



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)

COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

10th July 2008

KEY ISSUE

The report provides an annual update on the work of the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership. In addition it reviews the 05/08 Community Safety Strategy and identifies the plans for 08/11 and in particular for the coming year. Borough and police partners have also contributed to this report and will attend the meeting to answer questions.

SUMMARY

Surrey has the lowest recorded crime figures in England at 64 crimes per 1,000 population for the year 07/08. Surrey Heath is the third safest borough within the County with a rate of 55 crimes per 1,000 population in the same period.

For the last year (07/08) Surrey Heath saw a slight increase of 0.1% compared to 06/07 figures. However, over the period of the 2005-08 Community Safety Strategy the crime rate in Surrey Heath fell year on year compared to the 03 / 04 baseline. For the three year period the crime rate was down 9.1%, compared to the 03 / 04 baseline, against a three year target of 11%.

The Safer Surrey Heath Partnership works to reduce crime and the fear of crime and has carried out a strategic assessment and community survey from which it has agreed its aims for 2008-11.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to :

- (i) Note the progress made in community safety in Surrey Heath;
- (ii) Delegate responsibility for expenditure of the County Council's local community safety funding in Surrey Heath to the Area Director;
- (iii) Endorse the importance of the contribution of all services to community safety in Surrey Heath;
- (iv) Comment on any issues of concern arising from the report or information presented.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1 The Safer Surrey Heath Partnership comprises representatives of six agencies: Surrey Police, Surrey County Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council, Surrey Primary Care Trust, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and the Surrey Police Authority. The CDRP annual report can be viewed at: <http://www.safersurreyheath.info>. The report covers the work of the CDRP in the past year and projects that have been supported by the group.
- 2 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were created as statutory bodies under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. CDRPs were established to tackle crime and disorder by both auditing and monitoring local incidences of crime, and working together to devise and deliver strategies to deal with crime and the fear of crime. All services contribute to the crime and disorder agenda, in line with Section 17 of the 1998 Act, which requires local authorities to ensure all services have regard to the implications on community safety.
- 3 Guidance issued in 2007 reviewed the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and proposed that alongside 3 year strategies, partners undertook annual rolling partnership plans with specific objectives and actions.
- 4 The 2005 - 08 Strategy concluded in March 2008, and in preparation for the 2008-11 Plan, partners undertook a strategic assessment in autumn 2007 using surveys, and data collection and analysis on crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, the priorities of which are set out in paragraph 22. The full detail of the strategic assessment can be found at <http://www.safersurreyheath.info>.
- 5 In addition to the CDRP, partnership plan work is undertaken by two important multi-agency groups:
 - 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.
- 6 A number of other multi-agency meetings manage other aspects of crime in the division, including monitoring prolific and persistent offenders (PPOs) and MARACs (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) MARACs have three main objectives:
 - To gather detailed and relevant information from victims, which can be shared with other agencies.
 - To identify those who will need more intensive support.
 - To make agencies aware of the most dangerous offenders.
 Information gathered during these risk assessments is then shared among relevant agencies to promote the safety of abused women and their children.

ANALYSIS OF THE 2005 – 2008 STRATEGY

- 7 The provisional data (subject to final audit) for the three year period 2005-8 indicates that in Surrey Heath crime reduced over the three year period by 9.1%, compared to the 2003-04 baseline, against the target of 11%. Crime in Surrey Heath has stayed at a stable level in 07/08 with a rise of 0.1% from the previous year. (as shown in **Annex 1**, which includes the Divisional context)

- 8 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. Their work to engage young people on the streets and in the parks of Surrey Heath 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.

