



Annual report on the Safer Guildford Partnership

Surrey County Council Local Committee (Guildford)

23 June 2010

Key issue

To provide an update on the activity and impact of the Safer Guildford Partnership.

Summary

The report describes the progress of the Partnership during the year, sets out and comments on its achievements and outlines future priorities. It details how the resources allocated to it in 2009/10 have been spent. The report asks the Committee to decide which Member should represent it on the Safer Guildford Partnership Executive.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) note the contents of the report and the activities of the Partnership in the year 2009-2010.
- b) offer comments on the work of the Partnership and on priorities for the future.
- c) decide which Member should represent the Committee on the Safer Guildford Partnership Executive.

Background

1. The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) established the principle that community safety should not just be the duty of the Police, but that local authorities and other agencies operating locally should share the responsibility. The Act established Community Safety Partnerships (originally called Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) to reduce crime and disorder. This

includes anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, as well as the misuse of drugs in their area.

2. The Safer Guildford Partnership brings together, as required, the County and Borough Councils, Surrey Police, Surrey Police Authority, Surrey Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). As of the 1st of April, Surrey Probation has been added to the list of responsible authorities, although the exact nature of its representation remains to be confirmed.
3. The responsible authorities are required to work in co-operation with a range of other partners, including parish councils, NHS Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts, independent schools, the further education sector and Drug Action Teams.
4. The Surrey County Council representatives on the Safer Guildford Partnership Executive are the Area Director for South West Surrey, the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Group Manager for the West Area and Fiona White is the current representative of the Local Committee. The Committee needs to determine who will represent it during 2010/11.
5. The Partnership is one of five delivery groups for the Local Strategic Partnership. It is responsible for delivering two key objectives of the Guildford Borough Community Strategy:
 - Low levels of crime will have been maintained and the perception of crime improved.
 - More people will feel part of their communities, believe that they can influence local decisions and participate in positive activities, such as volunteering, sports and the arts.
6. The work of the Safer Guildford Partnership directly supports the community safety priorities of Surrey County Council and also the Safer & Stronger Communities targets of the Local Area Assessment.

Review and analysis

7. The Safer Guildford Partnership adopted a three-year action plan in October 2008 that contained six objectives. Progress against each of these is set out below.

Making your neighbourhood safer

8. Partnership activity and preventative interventions have effectively supported the enforcement activity of Surrey Police and the Partnership has well-developed officer-level structures for achieving this:
9. The Joint Action Group (JAG) meets monthly to identify opportunities where coordinated action by partners' services will achieve a reduction in crime and/or an improvement in an area. A location can range from a village or estate to an individual street or block of flats. The JAG is a forum for joint problem solving and that addresses a wide range of issues.

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10. In general, the Partnership seeks to use intelligence to anticipate emerging trends and reduce their impact. The group monitors monthly crime figures and trends, keeping an overview of emerging patterns of crime. For the period April 2009 – March 2010 (see table below), these have been below the previous year's figures overall, although showing increases in domestic burglary, violence against the person, sexual offences and fraud and forgery.

Type of crime	Number of crimes: April 2008 – March 2009	Number of crimes: April 2009 – March 2010	Change in number of crimes	% change in number of crimes
Criminal Damage	1,874	1,660	-214	-11.4%
Drug Offences	311	286	-25	-8%
Domestic Burglary	384	438	54	14.1%
Non-domestic burglary	727	669	26	-8%
Theft & Handling Stolen Goods	2,189	2,121	445	-3.1%
Fraud & Forgery	298	389	101	30.5%
Most serious Violence Against the Person	16	20	4	25%
Violence Against the Person	1,678	1,759	81	4.8%
Robbery	50	42	-8	-16%
Sexual Offences	114	125	11	9.6%
Vehicle Crime (not inc. interference)	750	715	-35	-4.7%
Vehicle Interference and tampering	108	83	-25	-23.1%
Other criminal offences	127	163	36	28.3%

11. Domestic burglary is a current priority. To address this Operation Teal 2 was run from 1 October 2009 to 31 January 2010. The objective of the operation was increased enforcement against burglary dwelling offences to bring more offenders to justice or disrupt their activity. It focused on four hotspots: the University and Guildford Park, Stoke/Guildford Residential/Town Centre, Ash and Stoughton and Woodbridge Hill. Measures included: increased presence of overt patrols, the investigation of offences by a CID officer, attendance of a Scene Of Crime Officer (SOCO), Crime Prevention Advice and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) deployment.

