



Workshop 2  
September  
2016

# Community Safety and Cohesion Task and Finish Group

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This is a working document and will be subject to future re-drafts and augmentation as the work of the Task and Finish group progresses. As such, none of the content should be read as the official and agreed position or view of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, the MEA Community Planning Partnerships or any Community Planning Partner.

This report has been produced as a follow up to the first workshop for each for each of the Task and Finish Groups, which took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2016. These workshops brought together a range of stakeholders from across the sectors to discuss the priorities for the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Community Plan.

The objective for this task and finish group is:

*‘Reducing crime and creating good relations between people and communities’*

By the end of the task and finish process the group will produce a paper detailing the strategic priorities and actions in this theme over the next 10-15 years and a summary of how this theme can contribute to other cross cutting themes such as good relations, infrastructure, sustainable development, environment, etc.

This paper will be forwarded to the Community Planning Strategic Alliance who will use it to inform the priorities and actions within the final Community Plan for Mid and East Antrim.

This paper outlines the key priority areas which were identified by the Task and Finish Group in the first workshop. It is important to note here that the focus of the Task and Finish Groups is around collaborative gain; what can be achieved through working together, or that is not already being done well by other agencies, and that this has shaped the selection of priorities.

The paper will present each priority individually and with the following structure, which reflects the evidence based approach taken:

- A statement of the priority;
- A description of the current situation;
- Statistical evidence to support the selection of this issue as a priority (much of the evidence can be applied across each of the issues raised); and
- Some initial thoughts around indicators and proxies for each measure.

## 1 VULNERABLE PEOPLE

### 1.1 The challenge

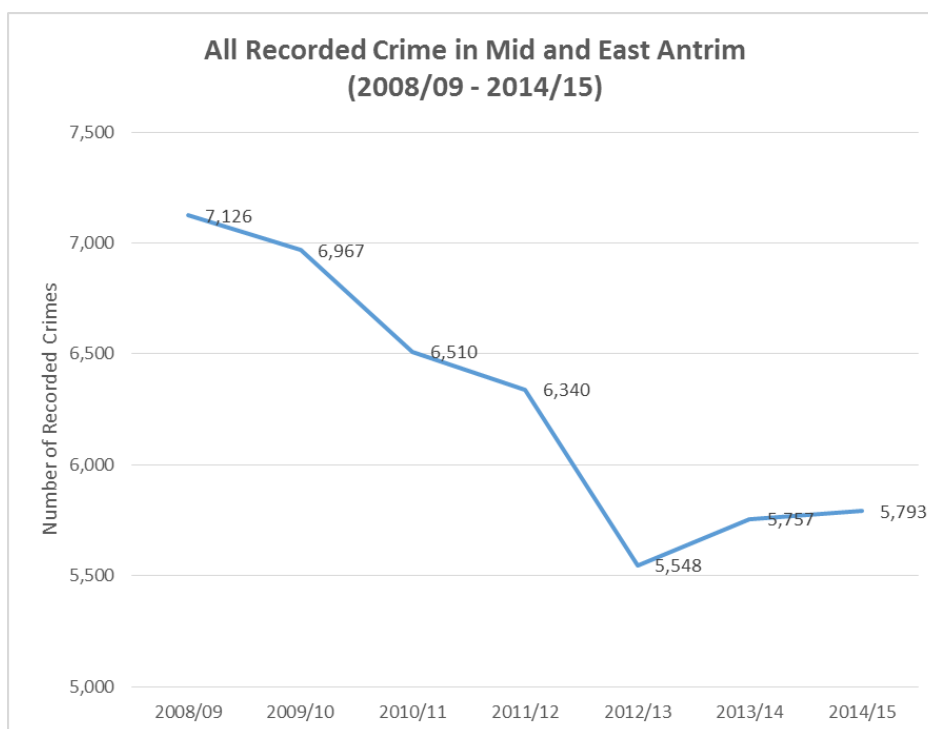
The challenge is to enhance the capability in identifying and tackling those who are most vulnerable to crime and fear of crime. There are a multitude of factors that contribute to individual vulnerability in Mid and East Antrim and it is often difficult to identify 'vulnerable' people. The term was applied to various groups, including but are not limited to, the elderly, the disabled, those with mental health issues, ethnic minorities, and those in poor housing. The classification of vulnerability is blurred partly due to the changing nature of crime, including an increase in online offences, fraud, and exploitative ventures such as unscrupulous loan companies.

