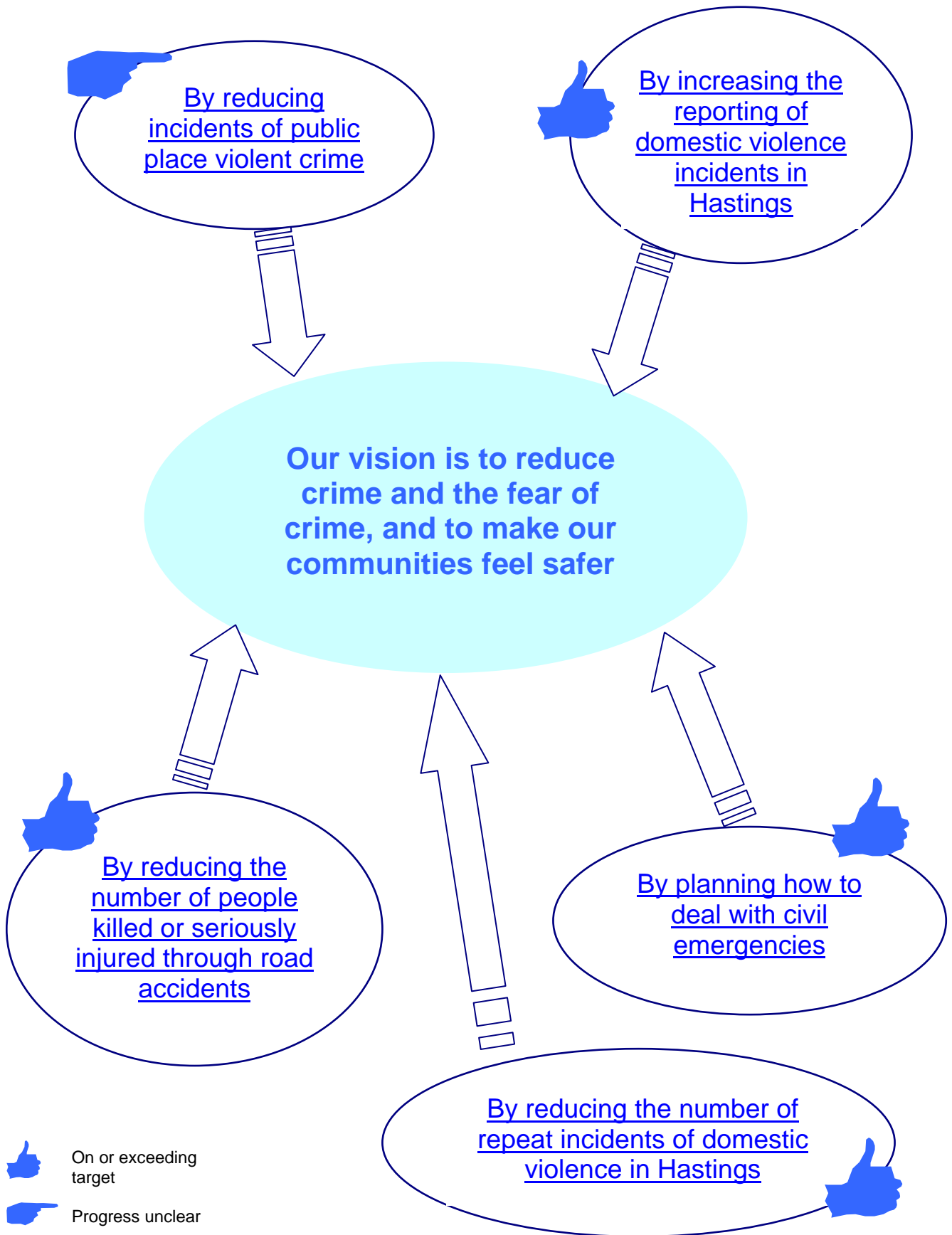





# Improving community safety



-  On or exceeding target
-  Progress unclear
-  Not yet on target



# Improving community safety

## Target 1: Reducing incidents of public place violent crime



### **What did we say we would achieve?**

We said we would reduce incidents of public place violent crime to 3,870 by March 2006.

### **How does this target help achieve our vision?**

Public Place Violent Crime (PPVC) can be highly visible. It affects not only those involved in incidents but can lead to fear and anxiety in the community. Reducing incidents would make a significant contribution to making our communities feel safer.

