugs and alcohol**
 - Reducing the harm caused to individuals and the community by drugs and alcohol
- ❖ **Communities and communications**
 - Ensuring cohesive and resilient communities, increasing public perceptions of safety and encouraging confidence in the criminal justice process

Tackling violence

Reducing violence and the impact of the threat of violence on our communities remains a key priority for the SSP. Violent crime (including robbery & sexual offences) accounts for just over a quarter of all our crime in Southwark.

The portrayal of issues such as gang and weapon violence is having a serious impact on how some communities view where they live, where they go and who they associate with. Work on the regional and national stage illustrates that Southwark is not alone in facing this issue. Recently published strategies to tackle violence include 'Together we can end violence towards Women and Girls: A strategy'. Our priority areas for action are developed to continue to tackle and reduce all types of violence. The SSP will be addressing the issues raised by specific types of violent crime, namely:

- ❖ Serious violent crime, including gang and weapon related violence
- ❖ Robbery
- ❖ Domestic abuse
- ❖ Sexual offences
- ❖ Lower level violent offences

Over the past three years Southwark has developed a range of programmes that address violent crime through:

- ❖ Early identification
- ❖ Intervention
- ❖ Intensive prevention
- ❖ Enforcement

How we will deliver

The violent crime strategic group (VCSG) is the SSP sub group responsible for delivering the tackling violence priority. The sexual offences and domestic abuse (SODA) group, the multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) steering group and the community gangs forum (CGF) are all sub groups of the VCSG. The Southwark youth offending service (YOS) also has a well established risk management panel. The panel meets on a monthly basis and reviews known young offenders who pose a serious risk to either themselves or the community.

What we do

Our focus will be on the individuals who are involved in violent crime, to identify the issues that lead to violence and highlight the factors that protect or prevent it. We believe there are key interventions and key points of intervention that offer exit routes for the individual from the cycle of violent crime.

In 2009/10 we embarked on an ambitious communications and engagement programme with the aim of influencing central and regional government policy and providing more direct face to face communication with our community and staff to raise awareness of the realities, causes and consequences of gang and weapon violence, as well as people's ability to respond to the issue. We have held a series of road shows across the borough and provided training for over 500 council and partnership staff. These road shows were evaluated independently as best practice. For two consecutive years we have been shortlisted for the LGC awards in local leadership and community engagement. We were highly commended in 2009/10.

Operation Pathways has delivered call-ins or home visits to almost 50 young people who are involved in gang related violence, with the aim of reducing serious violence. By linking these individuals with local advocates and diversionary programmes we make positive inroads to prevent their behaviour escalating.

Our success will be dependant on our ability to reduce the negative factors and increase the positive factors; giving people involved in violence positive life choices and skills which will enable them to break the cycle of violence. There is an emerging trend that links gang violence and some types of sexual violence.

Support for victims of violent crime is crucial. Often perpetrator and victim are not strangers and can play either role at different times.

Sexual offences and domestic abuse

Our priority is to provide a coordinated approach to tackling sexual offences and domestic abuse. We will do this by raising awareness of healthy relationships for all and work towards increasing reporting of sexual offences and domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse accounts for 25% of our overall violent crime. Domestic abuse affects families and communities. Southwark are committed to ensuring that victims of domestic abuse and any children within the family are safeguarded from any further abuse.

Independent domestic violence advocates (IDVAs) work with victims across a range of issues and enable the victim to make decisions on how they will break the cycle of abuse. Domestic abuse has a clear pattern which is hard to break and reappears in further relationships. A key priority for 2010/11 will be to develop support and interventions for perpetrators of domestic abuse, as part of the whole system review.

IDVA services are provided through our voluntary sector services, tackling repeat victimisation and providing direct support for (black and minority ethnic) BAME groups. Expanding this provision and embedding a dedicated independent sexual violence advocate is a top priority as is extending this model to sexual violence.

Locally there is support for victims of sexual violence through the Haven project at Kings College Hospital, the police sapphire unit which focuses on investigating cases of sexual violence (with specially trained police officers) and our first independent sexual violence advocate at Victim Support Southwark. We are conducting research locally to better understand sexual offences in young people, the findings of which will support commissioning decisions.

What drives violent crime?

The SSP has developed an approach which looks at what the motivators, or drivers, in committing violent crime are. We have published a report in 2009 'Die Another Day' which sets the influencing factors for involvement and the motivational factors for change, making clear recommendations to regional and central government and setting out strategic direction for Southwark.

All of our work tells us that in order to address violence we have to focus on the individual and identify the issues that drive them to commit violence as well as the factors that protect, or prevent them from doing so. The success of our work is dependent on the ability to assess and reduce negative influences, whilst at the same time, replacing them with positive factors. The SSP will continue to give people involved in violence positive life choices and skills which will enable them to break the cycle of violence.

What is the cycle of violence?

Locally, we believe that a cycle of violence can be described as a process where violent behaviour can become an increasingly dominant part of a person's life. The cause of violence will vary from person to person. Research indicates that a person's propensity to commit violence may be developed in the first few months of a person's life (Wave Trust 2005). For others it may be caused by coercion, or be about power and control, status, money or glamour.

It is also clear from our work that describing a person as a victim or perpetrator of violence can confuse the underlying issues and create artificial barriers.

We also know that wherever an individual is in the cycle of violence there are key opportunities for intervention that will make the most amount of difference.

Our three year rolling plan will work towards providing programmes that focus on key points of intervention with the aim of providing the life choices and skills to break that cycle.

Tackling violence

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>A community engagement campaign focused on empowerment, personal and community responsibility – SSP was identified as best practice and shortlisted for leadership and engagement work two years running in the LGC awards.</p> <p>Community wardens and police safer neighbourhood teams have continued to patrol key routes from schools to transport hubs between 14.30 and 17.00.</p> <p>We have expanded our community advocacy programme for young people who are at risk of serious violence. Trained advocates have started to work with young people in the community.</p> <p>Nearly 50 gang nominals have received the pathways message (7 through individual call ins and the remainder via home visits) and this has resulted in pro-social attitudinal and behavioural changes.</p> <p>The safe accommodation scheme has been developed during 09/10 and 6 people at risk of serious violence have been re-housed through the SERVE programme.</p> <p>We have set up a gangs mediation service (Capital Conflict Mediation [CCM]) to prevent gang conflicts escalating into violence and two referrals have been processed thus far.</p>	<p>Young people are over-represented as both victims and suspects of violent crime.</p> <p>Violence against person accounts for approximately 1 in every 5 offences in Southwark.</p> <p>Alcohol is a factor in 12% of our violent offences.</p> <p>Robbery of the person is the offence in which guns and knives are most commonly involved.</p> <p>33% of knife enabled offences are classified as youth violence compared to 8% of gun crime.</p> <p>There has been very little shift in our hotspot locations and temporal trends relating to violence. Town centre and arterial routes areas with peaks in offending between 1500 to 1800 and 2200 to midnight are still most prevalent.</p> <p>The number of rape offences in Southwark has increased during 2009/10.</p> <p>Engagement with the Southwark community tells us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People want more support for parents • We must ensure there are activities for young people in the right place at the right time • Specialist services must be provided for vulnerable community groups • Stop and search must be done better 	<p>Review our interventions for tackling robbery (personal and commercial) and, learning from best practice, establish area based partnerships in robbery hotspot areas with the aim of reducing robberies in those areas.</p> <p>Continue to develop our advocacy services for those involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in serious violence.</p> <p>Deliver Southwark Pathways for gang members; ensuring that effective exit strategies are in place for those wanting to leave the criminal lifestyle.</p> <p>Ensure the best use of resources in our diversionary activity; ensuring services are in the right place, at the right time and accessible to all.</p> <p>Ensure area based preventative activity for our hotspot areas e.g. CCM's proactive community work.</p> <p>Expand the SERVE programme to include more housing associations and neighbouring boroughs.</p> <p>Develop our approach to tackling lower level violence.</p> <p>Understand and develop interventions to ensure young people use the internet in a safe way.</p>

What did we achieve in 2009/10?

