



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

6th JUNE 2008

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 meeting to answer questions.

SUMMARY

The county of Surrey has the lowest recorded crime figures in England, and Runnymede has a very low incidence of crime, including the lowest figure for violent crime in the county at present.

The Safer Runnymede partnership has achieved targets set in its 2005-8 Strategy, and has agreed a range of actions to deliver the objectives in its 2008-9 Partnership Plan.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (i) **note the progress made in promoting community safety in Runnymede, and latest crime data;**
- (ii) **delegate responsibility for expenditure of the County Council's local crime & disorder funding in Runnymede to the Area Director;**
- (iii) **endorse the importance of the contribution of all services towards community safety ;**
- (iv) **comment on the report and the information presented.**

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The Safer Runnymede partnership is comprised of representatives from six agencies: Surrey Police, Surrey County Council, Runnymede Borough Council, the Primary Care Trust, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service and the Police Authority. Under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, 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 All services contribute to the crime and disorder agenda, in line with Section 17 of the 1998 Act, which requires local authorities to mainstream crime and disorder prevention by ensuring that all services have regard to the community safety implications of their activities.

1.3 The 2005-8 Community Safety Strategy concluded in April 2008.

1.4 The partners undertook a strategic assessment of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the borough in the autumn of 2007, in preparation for a new rolling annual strategy and Partnership Plan from April 2008 (**Annex 4**)

1.5 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 monitoring “prolific and persistent offenders” and assessing risk in cases of serious violence.

2 ANALYSIS

2.1 Surrey remains the safest county in England according to reported crime data, and the area of Runnymede has seen a significant fall of 13.4% in total reported crimes since last year (see **Annex 1**).

2.2 The significant reduction in thefts of and from motor vehicles has been sustained, and most other crime categories have also seen a reduction in the past year.

2.3 In the case of domestic abuse, there has been an increase in reported offences, which is in line with the target in the 2005-8 Strategy to increase reporting of this hidden crime so that appropriate help and support may be offered to all who experience it, through the outreach service provided by Surrey Women’s Aid.

- 2.4 **Annex 1** shows recorded crime figures for the year to end of March 2008, including the percentage change in recorded offences for each category as compared with the year 2006-7.
- 2.5 The Surrey Police website, www.surrey.police.uk, provides comprehensive data at borough and ward level on the latest crime figures and the data is refreshed regularly. The 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**.

The 2005-8 Strategy

- 2.6 The CDRP has achieved most of the targets set in the 2005-8 Strategy for completion by April 2008. The provisional data (subject to final audit) for the three-year period 2005-8 indicates that in Runnymede the target set for the period – to reduce crime overall by 11% – has been exceeded, as the last year indicates a 21% reduction compared to the 2003/4 baseline (as shown in **Annex 6** which includes the Divisional context).
- 2.6 Violent crime offences have dropped by 6% in 2007-8 (compared to the target of a 4% fall), although the total number of crimes reported in 2007-8 is higher than the original target.
The target for vehicle crime was to reduce the total offences in the Borough from 975 to 861 by 2007-8, and this has been exceeded by a significant margin, as only 648 were recorded last year. Similarly, the target for burglary dwelling crimes has been exceeded – a key Strategy target was to reduce the total such offences to 312 by 2007-8, and, as **Annex 1** shows, the final total was 267.
- 2.7 Reducing fear of crime amongst residents remains a challenge for the partnership. The 2007 Community Safety Survey found that whereas fear of crime amongst men remained stable at 22% of the local population sample, female residents had become more anxious about the issue (28%). This is a challenge for Surrey and the nation as a whole, as certain high profile crimes receive national media attention, which increases fear.
- 2.8 The Partnership has funded a number of projects over the period, including the Junior Citizen scheme (for junior school children), a community access point to help the public find information about local services, a neighbourhood intervention fund (administered by the JAG), the Arson Task Force, a communications project, drugs focus team, and anti-social behaviour case manager.

