



Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan

2017-2021

Acknowledgements

The Shire of Northam acknowledges the considerable input into the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2017-2021 by the Northam Community Safety Committee.

We acknowledge and thank the Northam Police, Northam Roadwise Committee, Department of Health (Health Promotion), Local Drug Action Group, Northam Chamber of Commerce, Department of Education, Department Sport and Recreation, Housing Authority, Northam PCYC, Department of Child Protection and Family Support, Department of Main Roads and the Shire of Northam community.

Background

The Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention (CSCP) Plan 2016-2020 is a four year strategic outlook for the Shire of Northam that aims to map the issues of primary concern to the community and document the strategies and partnerships to deal with these issues.

A partnership approach is viewed by the Shire of Northam as particularly important to deal effectively with the variety of factors that influence Community Safety. The Shire recognises that partnership based strategies are the key to improving Community Safety outcomes.

The Shire of Northam CSCP Plan 2016-2020 considers the perception of crime as well as the actual crime. A safe community is one where community members are able to pursue the fullest life possible without fear or hindrance from crime and disorder, making their feelings of safety as important as their actual level of safety.



Together with key partners, the Shire of Northam is committed to ensuring continual improvements to community safety with a particular emphasis on minimising the occurrence and opportunity for antisocial and criminal activity. By improving the community safety and crime prevention of the area, the Shire of Northam seeks to achieve our vision for Northam to be a vibrant growing community that is safe, caring and inclusive.

The Shire's Role in Community Safety

The Shire of Northam is responsible to address the quality of life issues that impact on residents.

The Shire provides direct service delivery that influences both perceived and actual Community Safety concerns. In particular the Shire delivers Community Safety service outcomes through its Consolidated Local Laws (2005) and through its designated role in a range of State legislation including service delivery related to:

- Cat Act (2011)
- Dog Act (1976)
- Emergency Management Act (2005)
- Bush Fires Act (1954)
- Litter Act (1979)
- Control of Vehicles (Off-Road Areas) Act (1978)
- Health Act (1911)
- Food Act (2008)
- Environmental Protection Act (1986)
- Tobacco Products Control Act (2006)
- Liquor Control Act (1988)
- Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (2007)

Local government has an important role to play in emergency management for the local community. Although the Shire of Northam is not a provider of emergency services, the Shire's role is to support emergency services and the community both during and after emergencies. Bushfires during the summer season and storm damage during winter are the most common emergency management issues for the Shire.

Ranger Services are an important component of local government operations, particularly in relation to community safety. Rangers respond to community complaints and concerns relating to dogs, animals and parking issues. The Rangers provide a presence

on the street and assist with the prevention and outbreak of bush fires.

Environmental Health Services are another important component of local government operations and can have an impact on community safety. Environmental Health Services are responsible for approving and licensing a wide variety of operations within the Shire including Kennels, Caravan Parks, Food Premises, Hairdressers, Lodging Houses, Public Events, Public Buildings, Skin Penetration Premises (such as Beauticians, Tattooists, Nail Salons and Acupuncturists), Stall Holders and Traders, Temporary Food Stalls and Wastewater Disposal Systems.

Environmental Health Services also support community safety, dealing with the inspect of premises following an application or complaint, water testing, accommodation, food safety, pest and disease control. The Northam Public Health and Wellbeing Plan is currently under development and will ensure these services continue to be implemented to improve the health and safety of the community.

The Shire of Northam is in the position to facilitate partnerships between government, non-government, business, community groups and individual residents. It acknowledges the important role of facilitating Community Safety outcomes between stakeholders across the Shire.

Process of Developing the Plan

As part of the State Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy (2004), a joint initiative between the State Government and the Town / Shire of Northam was formed to develop a Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan for 2007-2010.

Community residents were engaged by the Shire of Northam late 2010 to provide feedback about community safety and crime prevention and this was using a survey and key stakeholders were engaged through a workshop to identify the key community safety and crime prevention issues and strategies for the Shire of Northam for the next four years.

The key issues identified were:

- Antisocial Behaviour; including illegal drug and alcohol use.
- Break-ins; both house and business.

- Wilful Damage; including vandalism and graffiti.

The key issues identified formed the primary objectives for the Shire of Northam CSCP Plan 2011-2015.