The gangs' disruption team have undertaken targeted work with 250 young people considered to be at risk of gang-related offending as well as supporting young people to leave gangs.

We have agreed with the accident and emergency departments at St Thomas's and Kings College Hospital to provide us with depersonalised data related to alcohol and violence injuries.

42 knife test purchases were undertaken by trading standards, resulting in a 76% compliance rate. This led to one successful prosecution of a repeat offender, nine written warnings and a simple caution issued.

We took part on a joint project with Lambeth to carry out 44 test purchases of knives over the internet. This resulted in 41 sales of knives and the report we submitted to the Home Office outlining our recommendations received national recognition.

Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?

- More needs to be done to combat the negative media coverage of young people
- Our latest resident survey identifies "young people hanging around" as its greatest concern.
- There is a fear of violence amongst some parts of our community when they move outside of the area they know.
- The wide variation between levels of prosperity across the borough also impacts on crime and fear of crime.
- Unregulated internet sites and music are glamorising gang, gun and knife crime to young people.
- The drivers of youth on youth robbery are status, fear, respect and power.

What are the priorities for 2010/11?

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>Sexual offences and domestic abuse The partnership has targeted dating violence amongst young people, running a dating violence programme in schools and introducing a dedicated worker for 16-24 year old victims of dating violence.</p> <p>A successful routine enquiry pilot has been rolled out in SASBU – this led to a disclosure rate of 48%.</p> <p>Our multi agency risk assessment panel (MARAC) has continued to develop and provide solutions for the most high risk victims. Of the 122 cases considered at MARAC in 2009/10, only 3% were repeat victims.</p> <p>Vulnerable victims were enabled to stay in their home through the sanctuary scheme.</p> <p>We are developing activity to ensure healthy relationships for young people.</p>	<p>Sexual offences and domestic abuse 25% of all violent crime in Southwark is linked to domestic abuse.</p> <p>DV incidents are more commonly associated with less serious violent crimes such as common assault.</p> <p>DV in Southwark is more prominent on our estates than other areas.</p> <p>The most critical point for domestic violence in boyfriend / girlfriend relationships is at the end of that relationship, though the same cannot be said for married or common law partners, where the opposite appears to be true.</p>	<p>Sexual offences and domestic abuse: Conduct a whole systems review of DV processes in Southwark to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure we are delivering a holistic service for families. • Develop a partnership-wide approach to prevention, intervention and enforcement activities to ensure a more integrated continuum of support for families. • Develop a comprehensive strategy to deal with perpetrators of domestic abuse. • Roll out routine enquiry across statutory and non-statutory agencies to increase reporting and recording of domestic abuse. • Develop greater integrated working by partners and better training opportunities. <p>Improve identification of lower risk victims and develop more efficient early interventions to prevent escalation of risk.</p> <p>Conduct action research to better understand the factors leading to sexual offences perpetrated by young people.</p> <p>Develop a policy response to adult human trafficking within Southwark, ensuring the CDRP and local authority meets its duties in response to human trafficking.</p> <p>Ensure Southwark MARAC obtains accreditation from CAADA.</p> <p>Ensure information, guidance and support services for young people encourage positive relationships.</p>

Reducing re-offending

The Policing and Crime Act 2009, sets out that as of April 2010, CDRPs have a statutory duty to reduce re-offending, with Probation now being identified as a statutory partner. Supporting offenders and their families to prevent re-offending is a crucial aspect of our work in Southwark. Data from the Director of Offender Management (DOM) for London suggests that re-offending costs Southwark approximately £59 million every year. We also know that a small percentage of offenders commit a high percentage of the crime. The SSP works closely with probation, the police and local prisons to ensure that statutory offenders (those sentenced to over 12 months custody or on probation supervision orders) are managed safely in the community and are given the support they need to change their lives. Probation services in Southwark had 1441 new offenders in 2008/09, of which just under a quarter were being supervised after serving a custodial sentence.

However, non-statutory (those sentenced to under 12 months custody and therefore not subject to supervision) offenders commit a disproportionate amount of crime in our community and struggle to access services and support. 1894 offenders that were received into London prisons in 2008/09 identified Southwark as their borough of origin, which is the highest of all London boroughs. Of those offenders that had been sentenced upon reception into prison, 60% were serving sentences less than 12 months and many more offenders will also spend time in custody on remand which results in a limited time for these offenders to access services in custody.

With the new statutory duty to reduce the likelihood of re-offending, we must work with partners to ensure services are coordinated and joined up. The London resettlement strategy identifies interventions across nine broad pathways, two of which are gender specific. Southwark's work with offenders over the next three years will focus on reducing adult re-offending by delivering an action plan that ensures all offenders have access to support and services to assist them to break the cycle of offending and re-offending and contribute positively to their communities.

We have an obligation to prepare a strategy. This will bring together a number of existing work streams that effectively target offenders, including the London Diamond initiative, the help strand of the Pathways programme² and the prolific and priority offenders (PPO) scheme³. It will also include new initiatives that will strengthen links between custody and community.

The London Diamond Initiative is a pilot scheme using a partnership approach to target offenders who have either been released from custody following short prison sentences or who are sentenced to community orders and therefore do not receive supervision as part of their sentence. The team helps to break the cycle of offending through supporting offenders to resettle back into their communities. The scheme can also work with victims of crime and families and associates of offenders and enables those involved to develop the ability to reach their full potential. We are now entering the second year of the two year pilot and early indications show that the initiative has been successful in reducing the re-offending rates of the offenders involved.

Southwark drug interventions programme (DIP) provides enhanced support for drug using offenders, in order to break the cycle of drugs and crime. More than 100 offenders a month are accessed via this programme.

² The Pathways programme is a multi-agency programme of 'focused deterrence' that supports those who wish to exit their gang lifestyle (the "help strand") whilst using robust enforcement techniques against those who continue to engage in serious violence (the "consequences strand").

³ The PPO scheme works with the small number of "super-prolific" offenders who are responsible for the majority of crimes. The programme consists of three strands of enhanced monitoring and intervention: prevent and deter, catch and bring to justice and rehabilitate and resettle.

