



Workshop 3
October
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 and second workshops for the Community Safety Cohesion Task and Finish Working Group, which met in early and Mid-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:

- What success will look like for each priority;
- The current challenge, including upon who and where we should focus;
- 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);
- How the outcomes for this priority tie in with the Northern Ireland programme for government and the development of indicators to track progress.

Due to the structure of workshop 2 for this Task and Finish Group, the activity mapping has been combined for all of the strategic priorities, and can be found in section 4.

1 VULNERABLE PEOPLE

1.1 What success would look like

‘Reducing personal vulnerability, by understanding and dealing with the root causes’

The following statements set out what success will look like in Mid and East Antrim as we realise the vision over the lifetime of the Community Plan:

- ❑ All organisations that operate in Mid and East Antrim are collaborating to address vulnerability
- ❑ All communities feel assured that concerns relating to community safety and cohesion are being dealt with
- ❑ There is an intergenerational approach to addressing vulnerability
- ❑ A preventative agenda is in place to resolve issues before they reach a threshold that requires specialist intervention

1.2 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 not limited to, the elderly, the disabled, those with mental health issues and how this affects the family unit, ethnic minorities, and those in poor housing.

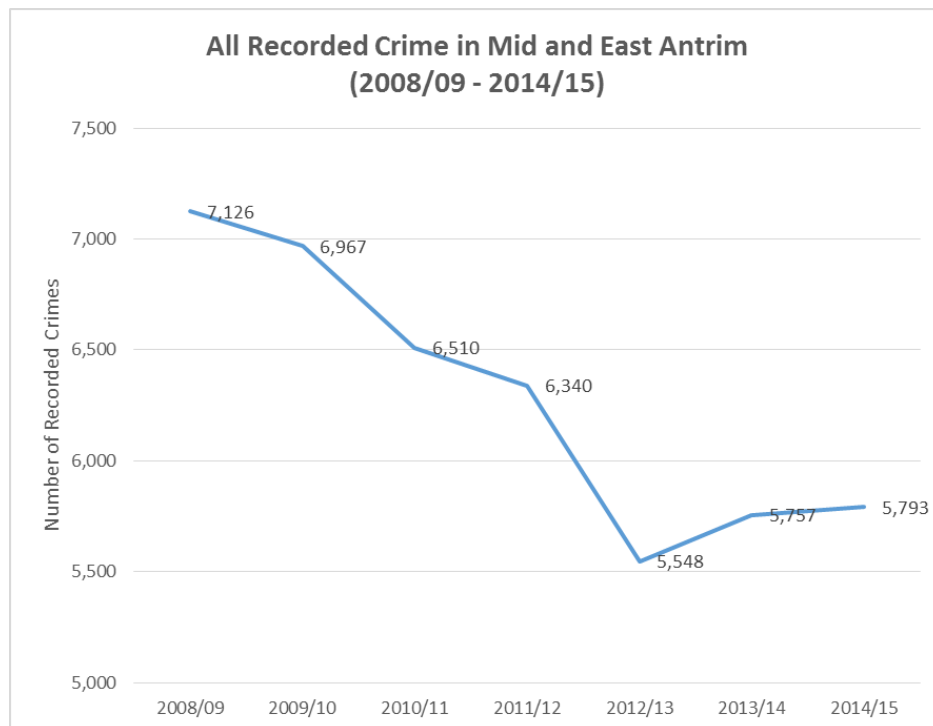
The classification of vulnerability is blurred partly due to the changing nature of crime, including an increase in online offences, fraud, and exploitative ventures such as unscrupulous loan companies. Therefore, the Task and Finish Group considered that all communities needed to be engaged, however, it was felt that rural communities are often excluded from initiatives in this theme, and that a lack of services and activities makes residents in these areas vulnerable.

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.