12. During the operation the number of burglaries did continue to increase. However the impact of operation was to reduce the rate of increase in burglary dwelling offences normally observed over the Christmas period. A further review of the operation will be completed to assess its long-term impact.
13. The **Community Incident Action Group (CIAG)** continues to focus on interventions to reduce the impact of individuals (both juveniles and adults) whose behaviour has a disproportionate impact on the wellbeing of their community. Early identification assists the co-ordination of actions by partner agencies to support these individuals. This can range from practical or financial assistance to diversionary activities or incentives, which can run alongside the legal processes to deter further criminal or anti-social behaviour.
14. From the County Council, the Children, Schools and Families, Youth Development and Youth Justice Services contribute to the effectiveness of this group. The Group is able to call on the work of specialist interventions, e.g. on parenting and substance misuse, and to employ methods such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to encourage changes in behaviour. It has been successful in substantially reducing both the number of individuals requiring intensive intervention and the impact of their activities.
15. The Partnership focuses on prolific and priority offenders, because the majority of offences are committed by a small minority of individuals. Targeting these individuals makes a significant contribution to minimising crime figures.

Making the town centre safer

16. The town centre has seen a significant reduction in alcohol related violence, as shown by the table below. Comparing 2009/10 with the previous year, alcohol related violence was reduced by 12.5%. The Street Angels scheme continues to be an effective resource. They are coordinated by the Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy and offer calming pastoral support to people who might become vulnerable late at night. The Police have appreciated the burden that this has lifted from themselves and that the scheme has contributed to a reduction in violent crime and making the town centre feel safer.
17. Other measures that have been deployed include:
 - Licensing partnership work in enforcement and prevention of breaches, including work with Trading Standards on test purchase initiatives.
 - Dedicated neighbourhood Policing team to the town centre.
 - Town Centre Violence patrols at key times.
 - Joint working with Guildsafe to reassure traders and shopkeepers including the use of a town centre radio.
 - Use of ASBO's for those causing regular problems in town banning them from town centre.
 - Taxi Marshals employed at peak public holiday times to enhance safety of drivers and the public.

- Crime prevention campaigns, for example at Christmas the main messages were about safe transport home, responsible drinking, keeping valuables hidden in cars and avoiding theft from handbags.

Guildford Town Centre Alcohol Related Violence For Year To Date: April 2009 to February 2010

FYtD

	2008/09	2009/10	Change	% change
Apr	29	21	-8	-27.6%
May	60	35	-25	-41.7%
Jun	86	64	-22	-25.6%
Jul	108	102	-6	-5.6%
Aug	141	139	-2	-1.4%
Sep	185	164	-21	-11.4%
Oct	229	187	-42	-18.3%
Nov	259	233	-26	-10.0%
Dec	287	256	-31	-10.8%
Jan	311	272	-39	-12.5%
Feb	328	298	-30	-9.1%

Reducing serious crimes of concern such as violent crime and car crime

18. The partnerships key tool for addressing serious crimes is the Joint Action Group. Key measures that have been deployed include:

- Use of Police specialist resources such as surveillance and local crime teams to target those committing dwelling burglary and vehicle crime.
- Use of automatic number plate readers to target the vehicles used by offenders.
- "Safe plates" initiative drawing attention to and distributing tamper-proof screws for number plates.
- Use of CID specialist investigators for linked crime series to work with Scenes of Crimes Officers.
- Crime Prevention specialist advice to neighbourhoods and locations suffering from repeat crime.
- Targeted local Policing patrols based on current intelligence about crime patterns.