ANALYSIS 07/08

- 9 Surrey remains the safest county in England according to reported crime data. The below figures relate to end of year 07/08 FYTD data. This data is provisional and is subject to audit by the Home Office.
- 10 The CDRP annual report 06/07 can be accessed at www.safersurreyheath.info. This includes a review of activities and projects. The main projects funded by the CDRP in 07/08 can be found in **Annex 3**.
- 11 Theft from motor vehicles reduced by 4.3% (17 offences) and theft of motor vehicles reduced by 11% (16 offences). This is a positive position to be in although it remains a challenging area particularly around crime prevention due to the public leaving valuables in their vehicles and leaving their vehicle unlocked.
- 12 Violent crime reduced by 1.9% (21 offences). The most serious violence against the person crimes fell by 64.7% (11 offences). Stranger violence decreased by 7.8% (10 offences) and public place violence increased by 1.1% (9 offences)
- 13 Domestic Abuse showed a decrease of 13% (21 offences). Across all partnerships there has been a continued drive to increase the reporting of domestic violence. This supports the Surrey Domestic Abuse Public Service Agreement (PSA) that aims to increase the levels of reporting and 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. (see **Annex 2**)
- 14 Robbery – reduction of 66.3% (19 offences). There continues to be a significant reduction of Robberies in the Borough with numbers remaining small (11 in total).
- 15 Criminal damage – rose by 7% (70 offences). This follows a decrease of 5.5% last year. This has mainly been due to better communication between Police staff and the public, with more offences being reported enabling the Police to build up a better picture of what is happening locally.
- 16 Domestic burglaries – reduction of 22.1% (57 offences). Burglary non-dwelling - reduction of 13.9% 42 offences. This follows the trend as Surrey Heath has shown annual reductions in burglary non-dwelling year on year since 03 / 04.
- 17 Town Centre Policing – A number of initiatives have been piloted and implemented over the last year to improve the policing of the town centre. An additional PC has been allocated to the town centre, so there are now three dedicated Police Officers who cover the town centre on a rotational basis, giving consistency in the town.

Taxi Marshals have had a huge impact at taxi ranks, diffusing problems as people leave the High Street at the end of the night. The identification seizure

policy that was introduced as a trial five months ago to remove false ID's from the hands underage people has been an enormous success and the amount seized has reduced dramatically through the trial period.

There is a successful pubwatch with dedicated patrols with the local military barracks and a close working relationship with the local licensed premises and security firms for a trouble free night time environment.

The day time economy crime and disorder issues have been addressed by the town centre policing team, who working closely with The Mall in the theft initiative and charity shop watch, have had a number of successful prosecutions for theft. The team spend a considerable amount of time on high visibility foot patrol and work hard to tackle anti social behaviour in the street.

- 18 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. Neighbourhood pages include details of the local policing team and how to contact them, together with information about current priorities and concerns, and also include details of neighbourhood panel meetings
- 19 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.

Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan 2008 – 2011

- 20 In Surrey Heath the CDRP strategy group commissioned consultant Geoff Berry to undertake a data review of crime statistics and other information supplied by the 6 partners, plus a residents' survey to identify their concerns and priorities. These components were used to complete the strategic assessment that informed the key priorities listed below in paragraph 22.
- 21 Reducing fear of crime amongst residents remains a challenge for the partnership. The 2007 Community Safety Survey found that just over 19% of respondents stated that fear of crime affected their lifestyle in some way. This is a challenge for Surrey and the nation as a whole, as some high profile crimes attracting national media attention increase fear of crime.
- 22 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 2005-2008 Strategy, the following themes have been identified for further attention by the Partnership:
 - Traffic and road safety, with a focus on speeding and dangerous parking
 - Public place disorder
 - Domestic abuse
 - Environmental issues
 - Alcohol and substance misuse
 - Priority crime, e.g. vehicle crime and domestic burglary
- 23 Whilst alcohol misuse has been highlighted in the national spotlight in recent years in particular relation to its connection with violent crime and public disorder, in Surrey the greatest concerns around alcohol are the long term health implications of over-consumption and the connections between alcohol and domestic abuse. The results of the county-wide alcohol survey being conducted through a dedicated website www.surreybigdrinkdebate.nhs.uk will be reported in

autumn 2008. All Surrey residents are urged to complete this survey. The results of this survey will contribute to the county-wide alcohol strategy to be drafted in the autumn 2008.

- 24 Following a review of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, the government issued guidance in 2007 recommending authorities refresh their plans annually to ensure partners are informed by recent intelligence and evidence to help them prioritise their work. This refresh will ensure that the annual Partnership Plan has relevant and specific objectives and actions.

