



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

### COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

31/10/2007

#### KEY ISSUE

The report provides an update on the work of the Safer Woking Partnership. It incorporates local and comparative crime data and information on recent initiatives including neighbourhood policing. Borough and police partners have also contributed to the report and will attend the meeting to answer questions.

#### SUMMARY

Surrey is the county with the lowest recorded crime figures in England, and Woking is the seventh lowest Borough in Surrey in terms of recorded crime levels. There has been a 3.6% reduction in overall reported crime figures for the borough since last year.

The Safer Woking Partnership works to reduce crime and increase reassurance across Woking. It is now two years into its 2005-8 Strategy, and together the Partnership continues to initiate improved measures to tackle crime.

Last year the Safer Woking Partnership funded many initiatives, some of which are noted in this report.

Funding for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for 2007/08 includes:

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Government Office South East   | £145,135 |
| Surrey County Council          | £24,000  |
| Surrey Police/Police Authority | £14,000  |
| Woking Borough Council         | £17,000  |
| Surrey Primary Care Trust      | £ 2,000  |

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

### 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Safer Woking Partnership is comprised of representatives of six agencies: Surrey Police, Surrey County Council, Woking Borough Council, Surrey Primary Care Trust, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and the Surrey Police Authority. This Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is statutory under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and was established to tackle crime and disorder by auditing and monitoring local incidences of crime, and working together to devise and deliver an effective strategy to deal with it, including tackling the fear of crime.
- 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 by ensuring that all services have regard to the community safety implications of their activities.
- 1.3 In April 2006 the Local Area Agreement between Surrey County Council and the Government took effect. This distributes funding via a county wide Board of Partners – the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board (SSCPB) to each CDRP to deliver a number of priorities, most notably an overall reduction in crime county-wide of 13.2% by March 2008. The SSCPB, is chaired by the Chief Constable, and oversees delivery of the key outcomes in the Agreement and receives progress reports on local CDRP activity. The target in Woking is to reduce crime by 10.5% by March 2008 on a baseline year of 2003-04. The current figures for the British Crime Survey (BCS) crime comparators figures for Woking show a reduction of 9.1% over the rolling 12 months to September and a 10.1% reduction financial year to date (April to September) compared to the same periods last year.

- 1.4 In 2005 the Safer Working Partnership devised and agreed a new Community Safety Strategy for the period 2005-8 focussing on the aims of reducing crimes and increasing reassurance. These aims are being pursued through the following four specific areas:
- Reducing crime
  - Feeling safe and being safe
  - Anti-social behaviour
  - Addressing substance misuse
- 1.5 These priorities form the focus for actions throughout the period of the strategy. There is also a requirement to tackle prolific and persistent offenders. Partners have complementary roles in addressing this issue in order to: Prevent and Deter; Catch and Convict, and Rehabilitate and Resettle.
- 1.6 The Community Safety Strategy is required to address the Government's crime reduction target (as set out in 1.3). Each CDRP has particular targets negotiated with GOSE and the target for Woking is to reduce total crimes reported by 10.5% to 12% over three years, on a baseline year of 2003/04 by March 2008. The Partnership has identified the following target reductions in each of the following crime types:
- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Theft of vehicles            | 6%  |
| • Theft from a vehicle         | 12% |
| • Domestic burglary            | 18% |
| • Criminal damage              | 15% |
| • Common assault               | 12% |
| • Wounding                     | 12% |
| • Robbery of personal property | 8%  |
- 1.7 The borough level CDRP is assisted in delivering its targets by the work of two important multi-agency meetings: the Joint Action Group (JAG), which meets monthly to review local hotspots for crime and anti-social behaviour and to agree actions to tackle the problem; the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG), which meets monthly to monitor individuals who have come to the notice of agencies because of the impact of their behaviour on the community, and to agree service interventions to bring about improvements in their behaviour. Members receive quarterly update reports on the CIAG and JAG directly via email.
- 1.8 The Community Safety Survey carried out in 2004 showed that people's idea of crime and their fear of crime was not in line with the actual levels of crime. This survey is currently being re done and results should be available in November 2007 (see para 3.11).

