



Business Crime Matters

2014-2018

Introduction

Successful businesses are the life blood of prosperous communities and crime plays a significant role in a business's development as it can cause high costs and damage to companies. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are particularly vulnerable when they are victims of crime, as it can force businesses to stop trading. The consequences of businesses closing have a negative effect on the economy and a direct impact on suppliers and buyers to those businesses.

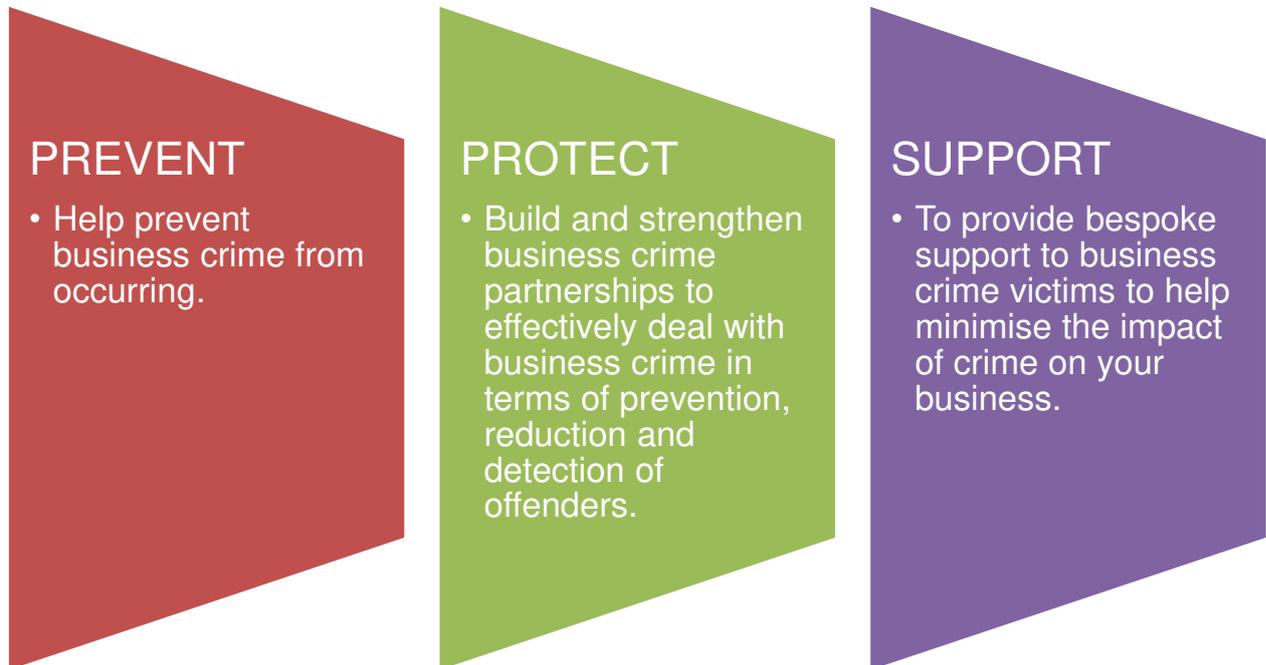
In common with the rest of the UK, Crime has a significant impact on Staffordshire Businesses:

- Every hour, crime costs county business a staggering £7,327 in theft, damage and consequential loss
- The yearly cost to businesses is £64.1 million and accounts for 15.4% of all recorded crime in Staffordshire.
- Nationally, fraud costs businesses approximately £21.2 billion

However, whilst the problem may be similar to other areas, here the similarity ends. In Staffordshire the PCC has commissioned a range of new interventions to significantly impact on both volume and impact of crime against business.

What will this strategy deliver?

This strategy will help deliver the following objectives:



These outcomes will in turn assist in increasing the level of economic growth and job creation within Staffordshire.

PREVENT

The first challenge is to categorise businesses and identify their preferred communication methods. Through consultation with business we have established a set of business categories for Staffordshire building on national standards. Through better business categorisation will be able to effectively analyse information by both geographical area and business type. This in turn enables proactive analysis of emerging threats to businesses.

We will then ensure communication with businesses that is both timely and relevant to them. All communication will enable the business to take action to make themselves less vulnerable to crime threats.

