



## Foreword

Welcome to the third Drugs, Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for the Allerdale and Copeland districts.

This strategy summarises some of the main findings from our Crime and Disorder Audits for the two districts of Allerdale and Copeland and contains proposals for tackling our chosen priorities for the period April 2005 to March 2008 across all West Cumbria.

What differs from our previous ones is that the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership decided that in order to reduce crime and disorder in West Cumbria, more effectively, it would be sensible for all the agencies concerned to work West Cumbria wide and therefore it elected to produce this first West Cumbria Drugs, Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

Over the last three years the Allerdale and the Copeland CDRP's have joined forces and operated as the West Cumbria Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and is currently considering formal merger through the Home Office via Government Office, North West. The partnership has been active in bringing various partners, both in the public and the private sectors, together in seeking to reduce crime where it can. Reductions have been seen in domestic burglary, vehicle crime and theft but other areas such as violence and anti-social behaviour have been increasing and will be a central strand in this strategy.

The partnership recognises that to be effective in the challenges ahead it requires a broad membership and input from all sectors of the community. West Cumbria CDRP welcomes any approach from individuals, citizen's and organisations that believe they have something to offer in this process.

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| <b>Chair West Cumbria CDRP</b><br><br>_____<br>Signature   | <b>Allerdale Borough Council Chief Executive</b><br><br>_____<br>Signature                | <b>Copeland Borough Council Chief Executive</b><br><br>_____<br>Signature                      |
| <b>Phil Tibble</b><br><b>Cumbria Constabulary Chief Superintendent</b><br><br>_____<br>Signature | <b>Mike Phillips</b><br><b>West Cumbria PCT Chief Executive</b><br><br>_____<br>Signature | <b>John Stanforth</b><br><b>Cumbria Fire and Rescue Area Manager</b><br><br>_____<br>Signature |
| <b>Ron Smith</b><br><b>Cumbria Police Authority</b><br><br>_____<br>Signature                    | <b>Nigel Woodcock</b><br><b>Cumbria County Council</b><br><br>_____<br>Signature          | <b>Paul Hancock</b>  |
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## Introduction and background

This is the third time that the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has prepared a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in Allerdale and Copeland. Since 1999 it has been a duty on all local authorities through the Crime and Disorder Act to audit crime and produce a strategy for reducing crime and disorder in their area.

The West Cumbria Crime and Disorder Partnership has been working hard to ensure that it responds to the needs of local people and by taking account of local people's views that it works inclusively to add value to the work of all the contributing agencies which through their functional work help to make West Cumbria a better and safer place to live. Partnership working is a central theme for achieving the aims of this strategy and the CDRP will continue to invite all those agencies from the public, the private and voluntary sectors that can make a contribution to crime reduction into the process.

Since 2004 the health service as represented by the local Primary Care Trust, the Police Authority and the Fire and Rescue Service have become statutory members of the CDRP. Their involvement has been welcomed as a step forward offering more opportunities for the effective delivery of schemes, improving the quality of life for local people and contributing to individual agency priorities, too. Government initiatives such as the Prolific and Other Priority Offender Programme have brought CDRP partners such as Police, Courts, Prisons, Probation and Youth Offending much closer together to focus on those few offenders who are responsible for such a lot of local crime. The importance of achieving better outcomes from improved partnership working cannot be overemphasised and the CDRP looks forward to implementing the next three year strategy and doing it with an increased involvement of new and existing partners.

From 2005 onwards this process of statutory agencies having to engage on a common agenda will be brought into sharper focus with the introduction of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) regime. LAA's are designed to streamline the way local government agencies allocate resources through different funding streams issued by the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This process will require a greater integration between the work of the Local Strategic Partnership and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. It offers an opportunity to find the common ground in the work of various agencies having responsibility for regeneration and improving lives in our less well-off neighbourhoods and will target a range of different funds to where it is most needed helping to solve problems more effectively.

The Crime and Disorder Partnership will continue to work as a formal sub-group of the Local Strategic Partnership and will work with the LSP to deliver on a broader health and social well-being agenda, always ensuring that the principal aim of reducing crime will remain its main focus.

During the last few months a comprehensive audit of crime for both Allerdale and Copeland has been undertaken. The results of this audit are posted on the respective websites of the two authorities and this strategy has drawn on the audit results and the conclusions of our working groups, which have problem-solved the data and tried to identify the underlying causes of crime and disorder and those initiatives most likely to succeed.



The partnership believes it has made considerable strides in the last three years in the way it has engaged partners in local crime reduction and in the way we have improved the information and the data flows, which have helped to inform the process and arrive at simpler and more effective outcomes for crime reduction. We have become more performance managed but one of the chief challenges for the next three years will be how the partnership measures performance and how it assesses the effectiveness of improved partnership working. The priorities and the targets set out in this strategy are the beginning of that process aimed at making the local CDRP more responsive to the needs of West Cumbrians and more effective in achieving tangible improvements to reducing crime and disorder in Allerdale and Copeland.

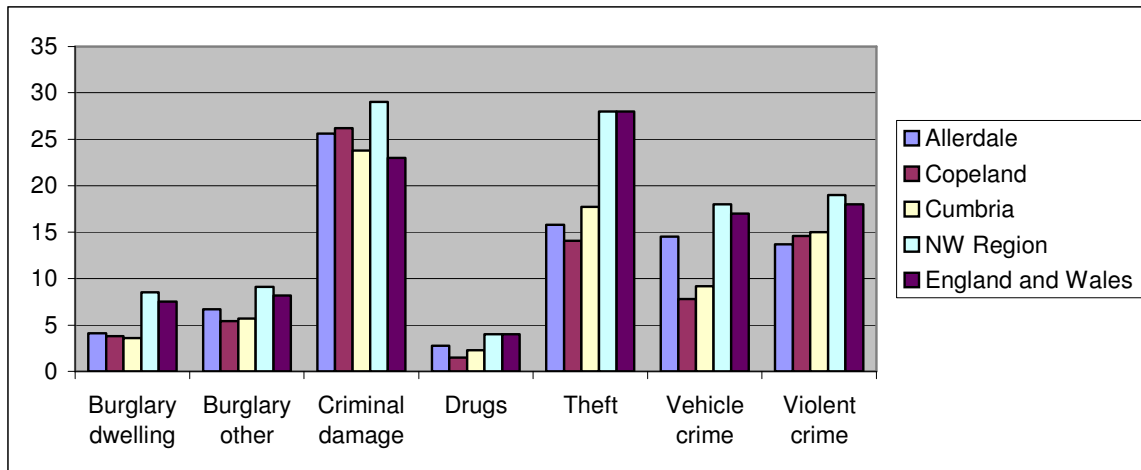
During the coming three years we will continue to use task groups, each with a remit to address specific areas of crime and disorder, each of which will be drawing up detailed action plans for implementing this strategy.

## Recorded Crimes per 1000 head of population, per annum, for Allerdale and Copeland compared to Cumbria, the North West and all England and Wales

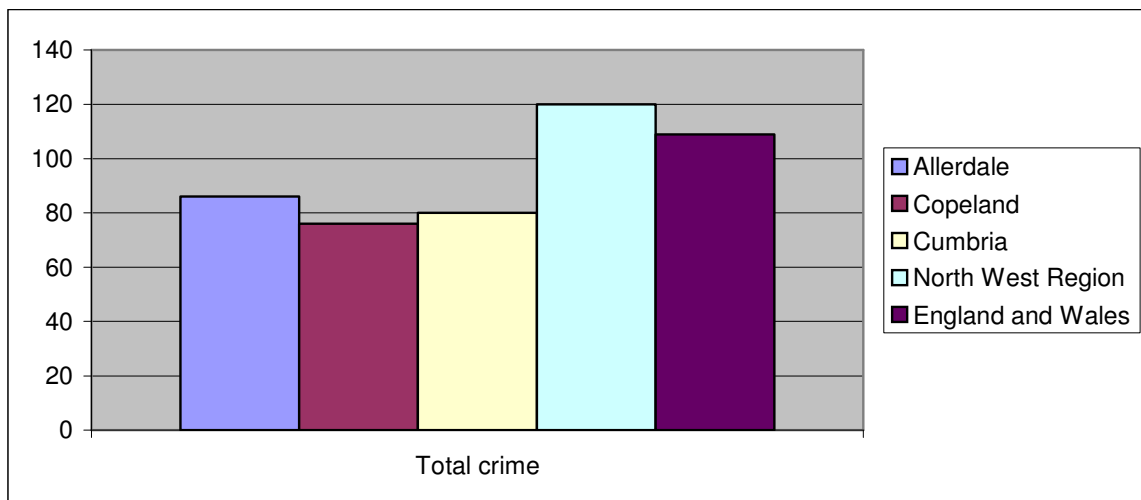
Crime in England and Wales - British Crime Survey 2003/04

|                    | Allerdale | Copeland  | Cumbria   | NW Region  | England and Wales |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| Burglary dwelling  | 4.1       | 3.8       | 3.6       | 8.5        | 7.5               |
| Burglary other     | 6.7       | 5.4       | 5.7       | 9.1        | 8.2               |
| Criminal damage    | 25.6      | 26.2      | 23.8      | 29         | 23                |
| Drugs              | 2.8       | 1.5       | 2.3       | 4          | 4                 |
| Theft              | 15.8      | 14.1      | 17.7      | 28         | 28                |
| Vehicle crime      | 14.5      | 7.8       | 9.2       | 18         | 17                |
| Violent crime      | 13.7      | 14.6      | 15        | 19         | 18                |
| <b>Total crime</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>76</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>120</b> | <b>109</b>        |

