

Annex 3 Safer Surrey Heath Partnership projects in 07/08

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

CCTV

In April 2007, the Partnership agreed a bid from Surrey Police to install five new lamppost brackets for a mobile CCTV camera, bringing the total to 15. The use of mobile CCTV during the year has proved to be a successful tool in deterring anti-social behaviour and detecting crime. On one occasion in spring 2007, thanks to CCTV monitoring neighbourhood officers made four arrests in one evening for criminal damage to motor vehicles, with all four offenders subsequently charged with criminal damage. The success of the scheme led to an expansion of the scheme in April 2008, with funding agreed for a further six brackets and three more mobile cameras – bringing the total to 21 locations in the borough now CCTV ready.

Headcam trial

In March 2008, Surrey Police utilised JAG intervention funds to begin trialling the use of a police headcam in several targeted locations. The results of the trial are currently being evaluated with a view to rolling it out across the borough. Initial findings suggest the device is proving a useful deterrent to anti-social behaviour, and a reliable source of evidence in proving offences.

YOUTH PROJECTS

MUGA and teen shelter

The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) project, for which the Partnership allocated a sum of £150,000 to Surrey Heath Borough Council in 2006, was stalled in February 2008 after an amended proposal for the MUGA at Heatherside Recreation Ground was refused planning permission. The amended proposal followed two consultations with residents during 2007 undertaken by Surrey Heath Borough Council Parks & Countryside (with the majority of respondents in favour of the MUGA), and a youth consultation undertaken by Surrey County Council Youth Development Service and Surrey Connexions. After planning permission for the MUGA was refused, a petition signed by 400 young people was submitted to Surrey Heath Borough Council seeking a safe place for them to use. Discussions are ongoing between the Partnership, the relevant agencies and the young people of Surrey Heath as to the best way to utilise the funds to improve youth provision whilst meeting the requirements of the Partnership Plan.

A planning application for a teen shelter on Frimley Green Recreation Ground was withdrawn in the last quarter, when issues relating to byelaws and associated insurance arose.

SNAP club nights

The Partnership continued to provide marketing support for the SNAP (Say No And Phone) club nights at Camberley Theatre for young people aged 11 to 16. Attendance has risen from an average attendance of 300 in April 07 to an average of 500 in April 08.

Voices 07

In July 2007, Partnership funding allowed the Xpress Theatre Company to deliver a community safety schools outreach project for Years 6 and 7, as part of Camberley Theatre's Voices 07 Youth Arts Festival. Four schools were visited – Kings International College, Hammond Community Junior School, Ravenscote Junior School and Watchetts Junior School – and 300 pupils took part. Feedback from pupil and teacher questionnaires distributed after the events were overwhelmingly positive.

Camberley Youth Café

During the year, the Partnership contributed towards the running costs of the Camberley Youth Café for young people aged 11 to 17 on Friday evenings. Thanks to extra funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund that the young people obtained themselves, the café was able to stay open during the summer 07 school holidays. Average attendance has risen during the year thanks to the hard work of all those involved – Surrey County Council's Youth Development Service, Surrey Heath Borough Council community safety and development officers, the coffee shop staff and the young people themselves.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Sanctuary Scheme

A funding bid of £10,000 from the partnership was agreed to maintain availability of the Surrey Heath Sanctuary Scheme initiative to support victims of domestic abuse, and help them remain in their own home. In the year to April 08, there were 19 referrals to the scheme from Surrey Women's Aid.

Outreach worker

The Partnership continued its annual grant to fund an outreach worker for Surrey Heath to help victims of domestic abuse.

Surrey Domestic Abuse Awareness Week

The Partnership contributed funds towards the costs of pens to support Surrey Domestic Abuse Awareness Week in November 07, and supported the Week with PR and promotion.

