



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(RUNNYMEDE)
COMMUNITY SAFETY**

26th JUNE 2009

KEY ISSUE

The report provides an update on the work of the Safer Runnymede Partnership and plans for the coming year. Borough and police partners have also contributed to this report and will attend the Local Committee.

SUMMARY

The county of Surrey is one of the safest counties in England, and Runnymede has a low incidence of crime, albeit the borough has seen a modest increase in reported crimes over the last year.

The Safer Runnymede partnership has achieved many of its objectives in 2008-9 and agreed a range of actions to deliver the objectives in its 2009-10 Partnership Plan.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Runnymede) is asked to agree to:

- (i) delegate responsibility for expenditure of the County Council's local crime & disorder funding (£14,500) in Runnymede to the Area Director;**
- (ii) endorse the importance of the contribution of all services towards community safety and progress made;**
- (iii) that a county councillor be nominated to attend the CDRP.**

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Safer Runnymede partnership comprises statutory representatives from six agencies: Surrey Police, Surrey County Council, Runnymede Borough Council, the Primary Care Trust, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service and the Police Authority. In the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (amended 2006), a local crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) is a statutory requirement with the function of auditing and monitoring local incidences of crime, and working together to devise and deliver an effective strategy to address it.
- 1.2 Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act requires local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of all their activities and functions, and do all that they reasonably can to reduce these problems. Surrey County Council services make an active contribution to crime prevention locally, through work with children and young people, Trading Standards, highways, countryside rights of way, and other key services. Public services are expected to have regard to s17, and to design out crime as far as possible especially when developing new amenities.
- 1.3 The working group of officers for the CDRP undertook the annual strategic assessment of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the borough in the latter part of 2008, in preparation for updating and refreshing the Partnership Plan 2009-10 with current objectives and activities, which is attached at **Annex 6** (and may be downloaded from a partnership website www.saferrunnymede.org.uk).
- 1.4 The CDRP is assisted in delivering its targets by systematic work undertaken through two important multi-agency meetings:
- the Joint Action Group (JAG), which meets monthly to review local hotspots for anti-social behaviour and to agree actions to tackle the behaviour;
 - the Community Incidents Action Group (CIAG) which meets monthly to monitor individuals having an impact on the community through their behaviour, and to agree and implement interventions to address this behaviour.

A number of other multi-agency meetings manage other aspects of crime in the division, including one set up to monitor “prolific and persistent offenders” (PPOs), the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to address high risk cases of domestic abuse, and the Multi Agency Protection Panel (MAPP) which assesses individuals who may pose a risk to the public.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Surrey remains one of the safest counties in England according to Home Office recorded crime data 2007-8, and although Runnymede has seen an increase in total reported crimes since this time last year (due largely

to an increase in acquisitive crimes) the borough's crime rate per 1000 population was within the lowest quintile for England in 2008. (see **Annex 1** latest recorded crimes - Surrey).

- 2.2 The crime category with the greatest increase was non-domestic burglaries with an additional 45 crimes over the period. This includes thefts from garden sheds and allotments (mainly tools and equipment) and pedal cycles. There was a smaller increase in the number of domestic burglaries (an additional 18 crimes). However reports of criminal damage have decreased by 5%.
- 2.3 Surrey Police have targeted serious violence against the person and this crime remains at very low levels in the borough – only 1 crime was classified as such last year and there has been no increase in the current year. However, there has been a small increase in other violent crimes including woundings, and incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police which has been attributed in part to the drive to increase the number of victims seeking help and the economic downturn.
- 2.4 The Surrey Police website, www.surrey.police.uk, provides comprehensive data at borough and ward level on the latest crime figures and this data is refreshed every month (select Crime maps and statistics on the homepage). The Runnymede neighbourhood pages include details of the local policing team and how to contact them, together with information about current priorities and concerns. Details of neighbourhood panel meetings are included in **Annex 3** and a map of the Runnymede neighbourhoods is at **Annex 4**.
- 2.5 Reducing fear of crime amongst residents remains a challenge for the partnership. Whilst the 2007 Community Safety Survey of members of the public found that around one in four people within the borough were anxious about crime, more recent information from Policing Plan monitoring indicates that public confidence had risen to 85% by the final quarter of 2008-9 (January to March 2009) up from 74% in the April to June quarter.
- 2.6 Residents can report crime by calling 999 (if the matter is serious and urgent), or by calling Surrey Police on 0845 125 222 for non-emergency reports. If they wish to report anti-social behaviour, residents can call their neighbourhood police officer to describe the problem, or use on-line anti-social behaviour reporting forms which may be downloaded from: www.saferrunnymede.co.uk. This information is then sent direct to the responsible officer to address.