### Main crime categories



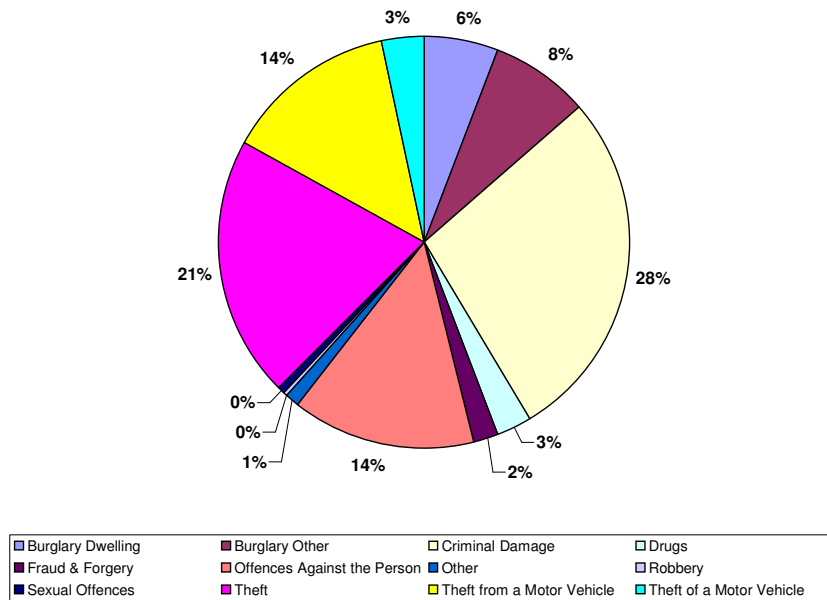
### Total crime



### Distribution of crime types for Allerdale and for Copeland

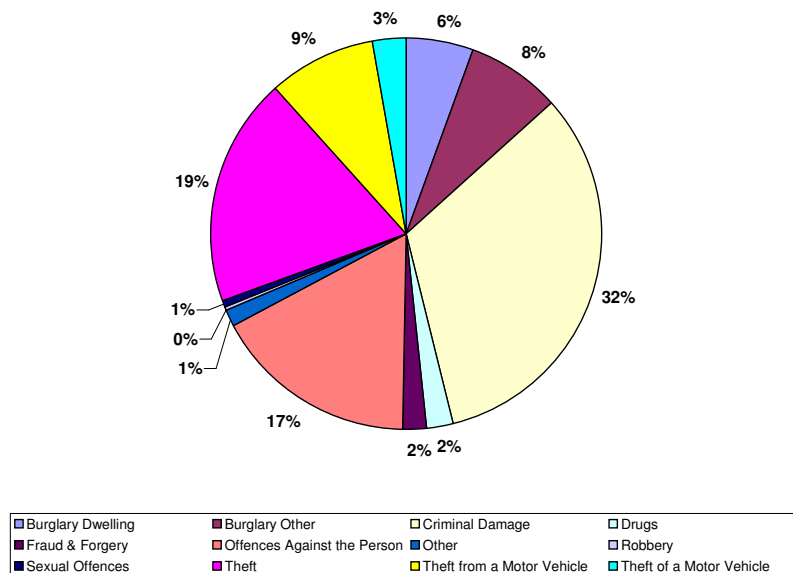
#### All crime types as a percentage of all recorded crime in Allerdale.

Date range: 01 April 2001 to 31st March 2004. Total number of crimes = 23,385



#### All crime types as a percentage of all recorded crime in Copeland.

Date range: 01 April 2001 to 31st March 2004. Total number of crimes = 15,573



## Distribution of crime types for Allerdale and for Copeland

### Copeland District

| Offence type                       | 2002        | 2003        | Change      |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Burglary Dwelling</b>           | 291         | 266         | -8.6%       |
| <b>Burglary Other</b>              | 359         | 377         | 5.0%        |
| <b>Criminal Damage</b>             | 1597        | 1818        | 13.8%       |
| <b>Drugs</b>                       | 103         | 114         | 10.7%       |
| <b>Fraud &amp; Forgery</b>         | 124         | 114         | -8.1%       |
| <b>Offences Against the Person</b> | 855         | 990         | 15.8%       |
| <b>Other</b>                       | 83          | 64          | -22.9%      |
| <b>Robbery</b>                     | 17          | 3           | -82.4%      |
| <b>Sexual Offences</b>             | 33          | 34          | 3.0%        |
| <b>Theft</b>                       | 1050        | 985         | -6.2%       |
| <b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>  | 425         | 393         | -7.5%       |
| <b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>    | 161         | 141         | -12.4%      |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>5098</b> | <b>5299</b> | <b>3.9%</b> |

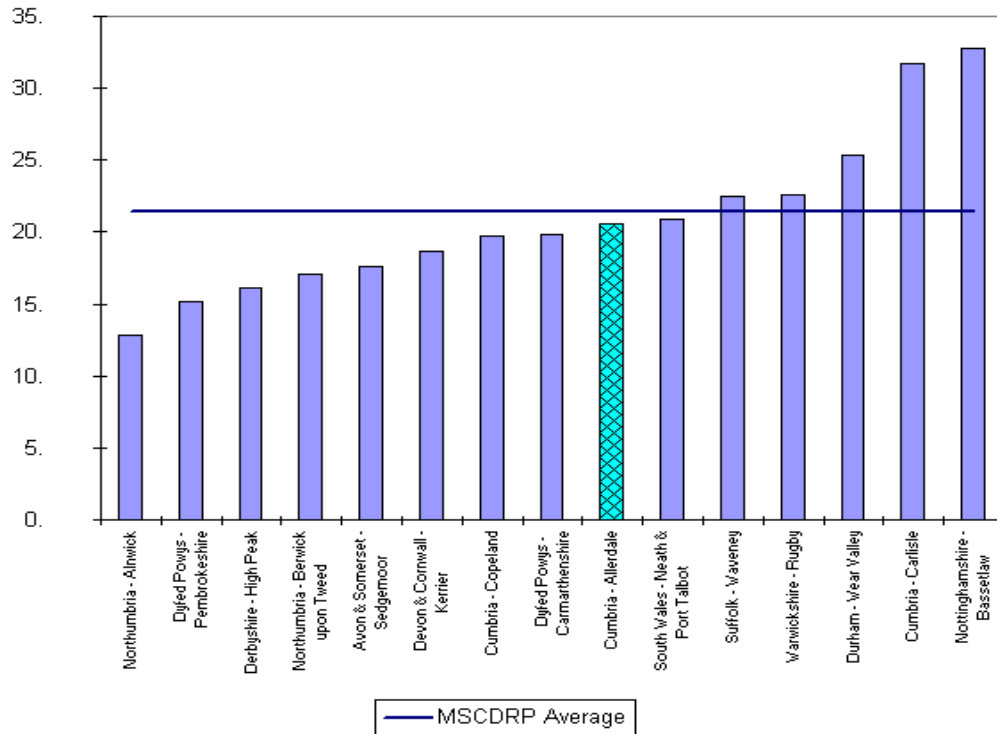
### Allerdale District

| Offence type                       | 2002        | 2003        | Change      |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Burglary Dwelling</b>           | 554         | 427         | -22.9%      |
| <b>Burglary Other</b>              | 568         | 661         | 16.4%       |
| <b>Criminal Damage</b>             | 2186        | 2313        | 5.8%        |
| <b>Drugs</b>                       | 168         | 272         | 61.9%       |
| <b>Fraud &amp; Forgery</b>         | 168         | 128         | -23.8%      |
| <b>Offences Against the Person</b> | 1170        | 1196        | 2.2%        |
| <b>Other</b>                       | 99          | 96          | -3.0%       |
| <b>Robbery</b>                     | 24          | 33          | 37.5%       |
| <b>Sexual Offences</b>             | 28          | 43          | 53.6%       |
| <b>Theft</b>                       | 1633        | 1557        | -4.7%       |
| <b>Theft from a Motor Vehicle</b>  | 1190        | 1132        | -4.9%       |
| <b>Theft of a Motor Vehicle</b>    | 268         | 302         | 12.7%       |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>8056</b> | <b>8160</b> | <b>1.3%</b> |

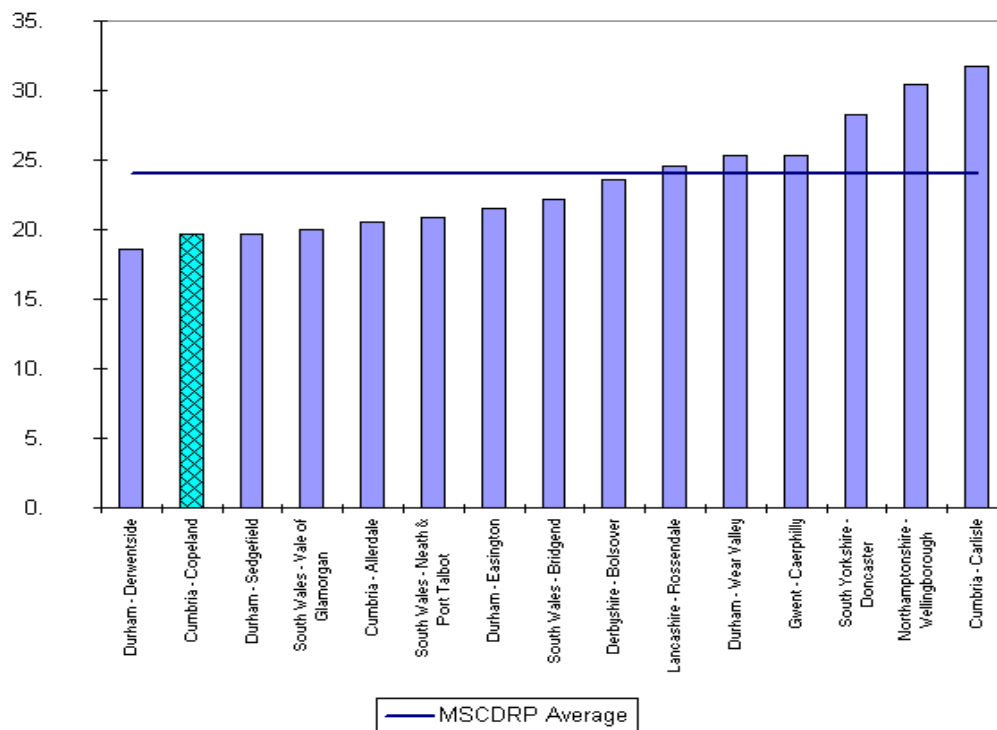
West Cumbria is a safe place to live relative to the rest of the North West region and England and Wales. Recorded crime in England and Wales is at least 30% higher than it is locally in West Cumbria.

