



## **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – ANNUAL REPORT**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL  
LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)  
28 MARCH 2006**

### **KEY ISSUE:**

To update the Local Committee on the work of the Community Safety Partnership over the past year.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership brings together those organisations responsible for working together to reduce crime and the fear of crime. This paper will summarise the Partnership's work over the past year, providing an update on progress against the targets set out within the Community Safety Strategy, explaining specific ways in which partners work together, and highlighting key local projects.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the report be noted.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership brings together those organisations responsible for working together to reduce crime and the fear of crime.
- 1.2 The aim of this report is to:
  - 1.2.1 Update the Local Committee on the progress of the Partnership against those targets set out in the Community Safety Strategy
  - 1.2.2 Summarise the work of the Joint Action Group (JAG) and Community Incident Action Group (CIAG)
  - 1.2.3 Explain the Safer and Stronger Communities element of the Local Area Agreement
  - 1.2.4 Mention a number of key projects

## **2 ELMBRIDGE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

- 2.1 Meeting on a quarterly basis, the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership brings together those agencies named as “responsible authorities” set out in legislation (Surrey Police, Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey County Council, both Primary Care Trusts and Surrey Police Authority), with the aim of delivering improvements in community safety within Elmbridge.
- 2.2 While the Community Safety Strategy is not expected to be exhaustive, it does set out, on the basis of a comprehensive audit of crime trends and feedback from public consultation exercises, the five key priorities on which the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership has agreed to focus over the next three years (2005-2008). These are:
  - Reducing violence (including domestic violence)
  - Reducing theft (particularly burglary and vehicle crime)
  - Tackling alcohol and drug misuse
  - Tackling anti-social behaviour
  - Reducing arson
- 2.3 For each priority, the Community Safety Partnership monitors progress against key objectives and targets, holding partners to account, reporting back to the Government Office for the South East, and appropriately allocating resources to meet local needs.
- 2.4 Having completed the first year of work against this three year strategy, there has been a considerable amount of activity against each priority. For example, the Partnership contributes significant resources to the work of the North Surrey Domestic Abuse Forum; the important work of the Environmental Care teams is also supporting, with the aim of ensuring that graffiti is removed as soon as possible; Surrey Fire and Rescue Service is undertaking a number of activities with young people in order to tackle arson. Nevertheless, with increasing levels of violent crime, increasing alcohol-related crime, and insufficient progress against targets to reduce criminal damage, there is clearly no room for complacency.

### **3 JOINT ACTION GROUP (JAG) AND COMMUNITY INCIDENT ACTION GROUP (CIAG)**

- 3.1 As well as individual projects, there are a number of multi-agency groups to tackle issues relating to crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour. The two main groups are the Joint Action Group (JAG) and the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG). The JAG identifies and responds to crime trends in the borough on a monthly basis, focussing on particular locations. The CIAG develops multi-agency responses to reduce and prevent further criminal or anti-social behaviour by low level prolific offenders. The meetings bring together key partners whose interventions may help to tackle the issues raised. Critical to the success of these meetings is effective and appropriate information sharing between agencies.
- 3.2 The JAG has used Section 30 Dispersal Orders in a number of areas in Elmbridge. Section 30 applies when a PC in uniform has reasonable grounds for believing that members of the public have been intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed as a result of the presence of behaviour of groups of two or more persons in a specified locality, and that anti-social behaviour is a significant and persistent problem in that locality. If a particular area is suffering from high levels of anti-social behaviour or if contact is made from the community regarding levels of anti-social behaviour, a problem profile is generated for the JAG's consideration. The Section 30s are not carried out in isolation and are part of a wider approach to community safety and young people.

### **4 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

- 4.1 As Members will be aware, the Local Area Agreement (LAA) process offers “freedoms and flexibilities” from controls, in return for a commitment to delivering national and local outcomes. The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board, chaired by the Chief Constable, will be responsible for delivering the LAA outcomes for Safer and Stronger Communities, and the County Council will be responsible for reporting to GOSE on progress against the key targets, and in accounting for the expenditure. One practical consequence of the LAA is that the funding which has hitherto been directed by the Government Officer for the South East (GOSE) to the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership will in future be directed first to Surrey County Council. In 2006/07, funds will simply be “passport” to the Community Safety Partnership. In subsequent years there may be some top slicing for a limited number of countywide initiatives, though any changes to the funding of individual partnerships would be subject to further discussion at the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board and individual Community Safety Partnerships.
- 4.2 Last year, Surrey County Council launched its Community Safety Strategy. Although this is not statutory, it provides useful clarity on the countywide Community Safety agenda.