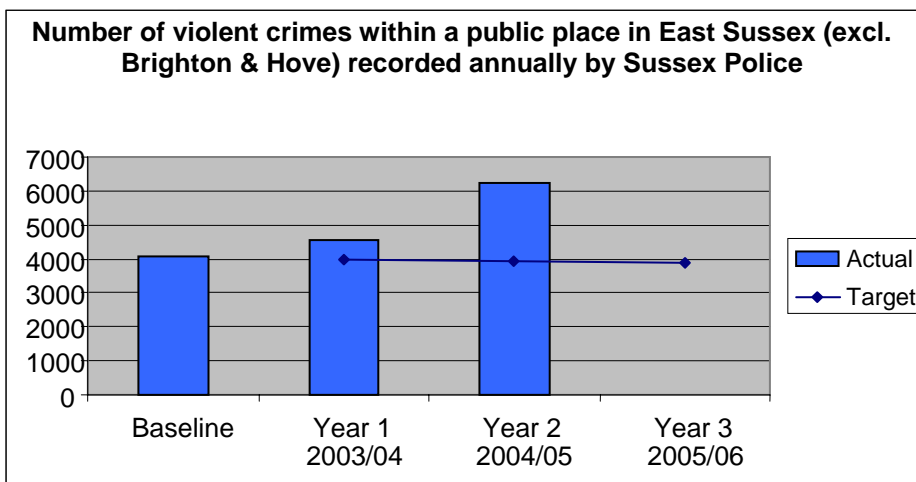
### **What did we achieve?**

The target set in the Community Strategy has not been met – in fact there has been a steep increase in recorded PPVC, rather than a reduction. However, this does not mean that East Sussex has become a more violent place.

The increase is largely due to a change in the way the crimes are recorded. The National Crime Recording Standards have standardised crime recording and now included as PPVC are incidents such as breaches of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and creating a nuisance in the street by threatening or abusive behaviour. CCTV and an increased police presence in the street have also played a part in increasing the recording of PPVC.

In fact, data from the Sussex Ambulance Service on assaults shows no increase during the same period that has seen a significant increase in PPVC recorded by the police. This supports the fact that the actual level of PPVC is not going up.

We are pleased that the figures do show that Hastings has seen the smallest increase in PPVC and the gap in recorded PPVC levels between Hastings and other areas in the county has narrowed.



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We are continuing our work to tackle PPVC and recognise that alcohol is often a major contributing factor to incidents. Some of the initiatives planned over the next year include researching the needs of chronic street drinkers, developing improved transport links for the night-time economy and promoting initiatives to reduce violent crime against young people. We will continue to use Pub Watch schemes to target violent offenders and discourage binge drinking. We will also look at the use of and setting up of public place alcohol bans and the identification of areas of high anti-social behaviour, drunkenness and abusive behaviour.

## Target 2: Increasing the reporting of domestic violence incidents in Hastings



### ***What did we say we would achieve?***

We said we would increase the reporting of domestic violence incidents in Hastings from 1,035 (2001/2) to 1,242 by 2006.

We targeted Hastings in particular as it was found to have higher levels of domestic violence than in the rest of the county and because we established a project from the Conquest Hospital to address the issues of people presenting at A&E with injuries that might be from domestic violence.

### ***How does this target help achieve our vision?***

Domestic violence is often a hidden problem. Yet it can have a profound effect on individuals and families, blighting lives, causing isolation and stress and resulting in unmet potential. Reporting incidents can be a very sensitive issue but encouraging and enabling reporting means that outside agencies can intervene to work with perpetrators and victims to reduce further incidents and create a safer environment.

### ***What did we achieve?***

At February 2005, 1568 incidents had been recorded, meaning that the original target was significantly exceeded. We will continue to encourage reporting of these incidents as it is only by making the problem visible that we can deal with it.

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## Target 3: Reducing the number of repeat incidents of domestic violence in Hastings



### ***What did we say we would achieve?***

We said we would reduce the number of repeat incidents of domestic violence in Hastings from 502 (2001/2) to 427 (2006).

We targeted Hastings in particular as it was found to have higher levels of domestic violence than in the rest of the county and because we established a project from the Conquest Hospital to address the issues of people presenting at A&E with injuries that might be from domestic violence.



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## ***How does this target help achieve our vision?***

Domestic violence, especially when unreported, can be a continuing and often escalating problem. In 2004, the top ten offenders created 107 repeat incidents between them, thus working to reduce these repeats can contribute significantly to protecting victims and their families.

## ***What did we achieve?***

There were 511 repeat incidents of domestic violence reported in Hastings during 2004/05, compared to 853 for the previous year.

