

# Safer Merton

## Joint Strategic Assessment

# Safer Merton

Working Together To Keep Merton Safe & Sound

## Consultation Results and Priority Setting: 2008/09

The Strategic Assessment examined all the crimes in 2006/07 and helped to inform the decision-making surrounding the borough's five priorities for 2008/09. The views of the public greatly informed the decision, however consideration was also given to our performance in comparison to our most

similar boroughs, seriousness, volume and historical trends. Whilst the following areas of work will be the initial priorities, work will still go into other areas and the priorities are flexible if other problems should arise.

## The five priorities for the London Borough of Merton in 2008/09 will be...

(In alphabetical order)

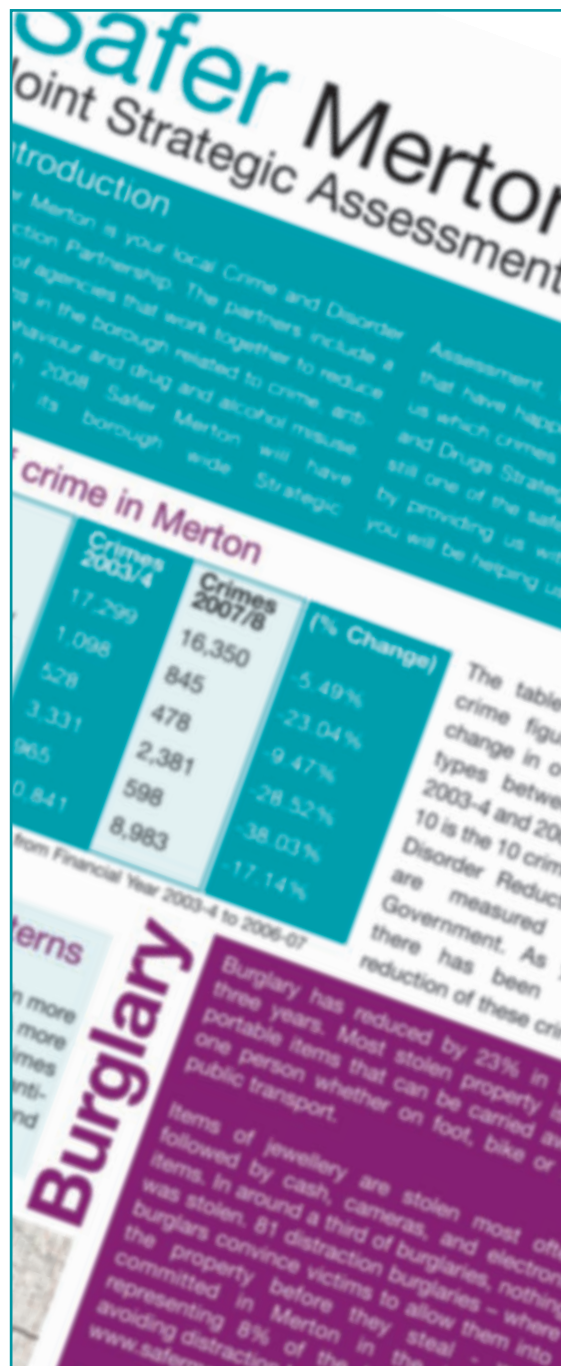
**Alcohol...** Alcohol was chosen as one of the top five priorities due to the high public concern regarding alcohol related disorder, particularly in the evenings in the town centres and the associated links between alcohol consumption and violence.

**Anti-Social Behaviour...** ASB came out top for public concern in the Strategic Assessment Public Consultation and is consistently an issue highlighted in the borough's Annual Residents Survey. By making ASB a priority for the borough, it is hoped that the good work that is already being done to tackle ASB will gain even further momentum.

**Burglary...** Whilst burglary has reduced by 23% in the last three years, it is an area that the partnership would like to focus its efforts to try and reduce further. A borough-wide Problem Solving Process has been initiated and will form the basis for this work.

**Domestic Violence...** Domestic violence is both a national and local issue that is greatly under reported. The Safer Merton Domestic Violence Project Management Board will be addressing this issue along with many others associated with domestic violence over the coming year.

**Youth Crime...** Youth crime is an area that is not only of public concern, but a key area of work that underpins many of the partnership's priorities. Young people as both perpetrators and victims provide key links to many other crime types and issues and is an area the partnership is set on tackling.



In order to help inform the wider priority setting exercise for Merton's Joint Strategic Assessment, in October 2007 Safer Merton undertook a borough wide public consultation, asking local residents to provide their top three concerns or priorities in relation to Community Safety, Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour. In total, 130 responses were received, 35 via the consultation brochure and 95 online. This identified 64 different areas of concern and helped to construct 8 broader categories, of which the top five are listed below.

## The Top 5 Public Priorities were...

**1. Anti-Social Behaviour...** Residents overwhelmingly listed ASB as a concern and priority for the borough, particularly ASB on Public Transport and in the town centres. Intimidating behaviour by young people and inconsiderate behaviour by neighbours also listed highly.

**2. Youth Crime...** Specifically residents called for better facilities for young people, to help reduce the numbers congregating on the streets, more family support including parenting initiatives and more work to be done to tackle truancy. Youth crime was the second most prevalent disorder described.

**3. Substance Misuse...** Residents expressed a concern with the links between ASB and drugs and drug dealing in the borough. A number of respondents felt that there was a need for better drug awareness education in schools.

**4. Road Safety...** Speeding, traffic and parking were identified as high areas of concern.

**5. Alcohol...** Residents highlighted drunken and associated violent and threatening behaviour as key concerns.

A photograph of a consultation form. The form is tilted and shows several sections with questions in purple text: 'you have a', 'ethnic background?', 'your faith / belief?', and 'do you describe your'. There are also some handwritten notes in blue ink. At the bottom, there are fields for 'Name' and 'Address'. A teal banner at the bottom of the form reads: 'To ensure that Safer Merton is addressing the issues can we ask you to outline your top three concerns should be tackling. Space for your responses is provided below.' There are also some other text elements like 'You can also large print, in f' and 'We would like to hear from you'.

Safer Merton would like to **thank all the residents** who participated in the consultation and who provided the partnership with valuable information, which has helped inform the priorities for 2008/09. Of note, **Substance misuse** was not identified amongst the five priorities due to the amount of work and resources already dedicated in the area. **Road Safety** was also not prioritised; however it was agreed that better links would now be established with partners already working in the field such as the London Borough of Merton Road Safety Team and the London Fire Brigade.

**If you would like any further information about the work of the Safer Merton Partnership, please visit the Safer Merton Website at [www.safermerton.org.uk](http://www.safermerton.org.uk) or contact the team on: 020 8545 4146.**

**Many thanks**