## **5 KEY PROJECTS**

### **5.1 Community Safety Centre**

- 5.1.1 Some years ago, the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership secured £170,000 in GOSE funding for building works to be carried out on Walton Police Station, in order for it to become a Community Safety Centre for Elmbridge. The aim of this scheme is to help key agencies to work closely together, sharing information and providing a seamless service to the public. Elmbridge is one of the first Boroughs to set up such a scheme, with only a handful operating throughout the country.
- 5.1.2 Works were completed in 2005, and the centre now provides office space and IT facilities for co-located staff from Surrey Police, Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council. The Youth Development Service, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and the Local Partnerships Team already make use of this facility. In addition, there is partnership signage and a front counter service, referring any public queries to the relevant organisation. From November 2005, the Centre has been open 5.00 - 8.00 pm on the second Wednesday of every month for multi-agency “out of hours” surgery.
- 5.1.3 In addition, the facility is being used for ABC Clinics. Young people who have offended or are at risk of offending are given 6 month Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC). During the 6 month period the young people are monitored and clinics take place every month, bringing together those partners who have signed up to the ABC to review the young person’s compliance and offer appropriate support and guidance.
- 5.1.4 The future development of this project could include extended front counter opening hours; further uptake of the co-located office facilities; targeted surgeries responding to public demand.

### **5.2 CCTV**

- 5.2.1 The Elmbridge CCTV scheme is proving invaluable in the Borough’s fight to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. A review of last year’s performance carried out by the Community Safety Partnership showed that at the end of 2005, over two and a half thousand incidents had been logged by the CCTV operators, resulting in 339 arrests, of which 122 were directly attributable to the detection and tracking of suspects by CCTV cameras. This is a notable increase compared to the same period the year before.
- 5.2.2 The CCTV Centre also supports a Walton retail business radio system called “Stoynet”. Traders who have joined the scheme have the ability to make direct radio contact with the Centre to notify them of any incidents. In 2005, traders notified the Centre of 136 incidents, which were monitored by the CCTV operators and brought to the attention of Surrey Police.

### **5.3 Door UK**

5.3.1 The Community Safety Partnership provides funding for this project which gives young people in Elmbridge a strong and clear message about the consequences of crime. An ex-offender, Mick, has run a series of seminars in high schools, using video and drama to discourage young people from getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The presentation is aimed at year 9, which is a difficult age group to engage. Mick's no-nonsense presentation challenges the students' thinking, and his personal recollections of a life of crime and subsequent imprisonment leaves a lasting impression.

#### **5.4 North Surrey Prevention Programme**

5.4.1 Surrey Youth Offending Team (YOT) has set up a preventative outreach service in North Surrey supported by the three CDRPs. In view of its core business in working with young offenders, it has a wealth of expertise in the assessment of risk factors which lead to problematic offending behaviour, comprehensive support and development structures for staff working in this area, and established links with partner agencies in this field. The YOT has successfully extended its work to a younger age group to encompass more preventative work, which should lead to a reduction in young people entering the Criminal Justice System.

#### **5.5 Accreditation**

5.5.1 Elmbridge Borough Council is working with Surrey Police to develop a Community Safety Accreditation Scheme in Elmbridge. The scheme allows chief officers of police to accredit non-police employees with a limited range of low-level enforcement powers, although it is possible to be accredited without powers. There are large numbers of people that work within communities helping to improve our safety and quality of life. Under this scheme, the aim is to harness their help in dealing with anti-social behaviour and delivering effective neighbourhood policing, making the best use of the combined resources of the police and local authorities to deal with local problems. The starting point is to train a small number of key Borough Council employees, for example countryside rangers and Environmental Health Officers. This, together with enhanced Neighbourhood Watch, should provide the Police with more "eyes and ears" in the community.

### **6 CONCLUSION**

6.1 The coming year promises to be as eventful as the last. The findings of last year's review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 propose a number of changes, both structurally and in terms of governance and accountability. We also expect the Local Area Agreement will also come into effect. These should present both opportunities and challenges in our aim to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Elmbridge.