The Shire of Northam CSCP Plan 2011-2015 was reviewed in February 2015 and as a number of strategies still required action, recommendations were made for the development of the CSCP Plan 2016-2020.

Building the Shire of Northam Picture

The process of building a picture of the Shire of Northam to understand the crime and safety issues has involved the analysis of crime data supplied by the WA Police, desktop research, feedback from local community members and input from key stakeholders.

Documents which inform the CSCP 2017-2021:

- CSCP 2016-2020
- Community Perception Survey Report
- Community CPS Focus Group Meeting Report
- The Shire of Northam CSCP Plan 2011-2015
- Wheatbelt Youth Strategy 2012-2017
- WALGA WAPol Crime Statistics by LGA

Crime Data

The Shire of Northam receives crime data on a monthly basis and this is broken down into crime category, specifying the area of the Shire that each crime has occurred. This data is graphed to help the Shire of Northam to understand what the issues are and where they are occurring.



Community Perception Survey

The Shire of Northam engaged a consultant to undertake a Community Perception Survey (CPS) in February 2015 to gauge the opinions of the community about issues that they perceive to be affecting them. The results of the CPS indicated that there is a growing concern that the Shire of Northam is an unsafe place, driven by concerns with drug use, criminal activity and undesirable behaviour increasing in the area. Crime, particularly break-ins and theft are a concern and some residents do not feel safe in their homes.

CPS Focus Group Meetings

In response to community concerns with safety in the CPS, the Shire of Northam commissioned a series of focus groups to help define the problem and create an action plan for the Council's consideration. While many people love living in the Shire of Northam for the country lifestyle and sense of community, it has a reputation for high levels of youth crime, unemployment, substance abuse and road fatalities. The root cause is attributed to poor parenting in a small proportion of dysfunctional families, with youth lacking boundaries and a sense of belonging.

The community members participating in the focus group discussions identified key issues for the Shire to action:

Reputation Management

- Improve the overall safety experiences for residents.
- Develop a PR campaign to improve the Shire's reputation.

Leadership and Advocacy

- Communicate the Shire's plan for addressing safety concerns.
- Foster strong partnerships with key stakeholders to attract required funding, infrastructure and services.
- Strengthen relationships with local service providers and coordinate a joint program to set and achieve shared goals.

Improved Infrastructure

- Upgrade and extend the CCTV program.
- Partner with Main Roads for better road design and maintenance, including more responsive

and effective repairs, safer edges and shoulders, and improved opportunities for overtaking.

- Implement the Bakers Hill Concept Plan to improve safety on Great Eastern Highway, with safer speed limits and improved parking.
- Improve local roads and footpaths.
- Conduct a lighting audit and upgrades.
- Extend mobile phone coverage in rural areas.

Desktop Research

The Shire conducted a desktop research initiative which considered international, federal, state and other local government's trends and best practice in Community Safety. The findings from this research were then translated into relevance and importance in the context of demography and suburb characteristics within the Shire of Northam.

The process of updating the CSCP Plan 2016-2020 has included analysis of crime data supplied by the WA Police, desktop research, feedback from local community members and input from key stakeholders to enable the identification of implementation strategies and partnerships, including shared responsibilities.



Key Stakeholders

Central to the implementation and evaluation of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Action Plan is the establishment of partnerships with community stakeholders to encourage shared responsibility and ownership of the plan.

The Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee (hereto referred to as the Committee) is a formally appointed committee of Council and their objective is to enhance community safety and reduce criminal and anti-social behaviour through a collaboration of key interests and agencies.

The Committee consists of representatives from government, non-government, police and community agencies at the local level who share a collective commitment and expertise in relation to community safety and perceptions of safety.

The Committee includes representatives from:

- Shire of Northam
- Northam Police
- Northam Roadwise Committee
- Department of Health (Health Promotion)
- Local Drug Action Group
- Northam Chamber of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Department Sport and Recreation
- Housing Authority
- Youth services
- Community members

The Committee ex-officio members include representatives from:

- Shire of Northam
- Department of Child Protection and Family Support
- Department of Main Roads
- Department Fire and Emergency Services

A strong focus has been placed on developing and maintaining strong partnerships with key stakeholders and the community to effectively address the priority issues.