A Domestic Violence Reduction Panel is now set up and meeting monthly. The most prolific repeat offenders are discussed at these multi-agency meetings to see what initiatives can be put in place to prevent and deter any further repeat incidents. If the action that the group takes fails to prevent re offending, then the group will develop strategies to ensure a conviction when the case is next presented at court.

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## **Target 4: Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured through road accidents**



## ***What did we say we would achieve?***

We said we would reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured through road accidents each year to 352 by 2005 and 325 by 2006.

## ***How does this target help achieve our vision?***

Feeling safe in your community is not just about being safe from crime. Feeling vulnerable to road accidents can limit an individual's ability to access services by reducing their desire to travel.

In a county with large rural areas, travel by road continues to be an important way of getting around. With few dual carriageways, these roads can often be congested and pass through many settlements. Relatively slow moving traffic can encourage some drivers to take risks with their own and others' lives.

By taking action to reduce serious road accidents, we can reassure the public that travelling on our roads is safe and that their towns and villages are secure places to walk and cycle.

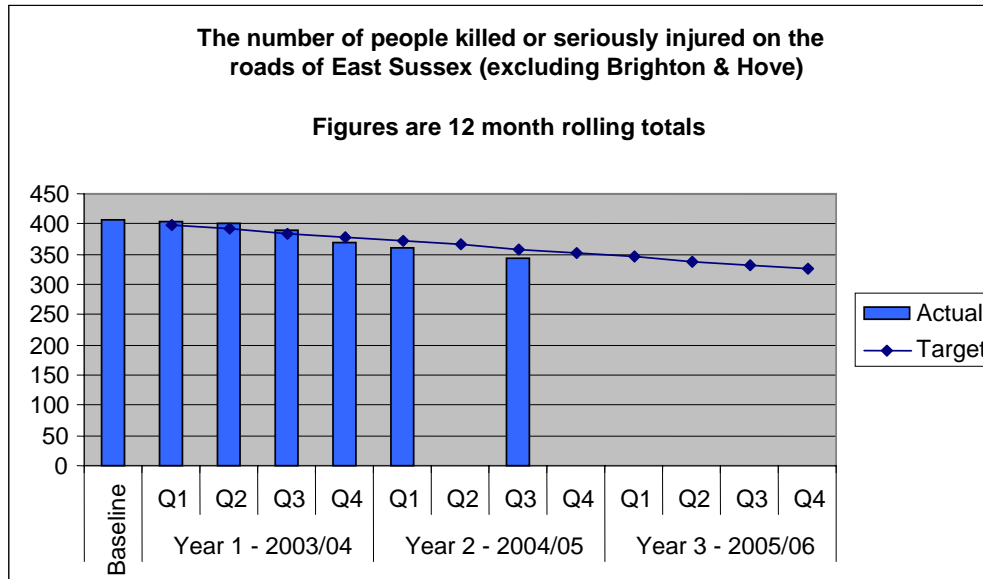
## ***What did we achieve?***

The 12 month rolling total of people killed or seriously injured on the roads of East Sussex at December 2004 was 342 and the trend continues downwards, meaning that we are on course to meet or exceed our targets.



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## Target 5: Planning to deal with civil emergencies



### ***What did we say we would achieve?***

We said we would work with local communities to identify how organisations and individuals can play a role in planning for, and dealing with civil emergencies.

### ***How does this target help achieve our vision?***

Fortunately, large-scale civil emergencies are few and far between. But it is important for the safety and well-being of the community that we are prepared to deal with anything that arises, from major accidents to natural disasters or deliberate acts.

In the event of an emergency it is crucial that everyone understands what their role is, and what they need to do so that we can contain the immediate effects of the incident, preserve essential services, protect the population and the environment and restore normality as quickly as possible.

### ***What did we achieve?***

For the third year running, evening workshops were held at different locations across the county aimed at promoting emergency planning within the community. Guidance documents were produced in 2003 to provide practical assistance, and the workshops aimed at building on that work.

All town and parish councils were invited to attend the sessions (held in November 2004 at Uckfield, Lewes and Battle), and presentations were given by County and District emergency



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planners, followed by a short exercise intended to promote further interest in local planning. Some communities have since contacted their District Council and the local emergency planner has provided further support to help them develop their arrangements.

Seminars on the new Civil Contingencies Act 2004 were held in March 2005 for Chief Officers of 'Category One and Category Two' organisations and the local Resilience Forum also met in early July 2005.

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