- 2.9 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 anti-social behaviour reporting forms which may be downloaded from: www.saferrunnymede.co.uk. This new partnership website gives easy access to information about the area, and links to the various partners' websites.
- 2.10 The Surrey Together three-year partnership initiative will conclude in September. This has brought together police, trading standards and youth officers to target particular hot-spots across the police division (North West) for intensive periods as required, and the team were tasked to New Haw for a time. Their work to engage young people on the streets and to make them aware of the impact of anti-social behaviour and more positive activities available to them will be continued through targeted outreach youth work in response to need.

Strategic assessment of needs and concerns

- 2.11 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 would be used to produce a Partnership Plan specifying objectives and actions.
- 2.12 In 2007 the Runnymede CDRP strategy group commissioned a data review of crime statistics and other information supplied by the six partners, plus a survey of residents to identify their concerns and priorities. These components have been used to complete the strategic assessment which informed the Partnership Plan (see **Annex 4**). A refresh of the strategic assessment and partnership plan will be undertaken for 2009 and annually thereafter.

Partnership Plan 2008-9

- 2.13 The CDRP strategy group used the results of the strategic assessment to draft a list of priorities for action. Building upon the success of the Partnership in achieving the aims of the 2005-8 strategy, the following themes have been identified for further attention by the Partnership:
- Alcohol and drug misuse
 - Violent crime
 - Behaviour detrimental to quality of life in the community
 - Road safety
 - Supporting under-18s as victims and offenders
 - Public reassurance and communication

- 2.14 Alcohol and substance misuse have been in the spotlight nationally, highlighting public concern about the role of alcohol in fuelling violent crime. The strategic assessment noted an increase in alcohol-related violence in summer 2007 compared to the previous year, and a worse than national and South East average for male and female under-18 alcohol specific hospital admissions. One response to this issue was the county-wide alcohol survey, being conducted until September through a dedicated website: www.surreybigdrinkdebate.nhs.uk. The results of this survey will contribute to the county-wide alcohol strategy to be drafted in autumn 2008.
- 2.15 The CDRP and the Local Committee funded a pilot project for outreach work on substance misuse with young people using local youth centres. The results of this work will be evaluated in summer 2008 to assess ongoing needs and the degree of engagement.
- 2.16 Road safety was another important area of public concern as highlighted by the Community Safety survey, under the category "loud/fast cars and motorcycles". The Local Committee was informed in February 2008 of the recent installation of mini vehicle activated signs which highlight the speed limit, at various locations in Runnymede, to supplement those at previously identified hotspots. The Surrey Road Safety Partnership Group continues to develop specific initiatives on young drivers, motorcycles and child safety.

Recent partnership developments

- 2.17 The new Runnymede Borough Council Civic Centre in Addlestone opened on May 13th 2008. The Neighbourhood Police team are co-located, and the centre incorporates a state-of-the-art control room for Safer Runnymede's 24-hour CCTV-monitoring operation. Equipped to very high standards, it has the capacity for use as a Silver Command base for civil contingency emergencies.
- 2.18 The new room includes all the functions of the old, which includes Careline and alarm answering, and it has been built to national standards for accreditation. It is equipped with the latest digital recording equipment, which improves the quality of recorded images and enables easier searching.
- 2.19 In early 2008 Surrey Police reorganised from four to three divisions across the County. Runnymede is within the North Surrey 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 Jerry Westerman and Operations Superintendent Charlie Doyle.

Safer and Stronger

- 2.20 Community safety now forms part of the “safer and stronger” strand of the countywide Local Area Agreement (LAA) with government. The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board was established in 2005-6 and works with community safety partners and the Government Office for the South East to achieve the outcomes outlined in the LAA. The Partnership Board will publish a countywide Safer and Stronger strategy later this year.

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 impracticable, 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. Details of forthcoming Panel meetings and who to contact are laid out in **Annex 3**.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Incidents of hate crime are monitored carefully and are relatively rare in the borough. In 2007-8 there were 56 reported incidents where there was considered to be a racial motivation, a decrease of 19% on the previous year. The CDRP funding contributes to a domestic abuse outreach service provided under contract by Surrey Women’s Aid. Support is provided to people, referred largely by the police, who have experienced various types of domestic abuse (see **Annex 5**).