Reducing re-offending

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>The London Diamond initiative (LDI) has been resourced, implemented and monitored within Southwark. The team have worked with 183 clients in Southwark since January 09 and currently have 46 clients they are actively working with to help break the cycle of offending.</p> <p>Current service provision for offenders has been mapped to identify gaps and synergies and this has been distributed to partner agencies. This work has been built upon by the PPO team and the LDI team.</p> <p>We have commissioned a small scale pilot to provide through the gate support for short term offenders returning to non-LDI wards in Southwark. Outcomes of this pilot will inform the development of the RR Strategy.</p> <p>The partnership has exceeded its target for the number of offenders on the probation caseload who are in appropriate accommodation at the end of their sentence (NI 143). And narrowly missed its target for those in suitable employment, training or education. (NI 144). These national indicators are included in Southwark's LAA, therefore strong partnership performance in this area is critical.</p>	<p>Southwark has the highest number of residents serving custodial sentences in London prisons of all London boroughs.</p> <p>Southwark has the 3rd highest number of new Probation Order commencements in London.</p> <p>Employment, training and education is the most prevalent need for Southwark offenders.</p> <p>60% of Southwark offenders that are in prison will receive no statutory supervision upon release.</p> <p>Nearly 50% of offenders admitted to using drugs prior to custody (compared to 27% in 07/08).</p> <p>66% of Southwark prisoners are aged 21-39.</p> <p>Approximately 8% of a cohort of adult offenders on the probation caseload were convicted for further offences during a 3 month follow up period. However 71.3% of all Southwark offenders have been assessed as possessing static factors indicating a medium or high risk of proven re-offending in the next two years.</p> <p>The total cost of re-offending to Southwark has been estimated at £58,638,895.</p>	<p>Develop and identify resources for a partnership reducing re-offending strategy and action plan. This will include a clear outcomes based commissioning framework and embed reducing re-offending across the LSP.</p> <p>Evaluate the potential gains and costs for the community and the partnership of moving to an integrated offender management / comprehensive offender management service.</p> <p>Contribute towards the evaluation of the impact of the Diamond initiative on re-offending rates for the engaged cohort.</p> <p>Continue to deliver the PPO programme.</p> <p>As part of our drive to exceed our two LAA targets in this area, we will undertake a partnership review of the number of offenders who are leaving the probation caseload who aren't in accommodation and/ or employment in order to further improve our performance against NI143/ 144.</p> <p>Improve partnership working to develop interventions to more effectively support young adult offenders (17-21 year olds) in the transitional period between the youth offending service and the probation service.</p>

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>The PPO scheme continues to meet and exceed the targets for performance on NI30. The partnership reviews the scheme annually to ensure continuous improvement to ensure that we are able to provide supervision and support as well as tough enforcement action for this challenging cohort.</p>	<p>Our consultation with the Southwark community tells us:</p> <p>Public perceive ex-offenders as an alien group.</p> <p>Service agencies report a massive gap in support and service provisions for those on remand or short sentences who do not fall under the remit of probation.</p> <p>There is an understanding that if interventions are provided early enough on in an offender's career, then there will be a greater impact on offending behaviour.</p>	<p>Ensure that the number of offenders gaining suitable employment, training or education is maximised through partnership interventions including supporting delivery of the Providing Innovative and New Opportunities project (PIANO).</p> <p>Review our community restoration programme and expand the number of community payback schemes in local areas, recommended by local people.</p>

Tackling youth crime

Young people are the future and in Southwark approximately 32% of the population is under 24 years old and the information from our schools shows that over 170 languages or dialects are spoken. Children from black or black British ethnic groups account for nearly half of all school pupils. Both London and Southwark populations are predicted to grow over the next ten years, with the proportion of young people and young adults also expected to grow.

Our children's trust, Young Southwark has over arching responsibility for delivery of the Every Child Matters agenda and the five key outcomes;

- ❖ Be healthy
- ❖ Stay safe
- ❖ Enjoy and achieve
- ❖ Make a positive contribution
- ❖ Achieve economic well-being

The SSP contributes to delivering on the staying safe and positive contribution elements. We plan and manage these actions through our Youth Crime Management board that reports to both the SSP and Young Southwark.

2010 has seen the publication of a new children and young peoples plan. One of the key priorities within the new plan is to achieve less crime by and against new people. In order to achieve this, services will be commissioned that:

- ❖ Target early intervention services at young people and their families who are at risk of involvement in crime as either victim or perpetrator;
- ❖ Prevent re-offending and reduce the seriousness of crimes through a model of multi-agency, evidenced-based intervention and support;
- ❖ Assist young offenders to engage positively in their community through supported opportunities to enter education, employment or training, live in suitable accommodation and develop law-abiding lifestyles.

During 2010/11 the SSP will work with Young Southwark in achieving these commissioning intentions.

Southwark youth offending service continue to deliver on key targets to reduce youth offending. There is a clear strategic direction from the Youth Justice board (YJB) to focus on a single scaled approach and local partnerships are required to provide appropriate interventions for those individuals who have a higher risk of offending.

Reducing drug and alcohol misuse amongst young people also remains a priority and education on the harm caused by alcohol and illegal drugs is provided as part of school activity. Over the last two years we have reduced underage sales of alcohol, cigarettes and other age related products such as knives. Joint work with the police and trading standards has promoted good trader schemes, test purchase operations and enforcement action. This work is supported by a Southwark proof of age card and the Challenge 25 campaign which was rolled out last year.

To support secondary school transition, the police with a range of agencies run the Junior Citizen scheme (aged 10-11 years) which includes input from police, fire brigade, transport providers, trading standards and other agencies to provide age appropriate safety education.

Young people remain over represented as both victims and perpetrators of crime. Reducing youth crime in the after school peak remains a key focus. We have used our warden's service and police safer

neighbourhood teams to cover key routes from schools to transport hubs between the hours of 15:00 – 17:00.

Targeting diversion activity to the right young people and into the right areas of the borough will bring great benefits. The Southwark anti social behaviour unit (SASBU) and community wardens work closely on area based activity to reduce anti social behaviour. Youth inclusion projects provide targeted support for young people at risk and operate across the borough. Future plans across a range of opportunities will be set out in the Southwark youth offer and the GATES and council “whateva” youth web site promote positive activities for young people as well as providing help and advice for young people and professionals with concerns about gangs.

Our analysis indicates that there is a higher number of young people involved in serious violence from a younger age and tackling this will take place through the youth offending service, risk management panel and violent crime programme as outlined above.

Positive contribution

Key priorities for the 13 to 19 age group include extending the range of positive opportunities and choices. Over the last few years, a number of community safety focused schemes have been set up such as: young street leader’s scheme, community safety young advisers and peer mediators. All have been highly successful and we will look to increase these types of opportunities to more young people.

Constructive use of leisure is important; Southwark has a commitment to increasing “things for young people to do”. The Southwark community games provide a range of sporting activity across all community council areas utilising facilities in parks and on estates. This programme links with and supports delivery of the targeted youth diversion schemes and the youth inclusion programme.

We have recognised the need to manage the transition between children’s and adult services and we are developing programmes to support young adults who are involved with criminal lifestyles. Our SOS project (run by St Giles Trust) for young adult offenders has attracted national interest and extra funding from the Barrow Cadbury Trust to provide services in young offender institutes for Southwark offenders.

Safeguarding

All partner agencies within the SSP are aware of the importance of safeguarding and reducing the vulnerability of young people who are in or on the fringes of entering the youth justice system (YJS) in addition to safeguarding children and young people who have been victims or are at risk of harm from offenders. This includes ensuring that any services commissioned to work with young people have staff with the necessary skills and training to safeguard young people from harm.