A full range of communication channels will be used and individual preferences on how you would like to receive this information will be taken into account, be it telephone, or email. Social media will be effectively used to ensure communication of more general information. This service will be continually developed, but is available now by signing up at <http://www.staffordshire-pcc.gov.uk/business>.

We recognise that businesses are at the heart of local communities and so local policing teams will systematically engage with businesses as part of neighbourhood policing. In particular, the police will;

- Find out any issue affecting businesses in the area in which they operate
- Explain the processes and support available to them should they become victims of crime
- Obtain contact details
- Agree how the business should be categorised
- Find out how each business would prefer to receive and provide information.

PROTECT

Staffordshire has established robust partnership arrangements to help tackle business crime which will continue to be supported by the PCC. As well as a broad range of bespoke 'Business Watch' schemes, there is the Partnerships Against Business Crime (PABCIS) partnership.

PABCIS operates to support a wide range of businesses in both the day and night time economy. This includes the sharing of information about offenders as well as actioning issues such as banning orders. PABCIS has been supported through both financial contribution from the PCC and support through an accreditation process which recognises achievement of the local partnership.

PABCIS has been recognised nationally as best practice. A case study on PABCIS can be viewed in Appendix 1. And link to the PABCIS annual report is to be found at www.pabcis.co.uk.

A network and gateway will be developed for those businesses not covered by the current arrangements in place.

SUPPORT

In conjunction with Staffordshire Police, we will support businesses should they become a victim of crime. In particular;

- Police Control room staff will receive bespoke training on effectively dealing with business crime. This way, our support starts from your initial call.
- Should you be unfortunate enough to become a victim of business crime, we will provide a bespoke service to victims of business crime. This will be a commissioned service provided free of charge to local business. It will be designed by business for business, with the objective of ensuring that the crime has the minimum possible impact through the provision of practical and relevant advice and guidance.
- Ensure that business victims receive a first class service every step of the way.
- Encourage the reporting of crime to enable offenders to be brought to justice and intelligence gathered to be used to prevent crime.

We will survey victims of business crime to check we are delivering on these promises.

How will this strategy be delivered?

'Business Crime Matters' will be led by the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire linking this strategy into a wider vision for victims and witnesses. This will place business crime at the heart of new commissioning arrangements aimed at transforming the provision of criminal justice services across Staffordshire

Through these arrangements, business will directly contribute to the design of victim services and commissioning decisions to shape how best to deliver these services.

Additionally, arrangements will be put in place that will allow business representatives to hold the OPCC, Chief Constable and other stakeholders to account for delivery of the priorities in this strategy. This will include at least one annual event at which elected business representatives can hold these officers to account directly.

We will also work with the Chambers of Commerce and other business organisations to develop further our Quarterly Economic Survey for Staffordshire. This will give us powerful representation of business opinion regarding our success in improving outcomes for business in Staffordshire.