Focus Areas

The focus areas for the CSCP Plan 2016-2020 have been informed by recent community consultation, discussions with key stakeholders and research on

crime and safety. A comprehensive range of issues were identified during the research and community engagement process with varying degrees of emphasis across different areas of the Shire.

The crime statistics together with Police intelligence indicate that the two most prominent priorities for the Shire of Northam are currently:

- 1 Youth Crime - youth engagement and diversionary programs.
- 2 Target Hardening - educating community members about how to improve personal security.

The following four focus areas have been identified to improve community safety throughout the Shire of Northam:

Criminal or Offending Behaviour

The Shire aims to work with key stakeholders and community members to increase community participation in identifying and reporting of crime. Strong community links can result in detecting and reducing levels of crime, as suspicious activity is more likely to be reported to police.

By increasing the understanding of risk factors for potential victims of crime, community members will increase safety measures making it more difficult for criminals to offend.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Reduce the opportunity for crime or offending behaviour.
- 1.2 Increase community engagement and participation in identifying and reporting of crime.
- 1.3 Maintain the Northam Shire Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan

Community Awareness

The Shire aims to increase community awareness and understanding of how to prevent crime and improve community safety. Through awareness programs the community will better understand the local environment and its associated risks, helping them to make informed decisions. This will also contribute to a better quality of life by reducing unjustified fears held by the community.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Improve the community perception of crime in the Shire of Northam.
- 2.2 Enable greater awareness of activities and projects across the Shire of Northam which address safety and security.

Building Partnerships and Participation

Working with key stakeholders and community groups to plan and implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives is a priority. Responsive programs such as alcohol and drug education for young people, diversionary programs for young offenders, and early intervention education initiatives have been developed by experts in these field areas.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Support and facilitate the Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee.
- 3.2 Identify and promote service providers, community groups and other key stakeholders that implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives.
- 3.3 Support and facilitate collaborative youth engagement planning.

Community Design

'Designing Out Crime' focuses on the planning and design of places, spaces and buildings and can assist in reducing crime through improvements to the physical environment.

Built and environmental factors such as lighting, surveillance, open spaces with clear sight lines and the ability to seek refuge are well documented as key elements that influence peoples' perceptions of community safety in public spaces.

Designing Out Crime can be factored into future community facility developments or upgrades and can improve existing community facilities that are often exposed to criminal or offending behaviours.

Objective:

- 4.1 Adopt and implement 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED26) principles.



Where to From Here

The Northam Community Safety Committee will have primary responsibility for the monitoring and review of the plan. The desired outcomes of the Plan will be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders. A summary of the Plans achievements each year will be presented to Council and published on the Shire of Northam website.

It is to be noted that the Action Plan is a 'living document' and as such additional strategies (in line with the focus areas) may be added, and further stakeholders can be seconded to assist with the implementation of these strategies.

Required funding will be sought from the Office of Crime Prevention and other relevant funding bodies to assist with implementing strategies. The progress of this plan will be evaluated on a bi-monthly basis to effectively monitor the progress and impact of these actions.

Further Information

The Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2017-2021 is available to download on our website www.northam.wa.gov.au.

For further information regarding the Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2017-2021 please contact the Shire of Northam Community Development Officer on telephone 9622 6100 or email records@northam.wa.gov.au.

SHIRE OF NORTHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

AIM: To improve the safety of the community and reduce crime in the Shire of Northam.

Focus

**CRIMINAL OR
OFFENDING
BEHAVIOUR**

**COMMUNITY
AWARENESS**

**BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS &
PARTICIPATION**

**COMMUNITY
DESIGN**

Community Issues

Alcohol and Other Drugs	X	X	X	
Anti-social Behaviour	X	X	X	X
Assault	X	X	X	X
Burglary - Business	X	X	X	X
Burglary - Residential	X	X	X	X
Domestic Violence	X	X	X	
Driving Behaviours	X	X	X	X
Graffiti	X	X	X	X
Theft	X	X	X	X
Wilful Damage	X	X	X	X

Objectives

1.1 Reduce the opportunity for crime or offending behaviour.

1.2 Increase community engagement and participation in identifying and reporting of crime.

1.3 Maintain the Northam Shire Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan

1.4 Reduce youth crime.

2.1 Improve the community perception of crime in the Shire of Northam.

2.2 Enable greater awareness of activities and projects across the Shire of Northam which address safety and security.

3.1 Support and facilitate the Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee.

3.2 Identify and promote service providers, community groups and other key stakeholders that implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

3.3 Identify partnering Local Government Authorities and implement collaborative sub-regional community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

4.1 Adopt and implement 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' principals.

ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN - FOCUS AREA ONE

Criminal or Offending Behaviour

Objective 1.1 Reduce the opportunity for crime or offending behaviour.

