

19. Area East Community Safety Action Panel – Update

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| <i>Portfolio Holder:</i> | <i>Councillor Tony Fife</i> |
| <i>Community Safety Panel Chairman:</i> | <i>Councillor John Crossley</i> |
| <i>Head of Service:</i> | <i>Helen Rutter, Head of Area Development</i> |
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Purpose of the Report

To bring the Committee up-to-date with the achievements of the Panel during 2008/09.
To report on the Panel's priorities for 2009/10

Recommendation:

That the report be noted

Background

The Panel was first formed in May 2004. Over the last 4 years it has maintained a rolling programme of locally focused work to address the particular community safety & crime reduction priorities identified for this Area. The Panel is currently chaired by Cllr John Crossley and has representatives from the Police, Local Service Team, Yarlinton Housing Group, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, District Council, Town Councils, Parishes, Secondary Schools within the Area and other youth organisations.

Community Safety issues such as anti-social behaviour, vandalism, criminal damage and speeding continue to be a concern for most local communities. The purpose of the Panel is to identify and prioritise these community safety issues and work with local communities to address them. The Panel meetings and lively discussions enable those working, sometimes in isolation, to interact effectively across the whole field of community safety.

Achievements During 2008/09

| Priorities for 2008/09 | Achievements |
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| Youth opportunities | <p>Outcomes as agreed and co-ordinated through the multi agency Youth Opportunities Group include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Me & My Movie Project, Ansford• Queen Camel & Henstridge Film Project• Henstridge Bringing Families Together• Wincanton Youth & Play day• Activ8, Templecombe (24 young people offering support to the community)• Support for 4 roadshows in rural parishes explaining the support available to young people• Linx ReAct Outreach Project – Castle Cary, with plans to extend to Wincanton• Support Ilchester Youth Parish Council's team building day• Funded places for 40 young People to engage with the B Active project and access leisure activities in Wincanton Sports Centre and Caryford |

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| | <p>Fitness Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support of Queen Camel Crew (Youth Parish Council) |
| Drug & alcohol problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police have raised the profile of crimes & prosecutions across the Area to make people aware of action being taken, especially purchase of alcohol for underage children • Better Policing in town centres at critical times • Support for the creation of a new designated public place order (DPPO) to strengthen powers to control alcohol consumption in the centre of Bruton • Investigation of potential to extend DPPO in Wincanton • Pub Watch schemes maintained by Police • Test Purchasing exercises • Distribution of flyers through Schools for Zero event at Chicago Rock for young people (14-17 years old) • Contact has been established with all secondary schools to act as a conduit to signpost them to drug and alcohol advices services as required • Support National Drugs Awareness Week with Police visits to schools, pubs and Morrison's. • Intelligence led drugs warrants carried out by Police |
| Reducing antisocial behaviour & criminal damage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel sponsored a guidance leaflet on how to form a successful Local Action Group • Support as needed for Local Action Groups in Ilchester, Castle Cary and Bruton and a PACT Group in Wincanton. Each has been tackling local concerns. Work has been going on to improve the state of derelict sites in Castle Cary • An event was held in Wincanton for Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and those wishing to set up new groups in November 2008. This focused on the use of acceptable behaviour contracts by South Somerset Homes. Free signs are available through the Panel to support new groups starting up (total support £300) • The Panel has purchased a deployable CCTV unit managed by the Police and used to help in crime hotspots to record the nature of antisocial behaviour & criminal damage, with a view to both deterrence & bringing people to prosecution. There have been long delays with placement due to technical problems but it is currently due to be installed in Bruton • The Panel has commissioned 2 Parenting Support programmes these will now run in the early autumn 2009. One is aimed at parents with challenging 5-11 year olds, the other will support parents with 0-5 year olds both to operate from the Balsam Childrens' Centre • Ongoing practical and financial support for the formation of a Community Justice Panel for Area East |
| Road & other safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of community Speedwatch Groups has stabilised. Active schemes are Ilchester, Holton, Castle Cary, North Cheriton, Ilchester, Galhampton, Marston Magna and Alford. Inactive schemes are Charlton Mackrell and Abbas & Templecome. Schemes in the setting up/trial stage are Keinton Mandeville and Henstridge. All the active schemes showed a declining gradient of speeding. This work enables the Police to target repeat speeders. • From 1st April 08 – 31st March 09, Community Speed Watch schemes have carried out 224 speedwatch sessions, monitored 74,062 vehicles of which 3464 were speeding. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel supported the Fire Service to purchase 2 GPS systems to target high-risk properties in rural areas. Properties will be visited and encouraged to adopt safety measures. Keep 6 figure map ref by 'phones |
| Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Parish Bulletins highlighting work of the Panel are sent out A horse watch scheme has been maintained across the Area. There has been a high level of interest & take up, for tack & horse equipment marking. A Farm Watch system has also been initiated using mobile text alerts for farmers. The Police, continue to target distraction burglaries, with an active campaign across the Area. The PCSOs visit sheltered housing schemes and they have also travelled on community transport encouraging people to use stickers & other security measures to deter distraction burglars Ilchester Community Safety Day was attended by the Partnership on 25th April 2009. |

An open day was held at Churchfield on Sunday 3rd May to enable the public to view the building, including the new Police cell. This was very well attended.

Future Priorities for the Panel During 2009/10

The Panel has reviewed & updated its Action Plan for 2009/10. The priority areas remain broadly the same as in previous years (see priority themes set out above) with a small amount of refocusing of work areas. Community Justice and parental support are major themes for this year. Householder cards have been distributed across the area and analysis of peoples' comments will enable the Panel to more accurately target its work to areas of greatest need and where necessary, support the formation of new groups in these areas to address specific problems.

Community Justice

The Wincanton Community Justice Panel, covering the whole of Area East, was launched at the Open Day on 3 May 2009. A local Steering Group, chaired by former Area East Community Safety Action Panel chair Emma Bourne, oversees its work.

By 11 June it had dealt with 2 cases, a neighbour dispute referred by Yarlington Housing and another case referred by the Police. Volunteer facilitators are being recruited and a 3day-training course will be run in July. All volunteers are screened to check their suitability. They shadow more experienced facilitators until they are confident to go out on their own.

Referral protocols have been agreed with Yarlington Homes and the Police who are the main points of referral at the current time. An important next step is to establish strong working links with the schools across the area. Many schools do their own restorative justice for incidents within school but the Panel could work with them on cases occurring outside school. A leaflet about the work of the Wincanton Community Justice Panel is available. So far the Panel has raised £8,000 towards its running costs, including £2,500 from the AECSAP, but needs substantially more to sustain itself for the next 2 years.

Financial Implications

There are no new financial implications arising directly from this report

Due to the changed arrangements for funding across the Mendip and South Somerset Community Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Area East Panel no longer has revenue & capital funding from the Home Office to support its work. It may be possible to bid into funding for specific crime & disorder target areas at a later point in the year. The Panel has, however, been awarded an additional sum of £5,000 through the Joint Area East Committee, supported through the Area East Community Forum to help address some priority concerns, especially around work with young people & parents and improving road safety. It is the intention of the Panel to seek to double this funding through matched funding sources and so maintain the profile of the Panel's commissioning work across the Area during the coming year.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

This work is central to the delivery of the Corporate Aim: Improve the housing health and well-being of our citizens with the specific outcome of a community which feels safe to all local residents.

Other Implications

This area of work is a priority identified in the Area East Development Plan

Background Papers: *Area East Community Safety Action Plan 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10. Minutes & agendas of Action Panel meetings*