Contact Details

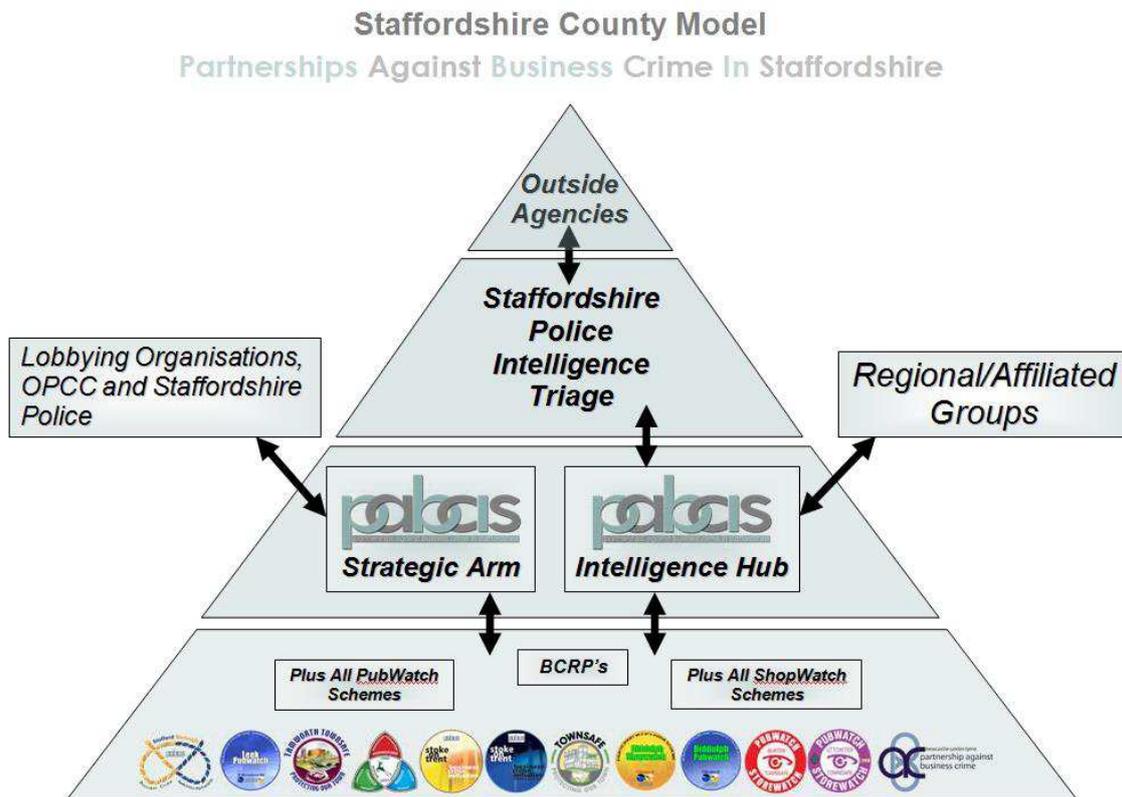
For further information on this strategy, please contact:

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01785 232385

Appendix 1: Partnerships Against Business (24 hour economy in Town Centres) Crime In Staffordshire (PABCIS)

PABCIS is an innovative concept in the fight against crime and disorder affecting business in Staffordshire across the 24 hour economies of our town and city centres. It is a strategic partnership of local Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) and Shop and Pub Watch schemes, across the county.



How Does It Work?

Staffordshire Police identified the benefits of a productive, effective, well-managed and legally compliant BCRP in dealing with the 24 hour town centre economies. PABCIS has been set up to bring about a consistency of approach to reduce town centre crime which affects business across the county thus enabling businesses to have confidence in the level of service their local outlets receive across the county from the respective PABCIS members. This level of consistency by members in managing their local schemes and delivering a high quality product is now matched by a consistent police approach to business crime.

What Does It Do?

PABCIS enables businesses, local BCRPs/watch schemes and police to work closely together in a consistent manner. Local Partnerships are locally managed, locally and independently run, controlled by a local Management Board from within the membership with support of a Steering Group and with day to day operations being managed by a Business Crime Manager. Local schemes are for the benefit of local businesses, dealing with local issues whilst ensuring best practice is followed using the nationally recognised Stoke-on-

Trent model. PABCIS has created a support network for local BCRP managers, mentoring, supporting and enabling them to successfully manage their local members' data to provide effective exclusion schemes, bulletins, briefings, warnings and suchlike in line with the local partnership delivery plans.

With local partnerships feeding their local crime information and intelligence to a central PABCIS intelligence hub PABCIS is in a position to deliver both management information and intelligence packages to both local partnerships and the police on trends and offenders both local and travelling. Level 1, local offending, by far the greatest volume of crime and disorder, can be dealt with on a local level by the local partnerships in line with their local priorities, procedures and protocols whilst the Level 2 travelling offenders are identified and when necessary, raised as specific threats to the county through police channels at both force and regional level.

Each local partnership operates in the following way:

Intelligence	Reassurance	Enforcement	Prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Depth Intelligence System • Packages for Police and others • Briefings, Bulletins, Secure Website • Feed into PABCIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigns • Members Forum • Management of Offenders • Promotion and Publicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Data • Business Plans • Exclusions and Warnings • Offender Identification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training • Bulletins • DVD's • Links to County / Regional Organisations • Radios • Photos

Further information can be found on the following page: <http://www.pabcis.co.uk/default.asp>