Tackling youth crime

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>Closer links have been forged between SSP and Young Southwark to ensure that we are working to the same priorities.</p> <p>A new drug service provision for young people has been commissioned and will open at the beginning of April 2010.</p> <p>Establishment of a triage service, resulting in a 6% reduction of first time entrants into the youth justice system (NI 111).</p> <p>175 deployments of after school patrols to address youth crime.</p> <p>The gangs disruption team have undertaken targeted work with 250 young people considered to be at risk of gang-related offending as well as supporting young people to leave gangs.</p> <p>Our young advisors worked with the police to foster better relations with young people, to address young people's concerns around stop and search. This included the production of an awareness-raising DVD to advise young people on their rights and how best to handle the situation.</p> <p>We have consulted with young people to decide where resources should be used to increase activities for young people.</p>	<p>Young people are over-represented as both victims and suspects of crime.</p> <p>Almost 1/3 of knife crime offences are classified as youth violence.</p> <p>Young people often get involved in crime as a result of first being a victim.</p> <p>Offending in young people escalates in severity over time.</p> <p>The primary drug that is recorded in treatment figures for young people is cannabis.</p> <p>Prevalence of class A drug use in young people is low in Southwark.</p> <p>Transition arrangements between young peoples substance misuse services and adult provision is an area to be further developed.</p> <p>Young people who had experienced substance misuse problems stated that interventions should be targeted at 11/12 year olds as after that age the effect is likely to be negligible.</p> <p>318 first time entrants into the youth justice system in Southwark during 2009/10 compared to 378 in 2008/09, which is a 15% reduction.</p>	<p>Targeted early intervention to divert young people away from crime and consequently reduce the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system.</p> <p>Preventing re-offending in young people through addressing criminogenic needs, specifically assisting young offenders to enter employment, training and education (ETE) and obtain suitable accommodation.</p> <p>Improving the links between young people's services and adult services as well as targeting resources at the 18-24 year old transitional period to better support young adults and safeguard them from harm.</p> <p>Development of a robust system to measure the impact of early intervention programmes and enforcement actions locally.</p> <p>Carry out further analysis looking at the journey to crime. In particular a cohort study into the journey home from school which is a peak time for offending.</p> <p>Identify best practice in other London boroughs and implement locally to continue to address the peak in crime between 3-6pm.</p>

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>Three anti-violence councils have been established in priority schools to provide peer mentoring support alongside targeted group work. This includes 29 trainer anti-violence mentors as well as 89 young people who have been trained as mediators.</p> <p>Young people are working as part of four youth forums to plan and implement summer programmes to meet a wide range of needs, such as those at risk of offending or not in education, employment or training.</p> <p>Over 9,000 young people attended Southwark community games to take part in sports and competitions, with 288 securing vocational training places in community sport leadership. The programme is the first in the country to be accredited as a “local centre of community sports leadership”.</p> <p>Youth inclusion support panels (YISPs) have undertaken targeted work with 141 young people at high risk of offending resulting in risk factors either being maintained or improved in 89% of cases.</p>	<p>27% of crime suspects in Southwark are aged between 15 and 19, with a further 18% aged between 20 and 24.</p> <p>Young people have told us:</p> <p>They are affected by all types of violent crime.</p> <p>They feel stereotyped as perpetrators of crime and feel they are always under suspicion.</p> <p>21% primary school pupils have been a victim of crime.</p> <p>26% secondary pupils have been a victim of crime.</p> <p>About three quarters of this crime had been reported.</p> <p>More school pupils believe their school takes action on bullying.</p> <p>Adults have told us:</p> <p>Improving facilities for young people should be a priority.</p> <p>The top anti-social behaviour concern is young people hanging about.</p>	<p>Ensure co-ordinated working between children’s services and the SSP, consequently enabling closer alignment between strategic plans.</p> <p>Continue to target partnership resources at resettlement provision for young people leaving custody.</p>

Tackling anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) continues to be an important priority for the SSP. In 2008, the SSP agreed its priorities in the rolling plan to tackle ASB. These remain unchanged but our response to the priorities is evolving. We believe that locally focused solutions delivered by accessible and visible services is the most effective response. Our commitment incorporates a wide range of services targeting their resources appropriately to prevent environmental nuisance and damage, anti social activity and intimidation that affect people the most.

For 2010/11, our key objectives remain:

- ❖ To place victims at the centre of our work
- ❖ Strengthen communities by providing them with the information on how we are tackling the anti-social behaviour that affects them the most
- ❖ Work with perpetrators using early intervention and diversion to reduce complaints
- ❖ Increase reporting of anti social behaviour, increase information sharing and intelligent use of resources
- ❖ Increase the capacity of the partnership to take co-ordinated and appropriate enforcement action
- ❖ Managing anti-social behaviour in areas of transition

These objectives continue to be at the heart of our partnership activity and reflect the London anti-social behaviour strategy, the youth taskforce action plan and the youth crime action plan. We will continue to deliver local solutions for local people, dealing with the issues of anti social behaviour that concern our communities the most. The priorities also reflect the key recommendations for CDRPs from Louise Casey's report 'Engaging communities in fighting crime'; to provide locally focused responses and information on the issues that impact on the daily lives of our communities.

In late 2009, the Home Office made a number of announcements relating to ASB. These included a renewed focus on supporting victims and required all community safety partnerships to have a set of minimum standards. The aim of the minimum standards was to provide simple information about the services that can help to tackle ASB, how to access them, how they would work together and how long the response would take. Our proposals for victims and the minimum standards are now reflected within our strategic priorities with regards to ASB. The ASB strategic group have formulated a local ASB strategic action plan, in addition to the local improvement delivery plan (LDP), which sets out the priorities in 2010. This plan incorporates the key actions from the LDP as well as activities to address the six priorities outlined in the rolling plan. Alongside this, a set of minimum standards have been developed, outlining the service the public can expect to receive from local services when they have experienced ASB in Southwark.

Managing anti-social behaviour

The partnership employs a balanced approach when dealing with ASB, combining early intervention, diversion and tough enforcement. This is an established part of central policy, particularly around work with young people and families. In addition, the Government (via the Youth Task Force) has invested considerable funding in the idea of the 'Triple Track Approach' incorporating tough enforcement where behaviour is unacceptable or illegal, non-negotiable support to address the underlying causes and better prevention to tackle problems before they become serious and entrenched. Our most successful (award winning) interventions and problem solving initiatives have taken place when we have incorporated this approach with perpetrators and their families but in addition worked with local community groups and individuals affected by the anti-social behaviour. Together we have been able to identify the real problems

(not just the symptoms) and develop interventions which will have longer term benefits rather than a quick fix solution.

Looking after our environment so that it is cleaner, greener and safer is a top priority in Southwark. Over the last four years we have reduced the number of fly tipping incidents, increased recycling and improved people's perceptions of cleanliness across the borough particularly in relation to abandoned vehicles, litter, graffiti and vandalism. Tackling these issues has also reduced the levels of arson and deliberate fires.

We believe our successes are due to a number of joint partnership approaches targeting resources where needed. The fire brigade, police and council continue to work together on joint operations. The borough's environmental enforcement service continues to provide a 24 hour response to all types of environmental and noise nuisance complaints, increased warden services are visible at key times (and have new powers) and safer neighbourhood teams have all had a role to play in improving perception and reducing enviro-crime.

We have made a significant reduction in the number of deliberate fires in the borough, which now account for approximately 30% of all fires in the borough compared to 63% in 2004/05. Furthermore there was a 35% reduction in the number of deliberate fires in 2009/10 (232) compared with 2008/09 (360). This has mostly been achieved through close partnership working with the London fire brigade, the police and other agencies focussing on hotspot areas and areas where other anti-social behaviour is prevalent.

Working with local communities

Residents' perception of anti social behaviour is measured through the bi-annual Place survey and Southwark residents' survey. The results of the 2008 Southwark residents' survey show that although anti-social behaviour remains a concern for residents, this concern has come down significantly since 2006. The partnership is committed to using all available information sources to build a comprehensive picture of the level of anti-social activity in the borough. This incorporates not only recorded incidents but also the concerns of residents through independent surveys.

