



Our Plan

for working together to make
Staffordshire Moorlands a safer place
with stronger communities

2010 to 2020



Introduction


2

Staffordshire Moorlands is one of the safest places to live in Staffordshire and the district has a much lower crime rate than the average for England and Wales. Levels of burglary, vehicle crime and violent crime are all well below the national average.

We want to make sure that this continues.

We have a strong team of people from different agencies that work together to help make our district a safer place for everyone.

This plan shows how we will continue to work together to focus on the problems that you are most concerned about.



**Councillor Gill Burton – Portfolio Holder for Communities,
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council**

Staffordshire Police work closely with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and other organisations to make sure that crime, and the fear of crime, does not reduce the quality of people's lives within our district.

We also work with other organisations and residents to tackle other problems that can affect people's lives such as antisocial behaviour, vandalism and speeding.

It is important that people trust us to tackle these problems and have confidence in the services we provide.

Staffordshire Moorlands is a beautiful part of the country and we want to make sure that people can continue to enjoy the area without worrying about their safety. I'm confident that this plan will help us to do that.



Chief Superintendent Jon Drake – Staffordshire Police

This plan

This plan has been produced by the Moorlands Together Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership, which is made up of a number of different organisations. We've listed these organisations on page 5.

Our plan shows how we will work together to make Staffordshire Moorlands safer with strong communities.

Each year we will also produce detailed delivery plans to show what we will do during the year to deliver the things that we set out in this main plan.

For more information about us, please visit our website at www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/together

This website will also allow you to watch a short video that we have produced to show you what we do.

**we will
work together
to make
Staffordshire
Moorlands
safer with strong
communities**



Contents

4

Our partnership

Who are we?	page 5
What do we need to do? .....	.6
How will we do it? .....	.7
How will we work together? .....	.8
How will you know that we've done what we set out to do? .....	.9
What do we need to deliver our plan? .....	.10

Our approach

Tackling the problems that matter most to people in their local area .....	.11
Take action to stop those people who are causing problems .....	.12
Helping those people who most need our support .....	.13

Our promise

Planning what we do .....	.14
Taking action .....	.14
Reporting back to you .....	.15

Who are we?

Every district or borough in the country must have a partnership (a group of organisations) that meets to look at crime and disorder issues. We call our partnership the Moorlands Together Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.

The organisations that must work together in the partnership are set down by law. These organisations are known as the 'responsible authorities' and are:

- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council;
- Staffordshire County Council;
- Staffordshire Police;
- Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust;
- Staffordshire Police Authority;
- Staffordshire Fire Authority; and
- NHS North Staffordshire.

There are lots of other organisations who work with the responsible authorities to make our district safer. These include community groups, residents' associations, schools and colleges and organisations such as:

- ADSIS (Alcohol and Dependency Specialists in Staffordshire);
- Challenge North Staffs;
- Mediation North Staffs;
- Moorlands Housing;
- North Staffordshire Victim Support;
- PARINS (Partnership Approach to Racial Incidents in North Staffordshire);
- Staffordshire Crimestoppers;
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service;
- Staffordshire Moorlands Community and Voluntary Services;
- Staffordshire Women's Aid; and
- Staffordshire Youth Offending Service.

6 What do we need to do?

By law, we must work together to tackle:

- crime and disorder;
- antisocial behaviour;
- behaviour that spoils the local environment, like dumping rubbish (fly-tipping), graffiti and dog mess in public areas;
- misusing drugs and alcohol; and
- adult offenders and young offenders reoffending (people who cause trouble in your local area).

We must carry out a review (a strategic assessment) of the problems listed above in the district each year. We must also ask you about crime and disorder issues in your area and about the problems that you think are the most important for us to tackle.

We have to use this information to choose the most important problems that we need to tackle in the district in the next year. We must then produce plans that show how we will work together to tackle these problems.

As well as these legal requirements, our partnership has also decided to work together to build and maintain strong communities within the district. We believe that strong communities are those where people:

- take part in local groups and activities;
- are involved in making decisions about what goes on in their local area; and
- work together to improve where they live.


Our plans include actions to make this happen.

How will we do it?

The law says that we must set out our strategy (approach) for tackling crime and disorder in our district. We believe we can make Staffordshire Moorlands safer with strong communities if we:

- tackle the problems that matter most to people in their local area by involving local people wherever possible;
- take action to stop those people who are causing problems (offenders) from causing any more trouble; and
- help those people who most need our support to stop them from being a victim of crime or having other problems.

There is more information about the approach we will be taking on page 11.



**we will...
tackle the
problems
that matter most
to people in their
local area**

8 How will we work together?

We believe that the best way for us to achieve our aims is by working together.

Each member of our partnership has their own services and targets that they need to deliver. But we know that many problems can only be solved by organisations and people working together.

This document sets out our overall plan for working together to make our district a safer place with stronger communities for everyone. Each year we also develop detailed plans (we call these our delivery plans) that show in detail how we will work together to take action to tackle the main problems in our district. Many of these problems change over time so we write new delivery plans each year to make sure that we are always tackling the problems that matter most to you.

We will also meet regularly throughout the year and take action to tackle any new problems that come to our attention and that we can only solve by working together.

We also want to involve local people wherever possible. This includes:

- asking you what the main problems are in your area;
- involving you in helping to decide how to solve problems;
- providing support if you want to get involved in action to improve your area; and
- letting you know what we've done to reduce problems in your area.

How will you know that we've done what we set out to do?

We set targets that show what we want to achieve each year. These targets are shown in our delivery plans. Our targets are usually as follows.

