



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WAVERLEY)**

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SAFER WAVERLEY
PARTNERSHIP**

17 JUNE 2011

KEY ISSUE

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

SUMMARY

The report describes the recent progress of the Partnership during the year, sets out and comments on achievements and outlines future priorities.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (i) Note the contents of the report and the activities of the Partnership in the year 2010-11.
- (ii) Offer comments on the work of the Partnership and on priorities for the future.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Committee will be aware that the existing arrangements for tackling crime and disorder and promoting community safety on a local basis date back to the Crime and Disorder Act of 1998. The Act established the principle that this activity should not be solely the preserve of the

Police, but that local authorities and other statutory agencies operating locally should share the responsibility.

- 1.2 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Waverley –the Safer Waverley Partnership (SWP) – brings together, as required, the County and Borough Councils, Surrey Police, Surrey Police Authority, Surrey Primary Care Trust (PCT), the Surrey Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Surrey Probation Area and, in its own right, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). Following suspension of the former Waverley Strategic Partnership in mid-2010, the statutory CSP functions in Waverley once again rest exclusively with the SWP. Formal voting on budgetary responsibility lies with the specified officers representing each of the statutory partners. In this respect the County Council is represented by David North (Community Partnership and Committee Officer) in conjunction with the Community Partnership Team Leader for West Surrey. SFRS is represented by Alan Clark the relevant Area Manager.
- 1.3 The work of the SWP directly supports the community safety priorities of Surrey County Council and those of the Surrey Strategic Partnership's Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board. The Partnership is required to undertake an annual Strategic Assessment and the document for 2010-11 is available on-line at:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley

- 1.4 The Community Partnership Team continues to lead for the County Council in co-ordinating the work of the SWP, contributing to the strategic management of the Partnership and ensuring that relevant services are involved.
- 1.5 Members will be aware that the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, containing proposals for the replacement of Police Authorities with directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners, continues its passage through Parliament. It is envisaged that the provisions of this legislation, if enacted, would have an impact on the funding and accountability of CSPs.

2 REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

- 2.1 The Safer Waverley Partnership adopted an action plan in April 2010 which contained five objectives. Progress against each of these is set out below.

Reducing crime

- 2.2 The following statistics relating to key crime types have been provided by Surrey Police and compare the data for the year April 2010 – March 2011 with the preceding year.

Crime Type	Apr.2009- Mar.2010	Apr.2010- Mar.2011	Change	% Change
Criminal damage	998	1074	76	7.6%
Domestic burglary	301	333	32	10.6%
Drug offences	108	144	36	33.3%
Fraud and forgery	196	225	29	14.8%
Non-domestic burglary	615	510	-105	-17.1%
Other criminal offences	63	83	20	31.7%
Other sexual offences	16	16	0	0%
Robbery	35	18	-17	-48.6%
Serious sexual offences	56	54	-2	-3.6%
Theft (other than vehicle) and handling stolen goods	1236	1280	44	3.6%
Vehicle crime (excluding interference)	492	506	14	2.8%
Vehicle interference and tampering	87	56	-31	-35.6%
Violence with injury	333	305	-28	-8.4%
Violence without injury	581	551	-30	-5.2%

Changes in a number of low-incidence crime types can result in large fluctuations when presented as percentages. Domestic burglary remains a priority for attention and intensified Police activity has contributed to a very recent reduction. The decrease in non-domestic burglary is particularly welcome given the recent prevalence of this crime type and the consequent preventative publicity undertaken by the Partnership.

2.3 Joint activity and preventative interventions have supported the enforcement activity of Surrey Police and the Partnership has well-developed officer-level structures for achieving this:

- 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 well-being of their community or whose vulnerability is causing concern. From the County Council, the Children, Schools and Families, Youth Development and Youth Justice Services have, along with school representatives and mental health specialists, continued to contribute to the effectiveness of this. Although the business of the CIAG has to be confidential, the opportunity for all relevant partners to come together to ensure that interventions are cohesive has been instrumental in supporting many younger people in particular in moving away from anti-social behaviour. It remains important, however, to ensure that all organisations continue to support CIAG objectives and share an understanding of referral criteria and thresholds for action.

- The Joint Action Group (JAG) focuses on significant crime patterns, locations which are causing concern, patterns of anti-social behaviour in a particular location and concerns related to licensed premises. The Group's activities are informed by intelligence and current data and seek to involve relevant partners in achieving successful outcomes. For the County Council, Trading Standards, the Youth Development and Youth Justice Services and Highways have been involved in JAG business. Over the year the Group has given its attention to a number of local concerns: it has continued to oversee a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the Farncombe area, devised interventions to address inappropriate evening use of the Village Way car park in Cranleigh and damage to vehicles in the Wey Hill area of Haslemere, and co-ordinated action to reduce graffiti in central Farnham. Current cases include incidents of anti-social behaviour in Witley and fly-tipping.
- The Group has kept an overview of emerging patterns of crime, with a particular focus on domestic burglary, and seeks feedback from Surrey Police's network of neighbourhood panels.