Strategic assessment of needs and concerns

- 2.7 Following the 2006 review of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, the government issued guidance in 2007 requiring authorities to undertake annual strategic assessments to provide partnerships with recent

intelligence and evidence to help them prioritise their work. This annual assessment is used to produce a Partnership Plan specifying objectives and actions (**see Annex 5**). The assessment draws on local evidence, ranging from crime data to traffic accident analysis from Surrey highways and records from the borough of damage and graffiti. Public survey data is also taken into account.

Partnership successes in 2008/9

- 2.8 The Partnership has continued to monitor incidents affecting the community across the borough and has tackled hotspots where there was evidence of a cluster of reports. A number of individuals were supported by partners through the CIAG group and subsequently removed from the agenda because of an improvement in their behaviour. At May 2009, only four Anti-Social Behaviour Orders were in place against Runnymede residents, reflecting the preventative work undertaken with individuals to reduce their anti-social impact on the community.
- 2.9 The Partnership gave financial support to several projects in 2008/9:
- Surrey Women’s Aid outreach service to people experiencing domestic abuse (with Surrey Heath and Woking boroughs) - see **Annex 6**;
 - an anti-social behaviour co-ordinator post, which assists agencies in compiling evidence for and drafting acceptable behaviour contracts and ASBO’s;
 - an improved anti-social behaviour recording software system, to track and monitor reported incidents;
 - a “skills bus” to help students of Jubilee High School gain practical skills and improve their job prospects;
 - the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Youth Engagement Scheme, which trains “at risk” young people to help them become responsible citizens.
- 2.10 As mentioned at 2.5, public confidence rose over the course of the year, in part as a result of co-ordinated partnership efforts to show residents that statutory and voluntary agencies were working together to tackle crime. Initiatives including Operation Quake (focused on Addlestone town centre in February) and forthcoming Partnership Action Days in Egham Hythe and other locations, show the public that services such as trading standards, youth, street cleansing and leisure and recreation are working alongside neighbourhood police to make their streets and parks safer and more pleasant places.
- 2.11 Surrey PCT organised the Big Drink Debate in 2008 and received over 200 responses from Runnymede residents. The PCT has launched an alcohol strategy for Surrey which will target hazardous drinkers, and young people aged under 24, as well as ensuring effective law enforcement on alcohol. The Partnership contributed to a North Surrey alcohol awareness publicity campaign in autumn 2008, distributing

“Know Your Limits” posters and leaflets to public buildings throughout the borough, and more recently organised displays and an information bus for National Drugs Week in June.

Partnership Plan 2009-10

- 2.13 The CDRP strategy group used the results of the strategic assessment to draft a list of priorities for action in the coming year. The Partnership has agreed to target the following themes:
- excessive and under-age alcohol consumption
 - improved access to local domestic abuse services and preventative interventions
 - tackling poor behaviour by drivers to increase public safety
 - improving communications to reassure the public
 - reducing serious acquisitive crime (burglary, robbery, vehicle theft and theft from a vehicle)
 - building resilience to violent extremism

A copy of the detailed Partnership Plan is attached at **Annex 5**.

The total budget allocated to the CDRP in 2008-9 was as follows:

- Basic Command Unit Fund (revenue) - £31,281, fully spent
- SSC Fund (capital) - £21,259 of which £19,187 spent and remainder carried forward.
- Partnership fund (revenue) - £59,580 of which £48,750 was spent.

Other partnership developments

- 2.17 Since the new Civic Centre in Addlestone was officially opened on May 13th 2008, its state-of-the-art control room for Safer Runnymede’s 24-hour CCTV-monitoring operation has been in daily use. Equipped to very high standards, there is capacity for it to be used as a Silver Command base for civil contingency emergencies.
- 2.18 Runnymede Borough Council’s “Safer Runnymede Annual Report 2008-9” details how the growing and extensive network of CCTV cameras in Runnymede, Spelthorne and on South West Trains platforms, has helped to deter crime and provide evidence of crimes committed, as well as assisting in identifying the whereabouts of vulnerable and missing individuals.
- 2.19 Runnymede now falls within the North Surrey police division, alongside Spelthorne and Elmbridge, with a divisional headquarters in Staines town centre. The senior management team for the North division is headed up by Divisional Commander Steve Rodhouse, assisted by Neighbourhoods Superintendent Rachel Tills.