It was considered that a more nuanced understanding of individual vulnerability is required to allow vulnerable people to be identified, and that the development of cross agency work should be a priority in this field.

### 1.2 The evidence

#### The scale of crime

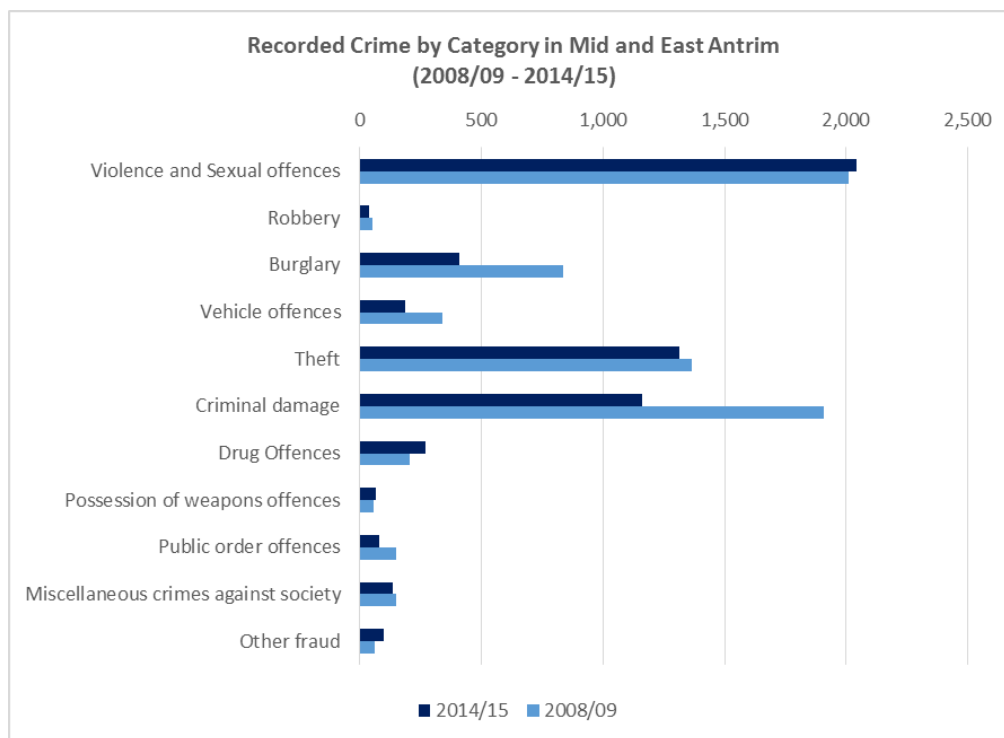
In 2014/15, 5,793 crimes were recorded in Mid and East Antrim (see graph below); this was a decrease of 19% on the 2008/09 figure compared to a decline of 5% across NI. Mid and East Antrim had the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest reduction in recorded crime across the 11 councils between 2008/09 and 2014/15.





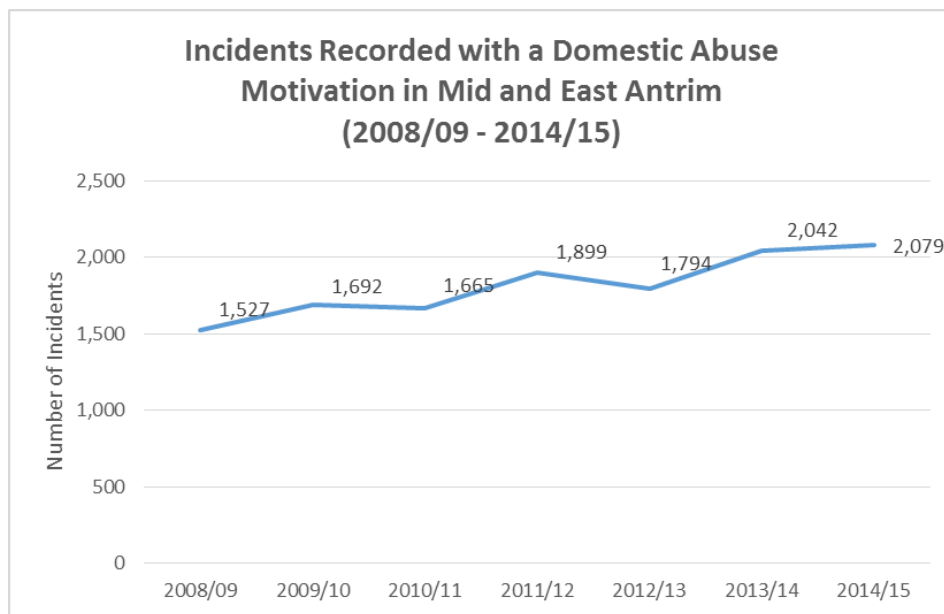
In terms of the type of offences, in 2014/15, violence and sexual offences accounted for the highest number of crimes in Mid and East Antrim (35%). A decline in the number of criminal damage and burglary offences accounted for the majority of the 19% reduction in the number of recorded crimes in Mid and East Antrim between 2008/09 and 2014/15.