1.3 The evidence

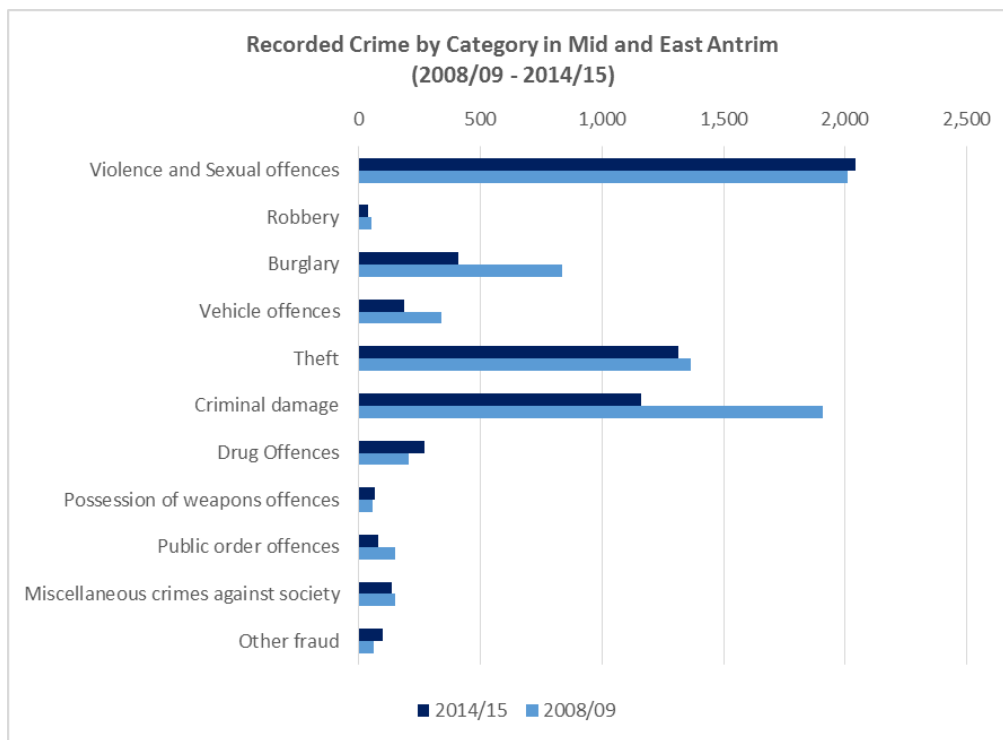
The scale of crime

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 2nd largest reduction in recorded crime across the 11 councils between 2008/09 and 2014/15.



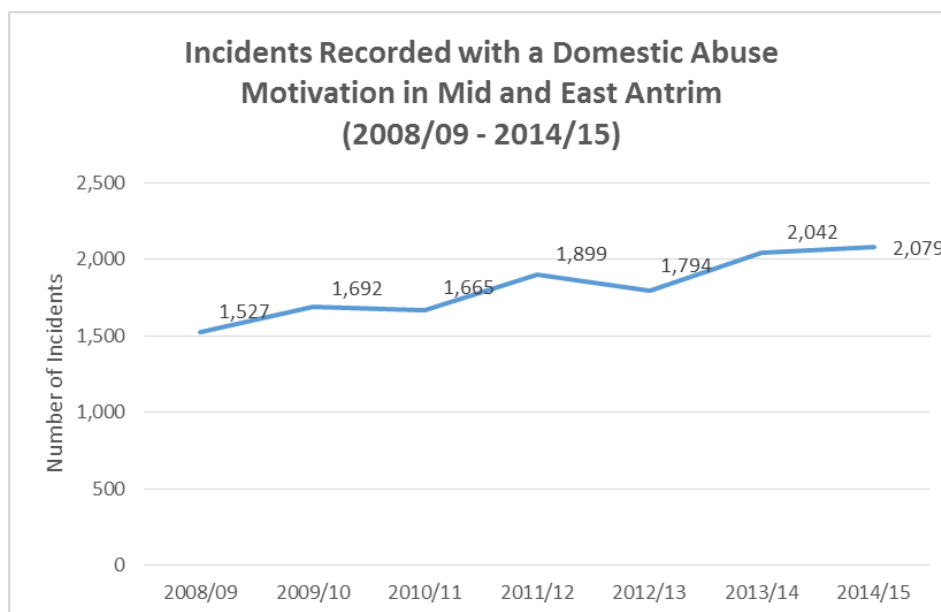
In terms of the type of offences, in 2014/15, violence and sexual offences accounted for the highest number of crimes in Mid and East Antrim (35%). A decline in the number of criminal damage and burglary offences accounted for the majority of the 19% reduction in the number of recorded crimes in Mid 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%) (including trafficking and possession) and violence and sexual offences (1.4%) (including homicide, violence with injury, violence without injury, rape and other sexual offences) .



