



**OFFICER REPORT TO ELMBRIDGE LOCAL COMMITTEE**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY ELMBRIDGE**

**24 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**SUMMARY:** This report seeks to provide an update on the activities of the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership and future plans.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Committee is asked to:**

- (i) Note the activities of the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership in 2006/07 and plans for 2007/08.**

## 1. INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership (statutorily known as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) has a duty to produce a three year Community Safety Strategy. The current strategy, which was endorsed by Elmbridge Borough Council in 2005, has now completed its second year and will run until the end of March 2008.
- 1.2 The strategy has five main priorities, which were identified through an audit process and consultation in 2004. These priorities are:
- Reducing violence (including domestic abuse)
  - Reducing theft (particularly burglary and vehicle crime)
  - Tackling alcohol and drug misuse
  - Tackling anti social behaviour
  - Reducing arson
- 1.3 In 2005 the Government set a three year crime reduction target to reduce crime by 15% in England and Wales for a basket of 10 crime types. Each Partnership has been given its own target and Elmbridge has 13.2%.
- 1.4 The Partnership produces an Annual Action plan based on the five priority areas and these actions are implemented through five action plan leads, which meet as required to review and assess progress. The group's reports are then scrutinised and monitored by the Partnership at its quarterly meetings.
- 1.5 In addition to the Action Plan, which covers work in the medium and long term, there are monthly meetings dealing with immediate issues. These agree actions and allocate resources to deal with specific on-going problems. These meetings cover both problem areas and crimes (The Joint Action Group) and problem individuals (Community Incident Action Group).

## 2. REVIEW OF LAST YEAR

- 2.1 In 2006-07 the Partnership undertook many projects and actions, to make a difference in the Borough of Elmbridge by reducing crime, increasing reassurance tackling anti social behaviour and strengthening communities.
- 2.2 Crime figures: Despite the good work, recorded crime rose in the last year by 5.6% (Total Notifiable Offences), which negated the reductions made in the previous year. Some crime groups have remained more or less stable whilst there have been notable increases in, criminal damage and overall incidents of violence. Across the County, crime has also risen so the position in Elmbridge is not unique.

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- 2.3 This rise in crime is disappointing given the falls recorded in the previous year. The Partnership has developed an action plan for the coming year, which will seek to address this situation and it will also undertake more detailed analysis to gain a better understanding in order to take action to bring a stop to the rise and reduce crime. It is not expected though that the Partnership will be able to meet its Home Office target by the end of March 2008 on current crime trends. These increases are attributable to different reporting procedures, different baselines in 2005 as well as increased crime levels.
- 2.4 In other areas, we have seen an increase in Neighbourhood Watch by 8% providing 27 new schemes taking us to a coverage of 358 schemes with 18,000 households.
- 2.5 Fear of crime -The 3 yearly BVPI survey of Elmbridge residents conducted in September 2006 reported crime as falling from being in the top 5 priorities which need improving to 6th place, whilst still being the most important factor in deciding if an area was a nice place to live. Those that felt their area suffered a high level of Anti Social Behaviour fell from 34% to 13%. The results must be interpreted as a strong indicator that the fear of crime has reduced dramatically over the last 3 years without a significant shift in actual crime statistics. Added to this, the level of confidence in the survey is high with a 61% response rate.
- 2.6 Arson – The number of suspicious / deliberate fires in Elmbridge fell from 132 in 2005 to 107 in 2006. The majority of the reduction was in non vehicle fires which reduced from 100 to 78, with vehicle fires reducing from 33 to 29. The number of fires actually attended increased from 411 to 421, false alarms increased from 326 to 398 with malicious call increasing from 13 to 23.
- 2.7 Graffiti – a total of 3430 items were removed during the year within the target of 7 working days. All incidents of offensive graffiti were removed, within the target of 2 working days. In addition 603 incidents of fly tipping were removed from the Borough. The graffiti removal service continues to gain public recognition. The service received mainstream council funding at the start of the year to enable it to continue as a full time post and as part of the core public service. Looking at month on month data, removals are running at about 100 less this year than last indicating that the consistent policy of speedy removal is paying off.

### **3. PLANS FOR 2007/08**

- 3.1 In order to address this rising crime the Partnership has adopted a new Action Plan for the year 2007-08 (Appendix A) which is now being delivered. To complement these projects, which are in the main

medium to long term works, there has been a countywide review of the Joint Action Group's (JAG) work and Elmbridge has also conducted a review locally to ensure effectiveness.