Of the 11 offence categories, only 2 have experienced an increase over the 7 year period. These are drug offences (32%) and violence and sexual offences (1.4%).



### Domestic violence

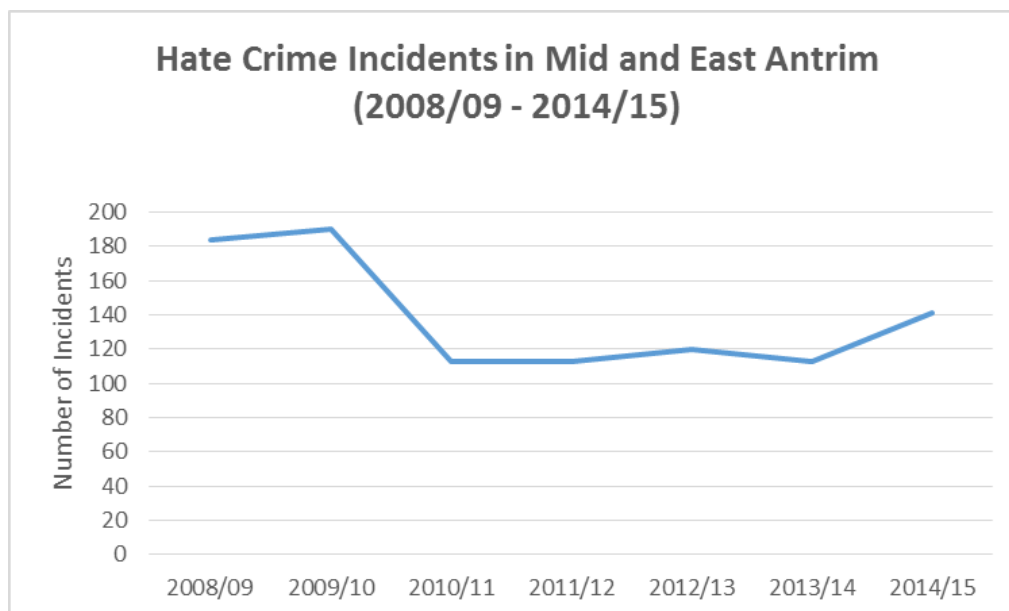
In 2014/15, there were 2,079 incidents recorded with a domestic violence motivation (see table below). Between 2008/09 and 2014/15 there was a 36% increase recorded in these incidents compared to 20% in NI. Mid and East Antrim had third highest increase in incidents across the 11 councils.