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Increase the understanding of risk factors for potential victims of crime (including hotspots and prevention).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support eWatch - public circulation of crime facts and figures. Market at least one crime prevention tip per month as per the CSCP Communications Plan. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Marketing activities scheduled for release and presented at each bi-monthly CSC meeting.</p>	<p>Shire of Northam via eWatch</p> <p>CS Committee/key stakeholders</p>
Raise community awareness about the relationship between crime prevention and the physical design of their property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate and encourage community members to improve security measures in residential buildings through the provision of checklists and information. Investigate and implement look, lock, leave vehicle safety signage program. Promote the Burglar beware program. Provide the community with 'Do It Yourself' security audits'. Market at least one 'designing out crime' tip per month as per the CSCP Communications Plan. 	January 2017	Shire of Northam via Lock and Light program
Support the Northam Chamber of Commerce to engage with local business to reduce the opportunity for crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage shop owners to ask for identification when suspicious shoppers request to use Pay Wave. Distribute to the Chamber information brochures targeting shop owners to reduce crime. Facilitate business education on appropriate CCTV. Contribute crime prevention tips to the Chambers of Commerce monthly newsletter. Heighten awareness about how to design out crime with appropriate shop layout. 		Northam Chamber of Commerce/ Shire of Northam
Deliver the Lock and Light program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Lock and Light Program to potential community members. Seek additional funding to continue the Lock and Light program. 	Ongoing	Shire of Northam/ Northam and Wundowie Police

ACTION PLAN - FOCUS AREA ONE

Criminal or Offending Behaviour

Objective 1.2 Increase community engagement and participation in identifying and reporting of crime.

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Develop a list of crime reporting and recording avenues. Promote to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the WA Police crime reporting methods. Market the launch of and promote the State CCTV Register - residential and business CCTV register for Police to access. Promote the Dob in a Dealer program. Market the Crime Stoppers brand. 		Shire of Northam via Shire website and eWatch. Shire of Northam via Shire website and eWatch. Police and Shire of Northam
Raise community awareness about how to identify a crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a natural surveillance improvement program - Eyes on the Street. Promote and support eWatch. 		Community Safety Committee, Police and Shire of Northam

Objective 1.3 Maintain the Northam Shire Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Support the delivery of the Northam Shire Alcohol and Other Drugs Management Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and attend AODMP meetings. Include AODMP initiatives on the CSCP Marketing and Communications Plan. 		AODMP Committee

ACTION PLAN - FOCUS AREA ONE

Criminal or Offending Behaviour

Objective 1.4 Reduce youth crime.

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Investigate youth focused night support/security program to service young people in the Shire of Northam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and report on existing youth focused night support/ security programs. • Investigate youth drop-in opportunities and after hours support services that exist in the Shire of Northam and develop a 'map and gap' report to understand the requirements. • Support Northam PCYC and/or Avon Youth to extend/develop drop-in services. • Investigate street chaplaincy service. • Seek funding to implement youth focused support/security programs. 		
Support and facilitate collaborative youth engagement initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with stakeholders to plan collaborative youth engagement initiatives. • Provide information about services and activities for youth within the community. • Forward plan and support the provision of school holiday activities for youth. • Implement youth engagement activities at the Northam Youth Precinct to activate the space. • Implement youth engagement activities at the Wundowie Skate Park to activate the space. • Drive the Keeping Kids in Schools program. • Create annual Youth Week activities and apply for funding to implement them. • Development of a Shire of Northam youth leadership network to provide ideas for new initiatives, feedback on current initiatives and share information amongst young people. 		<p>Shire of Northam, Avon Youth, Northam PCYC</p> <p>Shire of Northam</p> <p>Shire of Northam, Inclusion WA, Northam PCYC, Avon Youth</p>
Create a Shire of Northam Youth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a Shire of Northam Youth Plan in collaboration with key youth stakeholders. 		Youth stakeholders

ACTION PLAN - FOCUS AREA TWO

Community Awareness

Objective 2.1 Improve the community perception of crime in the Shire of Northam.