Domestic violence

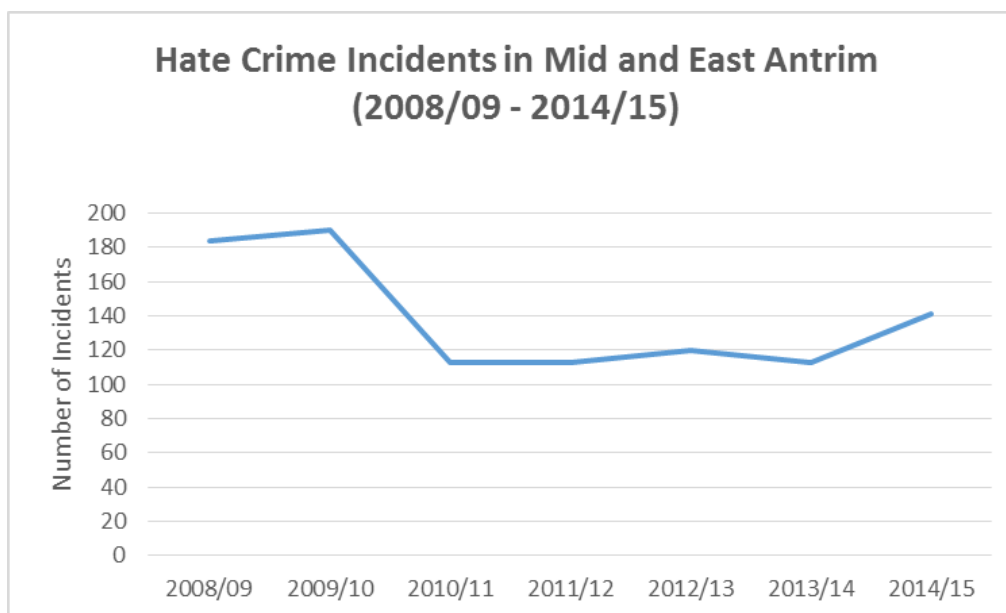
In 2014/15, there were 2,079 incidents recorded with a domestic violence motivation (see table below). Between 2008/09 and 2014/15 there was a 36% increase recorded in these incidents compared to 20% in NI. Mid and East Antrim had third highest increase in incidents across the 11 councils. It should be noted that this may be due to an increase in reporting of incidents rather than an increase in incidents themselves.