Compared to our most similar CDRP partnerships across England and Wales total crime in Allerdale and Copeland is below the average of the family groups for both Districts. IQuanta data shows current performance to be better than similar partnerships although there is clearly room for improving the position over the life of this strategy.

### iQuanta charts - Total Crime for CDRP 'Most Similar' partnerships for Allerdale and Copeland



Crimes Per 1000 Residents - All Crime - 01 Jan 2004 - 31 Mar 2004



Crimes Per 1000 Residents - All Crime - 01 Jan 2004 - 31 Mar 2004

The major volume crime types continue to be, as in the last strategy, criminal damage, violence and theft. In both Allerdale and Copeland, over the last three years, house burglary, vehicle crime and theft have been declining but violent crime and damage to property has increased. This pattern entirely reflects the findings from the 2003/04 British Crime Survey, which tracks crime trends across all England and Wales.

Although the audit of local crime shows an increase in total crime in both Allerdale and Copeland between 2002 and 2003 most of this increase can be accounted for by the rise in violent crime and criminal damage. Without increases in these two crime categories total crime would have been held to previous levels. This strategy, therefore, will focus in particular upon initiatives that will reduce violent crime and anti-social behaviour but also provides a framework for continuing the work undertaken in the partnership over the last three years to tackle other crime in all its categories, shapes sizes and guises. This strategy is concentrating activity over the next three years on six key areas and these are:

- 1 *Violent Crime including domestic violence***
- 2 *Anti Social Behaviour***
- 3 *Prolific Offending***
- 4 *Drugs and alcohol***
- 5 *Acquisitive crime***
- 6 *Community safety***

## **1 Violent crime**

### ***What did the Audit say?***

Violent crime is a very high concern because, unlike most other crime types in West Cumbria, in volume it is very close to the figures across the North West and is showing a steady rise. Most other crime types show Allerdale and Copeland below the North West average.

The rise in violent crime over two years has been 17% per annum in Copeland and 14% in Allerdale. It is very closely linked to the excessive use of alcohol, occurs mainly in town centres, and is usually a male on male assault on Friday, Saturday or Sunday between the 10pm and 2am. The offenders and the victims are usually between 15 and 29 years old (52% of all offenders) and there is a high level of repeat offending with 22% of offenders repeating their offence (some of this will relate to domestic violence offences). Repeat victims account for 13% of all victims and these will be mainly domestic violence cases, too. Male perpetrator numbers are four times that of female offenders but there are roughly as many male as female victims of violence.





Information from the Prison's Service in 2004 showed that in February 2004 there were 227 prisoners from Cumbria held in prisons in the North West and 245 held in prisons elsewhere. In Allerdale there were 26 males held in North West prisons and 39 elsewhere. Five females were held outside North West. The figures for Copeland were 20 and 27 respectively with 3 females held outside the North West. Violence was the single largest category of offence accounting for 21% of Cumbria prisoners followed by drugs offences at 17.4% of Cumbria prisoners.

Two areas stand out as particular hotspots, unsurprisingly these are Workington town centre and Whitehaven town centre where evidence shows most of the offenders and victims have travelled in from the surrounding area. Town centre violence in Workington and Whitehaven accounts for 30% of all recorded violent crime in West Cumbria.

Our audit identified that in West Cumbria approximately 12.5% of all violent crime could be classified as domestic violence, which is a half of the recorded national figure. However, the statistics are likely to be a gross underestimate of the scale of the true problem and because some of the effects of domestic violence overspill into child protection issues this strategy identifies domestic violence as a major priority for the partnership.

In Cumbria the importance of reducing the levels of domestic violence has been recognised and for that reason domestic violence has been incorporated into Local Public Service Agreements agreed between the County Council and central government. Stretching targets are now in place to increase the level of reporting of domestic violence, reduce the level of repeat victimisation, reduce the volume of victim retraction statements and increase the number of successful convictions. These targets run for three years up to 2005/06. West Cumbria CDRP will work with all the partners engaged in the Cumbria Domestic Violence Project to help to deliver the agreed targets for reducing this crime.

Because violent crime has also been identified as a crucial element in reducing the total level of crime by 15% by 2008 (PSA1 target) there is a need to put significant effort into reducing violent crime.

### ***What will we do about violent crime?***

*We will evaluate the Nightsafe project with a view to reinforcing the scheme early in the new strategy. Nightsafe is a current project aimed at reducing violence in and around pubs and clubs. The campaign also incorporates issues of education, treatment and the environment.*

*Explore where Pubwatch can still be expanded across West Cumbria. Review all schemes to identify where success is having an effect and spread best practice.*

*In partnership with the DAAT (Drug and Alcohol Action Team) and health services, join forces to improve the information to the public about safe drinking practices and look for opportunities where joint working and pooled funding could be used to educate young people in the harms associated with excessive drinking.*

*Work with Securities Industries Agency to ensure a swift transition to full the membership and licensing of door staff. Assess the capacity of appropriate local door staff training and identify where there may be problems in future and how CDRP resources could be used to ensure a properly regulated service is maintained.*

*Expand the test-purchasing programme in areas of high youth disorder to curtail the supply of alcohol to teenagers. Test supermarkets. Publicise the campaign and plan to test 20% of all off-licences and supermarkets in the life of the strategy.*

*Evaluate the on-street drinking ban and investigate how this can be expanded to other appropriate areas.*

*CCTV in taxis – organise a trial to see if installation has an effect in reducing violence in late night taxis services.*

*Introduce an anger management regime for regular violent offenders and consider completion of these courses as a condition for excludees in pubwatch schemes to be readmitted into pubs and clubs.*

*Investigate the provision of conflict management training for fast food outlet personnel.*

*Develop an intelligence system for bullying in schools. More discussion with education and youth groups to quantify the problem and get better understanding of how this is manifesting itself and what might be done. Develop a baseline against which this can be measured by 2006/07.*

*Explore with the education service how all children receive an input from the CDRP at least once in their school lives (preferably at year 9)*

*Develop an information strategy to include – reporting from the public, closer working with health, and an agreement with Accident & Emergency department for joint data collection.*

*Investigate how Pubwatch data can be routinely reported to the partnership and have a complete reporting system in place by end of 2005/06.*

*Work with the local authorities and Fire and Rescue Service to ensure compliance with new licensing conditions for licensed premises and that standards are enforced. Ensure 'premise reports' becoming a regular feature of monitoring by the partnership for those clubs and pubs believed to be operating below a level which maintains a safe environment for customers.*

*Adopt the Leicester Project for data collection on victims and offenders of domestic violence.*

*Introduce a Domestic Violence inter-agency panel, which will case conference individual cases and ensure that a more unified approach is applied across agencies to prevent re-offending.*

*Give consideration to the needs of children caught in DV families. There is little known about the effects but research shows it can be very disruptive and has long-term implications. Child protection case conferences identify 30% of cases involve some element of DV.*

*Reassess DV perpetrator programmes in light of the Probation Service national scheme and the Northern Rock initiative. In conjunction with the Cumbria Domestic Violence Forum and DV Project negotiate changes with providers in order that the LPSA targets are achieved.*

*Maintain focus on the LPSA targets and ensure local CJS agencies are delivering on these and ensure these targets form the focus of the group as it assesses its own progress and performance. Reducing repeat victimisation will remain the target in the immediate future but increasing the profile of support services and funding the Freedom Programme will be a priority too.*

*Plan for re-training for beat police officers to improve the quality of approaches made by police officers in response to domestic violence incidents. According to the voluntary DV groups there is believed to be a distinct lack of knowledge amongst officers of how to deal with victims, record occurrences and apply appropriate response in individual cases.*

*In association with the Supporting People Programme investigate the provision of more safe housing in West Cumbria for victims of domestic violence. Plan to provide the 10 identified as a need in the Cumbria Supporting People project by 2008.*

### ***What are our targets and how will we measure progress?***

We will plan to reduce the level of recorded violent crime by 20% in three years that is a year on year reduction of 7%.

We will continue to adopt the LPSA targets for domestic violence up to the end of 2005/2006.

These targets are to concentrate on increasing the level of reporting and to reduce the level of repeat victimisation. For West Cumbria the target is to increase reported incidents from the 2002/03 baseline of 1408 incidents to 1830 recorded incidents by 2006. By 2006 there shall be a reduction from 34% of incidents being repeats to 24% being repeats.

We will adopt any new targets set for the County Domestic Violence Project beyond 2006.

## **2 Anti Social behaviour**

### ***What did the Audit say?***

Analysing the audit data for both ASB incidents and criminal damage then there has been a consistent and rising problem in both Allerdale and Copeland during the last three years. Criminal damage is by far the most common crime recorded in either district accounting for 30% and 32% of all crime in Allerdale and Copeland respectively. In Allerdale anti-social behaviour incidents have been rising at 5% per annum and in Copeland by 2%. Criminal damage has risen by 12% and 7% respectively. The problem appears to be increasing at a greater rate in Allerdale than it is in Copeland.