We continue to work with our local communities to reduce ASB through a programme of planned blitzes and longer term problem solving work on estates and surrounding areas. Before and after surveys have shown that residents feel more satisfied about their local area as a good place to live. For example, work has taken place to tackle gang activity and associated ASB in Peckham due to residents reporting feeling unsafe due to gang and knife crime in the area. The targeted partnership work included the development of an early intervention strategy to divert youths on the fringe of gangs as well as obtaining gang ASBOs which were designed to disrupt gang activity for the seven most influential gang members. The interventions resulted in 92% of respondents noticing a reduction in gang related ASB as well as stating that Peckham is now a safer place. In addition to the qualitative improvements, there were also significant reductions in violent crime in the area (a 50% reduction). Most importantly, looking forward we want to increase public confidence by providing better and more local information for communities on what we have done to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We will identify local areas of improvement through our community councils and neighbourhood panels where the punishment of community payback can be used to the benefit of local people.

Southwark recently held the third Enough is Enough awards recognising community members who have taken a stand against anti-social behaviour. The eight winners ranged from a group of junior wardens who voluntarily work to tackle environmental crime to some truly special individuals who have really made a difference in their communities in tackling anti-social behaviour. The event has become an annual event on the SSP calendar and is an opportunity for the partnership to thank those individuals. This year we achieved regional and national TV and radio coverage and had local celebrity Jenny Eclair as our special guest.

We continue to tackle the causes of ASB by using the full range of tools and powers available to us. In addition to ABCs and ASBOs, we have used individual support orders (ISOs) attached to ASBOs for 10-

17 year olds and parenting orders to ensure that additional support is available alongside other interventions. The continued development of our family intervention project (FIP) which works intensively with the most challenging families has shown to reduce problem behaviours by providing a wrap around service to those people who most need it.

With the challenge and support funding, we have also trained warden managers, safer neighbourhood team (SNT) sergeants, housing managers and housing associations to identify young people at risk of or involved in ASB. This enables vulnerable young people to be referred into early intervention and support at the earliest opportunity.

Anti-social behaviour

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>Partnership blitzes have been carried out in areas which have been particularly affected by anti-social behaviour and criminality. These blitzes involved a range of services and partners including the police, SASBU, area housing offices, wardens, parking enforcement and education welfare. Residents were surveyed to find out their feelings about the area and were also educated about the penalties that people can face for committing ASB. The key objectives of the blitzes were to increase reporting of ASB and increase the public's confidence that agencies are dealing with ASB.</p> <p>Multi-agency street based teams have engaged with over 1000 young people in the last year to help address high levels of anti-social behaviour in particular wards.</p> <p>Minimum standards have been developed outlining the service that victims of ASB can expect to receive from Southwark agencies.</p> <p>Local "Enough is Enough" awards took place in Feb 2010 to recognise and reward individuals and groups who have taken a stand against ASB over the last year.</p> <p>4507 fixed penalty notices have been issued.</p> <p>An accredited ASB training package has been</p>	<p>Anti-social behaviour data is limited because one of the key indicators is the Southwark residents' survey which is only carried out once every 2 years.</p> <p>Reporting levels are highest in the centre and the south of the borough.</p> <p>Overall concern about ASB has been reducing since 2006 (the residents' survey showed that 34% of residents perceived ASB to be a problem in 2008 compared to 44% in 2006).</p> <p>92% of residents now feel safe in the day time; a 6% increase from 2006.</p> <p>There has been a significant increase in the number of people feeling safe at night time (54% compared to 46% in 2006).</p> <p>ASB is more likely to be seen as a serious problem in Bermondsey (43%) & Walworth (47%).</p> <p>"Teenagers hanging around" and "litter" remain the top areas of concern but were less of a concern in 2008 (19%) than in 2006 (25%).</p> <p>Groups of teenagers made residents feel more unsafe after dark (31%) as opposed to daytime (20%).</p> <p>The key concerns that make residents feel unsafe,</p>	<p>Implement a local delivery improvement plan setting out how we intend to reduce the number of Southwark residents who perceive ASB to be a problem to below 29%.</p> <p>Improve support for victims of ASB through the development of a victim and witnesses charter outlining service standards.</p> <p>Carry out a programme of partnership action days on targeted estates with the aim of increasing reporting of ASB, increasing confidence and educating residents.</p> <p>Implement and promote the minimum standards that the public can expect from services when they report ASB.</p> <p>Develop a local performance management framework to improve our understanding of levels of anti-social behaviour in Southwark and accurately evaluate progress made.</p> <p>Increase information sharing between agencies including developing a coordinated response to measuring satisfaction amongst service users and streamlining processes.</p> <p>Develop a robust monitoring system to measure the impact of early intervention services on ASB.</p>

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>delivered to 57 delegates to improve Southwark's response to ASB, particularly around providing support for victims of ASB.</p> <p>17 families have engaged with the ASB family intervention project to help tackle the underlying causes of ASB using a whole family approach.</p> <p>The breach rate for acceptable behaviour contracts has fallen by 6% in the last 2 years; from 17% in 2007/08 to 11% in 2009/10, which is significantly below Home Office targets.</p> <p>ASBOs have been secured on seven gang members alongside individual support orders and parenting orders.</p> <p>13 crack houses have been closed down in 2009/10.</p> <p>Prohibiting accelerant sales: All petrol stations in Southwark are now subjected to test purchasing activity & enforcement.</p> <p>Partnership operations for Halloween and bonfire night have been adopted by both LFB and other London boroughs as best practice.</p>	<p>during both day and night time, are muggings/street crime, knife crime, gangs and groups of teenagers.</p> <p>Other ASB issues perceived as problems but to a lesser extent are dog nuisance and mess (15%) and drug dealing and use (13%).</p> <p>Issues of least concern are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vandalism and graffiti (6%) - problems with neighbours (4%) - abandoned/ burnt out cars (2%) - property set on fire (2%) 	<p>Improve community engagement and understanding of the impact of ASB through implementing a programme of focus groups with the community.</p> <p>Continue to work with housing management to provide a range of services in areas of regeneration.</p> <p>Review new legislation and identify the most effective enforcement action to tackle persistent or serious ASB.</p> <p>Carry out evaluation of the Think Family and youth crime action plan programmes with the view of their long term sustainability.</p> <p>To continue to develop and roll out arson reduction programmes.</p> <p>To set up a multi-agency partnership group to develop a dogs strategy. The partnership to look at borough-wide consultation on implementing dog control order (DCO) regulations across Southwark. Monitoring of partnership work on dangerous dogs, changes to tenancy agreements, dog events, micro-chipping and stray dog provision.</p>

Drugs and alcohol

Reducing drug and alcohol misuse

The SSP recognises the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse both to individuals and to the community. Substance misuse services in the borough are delivered within the broader context of health, enforcement, community safety and regeneration. Our interventions range from harm minimisation and outreach services to treatment services, including substance misuse services embedded in the criminal justice system. Our priorities mirror the national goals of improving health and social outcomes, reducing crime and reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol use to the individual, families and the community. Embedded in the harm minimisation work carried out by the SSP is the need to safeguard young people who may be substance misusing as well as protecting children of substance misusing parents from harm. Information sharing protocols are in place to ensure that young people at risk are highlighted and the necessary referrals made to prevent significant harm. The SSP also recognise the importance of tackling illegal drug markets which not only impact on substance misuse but are also a causal factor in driving crime such as gun and weapon violence and involve young people into criminal lifestyles either through the distribution or sale of illegal drugs.

Drugs

The borough is required by the National Treatment Agency (NTA) to submit a needs assessment and treatment plan each year outlining how substance misuse provision will be commissioned and delivered across the borough. substance misuse services for both adults and young people are provided by both the voluntary and statutory sector and our service provision is monitored through a multi-agency joint commissioning group.