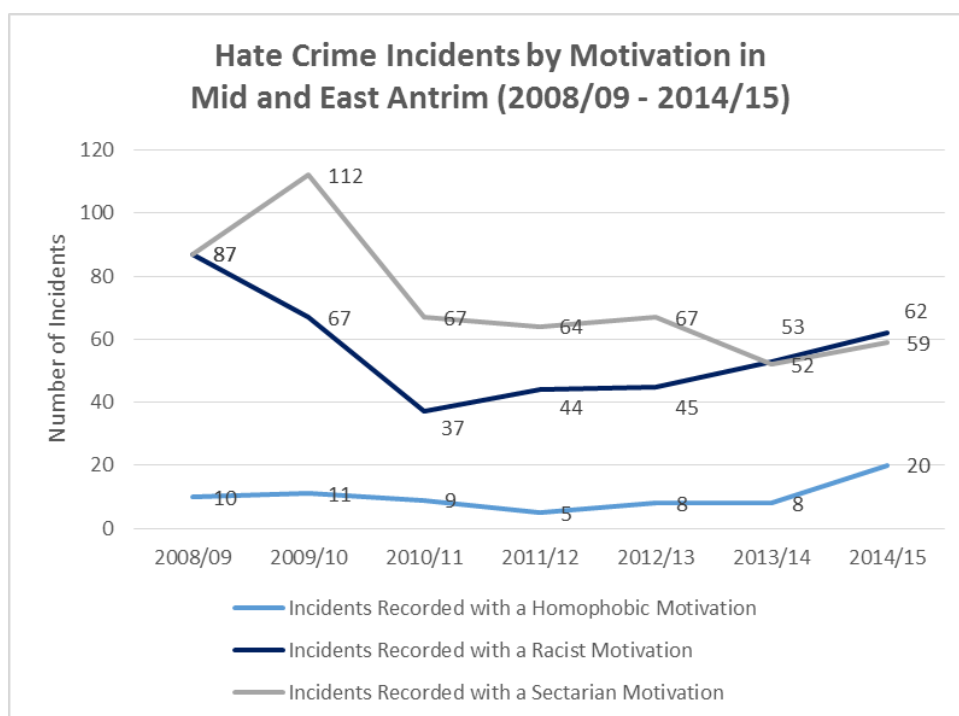
Hate crime

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 Northern Ireland.

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.



Vulnerable elderly

Older people were considered among the most vulnerable groups by the Task and Finish Working Group, with a variety of factors contributing to this. The below table illustrates the scale of *violence against the person*, for recorded crimes where the victim was aged 60+. This data is the raw number of incidents for each borough, and for Mid and East Antrim there has been a decrease in cases since 2011/12, in contrast to a large increase across all of the other council areas.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Antrim & Newtownabbey	55	65	75	107	120	106
Ards & North Down	57	64	59	64	95	129
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	76	81	95	81	116	132
Belfast	128	150	165	211	238	334
Causeway Coast & Glens	69	59	67	60	93	106
Derry & Strabane	74	42	72	84	88	95
Fermanagh & Omagh	43	43	66	56	63	105
Lisburn & Castlereagh	41	45	58	56	80	75
Mid & East Antrim	55	47	93	78	75	66
Mid Ulster	46	47	50	50	61	80
Newry, Mourne & Down	71	84	74	76	105	93
Northern Ireland	715	727	874	923	1,134	1,321

Source; NISRA, PSNI

Additional data around *all* recorded types of crime where the victim was aged 60+ also shows that as of 2014/15, there has been a decrease in Mid and East Antrim since 2011/12. However, this decline has not been uniform, as with the violence against the person data, and other council areas have also seen this category of crime fall.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Antrim & Newtownabbey	623	617	607	602	533	509
Ards & North Down	601	537	525	537	559	567
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	804	770	755	725	750	733
Belfast	1,645	1,542	1,683	1,896	1,981	2,062
Causeway Coast & Glens	708	546	598	549	545	548
Derry & Strabane	491	468	561	580	523	529
Fermanagh & Omagh	368	400	450	398	413	467
Lisburn & Castlereagh	439	460	425	407	486	489
Mid & East Antrim	540	501	522	471	501	429
Mid Ulster	435	421	459	411	372	408
Newry, Mourne & Down	769	756	705	612	712	758
Northern Ireland	7,423	7,018	7,290	7,188	7,375	7,499

Source: NISRA, PSNI

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS) is a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of approximately 2,000 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland. It is an alternative, but complementary, measure of crime to offences recorded by the police. It provides a measure of 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).

Due to the relatively small sample size of respondents from Mid and East Antrim (163) it should be noted that the findings are subject to a degree of uncertainty and analysis by personal or household characteristics is therefore unavailable.

In 2014/15, 3% of residents in Mid and East Antrim were very worried about crime and personal safety compared to 7% in Northern Ireland. Also, 3% reported feeling very unsafe whilst alone in their home at night compared to 2% in Northern Ireland.