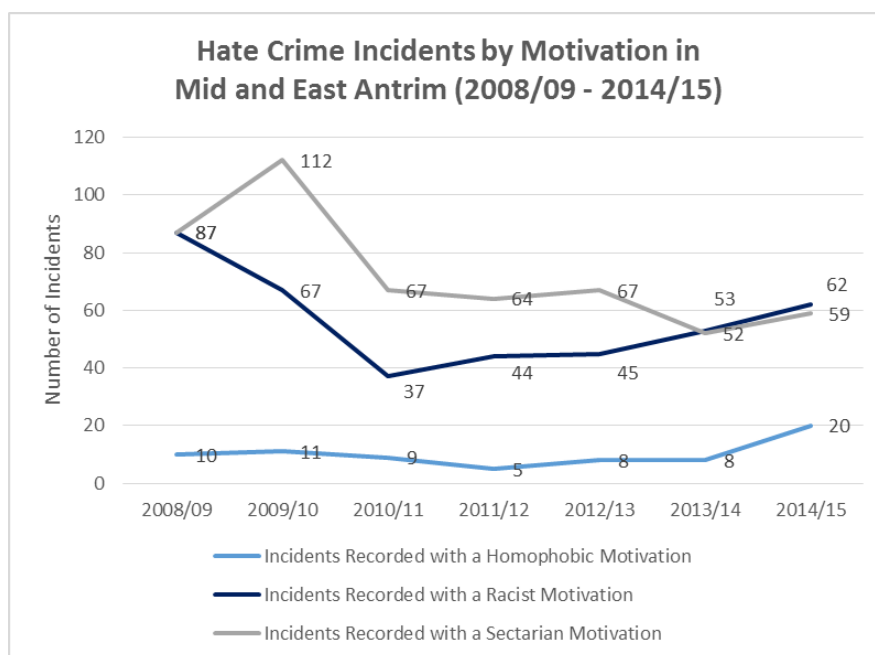
### Hate crime

Between 2008/09 and 2014/15, the total number of hate crime incidents in Mid and East Antrim fell by 23% compared to an increase of 16% across NI.

In addition, whilst hate crime incidents in Mid and East Antrim have only begun to rise again since 2013/14, they have increased steadily in NI since 2011/12. Mid and East Antrim had the largest reduction in hate crime incidents across all 11 councils.



In terms of the motivation for hate crime in Mid and East Antrim, racism and sectarianism account for the majority of incidents. Since 2008/09, the gap between sectarian and racist motivations has widened, however since 2013/14 the number of incidents with a sectarian motivation has fallen slightly below those with a racist motivation. There was also a significant increase in incidents with a homophobic motivation in 2014/15.



### 1.3 The gaps in the evidence base

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) is a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of approximately 4,000 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. It is an alternative, but complementary, measure of crime to offences recorded by the police, the main aims of the NICS are to:

- Measure crime victimisation rates experienced by people living in private households, whether or not these crimes were reported to or recorded by the police.
- Monitor trends in the level of crime, independent of changes in reporting levels or police recording practices
- Measure people's perceptions about and reactions to crime (for example, the level and causes of crime, the extent to which they are concerned about crime and the effect of crime on their quality of life)

The NICS could assist in filling some gaps in data relating to vulnerable people. Data have been requested for Mid and East Antrim on the fear of crime and personal safety; perception of risk of victimisation and perception of the effect of fear of crime on quality of life by personal characteristics (age, gender, religion, nationality, disability, newspaper readership and experience of crime) and by household/area characteristics (household composition, tenure, income, urban/rural, deprivation).

Please note that provision of this is subject to the base numbers not being less than 100.

## 1.4 Indicator development

## 2 VULNERABLE PLACES

### 2.1 The challenge

The task and finish group felt that identifying hotspots of criminal activity, particularly where drugs are concerned and developing a partnership approach to working between the community, police, education providers and voluntary agencies was a priority. In addition to integrating the generations through mutual respect and encouraging a culture of community engagement and volunteering.

This approach has been taken because it was considered that particular localities can be regarded as vulnerable due to a variety of factors. In particular there is strong link between levels of deprivation and levels of crime in Mid and East Antrim, and there are also areas where concentrations of particular people, such as elderly, were felt to increase the vulnerability of the place. Additional factors include areas where particular circumstances lead to higher rates of hidden or unreported crime, as well as isolation, whether geographical or in terms of access to services.

### 2.2 The evidence

#### Deprivation

- Dunclug, Castle Demesne and Killycrot are the 3 most deprived areas in Mid and East Antrim in terms of Crime and Disorder
- Grange, Galgorm 2 and Kells 2 are the 3 least deprived areas.
- There is a large variation in this indicator across Mid and East Antrim. Out of the 890 Super Output Areas in NI, Dunclug was ranked 16 while Grange was 889. *With 1 being the most deprived to 890 being the least deprived.*

#### Dangerous environments

In 2015 there were 587 road casualties in Mid and East Antrim which equated to 43 per 10,000 population, 6 of which were fatalities. Over the last 3 years the number of road traffic casualties per 10,000 population in Mid and East Antrim has remained significantly lower than the NI average. In particular, in 2015 the council was second lowest behind Causeway Coast and Glens.