Making transport safer by reducing traffic speeds and casualties

19. The Casualty Reduction Group focuses on addressing road safety. As reported at the March 2010 Local Committee meeting, the Drive SMART multi-agency initiative to target anti-social driving has been a substantial investment in tackling a key concern of residents. Across Surrey the County Council has invested one million pounds. A Roadside Education and Enforcement Day (REED) was held in Guildford as part of the launch of the countywide initiative.

20. Other measures that have been deployed include:

- Casualty Reduction Officer employed to work on each Borough, working with partner agencies to reduce vehicle speeds in priority areas, and advising local communities.

- Supporting local Community Speedwatch schemes.
- Holding 'School Speedwatch' days to encourage safer driving around schools. The Partnership has funded the purchase of Genesis speedguns for this purpose.
- This year the Partnership has upgraded our Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) so that they are solar powered. This increases the amount of time that they are working and reducing need for battery changes.
- Specific operations have been run to target those committing all types of vehicle crime, including speed, tax, insurance and fuel offences.

Reducing Drug and alcohol related crime and disorder by tackling persistent offenders.

21. The Drugs and Alcohol Group focuses on dealing with these issues by:

- Working with those with addiction problems along with those causing anti-social behaviour or crime as a result
- Educating the community, particularly young people and their parents, about the dangers of drugs and of alcohol abuse.
- Moving the "Big Drink Debate" forward by delivering the Surrey Alcohol Strategy.

22. Key measures that have been deployed include:

- Use of CIAG to use expertise from all agencies to target prolific offenders and reduce offending.
- Specialist Police Unit in place to deal with Persistent Young Offenders and the Deter Young Offenders scheme.
- Specific operations to target Class A drug suppliers.
- Targeting licensed premises where offenders have obtained alcohol before committing crimes.

Keeping people safer by supporting victims of domestic abuse and hate crime.

23. The Chapter One Housing Association provides the South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach service, which covers Guildford and Waverley. Between October and December 2009 the number of new contacts increased by 12.5%, compared to the same period the previous year. This is largely because the Police now refer all victims of abuse to the service regardless of consent if they believe them to be a very high or high risk. The recession is also likely to have had an impact on the number of new contacts.

24. The results of the outreach service user survey indicate that the service is both valued and effective. Across Surrey, 97% of respondents said they would recommend the service to somebody else, whilst 3% did not answer the question. 85% of respondents said the service was very good, with a further 7% stating that it was good. This result is slightly down on last year (92%), but higher than the result from 2007 when 82% reported the service was very good.

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25. When asked on a scale from 1 to 10 (1 = bad, 10 = good) to rate the way they were feeling before contacting outreach, the average score was 2.93. When asked to rate, on the same scale, how they were feeling since having contacted outreach, the average score was 7, a marked increase in respondents feeling of wellbeing.

26. Other measures that have been deployed include:

- Specialist Police Domestic Abuse Unit based at Guildford Police station prosecuting offenders and giving victim support in partnership with other agencies
- Dedicated Hate Crime Officer to identify best practice in dealing with both victims and offenders.
- Use of most appropriate legislation for Hate crime to ensure most serious penalties are available
- Supported Domestic Abuse awareness week; including through radio interviews, articles in school newsletters and posters displayed by borough and parish councils.

Consultations

27. The Partnership consults widely with residents, young people and businesses to ensure that needs and issues are understood, prioritised and then acted upon through the updated Strategic Assessment. Neighbourhood Panels, for which Members play an important community leadership role, and the recent Place Survey all provide important data and feedback to inform what the Partnership does.

28. The nominated SCC Member who represents the Committee by sitting on the Safer Guildford Executive is a further route by which the views of the public and other Members are advocated to the Partnership.