Since 2009-2010, the funding allocated from Government for adult drug treatment has been based on the number of adults accessing effective treatment services and future funding will depend on the extent to which drug users access and remain in treatment. The Home Office prevalence study estimates there are 4,810 problematic drug users (heroin and crack cocaine users) resident in Southwark. Southwark has the largest number of treatment places available in London and we are excellent at retaining people in treatment, however the challenge for the partnership has been around identifying and engaging treatment naïve drug users (i.e. those not already accessing treatment). This will be one of the key priorities for the partnership moving into 2010/11 to ensure that drug users in the borough are provided with the necessary support to exit the cycle of drug use and that the community is protected from the harm caused by drugs.

One of the areas for development in Southwark will be the continued expansion of outreach facilities to help bring people into treatment more quickly and re-engage those people who drop out of treatment. Our drug services also need to have a higher profile in the community to enable local people to understand the value of drug services and publicise the help that is available to substance misusers and their families.

This year we undertook our third substance misuse needs assessment for young people (under 18s). The NTA described this as an outstanding piece of work and from it the 2010/11 young person's treatment plan was developed. This piece of work was undertaken jointly between Southwark drug and alcohol action team (DAAT) and Young Southwark and commits Southwark to the provision of a new, dedicated young persons' substance misuse service.

Southwark has a comprehensive crack house protocol that has been adopted as good practice nationally. This protocol involves a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector partners working alongside the police to protect communities by closing crack houses and engaging with crack users to change their behaviour and move them into treatment. The success of this work is illustrated through the significant

reduction in the number of crack houses appearing in Southwark with only 13 needing to be closed in 2009/10.

Work also continues between criminal justice and substance misuse service partners to improve enforcement and drug treatment provision for offenders, via the drug interventions programme (DIP) and drug rehabilitation requirements (DRR). There has been a reduction in the number of offenders in Southwark who have been assessed to have substance misuse needs but probation clients remain a key untapped population for engagement into treatment. Partners are continually reviewing and improving the DIP and DRR systems to ensure that Southwark can increase the number of individuals who are accessing treatment services.

Alcohol

Alcohol continues to be a key priority in Southwark and the partnership aim to reduce the negative impact that alcohol has on individuals, families and the wider community. According to data collated by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO) in 2009, Southwark is estimated to have 30,381 binge drinkers, 30,595 hazardous drinkers and 9,817 harmful drinkers. Furthermore, whilst it is difficult to quantify, the total estimated cost of dealing with the harm caused by alcohol in Southwark is approximately £10m. Currently, over £3m is invested in specialist alcohol treatment services in Southwark that are targeted to reduce the harm caused by alcohol misuse through interventions such as outreach services, in-patient detoxification as well as residential rehabilitation. The NWPHO indicates that Southwark is performing significantly better than the national average in relation to binge drinking, hazardous drinkers and alcohol related hospital admissions for under 18s, indicating that our interventions are having a positive impact. The SSP will continue to focus on addressing alcohol related violence as well as implementing strategies to reduce the burden that alcohol has on health and social care services.

Alcohol significantly impacts on certain crime types in the borough with alcohol being linked to 12% of our violent crime, including violence to strangers and domestic violence. In addition, 32% of offenders on the probation caseload in Southwark have been assessed to have an alcohol misuse need, illustrating the link between alcohol misuse and crime. Southwark also has a high number of alcohol-related domestic violence incidents which is highlighted through 83% of high risk domestic violence perpetrators misusing alcohol⁴.

Southwark have now formulated a new alcohol strategy which will be implemented in 2010/11 across the partnership. This strategy is aligned with both the national alcohol strategy and Southwark health inequalities strategy and will steer the DAAT's work to address alcohol related issues and achieve the aim in Southwark "*To protect individuals, families and our communities from the harm caused by alcohol misuse*". There are three key priorities set out within the Southwark alcohol strategy:

❖ **Children and young people**

Recommendations include young people having access to a specialist substance misuse service and raising the profile of substance misuse treatment, training and education.

❖ **Health and social care**

Recommendations include having a joined up approach to identify where alcohol has a significant impact on the health priorities for Southwark.

❖ **Crime and community safety**

Recommendations include improving the information on the extent to which alcohol is a cause of crime and anti-social behaviour and using the full range of new and existing powers to address alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour while ensuring that particular groups are not targeted inappropriately.

⁴ Between November 2008 and January 2010, 44 out of 55 perpetrators discussed at the Southwark domestic violence MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) were misusing alcohol.

Agencies will work together to ensure that these priority areas are effectively addressed within the borough and that we gather a full picture about the cost of alcohol across the borough.

Street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour have been an issue in Southwark for a number of years. Multi-agency work has been targeted in hotspot areas to reduce the incidence of street drinking and improve the environment for the community. Street drinking is now effectively controlled in the borough through stringently applied enforcement measures against individuals who persistently commit alcohol related ASB as well as the use of a designated public places order (DPPO) which enables police and community wardens to confiscate alcohol and penalise people who are causing, or are likely to cause, a nuisance. These alcohol control zones have reduced levels of street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour by 27% since 2006. In addition, Southwark's assertive outreach services work with street drinkers to support them to access treatment services and address their needs, consequently tackling the street drinking.

Effective partnership work led by trading standards has continued to support licensees to address a range of key issues including underage sales of alcohol, anti-social behaviour and crime. 41 underage test purchases were undertaken last year, resulting in a 70% compliance rate. One licence review was carried out with a three-month suspension as well as five fixed penalty notices issued by police. However, compliance has decreased compared with last year (82%). This can be attributed to Southwark concentrating on premises that had not been subject to test purchasing in recent campaigns. It is hoped that we will bring them into compliance over the next year. In addition, in 2009/10 pro-active advisory visits were made at on-licensed premises regarding the SPA card. Changes to licensing legislation will mean that conditions will be imposed on licences requiring staff to be trained on underage sales and a proof of age scheme to be in place.

The NHS in Southwark has well developed services for people who are alcohol-dependent and services to identify and support 'harmful' and 'hazardous' drinkers are being developed. Southwark is a Department of Health pilot area for the treatment of these drinkers and the pilot is currently working within Kings A&E and at a number of GP surgeries.

Cocaine and alcohol

Cocaine use in the borough appears to be on the rise and is increasingly used as an accompaniment to alcohol, as part of the clubbing/late night drinking experience amongst recreational drug users. The partnership has developed a highly successful coca-ethylene (combined use of cocaine and alcohol) campaign which has included training licensees, distributing cocaine torches as well as an awareness raising campaign in the community. The information that Southwark produced for this campaign has been shared with local authorities across the country and is utilised as best practise.

Saturation zones

Southwark has around 1,200 licensed premises and under the Licensing Act 2003, councils are responsible for monitoring the effects of licensed premises on local communities. This has led to Camberwell, Peckham & Borough and Bankside being designated as saturation zones, as the number of late licenses in these areas has had an adverse affect on the local areas. The result is that no new licenses (or extensions to existing licences) will be granted in the Camberwell, Peckham and Borough & Bankside areas unless applicants can show that they will not add to the cumulative effect of crime and disorder in the area.

