

Joint Area Committee – South – 7th October 2009

13. Area South Community Safety Action Panel Update

Head of Service: Martin Woods, Head of Area Development – South
Lead Officer: Martin Woods, Head of Area Development – South
Contact Details: martin.woods@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462708

Purpose of the Report

To update Members on progress and activity of the Area South Community Safety Action Panel (ASCSAP)

Recommendation

That members note the report.

Background

The ASCSAP has the following priorities:-

- **Antisocial behaviour**, where it seeks to work to target specific hot spots of alcohol related ASB, and support diversionary schemes
- **Alcohol and Drugs**, where it seeks to educate young people and support enforcement activity
- **Support Community Organisations** and groups to help eliminate ASB
- **Road Safety and Vehicle Crime**, where the aim is to support measures to reduce speed and offences relating to motorcars

The Area South Community Safety Action Panel is an important part of the delivery structure for the Mendip and South Somerset Community Safety Partnership.

The panel is a multi-agency group that meets quarterly to discuss and take action that improves the safety of the area.

The Area South Action Panel works with local communities with geographic Local Action Groups or thematic action groups like Speedwatch, and Neighbourhood Watch.

The group has as its members the Police Area Sergeant, Avon and Somerset Fire, representatives of Westfield School, and the Yeovil Federation of Schools, the Reckleford Children's centre, the County Youth service and Yeovil Town Council. Recently church groups such as Urban Warriors have been invited to attend as have the chairs of the newly established residents Associations in Milford and Westfield.

The panel is chaired by Cllr Tony Lock, supported by Cllr Tony Fife as Portfolio Holder, the Community Safety Team and Area South officers, and represents a practical forum to develop safer stronger communities through neighbourhood policing.

The panel has re-elected Cllr. Tony Lock as Chair for 2009/10.

- The terms of reference have been amended to include representatives of the new ongoing Community Associations and Westfield is now a regular contributor.

The minutes of the meetings and other information is available on the website at <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=10535>.

The following represents a brief update of some of the areas have been recently addressed recently:-

Community Payback.

The Panel supported this scheme's launch in Yeovil with offenders spending time removing graffiti from the scout hall and skate park at Yew Tree Park. Work is progressing with the probation team and the Youth Service on undertaking more projects for the scheme in Yeovil.

Town Centre Safety

Results of a survey into how safe visitors to the town centre felt were analysed and the results were:-

- 94% Always or usually feel safe in the day
- 68% Always or usually feel safe in the night.

The panel looked at improvements to the town centre safety including:-

- Expansion of the radio link scheme.
- The expansion of the No Alcohol Drinking Zone, which was supported by the Area South Committee.
- The level of police presence in the town centre, which has been examined and reviewed.
- The introduction of measures to cut under age drinking (Project Zero)
- The panel has been concentrating on areas where anti social behaviour has been most prevalent. This has led to a dialogue with Tesco's security team, over under age sales as well as projects to remove graffiti in the West Hendford car park. Extra police patrols have been instigated in the vicinity and closer co-operation between the store and police.
- The good work of the Yeovil Business Crime Reduction Team was noted, where as well as routine help and support to shoppers through radio link, the panel were made aware of 30 ASB contracts issued for minor shoplifting offences.

Residential Area Safety

The panel continues to use data supplied by the Antisocial Behaviour Recording Tool to monitor hot spots. The high incidence of fly tipping has been noted and work is ongoing to define the problem more closely and then identify and deal with the source of the problem.

Financial support was given by the panel to the following organisations:-

- B Active
the provision of free access to leisure activities at Goldenstones for young people at risk. Match funding offered from Sport England to enable 60 young people in area south to benefit from this project.

- Time out Together
Jumicar Road Safety project – to deliver road safety education in 8 schools in area south
- Westfield Community Association.
Noticeboard to be erected on the Co-op wall
- Avon & Somerset Constabulary
For each PCSO to take 2 young people at a time for a session of golf at Yeovil Recreation Centre Pitch & Putt,
West Hendford Car Park Street Art Project

The input by the Westfield Community Association provides valuable dialogue between all parties. A successful Environmental Visual Audit of the area has been commissioned; a police and community tool to describe areas where crime may occur and be prevented.

Valuable contacts were made to communicate routine intelligence between the police and the community.

Progress is being made towards similar representation at Milford and Birchfield where there has been some success, as reported to this committee in the Community Development Officers update reports.

In the meantime local diversionary activities such as street football have had some notable successes in reducing antisocial behaviour.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

The Area Community Safety Panel supports the following priorities.

- | | | |
|------|--|--------------|
| 4.8 | Improve dealing with local concerns about antisocial behaviour and crime by the local council and police. | NI 21 |
| 4.10 | Decrease re-offending rates of prolific and priority offenders.
SCC agreed LAA's – 37 overall from overall and this partnership plan. | LAA (NI 30) |
| 4.13 | Decrease first time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17. | LAA (NI 111) |
| 4.14 | Decrease people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents. | LAA (NI 47) |
| 4.15 | Decrease repeat incidents of domestic violence. | LAA (NI 32) |
| 4.16 | Increase the number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment | LAA (NI 40) |

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

Area South Community Safety Action Panel Update – Report to Area South Committee 6th August 2008.