Implications (Financial, Equalities, Community Safety, Environmental)

29. The County Council's contribution of £14,500 in 2010/11 for use in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnerships is formally delegated by the Cabinet to the Local Committee. £12,000 is ring-fenced for outreach with those affected by domestic abuse. This contribution enables the County Council to share in the allocation of some £290,000 for the work of the Safer Guildford Partnership, and to continue its support for the work of the Domestic Abuse Outreach service.

30. The use of the Partnership's budgets in 2009-2010 is summarised at Annex 1. The Committee is also reminded that members of the Local Partnerships Team provide significant support to the management, co-ordination and delivery of the Partnerships objectives.

31. There are very real financial challenges anticipated for the Safer Guildford Partnership. These will be known over the next few weeks and an update will be provided to Members at that point.

32. This report is exclusively concerned with community safety work and is specific evidence of how SCC responds to the “mainstreaming” requirements of the Act.
33. The Safer Guildford Partnership gives specific attention to the needs of residents who are vulnerable or are likely to be disadvantaged for whatever reason.

Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

34. Members are invited to comment on the achievements of the Safer Guildford Partnership against its Partnership Plan 2008-11. There are no significant areas where progress towards these targets is not being made, but as before the Partnership will need to be alert to shifts in crime patterns whilst attempting to support preventative activities.
35. The Committee are required to decide on delegating the £14.5k allocation from Surrey County Council’s Cabinet to support the work of the Safer Guildford partnership and to nominate a Surrey County Council Member to be its representative on the Safer Guildford Executive.

What happens next

36. The Area Director and the nominated representative of the Local Committee will report the views of the Committee to the next meeting of the Safer Guildford Executive on 14th July 2010.

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Annex 1: Safer Guildford Partnership budget 2009/10**Safer Guildford Partnership Budget 2009/10****Partnership Contributions 2009/10:**

Carry Forward 08/09 SGP	£2,629
Guildford Borough Council	£30,510
Surrey PCT	£5,910
Surrey Police Authority	£9,800
Surrey County Council	£14,500

Area Based Grant:

SSCF Revenue	£99,248
SSCF Capital	£39,033
ASB Fund	£25,000
BCU	£56,875

Total	£283,505
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Actual Spend 2009/10 at Q4	Budget	Spent	Balance
Agreed commitments:			
DA Outreach Service	£38,172	£38,172	£0
DA Outreach Contribution	£2,200	£2,200	£0
Projects:			
Safer Guildford Communications Officer	£25,960	£25,960	£0
Parenting Support Worker Contribution	£17,500	£17,500	£0
SGP Rural CSW (7mths)	£22,118	£22,118	£0
W Surrey ASB / PPO Contribution	£16,000	£16,000	£0
ASB Interventions	£9,000	£6,200	£2,801
SADAS CIAG Assertive Outreach Worker	£30,389	£30,389	£0
Guildsafe	£5,000	£5,000	£0
Operational Budget	£7,000	£7,000	£0
Safer Neighbourhoods Projects	£10,500	£10,500	£0
Community Speedwatch	£2,000	£2,000	£0
Youth Interventions Projects	£6,000	£6,000	£0
Neighbourhood Support Days	£8,000	£8,000	£0
Community Safety Team Fund	£8,675	£8,675	£0
Meeting & Office Administration	£3,000	£3,137	-£137
Communications / Press & Promotion	£7,360	£6,935	£425
Junior Citizen	£3,217	£3,217	£0
Strategic Assessment	£2,550	£2,550	£0
Delegated Authority to Action Groups:			
Office Admin Contribution	£2,500	£2,500	£0
Casualty Reduction	£7,000	£5,110	£1,890
CIAG Intervention Fund	£10,000	£10,000	£0
JAG Intervention Fund	£10,000	£5,059	£4,941
Young People Group	£9,000	£8,410	£590
Drugs & Alcohol Group	£9,000	£8,816	£184
DA Steering Group	£2,500	£2,377	£123
CCTV contribution (held over)	£8,864	£8,864	£0
Total	£283,505	£272,688	£10,817