Feeling Safe and Being Safe

2.4 Despite relatively low levels of crime there has historically been a relatively high "fear of crime" in Waverley. However, recent measures of confidence in the Police and partners in promoting community safety, as measured by routine surveys of satisfaction, have been encouraging:

- Annual figures for 2010/11 show that 89% of Waverley respondents were very or fairly confident in the Police locally (ranked third out of the eleven districts in Surrey).
- In April 2011 84.6% of Waverley respondents were satisfied with the response of Police and partners to anti-social behaviour (again ranked third in Surrey).
- 91.2% of those questioned in Waverley said that they felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (up from 89.2% in 2009/10 (this is the highest percentage score in Surrey).

2.5 The Partnership has continued to focus on those communities of place and interest which are most vulnerable. This theme is closely allied with that of promoting stronger communities and close links are maintained with the activities of the Waverley Communities, Health and Social Inclusion Group. Activities have included:

- Continuing to stage the Junior Citizen event for Year 6 children to raise their awareness of risk and to provide them with the tools to manage this and play their part as responsible members of the community. The event in 2010 continued the success of previous years in attracting high attendance from the relevant maintained and independent schools and an evaluation with teachers revealed a very high level of satisfaction. A web-site enables schools to

www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley

access safety-related resources as a follow-up to the event and throughout the year. It is becoming necessary to review the costs of the programme and time commitment of partners in the light of diminishing resources and to investigate alternative sources of funding. However, the Junior Citizen programme will be staged again in September 2011.

- Building on the successful Neighbourhood Agreement developed in The Chantry, Farnham, it is hoped to extend this approach to parts of Wrecclesham, Roman Way, Farnham and Ockford Ridge, Godalming. In Roman Way the Partnership supported a film project designed to give young people confidence in dealing with bullying.
- Over 3500 packs containing advice on dealing with cold calling and doorstep selling have been distributed in the borough.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

- 2.6 The Partnership targets anti-social behaviour through the activities of its CIAG and JAG and routine policing activity. Positive activities with young people have also been promoted and supported, e.g. through a grant to the Community Street Team offering street-based support to young people in Farncombe and Binscombe
- 2.7 Road safety and casualty reduction remains a priority for the Partnership and its Casualty Reduction Action Group (CRAG), formed by representatives from all relevant partners, promotes improved driver behaviour. This group continues to provide a firm basis for the delivery of the Drive Smart initiative supported by the County Council and Surrey Police in 2009.
- 2.8 The Casualty Reduction Action Group (CRAG) continues to focus on education and enforcement, with particular emphasis on working with young people to educate poor drivers. Activities include School Speed Watch, which uses children as part of the driver education programme for speeding motorists; Road User Awareness Days for schools that educate children about the realities of accidents; drama projects, aimed at educating older children on the effects of alcohol and substance misuse on driving, and Junior Citizen. The feedback from those involved in the programmes has been wholly positive and in particular motorists involved in the School Speed Watch programme frequently remark on the effectiveness of allowing children to highlight to drivers the potential impact of their speeding. New work for the current year will be to focus on increasing the numbers of specialist schools participating including children with disabilities.
- 2.9 DriveSmart continues to provide education and enforcement across the borough and has provided displays to the public at the larger events including Wings and Wheels and Dads' Day Out at Dunsfold Park. The alignment of the Roads Policing Community Support Officers to the Borough Policing Teams working directly to the Casualty Reduction

Officer has provided greater scope and capability for engagement and enforcement

- 2.10 Road Safety and Casualty Reduction enforcement is carried out through a number of schemes. Communities are encouraged to become involved but due to funding reductions the administrative aspects of this scheme have currently had to be stopped. Work on an IT solution is being developed. A number of multi-agency Road User Awareness Days and area road checks are carried out on a regular basis involving partners from Waverley BC Taxi Licensing, Customs and Excise, Environment Agency, Department for Work and Pensions, Driver Standards Agency and VOSA. Waverley Borough has two casualty reduction routes which are decided on by the number of accidents in the previous year. Waverley has a very low casualty rate but this has marginally increased in the past year and an action plan to reduce this figure is being developed.

Addressing Substance Misuse

- 2.9 JAG keeps an overview of concerns relating to licensed premises (including off-licenses). SWP continues to monitor the pattern of substance-misuse locally and has resources at its disposal to respond to any concerns which emerge.

Improving partnership performance

- 2.11 The Partnership recognises the need to continually improve its communication with the community and for all partners to give and reinforce consistent messages. In 2010-11 SWP joined with its equivalents in Guildford, Surrey Heath and Woking to secure air-time from Eagle Radio to promote key community safety messages across West Surrey.
- 2.12 CSPs are required to take part in "Meet the People" events to better understand the needs of their community. Senior officers of the Safer Waverley Partnership attended Cranleigh Carnival in June 2010 to discuss community safety matters with interested residents. Following an evaluation it was felt that this approach is not the most effective at engaging with a wide range of residents and alternative methods are under consideration, including the investigation of experience elsewhere in web-based engagement.