The 2004 Police Authority Public Consultation exercise reported that in Allerdale and Copeland more than two thirds of respondents believed that quality of life in their local area had neither improved nor deteriorated in the last year. About 10% believed things had improved but 20% believed things had worsened. Although criminal damage accounted for approximately 30% of all crime these same respondents reported that it was not believed to be the same scale of problem as drugs and in Allerdale criminal



damage also rated below burglary and theft. However, if the partnership is to meet its commitment to reducing crime by 15% by 2008 a determined effort to reduce disorder and the accompanying criminal damage offences has to be made.

Of all the ASB incidents reported rowdy and nuisance behaviour accounted for more than 50% of the total and of that number another 50% referred to inappropriate gathering. This reinforces the generally held view that gatherings of youths are a concern to other people. Analysing the Acorn groupings of complainants the problem of ASB and criminal damage seems to be weighted toward working class areas where 'blue collar' and 'struggling families' Acorn groups comprise 39% of the Copeland population and 34% of the Allerdale population but account for 54% and 43% of ASB incidents respectively and 56% and 36% of recorded criminal damage. These social groups are encountering a slightly higher problem in Copeland than their Allerdale counterparts.

The perception that better off older people (Acorn 'affluent greys') are less tolerant of the problem and report more of it is not borne out by the statistics which show that in this group comprising 24% of the Allerdale population and 17% of Copeland's only 7% of incidents in Allerdale and 4% in Copeland can be attributed to this supposedly less tolerant group.

August is the peak month for ASB incidents but criminal damage is more prevalent during March and October. In Allerdale, during the three year analysis period, August showed the lowest monthly average for criminal damage reports. ASB generally occurs between 6pm and 8pm, Monday to Thursday and 6pm and 2am Friday to Sunday with weekend counts 30% above mid-week counts. Criminal damage presents a similar picture with weekend counts being twice those of Monday to Thursday figures. Alcohol looks to be playing a significant part in numbers of incidents and amounts of deliberate damage incurred at weekend.

St John's, St Michael's, Mossbay and Moorclose in Workington followed by Ellenborough, Ewanrigg and Flimby in Maryport plus Wigton and Christchurch Cockermouth are the hotspot wards for both ASB and criminal damage in Allerdale. In Copeland, Harbour, Hensingham, Mirehouse and Sandwith wards are high count wards for both ASB and criminal damage but Newtown, Millom has a high criminal damage count.

Breakages of windows and damage to vehicles accounts for 70% of recorded criminal damage. In the case of offenders some interesting differences are occurring. For instance for offences committed in St John's ward, Workington, 85% of offenders come from outside that ward whereas in the case of Wigton 85% come from the same town. 57% of offenders in Harbour ward come from outside the town centre but in Mirehouse 85% of the offences are perpetrated by people living in that ward. More than 50% of all criminal damage is committed by 10 to 19 year old offenders and 40% of all criminal damage is done by 20% of offenders. 15% of victims are repeat victims who have borne 30% of the total damage offences.

Information from the Fire and Rescue Service indicates a rise in the number of deliberate refuse fires over the last three years. On average over that period there were 55 refuse fires per month in Allerdale and half that number in Copeland. There has been a higher increase per annum of 26% in Allerdale compared to 6% in Copeland in the rate of such fires, but police figures show that the rate of recorded arson in Allerdale has been falling but increasing in Copeland from the beginning of 2003.

## **What will we do about anti-social behaviour?**

*We will be establishing a more formalised and better integrated partnership between RSL's, police, YOT and education service, CJS(Criminal Justice System), Youth Justice Boards and others to effectively tackle and intervene when young individuals show signs of offending regularly. An Anti-social Behaviour Unit, supported by all appropriate partners, even if this cannot be brought under one roof, needs to be an urgent consideration. Evidence from elsewhere in the country has shown such units to be examples of good practice bringing improvements in areas of high disorder. Such a unit could mirror the Prolific and Other Priority Offender programme methods and integrate with the 'Prevent and Deter' strand of that initiative. Procedures will have to be designed and be sufficiently robust and formalised to deal with higher numbers of offenders requiring less intrusive intervention, at least in the early stages. A system of regular case conferencing is required. The Community Liaison Forum, already set up but in infancy, will be asked to build this process with support from the CDRP.*

*In the very short-term an exercise will be undertaken and led by the ASB Co-ordinator to identify where information blockages are preventing speedy agreement of ASB contracts (ABC's) and orders (ASBO's). The partnership should consider funding joint training and staff development programmes with all interested Registered Social Landlords to ensure agreed procedures can be developed and processes put in place, which assist all partners to provide the best package of support to victims and appropriate corrective measures for offenders at the appropriate time. A formalised system of data exchange for troublesome individuals will be a start for this process. A county-wide protocol has recently been developed (Cumbria Information Sharing Protocol) which can be adopted to assist in the process. The partnership will promote the use of this controlled system of data exchange.*

*Environmental checks should be conducted in areas of high disorder and agreements sought with housing agencies, resident groups, Neighbourhood Watch, local ward members and local authorities about how low level disorder can be combated in individual neighbourhoods. This means a significant investment will be required in staff time to help in rebuilding capacity in run down estates. The Rural Safety Initiative, which has had a little success in the area so far, could be used, as a model to facilitate this and the partnership will work in close conjunction with the Community Empowerment Network and the Drug & Alcohol Action Team in agreeing hotspot areas for improvement.*

*The gulf in understanding and the need to improve the level of tolerance between young people and older sectors of the community has become a priority. The ASB Co-ordinator together with police officers have been working in schools to try to improve understanding amongst school children. Early signs suggest this might be very successful but it is not reaching all schools and could be developed further. Similarly reaching older members of local neighbourhoods is difficult for different reasons and ways have to be found to do this. A small pilot programme should be designed to deliver something in a number of hotspot areas, which results in the different age groups agreeing some sort of code or contract about what is, and is not acceptable in that neighbourhood. The more this is capable of being self-policed by local people and youngsters the more likely it is to succeed.*

*Teenage drinking is leading to ASB. Recent checks on off-licences have so far shown under age sales not being a problem. However, children are, nevertheless, obtaining alcohol illicitly. There is a belief that some parents are prepared to have their children drink alcohol in the misguided belief that they will not then resort to using drugs. A local*



*media campaign needs to be designed and delivered to target teenagers and their parents about this problem. The proof of age card could be given further attention and encouragement.*

*RSL's are regularly investing in programmes of estate improvement. CDRP is not usually consulted when this happens. Through the Community Liaison Forum such consultation should be established to ensure that ASB and youth facilities could be considered at times when there is a distinct opportunity to incorporate new facilities and layout changes on estates, which will discourage bad behaviour and provide useful activities for young people locally. .*

*A number of youth organisations are now operating in West Cumbria and yet there is a feeling that there is no underpinning strategy to what is being planned. The ASB Task Group will assist in undertaking an audit of current projects, their aims, timescales and target groups and link into the work of the Children and Young Persons strand of the Safer and Stronger Communities fund to try to bring the groups together and rationalise activity, pooling resources where possible.*

*Because ASB is seen as a youth problem in some quarters a youth task group has been proposed to cover all aspects affecting youth in West Cumbria. This could be brought under the umbrella of the ASB Task group or stand in its own right. We will investigate the formation of a youth group formed through partnership with all the youth organisations in West Cumbria*

*Contribute to developing a youth strategy incorporating the 'Youthtastic' and 'Youthworks', the Workington Youth Resource Centre and other local initiatives running through Connexions, Youth Offending Team, Nacro and the County Council.*

*Aspects of other local youth work such as Weston Spirit and Mobex run parallel to the aims of the CDRP but there is a need to be specific about how CDRP support should be given and what the specific objectives of the CDRP should be in the work of these groups. We will identify potential joint activity.*

## **What are our targets and how will we measure progress?**

We will plan to reduce recorded criminal damage incidents by 20% in the life of the strategy. That is from 1873 in 2003/04 to 1498 in 2006/07 in Copeland and from 2373 to 1898 in Allerdale.

We will increase the number of Anti-social behaviour contracts (ABC's) in West Cumbria from the 2004/05 figures of 90 to 270 and the number of ASBO's from 30 to 90 by 2007/08. That is, we will triple the current totals for both ABC's and ASBO's in three years.

We will measure the offending behaviour of all offenders issued with an ABC or an ASBO to assess the effectiveness of the measures. We will set an initial target to reduce total repeat offending by all those made the subject of an ASBO by 50% in the three years up to 2008.

We will test 20% of all off-licences and supermarkets during the next three years to check for under-age selling of alcohol.



We will use the annual Community Safety Survey to monitor changes to the 2004 figure of 40% of people in Allerdale and 47% in Copeland reporting a fear of being at risk of their home or property being vandalised. We will plan to see a reduction in these figures as reported in the 2007 survey.

We will work with the Fire and Rescue Service to help in achieving their target to reduce the number of deliberate fires by at least 10% by 2010. We will also try to ensure that for recorded arson crime we improve the CDRP 'similar family' position for Allerdale by bringing the arson rate to below the family average and maintain Copeland's position below the CDRP family average.

### **3 Prolific Offending**

It is estimated that nationally 10% of offenders have three or more convictions and are responsible for committing 50% of all crime and 0.5% of offenders commit 9% of crime. That is a million active offenders, of which 100,000 are responsible for half of all crime, are operating at any one time.

Because of the dramatic effect prolific offenders can have on crime the West Cumbria CDRP is actively engaged upon a partnership programme to target such offenders, bring them to justice, try to correct their offending and rehabilitate them into mainstream society. For inclusion onto this programme we have decided to target individuals engaged in acquisitive crime offending.