Drugs & alcohol

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>A new substance misuse service was developed to meet the needs of individuals misusing cannabis or powder cocaine. This service is being particularly well used by 18-24 year olds in Southwark.</p> <p>A new specialist substance misuse education and treatment service for young people in Southwark has been commissioned and is due to open at the beginning of May 2010.</p> <p>An expanded and innovative assertive outreach service was developed to engage hard to reach substance misusers and support them to access treatment services.</p> <p>Joint agency work on crack house closures has continued to lead to sharp reductions in the number of crack houses appearing in Southwark.</p> <p>The partnership have undertaken targeted work to better manage street drinking hotspots, control the environment and improve the area for the community. This has included the use of the designated public places order allowing the confiscation of alcohol in certain areas by police or community wardens.</p> <p>A highly successful campaign has been carried out around powder cocaine use and the dangers of</p>	<p>At least 12% of violent crimes are alcohol related.</p> <p>Research estimates indicate there are approximately 4810 problematic drug users (PDUs) in Southwark; of which 1463 were in treatment in August 09.</p> <p>69% of drug treatment service users are male; 74% are White British.</p> <p>People in treatment for Class A drugs are getting older with the majority being 35-64 years old (72%).</p> <p>15-24 year olds and 25-35 year olds are under-represented in the PDU treatment population.</p> <p>Many drug users in Southwark use both opiates and crack-cocaine.</p> <p>45% of Southwark offenders in London prisons say they use drugs.</p> <p>Young people are more likely to use cannabis and alcohol than any other substance.</p> <p>London ambulance data indicates that there is consistently double the number of alcohol related call outs than drug related call outs.</p>	<p>To successfully implement Southwark's 2010/11 Adult Treatment Plan, which describes our full strategic plan for substance misuse commissioning and delivery. 2010/11 Treatment Plan priorities include:</p> <p>Undertaking a review and overhaul of Southwark's substance misuse commissioning and strategic planning team (Southwark DAAT), as well as its systems and processes. This will ensure that Southwark DAAT is able to successfully meet all of the opportunities and challenges presented by Southwark's ambitious substance misuse agenda.</p> <p>Increasing the number of problematic drug users entering and remaining in effective treatment through better joint-work and strategic planning with key partners, including children's services, probation, Southwark service user council, housing and mental health services.</p> <p>Improving the number of treatment agencies in Southwark who complete treatment outcome profile reports, so we can fully measure and understand the positive impact of the treatment services we provide.</p> <p>Working with treatment providers in Southwark to ensure that greater numbers of individuals are successfully leaving treatment fully abstinent from</p>

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>mixing with alcohol (coca-ethylene). The partnership has provided training for licensees and provided them with cocaine torches alongside an awareness raising campaign in the community. This initiative is now being utilised as best practice in other local authorities across the country.</p> <p>Police and community wardens have reported a decrease of 15-20% in the amount of discarded drug paraphernalia in the borough.</p> <p>The numbers of individuals who were arrested, drug tested in the police station and tested positive for crack cocaine or heroin continued to fall over the last year.</p>	<p>33% of people arrested gave a positive drug test with cocaine being the most common drug.</p> <p>63% of positive drug tests were people arrested for acquisitive crime</p> <p>Our consultation with the Southwark community tells us:</p> <p>Drugs have a double impact firstly because of crime committed to fund drugs and secondly the fear of erratic and violent behaviour of a drug user (Community safety focus groups 2006).</p> <p>The latest resident survey tells us that people are less worried than they were about drugs and drug dealing in there community.</p> <p>The public are resistant to having treatment services and needle exchanges in their area. They fear that drug services lead to congregations of users, increasing anti-social behaviour, crime and prostitution. However the newest service in Badsworth Road proved these fears unfounded with local residents and councillors are very happy with the management of the project.</p> <p>The public are concerned about young people misusing substances. Young people in Southwark primarily misuse alcohol and cannabis.</p>	<p>problem substances and able to reintegrate back into community and work life.</p> <p>Reviewing best practice options for the provision of substance misuse treatment and support for offenders and, if necessary, undertake a full system re-commission to ensure that the treatment and support that Southwark provides for offenders is the most effective it can be. As part of this process, we will be working with criminal justice partners to develop plans for a combined drug intervention programme/integrated offender management service located in Southwark.</p> <p>Working with London prisons to ensure that offenders leaving custody are successfully transferred into Southwark drug intervention programme and, therefore, are able to access the substance misuse treatment they need immediately.</p> <p>Continuing to implement Southwark's primary care strategy to ensure that greater numbers of individuals are able to access treatment through their GP.</p> <p>Continuing to refine and develop our substance misuse data systems (including gathering a much greater amount of alcohol related data), enabling us to improve both our strategic planning and our performance management capabilities.</p> <p>Continuing to deliver substance misuse training for both professionals working with adults and those</p>

What did we achieve in 2009/10?

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working with young people to ensure that all individuals in need of substance misuse treatment come into contact with at least one professional who is able to refer them into an appropriate treatment service.

Ensuring that all alcohol strategy actions for 2010/11 are delivered on time and that all partners are committed to improving alcohol systems and responses across organisations and across the borough.

We are committed to ensuring that the new specialist substance misuse service for young people in Southwark engages all young people in need across the borough. From May 2010, the service will be offering a comprehensive range of brief targeted interventions to educate, treat and better support young people at risk of harm from substance misuse.

We also plan to further reduce street drinking, dealing and begging and reduce the anti-social behaviour associated with these acts through targeted multi-agency interventions led by Southwark's assertive outreach service.

Communities and communications

Understanding our communities

Attracted by our position and success, the world has come to Southwark and in turn transformed it into one of the most varied and interesting boroughs in London. Throughout history the people of the borough have had an endless capacity to reinvent the borough and move with the times. A good example is Bankside: historically a place for trade of all kinds, now completely renewed as a cultural centre hosting Shakespeare's Globe, Tate Modern, popular museums and world renowned galleries.

Southwark is a diverse borough, with an exciting mix of languages, backgrounds and cultures. Our approach to equality and diversity is to recognise and value differences while also holding on to what we all have in common. Community cohesion and respect for ethnic difference is good in Southwark and we continue our efforts to fuse the celebration of diversity with greater social inclusion and cohesion.

Southwark has a long history of welcoming new communities. Communities now well established include Vietnamese and Chinese, many African communities and more recently established communities include Somali, Nigerian, and Sierra Leone communities. As the make up of our community changes we must make sure they have access to the services and the support they need to keep safe.

Strengthening communities is a key part of our strategic approach. We will work with our partners across the council and partnerships to ensure that life chances are available to all as this is key to community cohesion and community safety. Ensuring community cohesion is embedded into everything we do as the SSP is critical to ensure success. We will aim to emphasise community responsibility and benefit. This will be especially critical to ensure we protect our communities from the potential impacts of the economic depression, such as increased unemployment creating community tensions.

Fear of crime is about more than adopting a zero tolerance approach to crime reduction. Public perception of crime, perception of risk, confidence in the criminal justice system and agencies all play a part. Services such as our noise team will work to reduce fear of crime.

Our safer communities work has a reporting line to the Southwark Alliance board.

Equality and diversity

Supporting elderly residents and residents with a disability is essential to improve reassurance. Our statistical information indicates that both elderly residents and residents with a disability are less likely to be a victim of crime. However, the reality for many of our residents in both of these groups is that the fear of crime greatly impacts on their daily lives; where and when they go and the transport they use.

The independence and well being strategy highlights that safety in the home and community is a key outcome for our elderly community. Doorstep crime is a real issue for elderly and vulnerable adults which we are addressing in partnership with trading standards, the police safer neighbourhood teams and elderly support services.

The SSP will address the issues of unauthorised occupation of housing and the multiple letting of rooms. We will work with other agencies at home and abroad to identify and address organised criminality which take advantage of vulnerable members of our community.

Vulnerable young adults

Being an adolescent can be one of the hardest stages in a person's life. For some young people this transition can have a negative impact; loss of self esteem and motivation, withdrawal, an increased risk of becoming involved in substance misuse and risk of committing crime.

Over the past four years, the SSP has developed a range of programmes aimed at supporting our vulnerable young adults, particularly between the ages of 18-24. Our aim is to increase their opportunities for employment, this includes offering work and training opportunities, counselling and support for young people at risk in the age range of 18-24.