**Road Traffic Casualties in Mid and East Antrim (2013 - 2015)**

	2013	2014	2015
Killed	9	4	6
Seriously injured	64	46	62
Slightly injured	494	570	519
<b>Total Casualties</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>587</b>
Casualties per 10,000 population in Mid and East Antrim	41.69	45.37	42.78
<i>Casualties per 10,000 population in NI</i>	<i>50.21</i>	<i>51.01</i>	<i>52.90</i>
Rank across 11 councils	3rd lowest	5th lowest	2nd lowest



## 2.3 Gaps in the evidence base

As previously stated, of the 65 Super Output Areas making up the Mid & East Antrim LGD, 13 (20%) are classed as being in the 20% most deprived areas in NI when ranked by the Crime and Disorder Domain. Starting with the most deprived these are:

Super Output Areas	Crime and Disorder Domain Rank
Dunclug	16
Castle Demesne	88
Killycrot	90
Ballyloran	108
Fair Green	109
Central (Larne LGD)	110
Clipperstown	115
Ballykeel	134
Moat	135
Love Lane	164
Antiville	166
Northland	170
Park	178

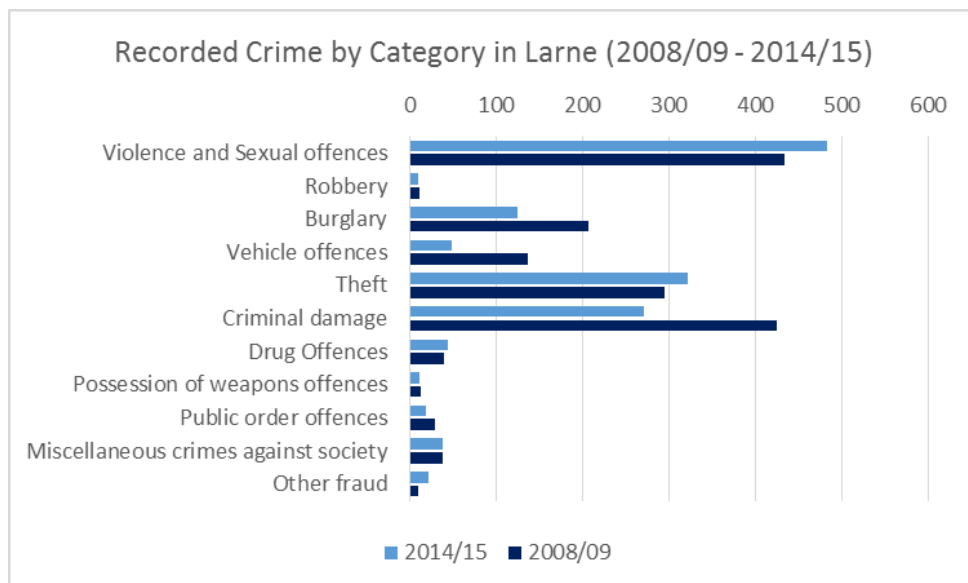
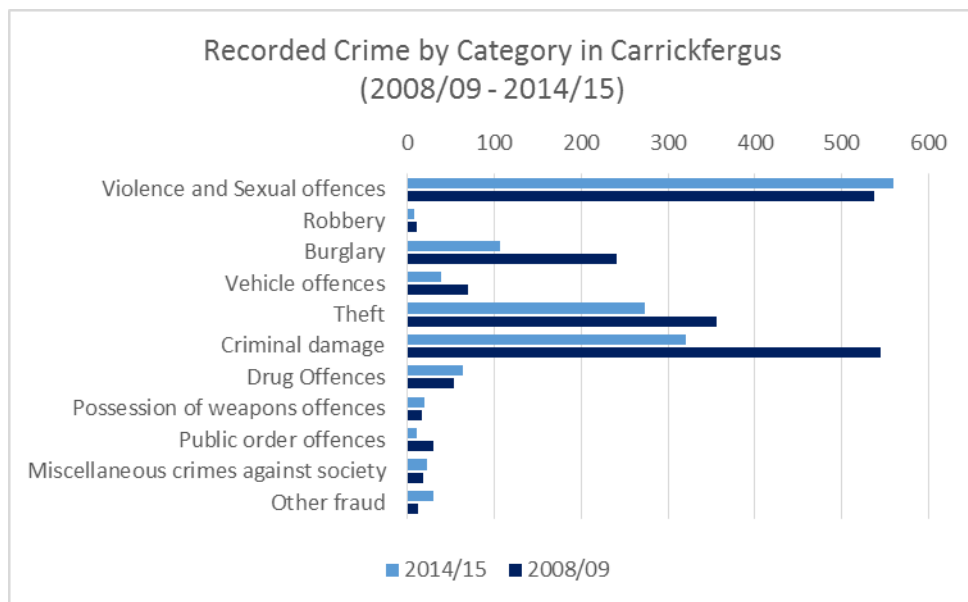
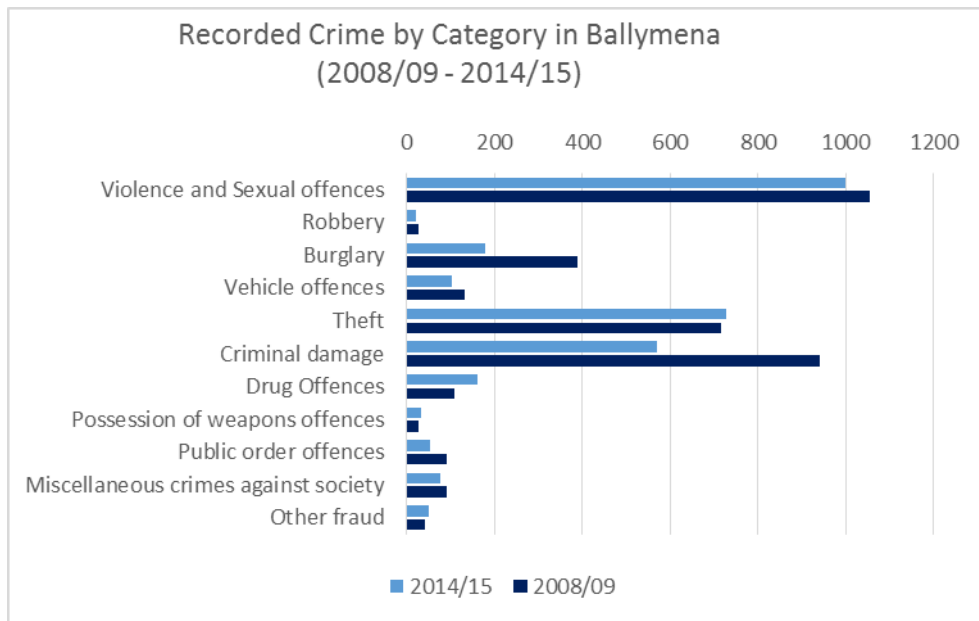
*With 1 being the most deprived to 890 being the least deprived.*