There are three strands to the government Prolific and other Priority Offenders Programme, namely,

Catch and Convict  
Rehabilitate and Resettle  
Prevent and Deter

For this strategy to be successful a joint effort between police, criminal justice, probation, Connexions, YOT, housing associations, DAAT, local authorities and prison service is essential.

Our intention is to ensure through a dialogue with all the agencies above that the individuals on the programme are those who are - the most prolific, the most persistently anti-social and those who pose the greatest threat to the safety and confidence of the local communities they belong to.

A longer term aim will be to try to identify potential young offenders who are at the most risk of entering on a criminal career at an early date and to use the resources and the partnership connections of the CDRP to put support programmes in place which deflect young offenders from such a course. This will require a determined effort at CDRP level to have appropriate mechanisms in place to facilitate data exchange across agencies and enable a multi-agency approach, providing a joined-up support package for individuals identified at risk.



### **What does the audit say?**

Between April 2001 and March 2004 one third of offenders in Copeland committed two thirds of all detected crime. In Allerdale 30% of offenders committed 64% of detected crime. One offender in each district committed more than 40 offences in the three year period. The largest group of offenders in West Cumbria were between 15 and 19 years old and between 45% and 50% of the offending has been committed in the home ward of the offender.

So far, 20 of West Cumbria's most prolific offenders have been identified and placed upon the PPO programme. Of these, and as at the end of January 2005, roughly a quarter are in custody, a quarter in the criminal justice system awaiting court of sentence, a further quarter at liberty and targeted by the police, and the remainder at liberty and subject to basic monitoring or under active supervision in the community.

Eighteen out of the twenty engaged upon the programme, so far, needed drug intervention services.

Information from the Prison's Service in 2004 showed that in February 2004 there were 227 prisoners from Cumbria held in prisons in the North West and 245 held in prisons elsewhere. In Allerdale there were 26 males held in North West prisons and 39 elsewhere. Five females were held outside North West. The figures for Copeland were 20 and 27 respectively with 3 females held outside the North West. Violence was the single largest category of offence accounting for 21% of Cumbria prisoners followed by drugs offences at 17.4% of Cumbria prisoners.

These figures identify the West Cumbria prison population to be just above half that for the UK at 0.07% of the local Allerdale and Copeland population.

### **What are we doing about prolific offending?**

*The CDRP is the responsible authority for ensuring that the PPO programme is a success and some intensive work is underway to put processes in place to monitor progress.*

*All three strands of the PPO programme are now active with 20 individuals on the Catch and Convict strand and 41 young offenders engaged on the Prevent and Deter strand. All these offenders are under the scrutiny of the Joint Agency Group with the police taking a lead role for the Catch and Convict offenders and the Youth Offending Team leading the way for those included on the Prevent and Deter phase. The Joint Agency Group (JAG) has set up an information exchange protocol to enable safe but comprehensive exchange of personal data on individuals which has improved the progress that can be made to move individuals from custody back into mainstream rehabilitation.*

*All offenders on the programme with drug dependency are referred to the partnership's Drugs Intervention Programme Worker funded by the DAAT to ensure appropriate services can be directed to help in reducing the drug habit. More robust processes have been devised to ensure drug services are continuous on discharge from prison and that accommodation issues are tackled properly before PPO prisoners are released.*





## **What targets will we set and how will we measure success?**

We will compare the offending rate of individuals on the Catch and Convict strand over the two years previous to being placed upon the programme to that for two years after entering the programme.

Our target is to reduce re-offending in the target group by 50% overall by 2008

We will expect to see a corresponding reduction in the local rates for acquisitive crime in West Cumbria, which will be a test of whether or not the right people have been identified for the programme.

The targets for Acquisitive Crime reduction are:

12.5 % reduction in vehicle crime  
7.5% reduction in dwelling house burglary  
10% reduction in theft

We will also expect to see participants on the programme to move from being drug dependant to being clear of drug taking. We will work with the drug services to identify how we can measure the progress of individuals toward breaking their habit.

We will also be working to improve the numbers put through the system. So far the original 20 offenders are still engaged on the programme and it is too early to estimate how quickly offenders can be discharged (which will be different for each individual). However, we need to ensure that all agencies apply priority to these individuals at all stages so that a 'fast track' approach is maintained.

We will adopt the national targets set for the PPO offenders programme to measure the progress and performance of the partnership in reducing prolific offending.

For all PPO's we will measure, through the Probation OASys matrix and the Asset matrix for young offenders, the improvements in scores that are made quarterly and this will identify a total reduction in risk of offending for all programme members. We wish to see a steady reduction for an overall offenders score for the target groups.

## **4 Drugs and Alcohol Misuse**

### **What did the audit say about drug misuse?**

Audit data showed the level of recorded drug crime has increased over the last three years. West Cumbria is still below the average level for the North West but we are above the average level of our family of similar CDRP's. Currently drug offences are running at half the rate for the North West. The problem appears to be 50% bigger in Allerdale than it is in Copeland and is more prevalent in urban areas.

In West Cumbria Class A drug use accounts for 15% of possession cases but 50% of supply convictions. Possession accounts for 91% of all drug convictions and of these cannabis accounts for 72% and amphetamines for another 10%. There is an increasing problem in West Cumbria of benzodiazepine use, which doesn't yet feature in the available statistics, although anecdotal information from treatment agencies and drugs



crime officers confirms a growing use of this drug locally. Although heroin and cocaine use is linked with higher rates for acquisitive crime and has remained the main target for drug reduction programmes to date, benzodiazepines reduce inhibitions in users and could increase the possibility for users to use violence in some situations. Of all users in UK presenting for treatment and reporting the use of a secondary drug, 89% cited Benzodiazepines as their choice for the secondary drug. Such increasing usage in West Cumbria could therefore hide a wider usage of a main drug such as heroin or cocaine. Benzodiazepine has implications for violent crime and therefore we will put an emphasis on reducing the use of this drug into our plans.

St John's, Mossbay, St Michael's and Moorclose are the hottest wards but these can change dependent upon where police enforcement activity is concentrated. Harbour, Haverigg (probably prison related) Sandwith and Hensingham wards in Copeland have the highest counts.

35% of West Cumbria recorded drug crime was committed by 21% of offenders who were mostly male. Nationally crime data analysis estimates that for every Class A drug crime offence an addict commits three other acquisitive crimes to fund his/her habit are also committed. This is likely to be an underestimate.

Treatment data and analysis from the DAAT 'Cumbria DAAT Drugs Audit 2004' suggests that Cumbria drugs crime amounts to 0.64% of the national figure. If that is so then there are roughly 1650 problem drug users in Cumbria. Of these there is likely to be 100 in custody at one time. It follows, in West Cumbria that there are estimated to be 210 and 150 problem users in Allerdale and Copeland respectively. Our strategy is to increase the number of problem users in treatment. At present all known users seeking treatment are in the 'Shared Care' scheme with treatment being provided by GP's and specialist drug workers. Drug users in prison receive treatment from the Carats teams whilst serving time.

### ***What are we going to do about drug misuse?***

*There is general agreement that to make progress in reducing the effects of criminal drug use treatment capacity has to match demand. Recent analysis by the DAAT suggests that in West Cumbria at least for 'problem drug users' this capacity is becoming available. The emphasis now needs to shift to supporting drug users in re-establishing normal life-styles. Offenders on the Prolific and Priority Offender scheme should be prioritised for such agency support so that crime reduction benefits spin off from such rehabilitation. We will continue to press the case for priority to be given to users and ex-users from the criminal justice system. Because the CDRP has statutory status it will use its influence in conjunction with the DAAT in bringing various agencies together to unblock issues such as temporary housing, training and skills, and employment. Intermediate employment for users and ex-users to rehabilitate ex-users back into mainstream society could be a joint DAAT and CDRP priority and we will be investigating local employment and housing opportunities and supporting these where we can.*

*The prison link and the persistent offender link projects currently supported by the CDRP are seen as having beneficial results and should be continued. We will evaluate these projects in the first year of the strategy with a view to increasing resources into these support areas in future years. We will work closely with the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) on the Rehabilitate and Resettle strand of the PPO programme to assist offenders to make life-style changes and remain drug free.*



*A unified information and reporting system still does not operate. We will introduce an improved reporting system in to the CDRP Drug task group and following discussions with DAAT get improved and timely data from the treatment agencies. An agreement with the DAAT about what can and will be provided should be secured in the first six months of the new strategy. In the first six months of the strategy we will work to ensure that the following data sets are available.*

- (1) availability, seizures and trends on street by quarter*
- (2) numbers in treatment, current demand and drop out rates per quarter*
- (3) an estimate for the current number of problem users in West Cumbria and the corresponding treatment capacity figure by quarter.*

*In conjunction with the DAAT we will research the groups which might be most at risk and develop strategies to handle them. If no attempt is made to curtail the numbers of regular users amongst 'at risk groups' these people might spiral down into becoming problem users. Such groups include offenders between 15 and 30, homeless people, truants and runaways, younger siblings of current users, young people in care.*

*Community engagement is a theme in many strategies. Working with the RSL's and the DAAT in more deprived areas, capacity building is a priority. The CDRP in conjunction with the Community Empowerment Network will map other similar work underway in such neighbourhoods and link into this where we can. Training for CDRP staff from the Crime Reduction College could hone skill levels. The DAAT have an aim to undertake such work and CDRP should join in the process too.*

*We will be linking into an ex-users group of reformed addicts through the Service Users Development Group of the DAAT which will act as a useful source of intelligence and information about how users become offenders and how they operate. In this way services can be better tailored to the needs of users and crime reduction strategies focussed on hotspots and hot products as identified by the users themselves. We will liaise with treatment agencies regarding people suitable for membership of this users group.*

*The importance of the drugs education being delivered in schools cannot be over-emphasised. We need to take stock and review what is being delivered through the Healthy Schools Co-ordinator. There may be scope for improving the effectiveness of drugs education if the CDRP were to get key people into the schools rather relying on the police which is seen principally as an enforcement agency. The local Rising Sun Trust is eager to engage in local schools and we will attempt to create an opportunity to do this in conjunction with local schools heads and governors.*

*We will review the emphasis of our anti-drug message and ensure that it is brought up to date and is relevant to the problem in West Cumbria. The continued practice of labelling all drugs as a universal evil is seen as outdated and counterproductive. The group believed it had to develop something much more meaningful if young people, in particular, were to take notice and respond. This message has to be carefully thought out and its development should be integrated into the drug education process in schools. This will be a true test of local partnership working because so many individual agencies will be involved.*

*Potential users, seeking to quit are confused about what drug treatment is available and how to access it. We will seek to simplify information advice and find better ways to disseminate it.*

## **What did the audit say about alcohol misuse?**

Taking police recorded crime and incident data the following trends were identified in West Cumbria.