Partnership Developments

- 25 The Police continue to hold Neighbourhood Panel meetings to which local people are invited to come and discuss local issues with their NSO and PCSOs. Details of local officers are attached in **Annex 4**. Dates of future panel meetings and surgeries can be found at www.surrey.police.uk and clicking on safer neighbourhoods and the specific Neighbourhood you are interested in. Details of times and venues are also attached in **Annex 5**.
- 26 Community engagement activities have continued including a pilot of Tune-In meetings held in three of the police neighbourhoods. These have been held in Mytchett and Deepcut, Frimley and Frimley Green and Bagshot..
- 27 In early 2008 Surrey Police reorganised from four to three divisions across the County. Surrey Heath is within the West Surrey division, alongside Woking, Guildford and Waverley. Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Sue Warren heads the senior management team in the West division, and Helen Collins is newly appointed Divisional Neighbourhood Superintendent. In Inspector James Norbury's absence, John Davies has returned as Temporary Inspector.

Safer and Stronger

- 28 Community Safety now forms part of the "safer and stronger" strand of the countywide Local Area Agreement (LAA) with Government. The LAA 2008-11 sets goals and targets for partners throughout Surrey; the Safer and Stronger block of the LAA is attached in **Annex 6**. The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board (SSCPB) comprises all partners, and receives the Government funding for community safety, and determines its distribution across Surrey. It will publish a countywide Safer and Stronger strategy later this year.

OPTIONS

- 29 The Committee has two options: to delegate representation including finance decisions to the Area Director who will attend 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 amount of expenditure involved.

CONSULTATIONS

- 30 As stated in paragraph 25 Surrey Police conduct regular consultative meetings at local level with members of the public as part of the Neighbourhoods Agenda.
- 31 Women aged 16 and over in Surrey are being asked to take part in a partnership research project to unveil the 'true' picture of domestic abuse against women and young people in the county's affluent areas. The Making the Invisible Visible project is a domestic abuse research project funded by the European Union

DAPHNE II programme, which Surrey County Council is undertaking with its partners in Italy and Sweden.

- 32 According to the project leads, there is a growing awareness of problems in accurately identifying and understanding domestic abuse in affluent areas, as well as addressing the issue of under-reporting.

The aim of the project is to:

- Identify the prevalence of domestic abuse against women and children in affluent areas
- Explore the needs of women and children who are subjected to domestic abuse
- Make recommendations for the response of support agencies

- 33 Residents can visit the project website at www.daphneinvisibleproject.com to complete the online questionnaire. If you would prefer the questionnaire to be emailed to you, send your request to daphne@surreycc.gov.uk. The deadline for returning completed questionnaires is 18 July 2008. If you are worried about domestic abuse, call the Surrey Domestic Abuse helpline on 01483 776822 or the Surrey Police Switchboard on 0845 125 2222. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 34 Funding for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for 2008/9 may include:

Government Office South East	£ 74,981
Basic Command Unit*	£ 30,063
Surrey County Council **	£ 24,000
Surrey Police	£ 14,000
Surrey Heath Borough Council	£ 22,000
Surrey Primary Care Trust	£ 2,000

* Basic Command Unit funding is allocated to Surrey Police from the Home Office and is specifically to promote partnership working, and help deliver crime and disorder reduction locally.

** Surrey County Council has set aside £24,000 for Community Safety. This includes £12,000 for Domestic Abuse (DA) Outreach to be allocated to CDRPs if it provides DA Outreach Services.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 35 Steps are taken to ensure that the Neighbourhood Panel meetings are accessible for all and hard to reach groups are targeted. Surrey Police has a minicom number - 01483 53 99 99.

- 36 Incidents of hate crime are monitored carefully and are relatively rare in the borough. 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 2**).

CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 37 The Crime and Disorder implications are implicit in this report.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

38 Members are asked to agree to delegate responsibility for expenditure of the County Council's local crime and disorder funding in Surrey Heath to the Area Director.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

39 The above is recommended to facilitate timely decision making in response to fast moving trends in patterns of crime and disorder locally.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Safer Surrey Heath Partnership Crime and Disorder Partnership Plan 2008-11

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Annexes: 6