- 2.13 The Strategic Assessment concluded that:

"... there has been much progress towards addressing the priority areas in 2009/10 and 2010/11. These original priorities are still clearly relevant and the excellent progress made to date needs to be maintained."

3. DOMESTIC ABUSE OUTREACH

- 3.1 In conjunction with the Safer Guildford Partnership SWP has contracted with Chapter One to provide outreach services for survivors of domestic abuse in the two boroughs. As part of a wider review of community safety in Surrey, driven in part by significant reductions in government funding for community safety over the years 2011-13, the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board has resolved that domestic abuse and drug and alcohol services remain high priorities for Surrey and would bear a smaller proportion of the necessary budget reductions. Detailed review of domestic abuse outreach is continuing, but the Board has agreed that outreach services should in future be provided through a centralised, needs-based commissioning model with a strong local delivery element. The development of a needs assessment and service specification has recently started and it is envisaged that procurement of services on this basis will commence in the autumn. An officer representative of the South West Surrey CSPs is involved in this work and it is intended that service-users will be involved in the commissioning process and that close liaison with current providers will be maintained.
- 3.2 Chapter One has continued to provide a service to survivors of domestic abuse in Waverley and proposals have been developed to set up a voluntary support group in the borough.

4. ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 Following consideration of the Strategic Assessment, the SWP has adopted an action framework for 2011-12 which, under the overarching aim of “Feeling Safe and Being Safe in Waverley” will operate with four themes:
- Building confidence in our communities
 - Challenging anti-social behaviour/promoting acceptable behaviour
 - Responding to change
 - Tackling crime

Detailed actions are being developed following the consultation event described below.

5. CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The Local Committee is invited to comment on the contents of the report and the progress and future direction of the Partnership. At a workshop held on 18 May 2011 the Partnership consulted widely with representatives of relevant services and stakeholders with a view to reinvigorating multi-agency working on community safety, ensuring that an awareness of community safety and the local priorities is embedded

in mainstream services and identifying opportunities for productive collaboration.

6. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The County Council has in the past made available to Local Committees the sum of £14,500 per borough/district for use in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnerships, of which £12,000 was ring-fenced for outreach with those affected by domestic abuse. As part of the centralised approach to these services outlined above (3.1) this sum has now been retained centrally. The Local Committee therefore has a residual delegated budget of £2500 for general community safety purposes which it has, in the past, allocated to the Safer Waverley Partnership as its contribution towards the projects and activities referred to above (see also 5.3 below).
- 6.2 The Community Partnership and Committee Officer, as its representative on the Safer Waverley Partnership, ensures that the County Council influences the objectives of the partnership and that the funding is spent in line with these objectives. In previous years the Committee delegated authority to the former Area Director to spend the funding in this way. It is recommended that the responsibility to allocate the remaining budget of £2500 in line with the objectives of the SWP should be delegated to the County Council's representative on the Partnership in conjunction with the Community Partnership Manager and Community Partnership Team Leader (West). Accountability for, and opportunities to influence, the deployment of County Council funding, is secured through the periodic reports submitted to members on the strategy and the progress made on its implementation (see **Item 16** on this agenda where a formal decision on funding is sought).
- 6.3 The use of the Partnership's budgets in 2010-2011 is summarised at **Annex 1**. During the year the Local Committee additionally contributed the sum of £35210 (from members' revenue and capital allocations) for community safety projects, supporting and complementing the work of the SWP. The Committee is also reminded that members of the Community Partnership Team provide significant support to the management, co-ordination and delivery of SWP's objectives and that, as reported above, relevant County Council services contribute to the operations of the Partnership from within their mainstream resources.
- 6.4 The Committee is advised that government funding for community safety in Surrey (formerly via the Area Based Grant) has been reduced by 20% in the current year and a further reduction of 40-50% is in prospect for 2012-13. The SWP, in scoping its future activities, will therefore need to plan for significant reductions in its capacity and seek innovative ways of ensuring that the progress made in promoting community safety in Waverley can be maintained. In order to inform this process the Partnership has agreed that priority should be given to

domestic abuse outreach and a range of interventions to reduce and prevent anti-social behaviour, especially involving young people.

7. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The SWP gives specific attention to the needs of residents who are vulnerable or likely to be disadvantaged for whatever reason. Any patterns of incidents recorded as “hate crimes” and of community tensions which might be related to, for example, ethnicity or sexual orientation would be considered by the JAG.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The report is exclusively concerned with community safety in its widest sense.

9 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Committee is invited to note the SWP’s ongoing work and its achievements over the year 2010-2011. Members also have this opportunity to comment on future plans and suggest any further topics for attention.

9.2 The County Council is a statutory partner in CSPs and its services are involved in the promotion of safer and stronger communities in Waverley.

10 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Local Committee wishes to receive periodic reports on the work of the Safer Waverley Partnership, its achievements and priorities and to consider its contribution to these.

11 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

11.1 The Community Partnership and Committee Officer will arrange for any comments and suggestions to be reported to the SWP.

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: David North (Community Partnership and Committee Officer)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01483 517530

E-MAIL: d.north@surreycc.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None