Crimes recorded where alcohol was considered as a factor has shown a 16% per annum rise in Allerdale and an 18% per annum rise in Copeland over the last eighteen months. Alcohol related incidents have risen by 23% per annum in Allerdale and by 13% per annum in Copeland in the last three years and violent crimes where alcohol has been considered a factor have risen by 22% per annum in Copeland and by 17% per annum in Allerdale in the last three and a half years.

As a total of all violent crime then alcohol related violence is roughly 25% of the total in Allerdale and 27% in Copeland. It is entirely possible that this figure underestimates the true proportion of violent crime associated with alcohol because it cannot be guaranteed that the police will always mark every appropriate violent crime as alcohol related unless offenders are clearly under the influence or admit to drinking. The conclusion is clearly that alcohol related violence is increasing and affecting more people's lives in West Cumbria than at any time in the recent past.

As expected there is a tendency for more alcohol related incidents to be concentrated in the two main towns of Workington (26%) and Whitehaven (31%) - not significantly higher than would be expected if we take account of the main centres of population. However, most of these incidents do occur in small town centre locations rather than being distributed across all the town area.

Taking health service data for the North West key groups at risk of harm from general alcohol abuse are young people, males, single people, lower socio economic groups and those living in deprived areas. There is evidence that in our health service area over a third of men and a fifth of women, who drink, binge drink.

Health Authority estimates for Allerdale and Copeland Districts suggests that the effects of alcohol on the health of men and women are mixed with a reduced average life expectancy for men in Copeland of about a month, slightly less for women and in Allerdale a small reduction for men but a small increase for women.

Evidence for the use of alcohol amongst school children has been well recorded since 1988 (Schools Health Education Unit) and although the amount drunk by children has remained fairly consistent over the years in Cumbria 25% of year 5 and 6 children admit to drinking alcohol in the last week (close to the control group average), rising to nearly 60% by year 10, which is higher than the control group average. A higher proportion of Cumbria children drink without their parents' knowledge.

Compared to the children outside Cumbria in the control group much more purchasing of alcohol in clubs, pubs and off licences is reported for Cumbria children in year 10. Nationally it is estimated that 80% of 17year olds buy alcohol for themselves.

## ***What will we do about alcohol and its effects on crime and disorder?***

*In addition to measures we intend to take relating to violent crime we will also undertake the following measures*



*In partnership with the DAAT and health services join forces to improve the information to the public about safe drinking practices and look for opportunities where joint working and pooled funding could be used to educate young people in the harms associated with excessive drinking.*

*Continue the work using specialist theatre groups such as Cragrats to spread the message amongst all schools that unsafe drinking practices wreck futures and lives.*

*Use the Prevent and Deter strand of the Prolific Offenders Programme to identify current offenders needing support to reduce their drinking where this is linked to their offending behaviour.*

*Investigate through local family support groups such as Rising Sun Trust the needs of problem families in West Cumbria in addressing excessive drinking amongst those most vulnerable. In conjunction with the DAAT plan to have a support programme in place in 2006.*

*Support the DAAT in its plan to improve through the media better understanding amongst the public of what is safe drinking.*

*Promote best practice amongst alcohol retailers and engage more effectively with the licensed industry to reduce selling to under 18's. We will promote the Connexions proof of age card.*

*In conjunction with Trading Standards we will continue a programme of test purchasing at all alcohol outlets to improve retailers compliance with the law and to reduce sales to underage teenagers.*

*We will investigate how the partnership can join forces with the County Council to reinforce the no drink and drive message and in conjunction with the Fire and Rescue Service help to get the message firmly delivered in secondary schools to year 10 and 11 pupils.*

*We will look to see if CDRP support could be given to expand the safe drinking and safer driving message in to local colleges to reach older students but inexperienced drivers known to be an 'at risk' group.*

*Continue to support and expand CCTV schemes in town centres where these can be sustained and known to assist in the reduction of crime and disorder.*

*Support the DAAT in encouraging employers in West Cumbria to introduce safe alcohol policies in to the workplace and produce a draft generic policy, which could be used as a template for those employers beginning the process.*

## **What targets will we use and how will we measure progress?**

We will carry out an assessment of local treatment capacity to test if it meets the requirements to treat 210 problem drug users (PDU's) in Allerdale and 150 PDU's in Copeland. We will do this during 2005/06. Our target will be to work with the DAAT to secure specialist treatment capacity by 2010 to meet the agreed estimate for the true number of PDU's in West Cumbria. This specialist capacity will be over and above that currently provided through the Shared Care system and operated by GP's.



We will support the police in increasing the numbers of people dealing drugs that are brought to justice and plan to increase this by 75% per annum for the next three years. i.e. 22 in 2005/06, 40 in 2006/07 and 70 in 2007/08.

We will measure the perception that drug dealing is a widespread activity and by using the results of the annual Community Safety Survey plan to reduce the current belief held by 26% West Cumbrians that the area in which they live has worsened during the last twelve months. We will also plan to see a reduction in the percentage that believe drugs to be a widespread problem reduced from 70% recorded in 2004 survey to below 65% in 2007 survey.

Last year the government published its national alcohol harm reduction strategy which has now been translated into a local plan by the DAAT. We will adopt this plan as a working document for setting local targets for alcohol harm reduction.

## **5 Acquisitive Crime**

For West Cumbria acquisitive crime comprises vehicle crime, burglary and theft. Although no aspect of acquisitive crime has been identified as a top priority for the CDRP the current downward trend will have to be maintained if we are to meet the PSA 1 crime reduction target of 15% by 2008.

Most acquisitive crime has been reducing but there remain some areas in need of continued attention. Therefore, the current upward trend in burglary, other than in dwellings, is a concern and in Allerdale thefts from motor vehicles is above the average for the similar CDRP family. Monitoring trends in acquisitive crime will be a necessity over the next three years and the CDRP will have to continue to target some of its initiatives at reducing some aspects of volume crime.

### **What did the audit say about vehicle crime?**

Most vehicle crime is 'theft from a motor vehicle' which was four times higher than 'theft of a motor vehicle' in Allerdale and three times higher in Copeland between 2002 and 2004.

Allerdale - 14% of total crime. Average Increase April 2002 – April 2004 was 9% per annum but showing reductions since January 04. 14.5 vehicle crimes per 1000 head of population.

Copeland – 12% of total crime. Average reduction of 9% per annum between April 2002 and April 2004. 7.8 vehicle crimes per 1000 head of population.

Detection rates for vehicle crime are low at 4% and 6% for Allerdale and Copeland respectively.

Allerdale is above the average for its CDRP family and Copeland below. Both districts sit below their family average for the theft of a motor vehicle.

Allerdale crime seems to have a slight peak in August whereas in Copeland March and November are the highest months. This might suggest the problem in Allerdale is more tourist driven. The day of the week does not appear significant.



Vehicle accessories, electrical equipment, plant and tools are the common items stolen although in Allerdale clothing and cameras feature more significantly. Again this might point to a tourist driven problem in Allerdale.

Hotspots – St Michael's, St John's, Mossbay and Moorclose wards in Allerdale and Harbour, Ennerdale, and Moresby wards in Copeland are the hot spots for theft from a motor vehicle. Sandwith and Kells are the highest wards in Copeland for theft of a motor vehicle. Particular sites are Mossbay Road and Dunmail Park in Allerdale and Moresby Parks Road, Bowness Knott car park at Ennerdale, Meadow Road and Ullswater Road, Whitehaven.

Although in Copeland 19 victims have had their vehicles attacked twice in three years and in Allerdale 84 individuals have been repeat victims the level of repeat victimisation across both districts is still low.

Some offenders have committed large amounts of crime. One individual committed at least 14 offences in Allerdale and another at least 16 offences in Copeland. Of the small amount of vehicle crime detected roughly 50% of that crime has been perpetrated by 20% of known offenders.