- 2.20 It is expected that, in the course of 2009, the Government Connect initiative will be implemented. This will enable partners from various statutory agencies to exchange personal and confidential information electronically using a secure network, which will increase ease of communication in relation to the groups such as CIAG (described at 1.4).

Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board

- 2.21 Community safety forms part of the “safer and stronger” strand of Surrey’s Local Area Agreement (LAA) with government. The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board was established in 2005-6 – chaired by the Chief Constable it includes senior representatives from Probation, Surrey Police Authority, Surrey PCT’s Public Health, Surrey Community Action, Surrey Community Safety Unit, borough chief executives, youth justice service, Government Office for South-East and CDRP chairmen. It allocates funding from the Area Based Grant (a non ring-fenced general grant from Government) to individual CDRPs, and will agree over summer/autumn 2009 its future strategy for funding crime and disorder work.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Committee has two options: to delegate representation including finance decisions to the Area Director who attends meetings of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, or to require that all proposals for CDRP expenditure are brought before the Local Committee. The latter option would be impractical, given the timescales for such decisions and the relatively modest sums of expenditure involved.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 Surrey Police conduct regular neighbourhood panel meetings at local level with members of the public, as part of the neighbourhoods agenda, together with a quarterly Policing Forum. Details of forthcoming Panel meetings and neighbourhood officers are laid out in **Annex 3**.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The CDRP funding contributes to a domestic abuse outreach service provided under contract by Surrey Women’s Aid. Support is provided to people, referred by the police and other local agencies, who have experienced various types of domestic abuse. Service data is attached in **Annex 6**.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Crime and Disorder implications are implicit in the report.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members are asked to agree to delegate responsibility for expenditure of the County Council's local crime and disorder funding in Runnymede to the Area Director.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The delegation is recommended to facilitate timely decision making in response to fast moving trends in patterns of crime and disorder locally.

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**Annex 1: CRIME DATA FOR SURREY 2008-9 YEAR TO DATE,
& crime category trends for Runnymede in May 2009**

Borough Changes
Year to date: Apr-2008 to MAY-2009
TOTAL CRIMES
Volume

Borough	Crime				Sanctioned Detections				Sanction Detection Rate		
	Last Year	This Year	#	%	Last Year	This Year	#	%	Last Year	This Year	%Point Change
Epsom & Ewell	722	700	-22	-3	152	119	-33	-21.7	21.1	17	-4.1
Mole Valley	725	749	24	3.3	198	156	-42	-21.2	27.3	20.8	-6.5
Reigate & Banstead	1450	1515	65	4.5	327	357	30	9.2	22.6	23.6	1
Tandridge	801	823	22	2.7	116	115	-1	-.9	14.5	14	-.5
Eastern	3698	3787	89	2.4	793	747	-46	-5.8	21.4	19.7	-1.7
Elmbridge	1302	1250	-52	-4	289	206	-83	-28.7	22.2	16.5	-5.7
Runnymede	870	960	90	10.3	160	152	-8	-5	18.4	15.8	-2.6
Spelthorne	1271	1247	-24	-1.9	261	251	-10	-3.8	20.5	20.1	-.4
Northern	3443	3457	14	.4	710	609	-101	-14.2	20.6	17.6	-3
Guildford	1433	1500	67	4.7	532	292	-240	-45.1	37.1	19.5	-17.7
Surrey Heath	728	750	22	3	220	165	-55	-25	30.2	22	-8.2
Waverley	905	1002	97	10.7	229	151	-78	-34.1	25.3	15.1	-10.2
Woking	1029	1144	115	11.2	334	245	-89	-26.6	32.5	21.4	-11
Western	4095	4396	301	7.4	1315	853	-462	-35.1	32.1	19.4	-12.7
FORCE	11236	11640	404	3.6	2818	2209	-609	-21.6	25.1	19	-6.1

Developed by Performance Monitoring & Analysis Unit (SSD) in collaboration with ICT.
Information obtained from the Oracle data warehouse. Copyright © Surrey Police 2007

Runnymede: Year to date comparison as at May 2009

Crimes by category:

Crime category	2008	2009	number	%	direction of travel
Serious violent	1	1	0	0	no change
Serious acquisitive	143	184	41	28.7	increase
Criminal damage	194	184	-10	-5	reduction
Domestic burglary	40	58	18	45	increase
Non-domestic burglary	57	102	45	78.9	increase

(This information is also available on the Surrey Police website – About Us/Performance/Crime statistics.)