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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LEAD CONTACT OFFICERS: Sylvia Carter, Local Committee & Partnerships officer, (01932 794081), David Dodd, Safer Runnymede (01932 838383), Neighbourhood Inspector Roger Nield (0845 125 2222)

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Annex 1:

RUNNYMEDE RECORDED CRIME, to end March 2008

OFFENCE	Reported crimes (2007-8)	%Change (on year 2006-7)	Change in numbers
Total Notifiable Crime	4503	-13.4	-695
Violent Crime	760	-6%	-47
Robbery	13	-46%	-13
Racially Motivated	56	-19%	-13
Domestic Violence	185	+16%	+25
Theft of MV	143	-36%	-79
Theft from MV	505	-40%	-339
Theft of & from MV	648	-39%	-418
Burglary Dwelling	267	-6%	-16
Burglary Non Dwelling	330	-18%	-72
Criminal Damage	979	0%	-1
Drugs	139	+32%	+34

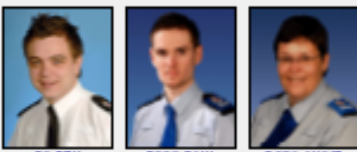
In the year April 2007 to March 2008, Runnymede has seen a significant decrease in total criminal offences of **-13.4%**, a continuing trend of falling crime in most categories (with the exception of domestic abuse, for which the target is to increase reporting of this often hidden crime). In the case of drugs offences, the increase in reported offences also reflects improved detection rates. The best results are the reductions in thefts of and from vehicles.

Data supplied by Neighbourhood Inspector Roger Nield, May 2008.