Almost three-quarters (72%) of residents in Mid and East Antrim reported that the fear of crime has a minimal effect on the quality of their life compared to 69% in Northern Ireland.

Worry about crime and personal safety (%) in Mid and East Antrim

	Mid and East Antrim	Northern Ireland
% with high levels of worry		
Burglary	9	15
Car Crime	10	11
Violent Crime	10	15
% very worried		
Crime Overall	3	7
% feeling very unsafe		
Walking alone in area after dark	6	7
Alone in home at night	3	2
<i>Number of respondents</i>	163	2,073

Perceptions of the risk of victimisation (%) in Mid and East Antrim

% perceiving it likely that they will be a victim within the next year	Mid and East Antrim	Northern Ireland
Burglary	5	10
Car crime	8	11
Violent crime	7	7
<i>Number of respondents</i>	160	2,051

Perceptions of the effect of 'fear of crime' on quality of life (%) in Mid and East Antrim

% saying fear of crime has a	Mid and East Antrim	Northern Ireland
Minimal effect	72	69
Moderate effect	22	25
Great effect	5	5
<i>Number of respondents</i>	163	2,074

Source: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2014/15

1.4 Indicator development

National outcomes	Local outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Target
<p>We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other</p> <p>We are a shared society that respects diversity</p>		The number of recorded crimes	5,793 in 2014/15	
		The number of recorded crimes where the victim is 60+	429 in 2014/15	
		The portion of people reporting a perception of risk of victimisation	Awaiting requested data	
		The portion of people reporting a perception of the effect of fear of crime on their quality of life	Awaiting requested data	
		The number of incidents recorded with a domestic abuse motivation	2,079 in 2014/15	
		The number of hate crime incidents recorded	141 in 2014/15	

2 VULNERABLE PLACES

2.1 What success would look like

‘To create places where citizens and agencies work together to develop vibrant, safe, and cohesive communities’

The following statements set out what success will look like in Mid and East Antrim as we realise the vision over the lifetime of the Community Plan:

- ☐ Local people have pride in their community
- ☐ Statutory agencies are able to work together to design out crime in areas where it has been repeatedly reported
- ☐ Those with a responsibility for particular spaces take due care and attention to ensure these can be accessed safely by the whole community
- ☐ All agencies are able to learn from best practice
- ☐ Organisations working in an area are able to engage with people who may make / have made that place vulnerable

2.2 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 a strong link between levels of deprivation and levels of crime in Mid and East Antrim as the majority of the most deprived areas in the Borough have high rates of recorded crime, deliberate fires and incidents of antisocial behaviour. There are also areas where concentrations of particular people, such as elderly, were felt to increase the vulnerability of the place. Furthermore, localities with a high proportion of new arrivals will require greater levels of support, as will those where there is a density of housing association property. 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 (this is particularly true for rural communities).

A final key point was that in many communities, a range of facilities exist and that collaboration is key in order to share access to potentially underutilised assets.

2.3 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.*

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.

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
Total Casualties	567	620	587
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

The following table provides data for incidents attended by Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services from April 2012- March 2015.

	Dwelling Fires	Other Buildings	Special Service Call			Vehicle Fires	Wildfires
			Animal	Other	Road Traffic Collision		
Antrim and Newtownabbey	261	120	27	281	149	279	321
Ards and North Down	278	116	27	289	130	133	443
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	334	151	72	376	260	316	445
Belfast	948	315	106	1,626	232	1,004	578
Causeway Coast and Glens	262	139	25	281	172	151	347
Derry City and Strabane	350	173	29	412	127	354	632
Fermanagh and Omagh	185	110	46	233	197	163	336
Lisburn and Castlereagh	190	149	44	293	181	165	134
Mid and East Antrim	236	131	41	306	140	183	302
Mid Ulster	211	141	52	178	155	207	245
Newry Mourne and Down	292	143	49	359	241	289	954