### ***What will we do about vehicle crime?***

*There has to be more intelligent ways devised to deliver the all important message of not leaving valuables on show in cars. A vehicle crime communication strategy using media, industry and Tourist Information Boards will be developed. We will identify our most vulnerable groups of victims because the message to residents with cars on the street might need to be different from, say, that aimed at day trippers or holiday makers visiting local towns or rural beauty spots.*

*More will be done to improve protection of in car equipment by delivering more effective property marking schemes especially for the higher value items such as CD, DVD and on board TV systems now being marketed. Initiatives with local dealers and vehicle accessories suppliers will be explored across West Cumbria.*

*We have some clear hot spot data and analysis. These discrete locations will be 'problem-solved' in detail with site visits and thorough research into why these areas are attractive to thieves. This will be done in the short-term to have as quick an effect on crime figures as possible. The Gray Street project, Workington, which can boast a good level of success serves as a model to follow.*

*We will improve the safety of existing public car parks i.e. improved lighting, improved natural surveillance and even CCTV where counts of crime can justify the expense or where business opportunities offer favourable partnering opportunities.*

*The Prolific and Priority Offenders programme will be used to target our most regular vehicle crime offenders.*

*It would be a considerable help to the police in raising detection rates if intelligence from the public could be improved. The use of the Crimestoppers anonymous contact line will be publicised more effectively and the introduction of Local Policing Teams used to increase trust and engagement with the public in high risk neighbourhoods. The CDRP will consider the introduction of a local reward system operated through Crimestoppers in high crime, high fear, and neighbourhoods if evidence elsewhere supports this.*

*A strategy for the effective removal of untaxed and abandoned vehicles and in particular in areas where there is an established practice of burning stolen cars will be developed in conjunction with the Fire Service police and the district councils.*

*An emerging problem, not identified in the audit but which might be more important in the future is that of car cruising events and their potential for creating disorderly vehicle crime. We will monitor whether problems caused by future events call for a specific multi-agency plan for controlling this activity.*

*(See pages 26 and 27 for targets)*

## **What did the audit say about burglary?**

Burglary is divided into two categories – dwelling house burglary and burglary other. We are concerned with both categories but dwelling house burglary, in particular, is the category the CDRP will be expected by government to concentrate upon.

Audit data for West Cumbria reveals falling burglary rates much in line with the national picture with dwelling house burglary falling by about 27% over the last five years. The recent fall is, however, flattening out.

The level of dwelling house burglary in West Cumbria is about half that for the North West but remains slightly higher than the Cumbria average. For both dwelling house burglary and 'burglary other' Copeland is below its family CDRP. Allerdale is above the family average for domestic burglary but below its family average for 'burglary other'.

Locally in West Cumbria 'burglary other', is presenting a different trend from that of dwelling house burglary because crime is on the increase rather than in decline with an increase of 8% per annum in Allerdale over the period of the last strategy and remaining rather flat in Copeland. Whereas dwelling house burglary accounts for 6% of all crime in Allerdale and Copeland, 'burglary other' accounts for 8%. Care has to be exercised in interpreting these figures because some 'burglary other' will be shed and garage burglaries which could be interpreted and counted as a dwelling house burglary from the public's perspective.

Analysis over the last three years of hotspots has identified that Frostoms, Westfield, and Mossbay in Workington and Hillside in Maryport are the high count areas in Allerdale, Cleator Moor, Whitehaven Town, Kells and Woodhouse estate, Whitehaven are the Copeland hotspots.

November and December between the hours of 5pm to 7pm Friday and Saturday evenings seem the peak periods for dwelling house burglary but the risk is nearly as high throughout the whole week. There is no significant period when burglary other is committed in Allerdale but mid-summer seems to be a peak in Copeland.

Compared to the national average of 20% there is a much smaller repeat victimisation problem in West Cumbria but analysis of known offenders does indicate that approximately a third of offenders commit two thirds of all burglary. Young offenders account for most of the burglary with the majority being between 10 and 20 years old.

Cash, jewellery, electrical goods and computer equipment are the common items being stolen from houses but tools, motor vehicles and plant are the target from non-dwelling type burglary.



## **What will we do about burglary?**

*The Homesafe scheme, which has helped to target-harden many homes, has been a useful contributor to burglary reduction. This scheme will be continued but re-evaluated to ensure its resources are directed to those most at risk. Fire Service and Health have similar systems of home checks. We will investigate if there is an opportunity to combine some activity or at least plan it to get the best out of pooled resources.*

*We are about to launch in partnership with a Registered Social Landlord a pilot scheme to introduce a Smartwater initiative into hotspot areas. This sophisticated property marking system offers significant advantages in identifying stolen goods and has had high success in other areas in the country in bringing offenders to justice. We will be exploring the extension of the scheme in to business premises where owners wish to participate.*

*We will investigate the nature of 'burglary other' in more detail to obtain more useful data about where this occurring i.e. Is it a rural problem targeting farms, an industrial one targeting business or is it an extension of dwelling house burglary where sheds and garages are being raided? A system to provide a more thorough breakdown of data will be introduced to develop better targeted responses for the different victim groups.*

*We will improve the communication to neighbourhood groups through the Neighbourhood Watch network so that timely and accurate information can be supplied to those at risk. Farm Watch will be included, too, in rural areas. We will investigate what can be done to help business on industrial estates with a record of high break-ins and see if an information network would be a help here too. Recent research has revealed that dwelling house burglary follows established patterns and the conclusions drawn can be used to accurately predict 'at risk' groups immediately following a burglary in different neighbourhood types. The Voice Connect telephone messaging system, which the CDRP has funded, will be a real help in this. Voice Connect has recently been tested and was officially launched in March 2005.*

*We will explore external funding in all urban hotspot areas to assist property owners to install programmed timers for indoor lighting during periods when they are not at home after dark. This is relatively cheap to do and known to be an effective deterrent to most burglars.*

*(See pages 26 and 27 for targets)*

## **What did the audit say about theft?**

The level of recorded theft is below the average for Cumbria in both Allerdale and Copeland and both districts are below their family average when they are compared with similar CDRP's.

The rate of reduction in recorded theft offences between 2002 and 2004 has been 10% in Allerdale and 7% in Copeland. About 25% of theft crime is detected but it is estimated that less a third of such crime is reported.

Cash, credit cards, clothing, electrical goods and toiletries are the main items targeted by thieves but there has been a large increase in the incidence of mobile phone theft over



the last four or five years and this category is now higher than the theft of electrical appliances

Approximately 30% of all recorded theft is from shops and stalls and because a large volume of shop theft remains unreported to the police shops remains the highest targeted victims of this crime.

There is a slight increase in the incidence of theft at the weekend but no one day stands out significantly as a problem nor does a particular time of day. It seems to be evenly spread across the year.

In Allerdale, Workington, Maryport and Keswick are the main town centre hotspots and Whitehaven town centre in Copeland accounts for 50% of the total count of theft in the whole of the borough. Most theft recorded in these hotspots is committed by offenders who do not live in the immediate neighbourhood but are nevertheless residents of the borough. Only 2% and 6% of theft offenders in Copeland and Allerdale, respectively, came from outside Cumbria.

Approximately a third of offenders are female and their ages tend to be skewed towards younger girls in the 10 to 14 year group whereas in male offenders the main offending age group is 20 to 24.

### **What will we do about theft?**

*We will continue to support the shop watch schemes and review the operation of these early in the life of the new strategy. We will try to get more engagement from the retail sector in doing some local problem-solving in an attempt to reduce retail theft.*

*We will target young people with a message warning them of the risk of mobile phone theft in pubs and clubs.*

*We will try to organise a business forum which will reflect the concerns of the business community and identify joint means of reducing business crime working together to mutual advantage.*

*We will support the proposal by the operators of the new shopping centre in Workington town centre to seek a 'Safer Shopping' award and we will try to spread any good practice across all of Allerdale and Copeland.*

### **What targets will we set and how will we measure progress?**

We will plan to reduce all recorded burglary by 7.5% in three years. That is for Allerdale we will have to reduce dwelling house burglary from 9.5/1000 households to 8.8/1000 households and Copeland from 8.2/1000 households to 7.6/1000 households per annum. We will try to maintain the current position of Allerdale and Copeland being below the average for burglary in their most similar family group throughout the three year strategy period.

In those hotspot areas into which we introduce Smartwater property marking scheme we will plan to reduce all burglary by 50% in year one and by 75% in year three.

We will plan to reduce all theft by 10% in three years.

All vehicle crime will be reduced by 12.5% by 2007/08 but we will concentrate upon theft from vehicles in Allerdale where the CDRP was above its 'Family 12' CDRP average between 2001 and 2004. A 12.5% reduction will bring Allerdale to below the current 'most similar' CDRP family average. Copeland will remain below the CDRP family average if current vehicle crime levels do not deteriorate.

## **6 Community Safety**

Besides concentrating on the obvious areas of traditional crime reduction, described earlier in this strategy, we have identified some broad areas upon which we intend to concentrate some CDRP activity in the next three years so that the wider agenda of community safety is embraced by the partnership, too.

These areas include Fear of Crime, Race and Hate Crime, Business Crime and Road Safety.

### **Fear of crime and feelings of safety**

Our Fear of Crime audit told us that sometimes the perception held by the public and the reality of crime are very different. Three sources of data were analysed to get a picture of what the public in West Cumbria perceived crime levels to be and how safe people felt. These were a county survey conducted by the police in 2004 through the Citizens' Forum, a borough-wide survey by the Borough Council in Copeland in 2003 and an Allerdale Borough Council survey performed in its deprived wards. Broadly the results from these surveys suggested similar things including

- Local crime levels ranked first in those factors determining whether a neighbourhood was worth moving to. Crime ranked higher than availability of local health services.
- A quarter of residents believe crime is worsening.
- Drugs, rowdy and drunken behaviour, teenagers hanging around and vandalism were seen as the main problems.
- Surprisingly 18-25 year olds felt less safe out alone after dark, and home alone after dark than any other age group.
- Over 50's saw lack of police presence and poor street lights as the main reason for feeling unsafe on the streets after dark.
- People in Allerdale were most concerned about burglary and vehicle crime but vandalism was also a high concern in Copeland.
- Burglary was the biggest crime category for which the rate of fear was highest compared to the actual level of crime experienced.
- More women felt safe out in daytime than men but they felt much less safe than men after dark.
- 90% of respondents believed local people should be involved in setting local crime priorities but less than 20% were aware of the CDRP.