PUBLIC PLACE DISORDER

Taxi Marshals

Between May and August 2007, the Partnership funded a trial of Taxi Marshals to work in Camberley town centre on Friday and Saturday nights. Due to its success, the Partnership agreed funding for a further year to September 2008. A police study undertaken during the initial pilot showed that crime and disorder in Camberley town centre on Friday and Saturday nights had declined by almost 30 per cent since the introduction of Taxi Marshals. In addition, 70 per cent of people, when questioned, said they felt safer with them on duty.

NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Neighbourhood Watch

During 07/08, the Partnership funded the production costs of the Neighbourhood Watch magazine, Heathwatch. It also paid for repairs to be made to Neighbourhood Watch's trailer and a new PA system. The Neighbourhood Watch team was able to take the trailer to various events around the borough and to support the community, and has since found corporate sponsorship for Heathwatch from local Camberley business, Churchills Property Services.

PCSOs

The Partnership continued to contribute towards the cost of employing Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in Surrey Heath. Surrey Heath now has 14 PCSOs.

Tune In initiative

Officers from the Partnership agencies worked together to pilot and deliver three Tune In Neighbourhood Improvement Workshops. The first was for residents in Mytchett and Deepcut (May 07), the second for Bagshot and Windlesham residents (November 07) and the third for Frimley and Frimley Green residents (March 08). More information about Tune In can be found at www.surreyheath.gov.uk/community/tunein

DOMESTIC BURGLARY

Anti-burglary signs

In April 2007, the Partnership agreed a Surrey Police bid to purchase six free-standing metal anti-burglary signs to be used on an ad hoc basis, in conjunction with increased police patrols and leaflet drops in targeted areas. According to Surrey Heath's Crime Reduction Advisor, the signs proved an effective deterrent in the areas they were used. During 2007/08, incidents of domestic burglary fell by 22.1 per cent.

PROPERTY THEFT

Anti-theft materials

In July 2007, the Partnership agreed a funding bid from Surrey Police to pay for 10,000 double-sided anti-theft window stickers for vehicles. The Partnership also contributed towards garden shed burglary signs, Operation Decode, to be used by Surrey Police. During 2007/08, vehicle crime, which includes theft from a car, fell by 6.1 per cent. Robbery from personal or business property fell by 63.3 per cent.

ARSON

Arson Task Force

A bid from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service/Surrey County Council resulted in £10,000 being agreed for the continuation of a joint project with Surrey Police to reduce arson incident levels and increase reporting. Since the introduction of the ATF in 2004, Surrey has seen a decrease in the number of deliberate fires from 2,151 in 2003/04 to 1,495 in 2006/07. During 2007/08 the number of deliberate fires (excluding vehicle fires) in Surrey Heath increased slightly by seven per cent, from 122 to 130. This figure remains low, and just below the four-year average (131). During the year, deliberate fires in vehicles decreased by 49 per cent, from 43 to 22. The activity of the ATF remains an important factor in maintaining this low level of deliberate fires, according to Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Drugs Focus Team

In 2006, the Partnership agreed a funding bid to be used during 2007 by the Surrey Police Drugs Focus Team to initiate a drugs-related project. During the past year, there were 12 people charged with the supply of Class A drugs and 208 drugs offences. There was a 65 per cent increase in drug detection over the year. According to Surrey Police, these figures are a reflection of increased activity by officers, and that drug-related crime is only recorded as a result of police searches.

Life Education Centres Life Bus

A grant of £10,000 towards the Life Education Centres (LEC) Life Bus initiative concluded a three-year funding bid up to April 08. The initiative targets primary schools and educates primary school age children about substance misuse and how to make healthy life choices. During 2007/08, LEC carried out 30.5 workshops in 10 schools in Surrey Heath. Some 2,700 pupils attended and four new schools were introduced to the initiative.

CASUALTY REDUCTION

The Partner agencies have continued to implement initiatives to improve driver behaviour and reduce the number of those people killed or seriously injured on the roads. These included regular enforcement days by Surrey Police, the installation of Vehicle Activated Signs by Surrey County Council, and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's Safe Drive, Stay Alive campaign targeting young people. The Community Speed Watch scheme continued to contribute to road safety awareness.