



Community Safety Plan  
for George Town **2016 – 2019**

## FORWARD

This Community Safety Plan has been developed for the George Town Council area, aiming to deal with the community safety issues that affect the quality of life of people who live and work in the district.

The plan will be delivered by the Community Safety Group, which is made up of both statutory organisations and business and community groups, all with a joint aim to improve community safety in the municipality

This strategy lays out our strategic plans for the next three years between 2016 and 2019. However, we will be continually monitoring and responding to community safety issues in the area.

As part of the process of putting together the Plan, we have reviewed the way that we work as a group. We believe that the revised membership and operating procedures, once implemented, will lead to a stronger committee, that is more able to identify and respond to emerging concerns, and better able to monitor safety issues and community safety programs.

We are very keen to encourage more community involvement in our work to improve community safety, through participation in strategy reviews, community safety projects, and reporting safety concerns or crimes to the Police.

We hope that you will find this strategy an interesting and informative read.

Councillor Heather Barwick JP  
Chair of Community Safety Group

## WHO WE ARE

We are a community committee that brings together:

- George Town Council
- George Town Police
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Hospitals
- George Town Chamber of Commerce
- Aged Care Providers
- Department of Education (HUB).
- Local Schools
- Neighborhood House.
- Wattle Group
- Emergency Services.

And other local agencies to improve the safety of the George Town community.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to, promote community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime and improve the quality of life of the community by making it a safer place to live, visit and work.

## PRIORITIES

By consulting with residents and using statistical data, we have developed priority areas for the Community Safety Plan 2016 to 2019.

### **Our five priority areas to tackle are:**

1. Violent crime & crimes against the person
2. Property Crime
3. Anti-social behavior
4. Road safety
5. Fear of Crime

In order to tackle these priority areas, we will also focus on tackling the following themes, which each have a key impact on all five of the above priority areas:

- Drugs and alcohol issues
- Young people at risk of offending or repeat offending
- Graffiti and Vandalism
- Safe access to and use of public spaces
- Domestic violence
- Improved communication.

# 1. VIOLENT CRIME AND CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

## AIMS

- Reduce common assault
- Reduce woundings
- Reduce other crimes of violence

As a committee we will monitor and seek to address violent crime. The two major areas we will focus on are domestic violence and violence linked to night-life, which covers the violence at pub closing times, often connected to people drinking alcohol.

## Monitor current trends -

### Domestic Violence Strategies

- Raising awareness of this issue and of the services available to tackle the problem

### Night-time Violence Strategies

- To be developed

# 2. PROPERTY CRIME

## AIMS

- Reduce domestic burglary
- Reduce non-domestic burglary
- Reduce vehicle crime
- Reduce shoplifting
- Vandalism.

Property crime covers crimes such as burglary, theft from vehicles and robbery.

The major areas of property crime that we need to tackle are burglary from homes, sheds and garages, theft of vehicles and theft from vehicles, and shoplifting.

### Burglary Strategies

- Raising awareness of the issue and providing security advice to reduce incidents.
- Designing out crime through planning.

### Vehicle Crime Strategies

- Raising awareness of the issue and providing security advice to reduce incidents.
- Designing out crime through crime prevention measures at vehicle parking locations.

### Shoplifting Strategies

- Developing a scheme to tackle losses suffered by local retailers due to shoplifting.

## 3. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

### AIMS

- Reduce vehicle interference
- Reduce criminal damage
- Decrease the percentage of residents who consider that anti-social behaviour is a major concern in the community.

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of areas, and can mean different things to different people. It is not always criminal behaviour, but can have a major impact on quality of life.

To give some clarity we would suggest that anti-social behaviour can include: verbal abuse, criminal damage, vandalism, noise nuisance, graffiti, threatening behaviour, bullying and harassment, racial abuse, underage smoking or drinking, substance misuse and joyriding or hooning.

### Anti-Social Behaviour Strategies

- Supporting the provision of services to tackle key anti-social behaviour problems.
- Tackling individual cases of anti-social behaviour through a multi-agency problem solving approach.
- Targeted intervention in hotspot areas.

## 4. ROAD SAFETY

- Throughout the Municipality.
- Highlighting poor roads.
- Better pedestrian access.
- Road marking and posting.

## 5. FEAR OF CRIME

### AIMS

- Have all residents feel safe or very safe during the day and after dark.

Our consultation evidence suggests that in some areas, the fear of crime is actually greater than levels of crime. Where this is the case, the fear of crime can have a big

impact on affecting the quality of life of the community and, for this reason, it is very important for us to address this priority.

We will aim to tackle local-level problems that increase fear of crime, improve the ability of local people to be involved in tackling crime and raise awareness of the success of the work being done to tackle community safety problems across the district.

### **Fear of Crime Strategies**

- Broadening the membership base of the Community Safety Group to ensure adequate community level representation.
- Improvement of street lighting in areas where it is most needed.
- Production of a community safety handbook to be distributed to all households giving contact numbers for reporting all community safety issues.
- Co-ordinated media strategy, to get key crime reduction messages across throughout the year.
- Promotion through community events.

## **6. TACKLING DRUG AND ALCOHOL ISSUES**

Drugs and alcohol are a major cause behind crime and disorder. Drugs misuse is nationally recognised as being a reason behind property crime, while alcohol is a major cause linked to violence, anti-social behaviour and road collisions.

In addition to the effects on crime, both drugs and alcohol can have serious impacts on Personal safety and health.

[current trends]

In George Town we will focus on addressing drugs and alcohol issues in line with the themes of the National and the State Strategies.

Strategies:

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