None of the areas which are most deprived in terms of proximity to services are in the top most deprived for crime and disorder.

Ward level data is currently not available due to a disclosure issue however PSNI are in discussions with NISRA and it is anticipated that the issue will be resolved soon. Information at this lower geographic area will be provided as soon as it becomes available. This will assist the group in identifying hotspots of criminal activities.

In the interim, data is available for Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus. Between 2008/09 and 2014/15, Carrickfergus experienced a greater decline in recorded crime (23.4%) than Ballymena (17.8%) and Larne (15.1%).

As stated previously Mid and East Antrim has only experienced a rise in 2 offence categories over the 7 year period. These are drug offences and violence and sexual offences. However the majority of the increase in drug offences was in Ballymena which had a 50% increase compared to 17% in Carrickfergus and 10% in Larne. Whilst violence and sexual offences have increased across the Borough, Ballymena was the only area to fall (-5.0%) compared to an increase in Larne (11.3%) and Carrickfergus (3.9%).



A crime map is available on the PSNI website (<https://www.psni.police.uk/>) which provides details of the number of recorded crimes per month by location and category in Ballymena and Larne (please note, the Larne district incorporates the Carrickfergus area). This will greatly assist the group in identifying the type of crime affecting particular areas within the Borough.

## 2.4 Indicator development

### 3 THOSE MOST AT RISK OF CREATING CRIME

#### 3.1 The challenge

Early intervention was a cross cutting theme for all of the task and finish groups, and for community safety and cohesion the context was to identify and work with those most at risk of creating crime; there was a feeling that education and a focus on the preventative agenda was key in this field. This should manifest itself in engagement with individuals from primary school age and take a long-term approach to dealing with crime, or the likelihood of someone becoming involved in crime.

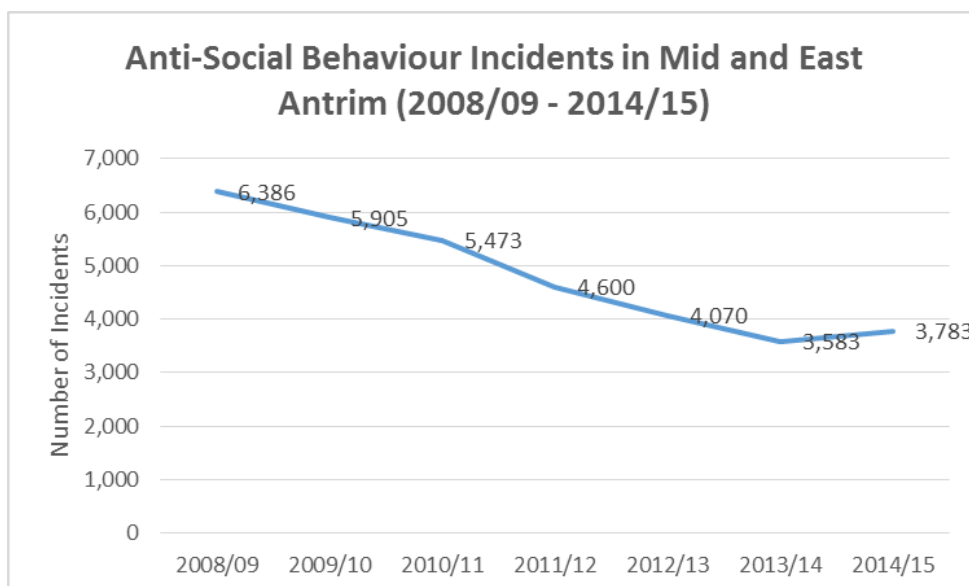
This would seek to take elements from across agencies where action to prevent crime has been successful and also promote respect for community amongst young people. This approach is rooted in the evidence which linked deprivation and crime, a feeling that it is now seen as socially acceptable to engage in excesses of alcohol and drugs, and the degradation of respect for individuals, community and property in particular areas.

#### 3.2 The evidence

##### Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is the most common crime in the borough. More work needs to take place to understand who is perpetrating this crime and if there are particular hot spots.

In 2014/15 there were 3,783 anti-social behaviour incidents in Mid and East Antrim (see chart below). There was a 41% reduction in these incidents between 2008/09 and 2014/15 in Mid and East Antrim compared to a 28% reduction across NI. Mid and East Antrim had the second largest reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents across all 11 councils.



## Links to the community

There were issues reported around how people were increasingly feeling less a part of their local community. The extent to which people volunteer was considered an interesting barometer of this.

In the 2011 Census, 14.7% of people in Mid and East Antrim reported carrying out unpaid voluntary work compared to 14.9% across NI. Mid and East Antrim was ranked 4th lowest out of the eleven councils.

Data from the NI life and times survey 2013/14 also provides an interesting insight (see tables below). This survey monitors the attitudes and behaviours of people in NI on political issues and community relations.

<i>How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?...</i>	<b>Strongly agree / Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Disagree / Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
The culture and traditions of the Catholic community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society	74%	18%	5%	3%
The culture and traditions of the Protestant community add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society	79%	16%	2%	3%
The culture and traditions of people from different minority ethnic groups adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland	65%	21%	11%	3%