- 3.2 The JAG meets monthly and focuses on current trends and hot spot locations. The Police have reshaped their analytical teams and Elmbridge now has its own analysts focused on producing quality reports upon which sound operational decisions can be based.
- 3.3 The Partnership also runs a series of Community Safety Surgeries to address general community safety issues as well as areas with specific issues such as vehicle crime. Roadshows also take place throughout the year at various locations across the Borough in conjunction with our Partners, undertaking mobile phone marking, giving away promotional items and advising on general community safety concerns. For those unable to attend the Community Safety Centre in Walton, we have arranged for local PCSO's and Fire Officers to attend the 7 day centres across the Borough.
- 3.4 Other measures to tackle anti social behaviour are also being employed – we have three S13 (Designated Public Place Order) areas in place at the moment including Walton, Weybridge and Hersham. We also have a S30 (Dispersal Order) in place at Walton.
- 3.5 In order to tackle increasing issues of anti-social behaviour across the Borough a working group has been set up with representation from a variety of partnership agencies in order to address specifically anti social behaviour caused by young people and determine suitable diversionary activities. As well as this, a countywide ASB Forum has recently been instigated to share best practice..
- 3.6 The Youth Engagement Scheme run by SFRS and the Youth Offending Team on behalf of the Partnership, which also operates the Prevent and Deter stream, will now provide a comprehensive range of interventions with young offenders and those identified as being vulnerable to entering the criminal justice system. These will now include early intervention when individuals first come to notice with the authorities, working with young people and their families to prevent escalation into more serious offending behaviours and consequential rises in crime.
- 3.7 These measures along with the medium term projects managed through the action plan will help to reduce crime and disorder in the Borough and maintain a low fear of crime.

#### **4. 2008 ONWARDS**

- 4.1 The other challenge for the Partnership in the coming year relates to the new legislative requirements for CDRPs. These will include the

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preparation and writing of the strategic assessment, feeding in to the new Community Plan of the Local Strategic Partnership, and writing the new three year Partnership Plan for a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

- 4.2 The Partnership will need to undertake a self-assessment in relation to the National Standards for CDRPs.
- 4.3 The revision of the Surrey Local Area Agreement will also impact on the plans of the Partnership as it develops its strategy and staffing requirements from 2008. As part of the North Surrey Police Division a piece of work examining joint funded posts has begun as well as the commencement of a resource audit as recommended in the neighbourhood policing guidance.

## **5. FUNDING AND RESOURCES**

- 5.1 Funding for the work of the Partnership is received from Central Government via the Local Area Agreement. The Borough Council, Police and County Council also pool resources to fund staff and projects. The Board agreed the budget plan for 2007-08 and this is attached to the report (Appendix B).

Surrey County Council makes available to each of the 11 district-level Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in Surrey the sum of £24,000 per annum, of which £12,000 is ring-fenced for measures to address domestic abuse. This coupled with the Police contributions jointly funds the North Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, which is run on behalf of the Partnership by Walton, Weybridge and Hersham Citizens Advice Bureau.

- 5.2 The Outreach Service provides 71 hours service a week and in the last financial year dealt with 602 clients across the Division (234 from Elmbridge). In addition to the main outreach service, new areas of work have included the Sanctuary Scheme, training for staff in the Freedom programme, and the development of a new impactful DVD aimed at the public, which has been very well received.
- 5.3 As set out in the Scheme of Delegation for Local Committees, the Local Committee has a devolved responsibility for the £24k budget, but it needs to be spent in accordance with the local community safety strategy and in agreement with other partners. An essential ingredient of the local crime and disorder/community safety arrangements is the ability of statutory partners to be able to agree in partnership the deployment of pooled funds in pursuance of local priorities, in this case, those contained in the Elmbridge Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008.

In addition to this the Local Committee also regularly contributes to community safety initiatives through Members' Allocations.

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In 2006/07 the Local Committee approved funding towards, for example, a rapid deployment covert camera for surveillance, CCTV coverage in the borough and the Elmbridge Junior Citizen Scheme. The Local Committee has continued to support community safety Projects in 2007/08 including the 'Drive Out Vehicle Crime' campaign.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership is a major partnership initiative and significant progress has already been made in delivering the objectives of the Elmbridge Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	<b>Action Plan for 2007-08 (Appendix A)</b> <b>Budget Plan for 2007-08 (Appendix B)</b>