Source: NI Fire and Rescue Service

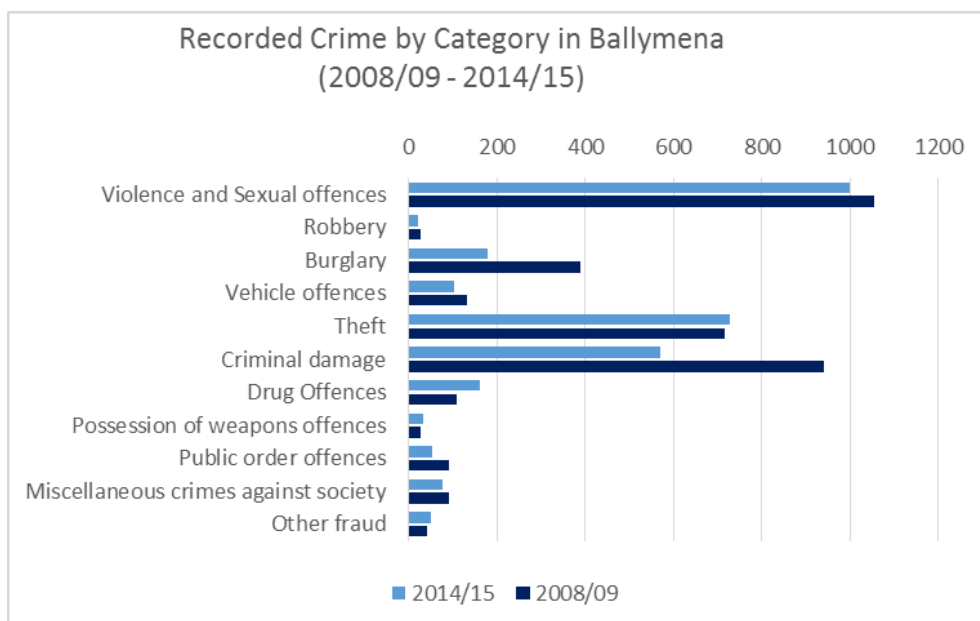
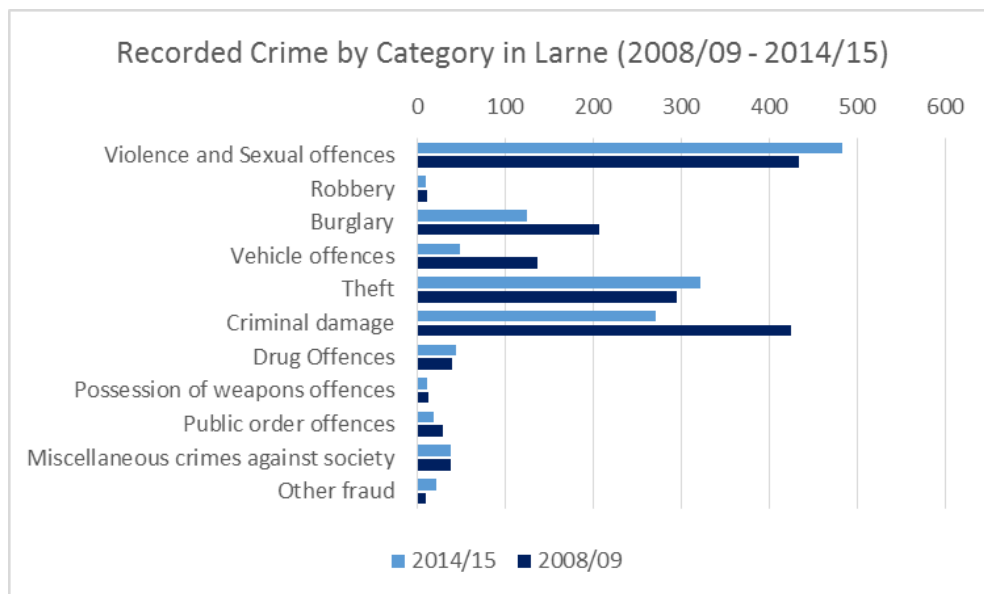
Changes in levels of crime over time