### ***What will we do about Fear of Crime?***

*We will investigate whether a regular and localised public opinion survey in high crime and disorder areas to best gauge opinion amongst those at the highest risk of being a*



*victim of crime will improve our knowledge base of what the public believes and expects of the CDRP and its partners. Existing survey sweeps conducted annually by the Police Authority will continue to be used for gauging the general opinions of the whole population of West Cumbria in crime and disorder issues.*

*We will integrate into existing local forums representing ethnic and minority groups to ensure that the partnership is better informed and understands the perceptions that people in these groups hold about crime and disorder issues.*

*We will raise the profile of the CDRP and use the media outlets and communication sources of partners to better inform the public about local crime issues and we will investigate the inclusion of a CDRP supplement in local newspapers as a means of informing the public about community safety issues. We will place a higher profile on the CDRP Newsletter and look to ways that this might be given a wider circulation amongst partners and public.*

*We will place more resources in to the preparation of crime reduction material to be included on the Community Safety Partnership TV screens, which are now occupying ten locations across West Cumbria. We will, in the first year of the strategy, review how to maximise the impact of the TV information system and ensure placement of screens in the most advantageous locations we can negotiate to reach as many people as we can.*

*Our targets will be*

- Reduce the rate of fear of burglary amongst Community Voice respondents from 50% to below 45% in three years (comparing 2004 survey results with those from 2007).*
- We will measure the perception that drug dealing is a widespread activity and by using the results of the annual Community Safety Survey we plan to reduce the current belief held by 26% of West Cumbrians that the neighbourhood in which they live has worsened during the last twelve months. We will also plan to see a reduction in the percentage which believes drugs to be a widespread problem reduced from 70%, recorded in 2004 survey, to below 65% in 2007 survey.*

## **Business Crime**

There are three key reasons why business crime should be considered in any local crime reduction strategy

- *The high volume and costs of business crime.*
- *The impact that business crime and disorder has on local communities and society generally.*
- *The particular importance of maintaining viable businesses in areas of high deprivation.*

Our business crime audit based upon police crime records also drew locally upon Cumbria-wide Chamber of Commerce data from 2003 which

- Identified that in Cumbria 70% of businesses were unaware of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (in NW the figure was 72%)
- Over 50% of businesses did not report all crimes they suffered. (NW 61%)
- 16% did not report any crimes they suffered. (NW 8%)
- Nearly one third (32%) of businesses failing to report crime stated they did so because they had no confidence in the police. (NW 14%)
- One fifth said the process was too time-consuming. (NW 6%)

### ***What will we do about Business Crime?***

*We will be looking to establish a permanent link between the local business community and the CDRP. West Cumbria Chamber of Commerce will be approached to explore how the CDRP and business representatives could begin to undertake some local problem solving.*

*We will integrate with the GO NW (Government Office for the North West) Business Crime Unit to learn examples of best practice from across the North West, which have proven to reduce crime in high business crime areas.*

*We will promote the safer shopping award across all West Cumbria*

*We will undertake a promotional campaign to highlight the recent rises in credit card fraud and the precautions, which can be taken to reduce the risks involved.*

*We will investigate the incidence of violence and threats of violence to shop staff because across the North West this is higher than UK average and violence reduction is a key priority for the CDRP in the next three years. We will try to facilitate this through the local Chamber of Commerce.*

*We will investigate the expansion of the 'Green Business Park' concept where we can bring businesses together to form a local partnership for facilitating local environmental improvements to make business premises safer and at less risk of crime. We will work with GO NW in trying to access funding for such schemes in higher crime industrial estates where criminal damage and burglary have been increasing.*

## Race and Hate Crime

A survey conducted jointly by the County Council and Cumbria Police in August 2004 amongst 1230 members of Community Voice in Cumbria identified that almost three quarters of those surveyed admitted to being prejudiced against at least one minority group. In Allerdale and Copeland asylum seekers and gypsy and traveller groups were cited as the most likely groups toward whom people felt less positive. Cumbrians, generally, reported that they feel less comfortable in the company of people from ethnic backgrounds than is average for England and Wales.

Police recorded crime figures indicate that roughly 1% of all violent crime is racially motivated in West Cumbria. In 2003/04 there were 31 racially motivated crimes included amongst 140 recorded hate incidents. In the same period the Crown Prosecution Service successfully prosecuted 30 offences most of these being racially aggravated public order offences followed by racially aggravated assault. In the last year up to February 2005 115 hate crime incidents were recorded of which 95 were racially motivated and 14 homophobic.

IQuanta data for the last available quarter up to January 2005 reveals that the rate of racially aggravated offences is twice as high in Copeland than it is in Allerdale and Copeland is worst in its family group of similar partnerships for these crimes. Allerdale is about average and is in the same 'Most Similar' CDRP group.

On straight counts of incidents Hensingham, Cleator Moor and Cockermouth appear to be the areas where most of this crime has taken place although numbers are low and take no account of population densities. Incidence could be related to the location of late night fast food outlets often managed by people from ethnic minorities.

The British Crime Survey reports that less than 1% of white people reporting incidents to the police believe it to be racially aggravated whereas the figure for Asians is 3% and for those of mixed race it is 4%. The figure for black people is 2%. There is no evidence that people from ethnic backgrounds are more at risk of personal and household crime than are those from the white population. However, for those of mixed race there is a significantly higher risk of becoming a victim of crime. The BCS also found that the level of worry about crime is about twice as high amongst ethnic minority groups than it is amongst the white population. Surprisingly, BCS also found that ethnic groups consistently rated various aspects of the criminal justice system as doing more of a good job than did white people.

1 in 150 People in Cumbria belong to an ethnic minority but the limited audit information we have suggests that the problems experienced across Britain by ethnic minorities are just as prevalent in West Cumbria and for certain groups such as travellers and asylum seekers the position could actually be worse than elsewhere.

### ***What will we do about Race and Homophobic crime?***

*The Cumbrian Attitudes Survey showed that where people knew members of ethnic minorities there was less likelihood of prejudice being expressed. The gypsy and traveller community is probably the biggest ethnic minority group in the county and these people are regular visitors to West Cumbria. However, they are the group against which least numbers of respondents recorded knowing someone from that group which clearly suggests that there is low integration between the two communities. If things were improved negativity amongst the general public might reduce. We will seek examples of best practice from other North West CDRP's to assist action planning.*



*We will ensure that the CDRP integrates into the recently formed local Gypsy and Traveller Group and we will also form improved links into the gay and lesbian community by using existing fora to improve understanding of the difficulties experienced by such minority groups in relation to crime, disorder and fear of crime.*

*We will also undertake further research into the nature of late night harassment experienced by the fast food and restaurant owners across West Cumbria and see whether some simple situational improvements at food outlets coupled with conflict resolution training and advice for staff could improve matters.*

*We will use the media to inform potential victims how they might report racial crime by making access to the police and criminal justice agencies much easier and friendlier.*

*We will promote racial equality in all aspects of work the CDRP engages in.*

*Our target for the next three years is to half the rate of hate crime in Copeland in the first two years and to ensure that Allerdale and Copeland remain consistently below their 'Most Similar' CDRP family average for racially aggravated offences in 2007/08.*

## **Road Safety**

In the case of road safety, an area well covered by organisations such as the County Council, the Highways Agency, and is regularly taken up by town and parish and district councils, the CDRP will not be seeking to duplicate the good work currently being undertaken by the key agencies. Initially we will seek to be represented on appropriate local and county forums, which have a brief to improve road safety in West Cumbria, and we will offer to participate in opportunities to jointly fund local road safety initiatives particularly where these will have a direct effect in reducing the likelihood of death and injury to vulnerable road users.

### ***What will we do about Road Safety?***

*We will identify where the CDRP can through media campaigns attempt to promote safer driving, reduce driver stress and road rage occurrences and improve drivers' consideration for other road users.*

*By integrating into existing partnerships between County Council, Highways Agency and Police we will seek ways of assisting in the challenging target to reduce numbers of dead and seriously injured by 40% on Cumbria's roads from the five year average of 555, 1994-98 baseline figure, by 2009. In West Cumbria this equates to a reduction of 40 killed and seriously injured in the next three years requiring a 25.8% reduction in that period. That is a 9% year on year reduction over the life of the strategy.*

## Glossary of Terms

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>ASB</b>        | Anti Social Behaviour   |
| <b>ABC</b>        | Anti Social Behaviour Contract  |
| <b>ASBO</b>       | Anti Social Behaviour Order   |
| <b>Acorn</b>      | A commercial data set grouping the entire UK population into 5 categories, 17 groups and 56 types. It summarises social factors and consumer behaviour to provide valuable social data about small geographical locations and neighbourhoods. |
| <b>BCS</b>        | British Crime Survey – an annual survey of 40,000 households in England and Wales used to assess true volumes of crimes   |
| <b>CJS</b>        | Criminal Justice System   |
| <b>DAAT</b>       | Drug and Alcohol Action Team  |
| <b>GONW</b>       | Government Office for the North West  |
| <b>LPSA</b>       | Local Public Service Agreement – an agreement of local targets for service delivery negotiated between central government and local government.   |
| <b>PDU</b>        | Problem Drug User – a drug user most at risk of doing harm to himself/herself, the community or other people.   |
| <b>PPO</b>        | Priority and Other Prolific Offenders – a government scheme to reduce re-offending amongst the most prolific offenders in the community.  |
| <b>PSA</b>        | Public Service Agreement – a range of headline targets which apply to public agencies for improving delivered services  |
| <b>RSL</b>        | Registered Social Landlord  |
| <b>Smartwater</b> | A property marking system to assist in the recovery of stolen property and apprehension of criminals  |
| <b>YOT</b>        | Youth Offending Team  |