We will continue to support these key programmes, such as the St Giles Trust programme for young offenders and work with our partnerships, such as Young Southwark, to improve the opportunities for vulnerable young adults. The SSP are also aware of the need to safeguard vulnerable young people from harm so there are robust processes in place for the sharing of information between our partner agencies.

Vulnerable adults

The partnership recognises the importance of effective joint-working and the sharing of information to protect vulnerable adults in Southwark. As previously mentioned, safeguarding is embedded in all of our work to ensure that we prevent abuse against vulnerable adults as well as promoting their welfare. The SSP works closely with the Safeguarding Adults partnership board to ensure that we work in accordance with the 'No Secrets'⁵ national framework and effectively tackle abuse against vulnerable adults.

Preventing violent extremism

Our preventing violent extremism (PVE) projects are set very firmly within a wider context of community cohesion activity. On 3 March 2009, we received beacon status for our cohesive and resilient communities in Southwark, which also included the work we had carried out around PVE. The assessors were very impressed that we were able to demonstrate such strong community support for our cohesion projects. Our PVE work had delivered groundbreaking projects such as the Peace by Piece exhibition which brought people together and had received national and global recognition and our two Radical Middle Way events.

Hate crime

Hate crime remains a priority and during 2009/10 reported hate crime increased across London. Whilst the numbers are relatively low, this trend was mirrored in Southwark with homophobic offences increasing by 37% and racist and religious hate crimes increasing by 27%. Our work with the Anti Homophobic Forum and our local specialist service providers aims to encourage reporting and firmly establish rights and responsibilities across all sections of the community. Much reported hate crime activity is anti-social behaviour and to tackle this effectively we have strengthened our ability to respond through mediation services and area based work with groups led by Southwark anti-social behaviour unit.

Businesses

Southwark has a wide variety of businesses, with different needs. Crime and safety impacts on businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the fear of crime can affect employers and staff alike. We will look at new ways of working with our businesses to provide partnership services

⁵ "No secrets" is official government guidance issued by the Department of Health under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (Published March 2000). It states that 'There can be no secrets and no hiding places when it comes to the abuse of vulnerable adults'.

which can make them feel supported, including working with internal partners delivering the council's new employment and enterprise strategy.

We will continue to use our regulatory services such as food safety, licensing, trading standards and health and safety, to encourage compliance with key standards and to protect the health and welfare of local communities. We will continue to identify and deal with food fraud which can have a detrimental effect on both health and economic wellbeing. In addition, we will provide better information and support to businesses on local crime and anti-social behaviour issues, informing them what is being done and what preventative measures they can use to reduce the risk of crime including fraudulent crime. Where appropriate, trading standards will use the Proceeds of Crime Act as another enforcement tool to ensure that acquisitive crime is effectively combated.

Victims and witnesses

Support for victims and witnesses of crime remains a priority in Southwark. Working closely with voluntary sector agencies we have been able to establish a network of support services for victims and witnesses. Vulnerable or intimidated witnesses often require additional support to bring the perpetrators of crimes to justice so the SSP are committed to ensuring the services are in place to allow them to do this whilst safeguarding them from harm.

Southwark has put in place a victims charter which ensures all victims can receive the help they need, regardless of reporting to the police. Over the next year we will promote this charter through our community councils.

Housing

The make up of Southwark's housing is complex and varied. According to the Southwark housing strategy 2009-16, 33% of the housing stock in Southwark is council rented, 12% housing association rented, 28% owner occupied and 27% privately rented

The recent tragic fires at Lakanal and Sumner Road are poignant reminders of what is important to people in making them feel safe as individuals, families and a community. Working in partnership with all housing providers, tenants' and residents' bodies, the fire service and other key agencies our focus in 2010/11 will be to make the borough safer from the dangers of fire and other major risks. As well as embarking on a programme of physical improvements, we will be working with our tenants and residents to recognise the important role they play in reducing the risk of fire and the simple precautions they can take to reduce those risks.

Empowering communities

Increasing the resilience of individuals and communities and building community confidence takes time but is essential to longer term success. In 2009/10 the SSP recognised the changing dynamics of gang and weapon culture and took a positive community leadership role by working with our communities to deliver an ambitious programme focused on the personal responsibility agenda. There have been many strands to this programme. Our approach has been to work in partnership to encourage all to take responsibility in playing their role as part of the solution. The community gangs forum has been critical in supporting and enabling this.

The aim is to engage with residents and to raise awareness of the work the SSP is doing to prevent violent crime and gang involvement, enabling residents to take an active role and become leaders in their families and communities. Information roadshow style events were held at many locations, including shopping centres and community spaces. The great success of this was Talkeoke, which generated constructive debate between members of the community and the SSP. The debate was always captured and this has had an impact upon our service design.

The public engagement campaign has been recognised as best practice – the SSP was a finalist in the Local Government Chronicle awards 2009, in the category of local leadership. We will continue to build on this best practice next year with our engagement campaign to increase confidence in the criminal justice system.

Emergency planning

The Civil Contingencies Act places a statutory duty on the council to have current, practical emergency plans which will enable the authority to prepare for and respond to emergencies. The council has created a range of plans which satisfies these requirements to a high level.

The council has well established business continuity arrangements to ensure that service delivery can be maintained during an emergency. The council continues to provide advice and assistance to local businesses and voluntary organisations on business continuity, including the award winning captain continuity campaign.

Communities and communications

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
<p>We were highly commended at the LGC awards in the category of community engagement for the work we did on Operation Pathways.</p> <p>We delivered a successful community engagement campaign to increase awareness around serious violence and to ensure personal and community responsibilities were taken. We held partnership road shows in innovative locations in each community council area. We were independently evaluated as best practice.</p> <p>Southwark council was awarded Beacon status for community cohesion, which included our work to prevent violent extremism. Our PVE work focused on young people. A visit by an internationally known figure was successful in engaging young people.</p>	<p>Homophobic offences have increased by 37% and racist and religious hate crimes by 27% during 2009/10.</p> <p>86% of residents believe that people from different backgrounds get on well together.</p> <p>83% people agree that residents respect ethnic differences between people.</p> <p>Muslim parents want to pass on cultural values, while promoting social and educational achievement for their children.</p> <p>Somali and Bengali communities felt reassured by the council and police engagement work after 7/7.</p> <p>Muslim community groups do not identify violent extremism as a problem in Southwark currently. The Muslim community is conscious of the national media role in creating phobic environments.</p>	<p>Increasing our work with the Southwark adult safeguarding Board to ensure that there is a framework for assessing vulnerable adults as well as supplying appropriate and timely support.</p> <p>Building on the best practice we've established during our community engagement campaign around serious violence, we will continue to develop our engagement mechanisms and appropriate skills and knowledge across the partnership.</p> <p>Focus our engagement activity on increasing confidence in the criminal justice agencies and promoting healthy relationships.</p> <p>Increase our work with small and medium businesses to reduce the impact of crime which affects the business and their employees.</p> <p>Increase the resilience of individuals and communities, taking into consideration the potential impact of the economic downturn.</p> <p>Explore options for co-production and getting communities involved in problem solving.</p> <p>Review the support currently available for victims of hate crime and identify how we can make better use of our service to improve support.</p>

What did we achieve in 2009/10?	Was does our consultation and strategic assessment tell us?	What are the priorities for 2010/11?
		<p>Continue to and develop services to provide support to victims and witnesses of crime, including continuing to promote community payback.</p> <p>Establish and deliver a communications campaign to improve public confidence in the council and partners' abilities to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Review our emergency response and how we involve the community to support the partners in dealing with an emergency incident.</p>