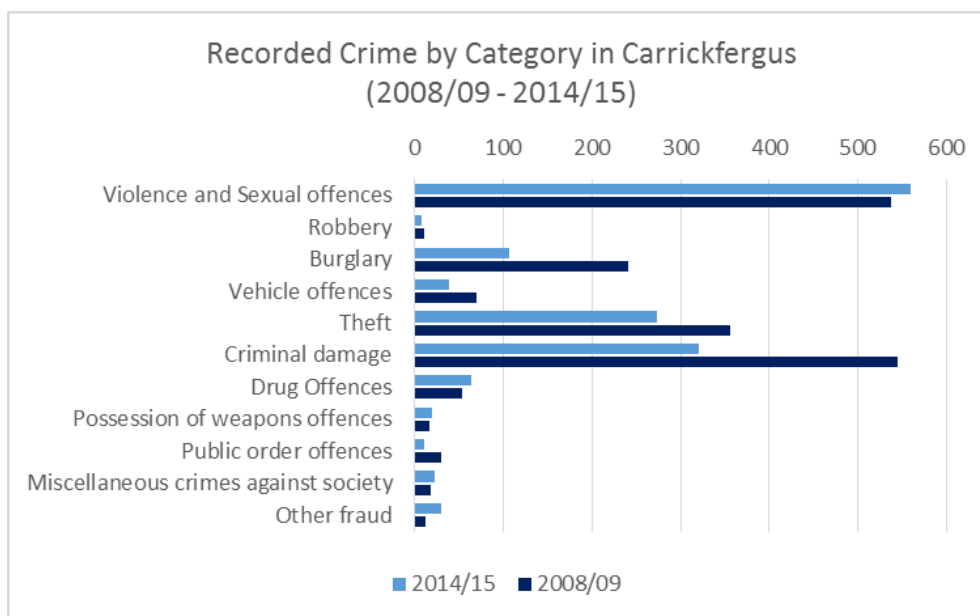
Ward level data is currently not available due to a disclosure issue however PSNI are in discussions with NISRA and it is anticipated that the issue will be resolved soon. Information at this lower geographic area will be provided as soon as it becomes available. This will assist the group in identifying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

National outcomes	Local outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Target
We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other We are a shared society that respects diversity		The number of road traffic casualties	587 in 2015	
		The number of recorded crimes in Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus	2014/15 2,972 in Ballymena 1,389 in Larne 1,448 in Carrickfergus	

3 THOSE MOST AT RISK OF CREATING CRIME

3.1 What success would look like

‘There is a multi-agency approach to the identification of and engagement with those most at risk of creating crime’

The following statements set out what success will look like in Mid and East Antrim as we realise the vision over the lifetime of the Community Plan:

- ❑ Local community representatives are trained to work with agencies to ensure that there is a local voice and a consistent approach.
- ❑ Reinstall a sense of pride in the local community.
- ❑ All young people are engaged in projects that positively contribute to society and benefit the individual involved.
- ❑ There is a specific programme in place to ensure early identification of young people who are potentially at risk.

3.2 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.