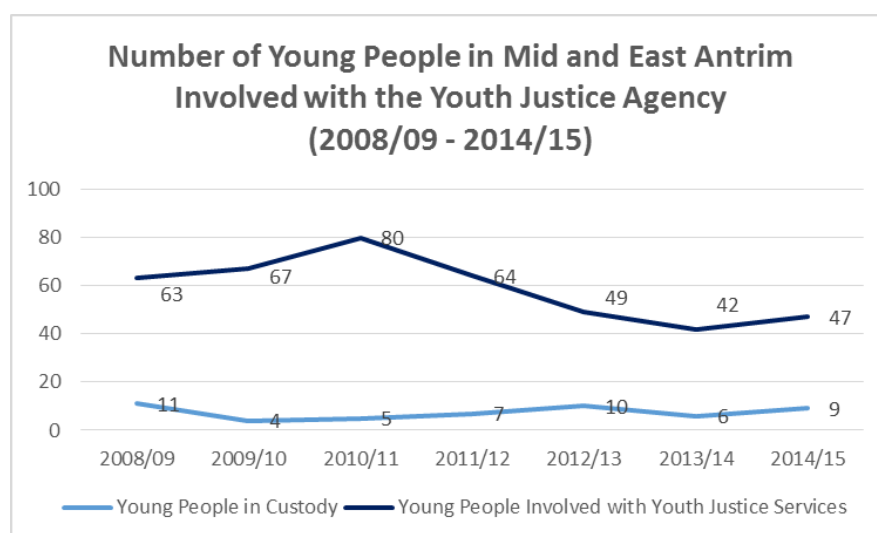
<i>Has there been any time in the last year when you personally have felt...</i>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
...intimidated by republican murals, kerb paintings, or flags?	8%	92%	0%
...annoyed by republican murals, kerb paintings, or flags?	21%	78%	0%
...felt intimidated by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags?	19%	81%	0%
...annoyed by loyalist murals, kerb paintings, or flags?	33%	67%	0%
Do you feel a sense of belonging to this neighbourhood?	84%	15%	1%

## Young people and justice services

Early intervention was a key theme running throughout the priorities and indeed across the task and finish groups. Therefore, the level of young people's involvement with the youth justice agency was considered a useful measure.

The number of young people involved with Youth Justice Services fell by 25% between 2008/09 and 2014/15. This was comparable to NI as a whole. The number of young people in custody remained low at 9 in 2014/15





### 3.3 Gaps in the evidence base

Following discussions with the statistician responsible for the PSNI's anti-social behaviour data, a demographic breakdown of those perpetrating this crime is unavailable. Anti-social behaviour incidents are not considered to be a crime and in the majority of these incidents there are no details of the offenders recorded.

Engagement in Culture, Arts and Leisure (2011-13)

District Council	Engaged in culture, arts and leisure (%)	Sport participation (%)	Visited a museum or science centre (%)	Used the public library service (%)	Arts participation (%)	Arts attendance (%)	Visited an inland waterway (%)	Fished in Northern Ireland waters (%)	Visited PRONI (%)
Northern Ireland	90	53	47	30	32	78	31	5	3
Antrim and Newtownabbey	90	59	51	27	33	76	30	5	4
Ards and North Down	93	58	67	38	32	84	19	5	3
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	90	51	41	27	34	77	45	5	4
Belfast	89	54	53	32	33	78	33	4	4
Causeway Coast and Glens	84	48	28	21	30	67	18	5	3
Derry City and Strabane	90	44	48	34	29	78	14	5	2
Fermanagh and Omagh	90	50	39	29	29	75	43	7	1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	95	62	58	32	38	86	60	6	3
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
Mid Ulster	87	50	36	28	24	75	26	4	2
Newry, Mourne and Down	88	48	37	28	30	75	23	4	4

Engagement in culture, arts and leisure may also provide an insight into how residents in Mid and East Antrim spend their free time which may possibly give an indication of those more at risk of creating crime.

## 3.4 Indicator development

## 4 GOVERNANCE - COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP IN PARALLEL

### 4.1 The challenge

The challenge is to ensure there is cross agency and programme consistency and collaboration, between the various elements relating to community safety, community cohesion and good relations. In this we have existing statutory activity such as the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and an array of other (non statutory) programmes and activities. It is imperative to ensure efficiencies and delivery effectiveness that these are effectively connected to the community safety and cohesion element of the Community Planning Partnership. In this priority, an element of activity mapping needs to take place to ensure that appropriate and added value collaboration develops, accordingly.

### 4.2 The evidence

### 4.3 Gaps in the evidence base

### 4.4 Indicator development

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council would like to acknowledge the support from CLES in the production of this document. CLES has been retained by the Council to support the task and finish working group process.