ENGLEFIELD GREEN



EGHAM TOWN

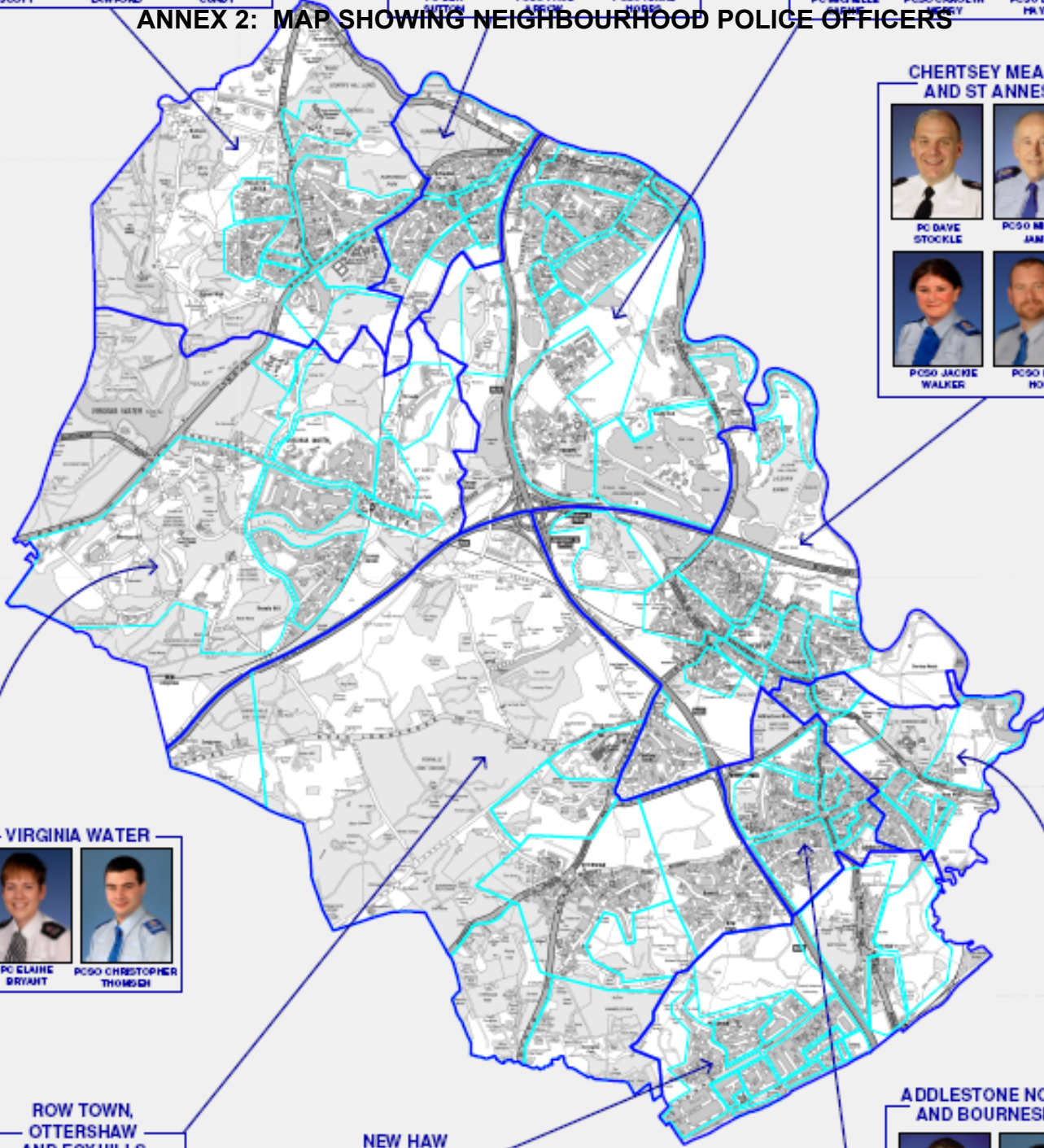


THORPE AND HYTHE



ANNEX 2: MAP SHOWING NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICERS

CHERTSEY MEADS AND ST ANNES



VIRGINIA WATER



ROW TOWN, OTTERSHAW AND FOXHILLS



NEW HAW AND WOODHAM



ADDESTONE TOWN



ADDESTONE NORTH AND BOURNESIDE



Ver: May 08

Only call 999 in a genuine emergency requiring police attendance. For all non-emergency policing matters please call 0845 125 2222. If you would prefer to give information anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

www.surrey.police.uk/runnymede

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ANNEX 3

Dates of Police Neighbourhood Panel meetings, Spring 2008

Area	Date and Time	Venue
Englefield Green	Surgeries on Tuesday 12.30pm and Friday 5.30-6.30pm	Police Office, Ashwood Road, Englefield Green
Egham Town	Tuesday 24/6/08 from 7-8pm	Literary Institute, High Street, Egham.
Thorpe and Hythe	Wednesday 25/6/08 at 7pm	The Hythe Centre, Thorpe Road
Virginia Water	Tuesday 1/7/08 at 7pm	Christ Church in Christchurch Road
Rowtown,/Ottershaw	Tuesday 8/7/08 at 7pm	Brook Hall, Brox Road Ottershaw
Lyne & Longcross	Thursday 10/7/08 at 6.30pm	Lyne Village Hall, Lyne Lane
Addlestone Town, North & Bourneside	Wednesday 18/6/08 at 6.30pm	Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road
New Haw & Woodham	Wednesday 2/7/08 at 7pm	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.

Neighbourhood police contact details

Englefield Green: PC Ian Scott; Scott695@surrey.pnn.police.uk
07967 988472

Egham Town: PC Ben Sutton, sutton3845@surrey.pnn.police.uk
07967 988484

Egham Hythe & Thorpe: PC Michelle Carnie,
Carnie2763@surrey.pnn.police.uk ; 07967 988478.

Virginia Water: PC Elaine Bryant; Bryan3095@surrey.pnn.police.uk
Lyne 07967 986985

Rowtown/Ottershaw: PC Anita Clark; Clark3731@surrey.pnn.police.uk
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Chertsey: PC Dave Stockle: Stockle2387@surrey.pnn.police.uk
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Addlestone Town & Bourneside: PC Steve Milford:
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New Haw & Woodham: PC Rabin Shrestha: 07967 988480.