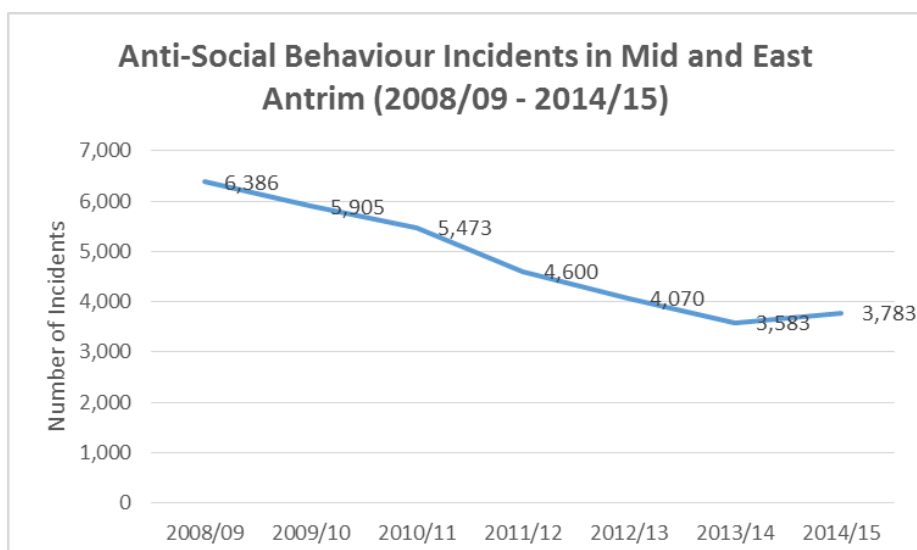
This would seek to take elements from across agencies where action to prevent crime has been successful and also promote respect for community amongst young people. This approach is rooted in the evidence which linked deprivation and crime, a feeling that it is now seen as socially acceptable to engage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

3.3 The evidence

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is the most commonly reported incident in the borough. More work needs to take place to understand why this is taking place, who is involved 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>	Strongly agree / Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree / Strongly disagree	Don't know
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>	Yes	No	Don't know
...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%

Sport Northern Ireland have produced a report, 'Encouragement & Inspiration' which details the key findings for the experiences of sport and physical activity for children and young people across the 11 district council areas in 2015.

It also has a finding around the proportion of 16 year olds involved in community relations projects. For Mid and East Antrim this is 33%, which is ranked 4th of the council areas. This is slightly above the Northern Ireland average of 31%, with a range from 15% in Ards & North Down, to 43% in Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & Omagh.

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



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

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.

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
Mid and East Antrim	90	55	45	27	36	79	23	5	3
Mid Ulster	87	50	36	28	24	75	26	4	2
Newry, Mourne and Down	88	48	37	28	30	75	23	4	4

3.4 Indicator development

National outcomes	Local outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Target
We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other We are a shared society that respects diversity We give our children and young people the best start in life		The number of young people involved with the Youth Justice Agency	47 in 2014/15	
		The number of anti-social behaviour incidents	3,783 in 2014/15	
		The percentage of the population who believe that the culture and traditions of their community add to the richness and	In 2013/14, 74% and 79% agree that the Catholic and Protestant communities add to the richness and diversity of NI society, respectively.	

		diversity of NI society		
		Percentage of the population engaging with arts / cultural activities in the past year	79% attended an arts event in 2011/12 - 2013/14 (78% NI)	

4. ACTIVITY MAPPING

For this Task and Finish Group, the activity mapping was undertaken for all three strategic priorities in a single exercise.

Who is involved:

- ☐ Action for Community Transformation
- ☐ Community Safety (funded by DOJ) - the PCSP and the Action Plan they deliver which includes a range of activities and projects addressing community safety
- ☐ Good Relations (funded by TEO) - the Good Relations Function/GR Officers providing developmental support to communities plus the Action Plan which includes a range of activities and projects addressing good relations
- ☐ District Council Good Relations Programme - there is a wide range of projects contained within this programme relating to community cohesion
- ☐ Derry Project example - Concern Hub
- ☐ Interagency Forums (in Dunclug, Doury Road, Castlemara, Windmill, Woodburn & Sunnylands for example) - there are many interagency groups/partnerships across various areas of the Borough, most notably around “Areas at Risk”, “Neighbourhood Renewal” “Ballymena Clusters” and “Rural Support Networks”
- ☐ Local Community Safety Forums
- ☐ Work exists within Neighbourhood Renewal areas and Areas at Risk and beyond
- ☐ Interagency work on Bonfires
- ☐ There is a lot of activity within the Community and Voluntary Sector on community safety - Women’s Aid, MEAAP etc

What is not being addressed:

- ☐ There needs to be more opportunities to get multi-agency groups together with participation of young people.
- ☐ Decision making could be further complemented and enhanced by an understanding of the level and nature of social cohesion within communities.

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.