ANNEX 2:

Reports of anti-social behaviour by category (received by Runnymede Borough Council)

Summary 2008 - 2009

	04--06/08	07--09/08	10--12/08	01--03/09
By Type reported				
Abandoned vehicles	15	50	80	65
Alcohol/solvent abuse	1	0	2	0
Begging rough sleeping	2	0	0	0
Criminal damage?Vandalism	22	2	24	31
Dog fouling	7	17	29	36
Drugs/solvents	3	1	1	4
Fly tipping	232	149	75	67
Graffiti	85	82	147	123
Harassment	5	0	5	2
Inappropriate vehicle use	2	0	3	2
Intimidation	7	8	2	2
Litter/rubbish	205	270	192	171
Neighbour dispute	2		0	1
Neighbour nuisance	38	40	22	31
Noise	124	125	77	54
Nuisance behaviour	17	11	17	9
Rowdy behaviour	3	4	5	4
Rundown properties/squatters	0	0	1	0
Travellers/gypsies	1	0	0	2
Uncontrolled pets	19	11	12	21
Vehicle parking	1	1	0	0
Vehicles causing obstruction	6	0	8	15
Verbal abuse	3	3	0	0
TOTAL	800	774	702	640

	04--06/08	07--09/08	10--12/08	01/03/09
By Ward				
Addlestone Bourneside	51	67	55	50
Addlestone North	82	64	65	62
Chertsey Meads	71	62	68	46
Chertsey South & Rowtown	32	27	25	26
Chertsey St Ann's	78	78	69	41
Egham Hythe	92	97	116	120
Egham Town	82	69	75	66
Englefield Green East	15	20	19	15
Englefield Green West	57	59	49	42
Foxhills	47	46	32	47
New Haw	30	37	28	27
Thorpe	63	61	33	32
Virginia Water	65	47	31	26
Woodham	35	40	37	40
TOTAL	800	774	702	640

David Dodd April 2009.

SCC Local Committee (Runnymede)

Annex 3**Dates of Police Neighbourhood Panel meetings, Summer 2009**

Area	Date and Time	Venue
Englefield Green	7pm on July 28 th	Police Office, Ashwood Road, Englefield Green
Egham Town	12-2pm on July 31 st	Egham Library, High Street, Egham.
Thorpe and Hythe	7pm on August 6 th	The Hythe Centre, Thorpe Road Egham.
Virginia Water	7.15pm on July 14 th	Christ Church in Christchurch Road
Rowtown/Ottershaw & Foxhills	7pm on 14 th July	Brook Hall, Brox Road Ottershaw
Lyne & Longcross	6.30pm on 23 rd July	Lyne village hall
Addlestone Town Addlestone North & Bourneside	6.30pm on 8 th July	Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road
New Haw & Woodham	7pm on 8 th July	Heathervale Baptist Church, Heathervale Rd

Dates of future Panel meetings will be posted on the Surrey Police website: www.surrey.police.uk and follow the link to your neighbourhood. The next Runnymede Policing Forum is on **July 2nd at 7.30pm** in Chertsey Hall.

Neighbourhood police details

Englefield Green:	PC Ian Scott
Egham Town:	PC Richard Parke
Egham Hythe & Thorpe:	PC Michelle Carnie
Virginia Water:	PC Simon Dorney
Rowtown/Ottershaw:	PC Anita Clark
Chertsey:	PC Dave Stockle
Addlestone Town:	PC Steve Milford
Addlestone North Bourneside:	PC Claire Lowe
New Haw & Woodham:	PC Rabin Shrestha

Neighbourhood & Community Safety Sergeants:

PS Iain Weaving
PS Alan Sproston
PS Andrew Gibbon

To contact neighbourhood officers please use the following generic number and email address:

Tel: 0845 125 2222

email: runnymedesnt@surrey.pnn.police.uk.