- To reduce crime (for example, burglaries) and other problems (such as fires or reports of dog mess in public areas). In some cases, where the number of incidents is already low, our target may be to make sure that the problems don't get any worse.
- To reduce the number of people who say that they have a problem in their neighbourhood with things like crime, antisocial behaviour, litter and so on.
- To increase the number of people who say that they are happy with the area where they live and the services provided by organisations in their area.

Senior people from the responsible authorities (see page 5) and from other organisations meet every three months to look at whether we are meeting the targets that we have set. We call this group our Strategy Group.

Other officers meet more regularly to look at the levels of problems within the district and report to the Strategy Group if it does not look like we will meet our targets.

We will give you regular updates on what we have achieved throughout the year and a final update once each year has ended.

10 What do we need to deliver our plan?

In many cases, we can deliver the actions within our plans without needing any extra money, equipment or other resources. We can do this by bringing together the people, skills, equipment and so on from different organisations, and from the local community, to work together to solve problems. This generally produces better results than when organisations try to tackle problems on their own.

We can also sometimes work together to think of new ways of tackling problems that don't have an extra cost, or to change the way that we normally respond to problems to produce better results.

In some cases, we may need extra money to tackle problems. If this is the case, we will use money from central government or contributions from individual organisations when this is available.

Earlier, we said that we believe that we can make Staffordshire Moorlands safer with strong communities if we tackle local problems, stop people who are causing trouble and help people who need our support.

In this section, we explain a bit more about what we will do about each of those three things.

Tackling the problems that matter most to people in their area

We want to work together to tackle the problems that affect people's lives where they live, work or visit. These will be different in different parts of the district and may change over time. The problems may include things like:

- antisocial behaviour such as street problems (drunken behaviour, intimidating others and so on), nuisance neighbours and environmental crime (illegally dumping rubbish, graffiti, vandalism and so on);
- fighting and rowdy behaviour in our town centres in the evenings;
- speeding and road accidents; and
- vehicle crime and burglary.

We believe that we can help to stop these problems from happening in our district if we:

- make it harder for people to commit crimes, cause problems or to be the victim of an accident;
- work with people to make them less likely to cause problems or suffer a crime or accident; and
- make full use of any laws, rules and regulations that are available to us.

we will...

- talk to local people to find out the problems that are causing them most concern;
- develop plans each year that focus on your main issues for the district;
- whenever we can, involve local people who want to work together to improve their area; and
- bring together representatives from other organisations every two weeks to take action to solve any problems that take place during the year.

Taking action to stop those people who are causing problems

We want to reduce crime by focusing on those people who commit crimes and other problems. We believe that:

- if we can stop offenders committing more crimes we will have a safer district with fewer crimes;
- if we can help offenders to stop offending and get a job, they can contribute to society and improve their lives and those of their children and families; and
- if we can reduce the number of offenders we can save money for taxpayers because we will not have to spend as much money on things such as prisons.

Adults and young people who commit crime often have problems such as being homeless, not having appropriate skills or training to get a job, mental health problems, family problems, drug problems, and debt and money problems. We can help people to stop offending by helping them with these problems. If people are not willing to accept our help and will not stop causing problems, we will make every effort to catch and convict them.

we will...

- take early action to stop those people who are beginning to get involved in crime or antisocial behaviour from going on to get involved in more serious problems;
- meet regularly to target the small number of offenders that are causing the most problems in our district;
- meet regularly to target those people in the district that are repeatedly causing antisocial behaviour;
- support offenders to stop committing crimes or causing other problems when we can; and
- do all we can to catch and convict those people who, despite our offers of support, carry on committing crimes or causing other problems.

Helping those people who most need our support

We recognise that some people within our district are more at risk than others from crime, antisocial behaviour, fires or other community-safety problems. This includes people who are currently experiencing repeated problems or who are at greater risk because they are elderly or for other reasons such as a physical disability, emotional problems or mental-health problems.

We want to make sure that we support these people whenever we can.

we will...

- take action to support anyone who is at risk of being harmed, or harming themselves, because they are experiencing crime, antisocial behaviour or other similar problems;
- provide an excellent service to victims of crime by giving them the support that they need and helping to stop them from suffering any more crimes;
- provide specialist support for victims of domestic violence; and
- offer support and practical help to victims of antisocial behaviour.

Our aim is to make Staffordshire Moorlands safer with strong communities

We will work together to do the following.

Planning what we do

we will...

- focus on the most important problems within the district. Each year we will carry out a strategic assessment to help us to identify priorities and then produce a plan that shows how we will tackle those priorities.
- talk to you (our communities) about crime and disorder issues in your area and about what you think are the most important problems to tackle. We will use this information to make sure that we are focusing on the issues that are most important to you.

Taking action

we will...

- take early action to nip problems in the bud or ideally prevent them from happening in the first place.
- take quick, firm action against those who break the law and cause problems in our district.

- support those people within the district who most need our help and who may be at particular risk from crime, antisocial behaviour, fires or other community-safety problems. Some people might be more vulnerable than others because they are elderly or because they have a physical disability, an emotional problem, a mental-health problem and so on. Others are vulnerable because they have been the victim of crime or antisocial behaviour.
- work with people who break the law (offenders) to stop them from committing more crime (reoffending) in the future.
- work with you and provide opportunities to work together to tackle problems.

Reporting back to you

we will...

- hold at least one public meeting a year with senior representatives of the partnership to give you an opportunity to raise any issues and to hear what action we have taken and what we plan to do in the future.
- provide you with regular information so that you know what we are doing to improve the safety of Staffordshire Moorlands and to build stronger communities. This will include publishing a summary of our partnership plan.