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Implement the actions of the Shire of Northam CSCP Marketing and Communications Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote community safety and crime prevention information on the Shire website and social media sites. • Contribute articles to eWatch monthly. • Implement monthly messaging on the variable digital messaging sign. • Include articles in the Shire of Northam monthly newsletter to be published in the Avon Advocate. • Schedule monthly social media posts following each CSC meeting. 		Shire of Northam/ Community Safety Committee
Reduce untidy surroundings such as litter, abandoned vehicles, graffiti and damaged buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Trolley Tracker program to report abandoned shopping trollies. • Promote litter reporting procedures through placement of signage in highly littered areas of the Shire of Northam. • Promote Designing Out Crime Principals. • Encourage community ownership of places (e.g. adopt a spot programs) • Anti-litter social media marketing • Participation in Keep Australia Beautiful campaigns. • School engagement and education in anti-litter. • Clean up Your Yard marketing • Promotion of support agencies that can help with improving living standards. 		Shire of Northam via website and social media. Shire of Northam and Keep Australia Beautiful program.
Increase community confidence in the police.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Police social media sites. • Promotion of Police initiatives. 		Community Safety Committee and local Police
Promote the positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of positive local stories to counteract the heavily promoted negative stories. Include these in the Marketing and Communications Plan. 		

ACTION PLAN - FOCUS AREA TWO

Community Awareness

Objective 2.2 Enable greater awareness of activities and projects across the Shire of Northam which address safety and security.

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Promote existing community education initiatives that target safety and security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement relevant State Government programs - Burglar Beware, Neighbourhood Watch, Eyes on the Street, Goodbye Graffiti.• Promote the AFP ThinkUKnow cyber awareness safety program.		Community Safety Committee, Police and Shire of Northam

ACTION PLAN - FOCUS AREA THREE

Building Partnerships and Participation

Objective 3.1 Support and facilitate the Shire of Northam Community Safety Committee.

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Bi-monthly community safety meetings including a representative from the Northam Police station.	• Monitor progress on Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan.	Ongoing	Community Safety Committee
	• Host bi-monthly meetings.	Ongoing	Shire of Northam

Objective 3.2 Identify and promote service providers, community groups and other key stakeholders that implement community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Promote all service providers, community groups and other stakeholders that offer programs aiding in crime prevention and deliver their service in the Shire of Northam.	• Develop a current list of service providers and their programs and undertake a map and gap exercise to identify where gaps and/or double ups in service exist.		Community Safety Committee
	• Encourage existing service providers to step into the gap.		Community Safety Committee
Establish working groups to initiate new collaborative activities to target relevant issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek internal and/or external funding assistance to assist in enabling the implementation of new community safety and crime prevention initiatives. • Encourage community ownership of places and community responses to local problems. 	Ongoing	Community Safety Committee Shire of Northam/ Lions Club/ Apex Club and Share and Care.

ACTION PLAN - FOCUS AREA FOUR

Community Design

Objective 4.1 Adopt and implement 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED26) principles.

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe	Stakeholders
Create and implement a Designing Out Crime Plan to be completed by December 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a lighting audit and install lighting in areas poorly lit and in known hotspots. • Conduct a Designing Out Crime Shire of Northam study to review current public places. • Embed the principles of Designing Out Crime as a working practice in the planning and building responses of the Council. • Seek funding opportunities to improve the design of the community. 		<p>Shire of Northam</p> <p>Shire of Northam</p> <p>Shire of Northam</p> <p>Shire of Northam and Community Safety Committee</p>
Upgrade the community CCTV system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for funding to upgrade the CCTV system in Wundowie and Northam. • Install security cameras in known 'hot spots' • Apply for funding to purchase a mobile CCTV covert camera for Police use. • Align the Community CCTV with the State CCTV Strategy. 		Shire of Northam and local Police
Promote community participation with the State CCTV Register.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the State CCTV Register to the community. • Encourage community to register their private and business CCTV on the State CCTV Register. 		
Investigate traffic calming options for Wundowie for hooning prevention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map problem areas and advocate for appropriate traffic calming devices for each area. 		