

Organisation:

Surrey Primary Care Trust

Attendees on 24th September (name and role)

Livia Royle, Associate Director of Public Health

What role does your organisation play in improving community safety?

Surrey Primary Care Trust (PCT) is responsible for supporting, maintaining and improving the health of the population of Surrey. It does this by commissioning health care from health care providers including hospitals and ensuring that general practitioners, dentists, opticians and pharmacists who are independent contractors, provide high quality services for their patients and customers. The PCT also employs community public health nurses, including health visitors and school nurses and therapists.

Surrey PCT contributes to community safety in the following ways:

- The Public Health Nurses and the Vulnerable Children's Team in South East Surrey locality work closely with other PCT staff and partner agencies to identify children at risk of harm or neglect and provide early integrated enhanced care. This includes early intervention for postnatal depression which can affect the relationship between mothers and babies and have long term consequences for children's mental health and behaviour. The Public Health Nurses also provide advice and support on accident prevention to all families appropriate for children's ages.
- The Public Health Nurses provide parenting groups through Family Links and the Nurturing Programme and other programmes to promote emotional literacy, nurturing and relationship skills in families and communities. Children who are part of calm, supportive families and feel they belong to their communities are less likely to threaten community safety.
- Contributes to running support groups for young parents where nurturing and other skills are promoted to help these vulnerable young parents provide safe, stable family lives for their children so that they will be less likely to threaten community safety in future. However, the groups' long term future is uncertain (see below).
- Commissions the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). CAMHS community nurses work alongside school nurses to assess children with mental health problems and their families. They work directly with some children to prevent and manage behaviour problems and refer others to other CAMHS specialists.
- Supports the Surrey Healthy Schools programme which promotes anti-bullying policies and practice in schools

- Commissions the 'Respond' integrated substance misuse service for people who misuse alcohol and drugs
- Hosts a Drug & Alcohol Action Team funded Health Promotion Specialist post
- Funds the Community pharmacy needle exchange service which ensures drug users have a supply of clean injecting equipment, reduces drug litter and prevents spread of blood-borne
- Employs an outreach team, funded by the Drug & Alcohol Action Team, to engage with 'hard to reach' drug users and encourage them to access services
- Training housing and street cleansing and primary care staff, and trainee police officers on recognising drug use, its effects and how to refer users to services
- Organising the 'Big Drink Debate' consultation as a preliminary to preparing a Surrey alcohol strategy
- Provides training for police probationers on dealing with incidents caused by people with mental health problems.

What successes have been achieved in 2007/08 by your organisation, either individually or in partnership with other organisations?

- Continued development of common assessment framework with partner agencies to ensure early intervention for children at risk
- Positive evaluations for Family Links and the Nurturing Programme from parents
- Positive evaluations of young parents' groups by participants
- Timely referral of homeless and vulnerable people to mental health services
- Early identification and treatment of children and young people with behaviour problems
- Respond has worked with about 200 drug users on replacement therapy, mitigating their need to offend to fund for illicit drug use, and about 400 alcohol clients, protecting the community from alcohol-associated risks.
- In partnership with Four S, have recruited 91% of state schools in Mole Valley to the National Healthy Schools Programme. 53% of these schools have achieved NHSS (Health promoting schools status).
 - Primary- 26 schools- 25 participating and 15 achieved.
 - Secondary 4 schools- 3 participating and 1 achieved
 - Special schools 3 schools – 2 participating and 1 achieved

Have there been any barriers to improving Community Safety in Mole Valley?

How can the Local Committee Members assist in overcoming these?

- Reorganisation within the PCT has continued to affect continuity in some services and generated uncertainty about funding and staffing

- Uncertainty regarding continuation of staffing of young parents' groups as two experienced Youth Development Service staff have left recently.
- Surrey County Council no longer funds the Family Links programme in schools.
- The contracts of two Connexions special advisers for sex and relationships have been terminated, removing a source of support and advice for vulnerable young people, especially those not in education, employment or training (NEETs) who are at risk of becoming offenders.

What are your organisations aspirations for improving community safety over the next 2 years?

- Continue to develop and provide evidence-based interventions to promote positive mental health for children and young people through schools and families
- Continue to develop and support services for vulnerable children and families in partnership with other voluntary and statutory agencies
- Continue to develop and support Drop In services for young people in partnership with other agencies
- Sustain the National Healthy Schools programme in Surrey
- Continue to fund pharmacy needle exchange service and commission substance misuse services including training for front line staff
- Develop and implement a strategy for reducing the harm caused by alcohol misuse in Surrey
- Ensure police probationers continue to receive training in dealing with people with mental health problems

The Local Committee can help by supporting Family Links in Surrey, now a registered charity providing specialist training for health visitors and parents to run effective parenting groups to improve families' emotional health.