## 2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Surrey is the safest county in England (based on recorded crime figures in 06/07 and 07/08). Changes in the way crime is defined and reported means that trends are difficult to plot, however, the comparative trend is a positive one with the Surrey Police Force as a whole currently showing a 4.9% reduction in crime levels for the financial year to date (April to September 2007) compared to the same period last year.
- 2.2 Annex 1 graphically shows BCS comparator crime figures (which cover 10 key crimes) for Woking Borough and the NW Surrey Police Division. As can be seen, both the borough and the division are performing well against their most similar CDRPs and divisions. The crime figures for Woking are set against those for Surrey as a whole, and it should be borne in mind that Surrey has the lowest crime rate in the country. Annex 1 also contains a table which shows a breakdown of the individual BCS crime comparator figures for Woking. The data shows an overall reduction in crime of 10.1% based on BCS crimes.
- 2.3 Vehicle crime:  
Has shown a significant fall in autocrime this year compared with last year, with a 25.7% reduction as at the end of September. Theft from motor vehicles has shown a 26.3% reduction while Thefts of Vehicles is currently showing a 23.8% reduction. If these decreases continue as at present, then it is anticipated that over the financial year the borough will achieve its target.
- 2.4 Violence Against the Person  
Violence shows a 2.6% increase financial year to date compared to the same time last year. Public place violence has decreased by 1.1% and intoxicant violence has increased by 9.9%.  
The extended use of the Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND's) resulted in an additional 269 offences over the year.
- Domestic Violence has increased by approximately 25% on last year. This may be due to the victims of domestic violence being encouraged to report the offences and having confidence in the Police. This supports the Surrey Domestic Abuse Public Service Agreement (PSA) which aims to increase levels of reporting.
- Robbery has seen a significant reduction over this point last year (48.4%) and actual numbers remain small.
- A great deal of work is being conducted around licensed premises both in and outside the town centre. We have successfully run town centre operations targeting drugs and under age sales of alcohol which will continue.
- 2.7 Criminal damage

Criminal damage has fallen by 4.1% over the last reporting period when compared to the previous year. This has included a decrease in the number of damage to motor vehicle offences. Again a positive position to be in around this offence.

- 2.8 Domestic burglaries  
Burglary of both dwellings and non-dwellings continues to follow the very low trend of recent months to currently show a 8% and 16.9% reduction respectively. This is an excellent result, given that the rates of offending in 2006/7 were also below those of the previous year.
- 2.9 Levels of violence associated with drunken behaviour on Friday and Saturday evenings in the town centre continue to draw heavily on Police resources, although this is currently decreasing. This is tackled by dedicated patrols of officers, intensive work with licensees, and partnership work with other agencies, and has recently seen a decrease in offending.
- 2.10 Annex 2 shows the latest summary crime data (monthly) for Woking for the summer period 2007, in comparison with the previous summer 2006. This information is taken from the Surrey Police website, and is available for ward level as well as borough level: the data is updated regularly.

### **3 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2005-8 STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The Local Committee received an update of work towards the Partnership's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2005-8 at its meeting in November 2006. Since the targets were put in place, there have been a number of new developments and projects, which are expected to contribute to achievement of the targets by the end of the three years. The strategy is based on an audit of crime statistics and a community safety survey, and incorporates the wider priorities set as part of the strategy and funding criteria by the Government of the South East (GOSE).

#### **Current Initiatives:**

- 3.2 In the past year a number of key initiatives have been progressed through the Safer Woking Partnership to work towards achieving the targets. Some of these are set out below:
- 3.3.1 The Safer Woking Partnership has put funding towards improving the provision of substance misuse services
- 3.3.2 Funding has been given to Crimestoppers to carry out awareness campaigns on reporting crimes and bicycle theft.
- 3.3.3 Funding was provided to purchase a car to be used to tackle theft of a from vehicles, particularly satellite navigation equipment by way of 'Stinger' operations. The Police are able to deploy this wherever hotspots are identified.

- 3.3.4 In December 2006, a drug related litter training session was run by Surrey DAAT and the PCT. This addressed the issue of drugs paraphernalia, identification and the safe disposal of these items to a group of staff and contractors from Woking Borough Council and Surrey Police.
- 3.3.5 A successful Safer Woking event took place over two days in August 2007 to raise awareness of crime prevention and provided other advice and information from partner agencies to the public. The Partnership was also represented at the Town Centre Uncovered and the Woking Mela in July 2007.
- 3.3.6 The Partnership funds a Domestic Abuse outreach service in Woking for 36 hours per week. This service is provided by Surrey Women's Aid. During April to June 2007 there were 65 referrals to the outreach service, 60 of these were women and 5 were men. The majority of these people were aged between 35 and 49 years.
- 3.3.7 Each November there is a Domestic Abuse Awareness Week. This year the week will run from 19 November – 23 November 2007. During the week there will be a range of awareness raising initiatives including displays in libraries, shopping centres and at Woking Train Station, and press coverage with the local media as well as internal communications within each of the partner agencies. Last year it is estimated that we distributed 5,000 pens and leaflets during the week. Previous experience shows that following the awareness week there is an increase in number of calls to the helpline.
- 3.3.8 The Safer Woking Communications Officer has produced a number of articles and press releases covering issues such as:
- top tips for partying safely
  - raising awareness of domestic abuse
  - Don't let your gifts fall into the wrong hands
  - Breaking the cycle of bike crime
  - Are you in the know about your neighbourhood
  - Safety leaflet 'Skate after dark'
  - New CCTV cameras
- 3.3.9 Surrey Police, Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council Trading Standards are working together on a project to reduce distraction burglaries, rogue trading and unwanted nuisance door to door sales calls in the Borough. Residents of Maybury were invited to participate in a "No Cold Calling Zone" scheme. This was launched in August 2007. Anecdotally, Police are receiving reports that companies are being turned away from residents' doors in this area.
- 3.4 The Surrey Together initiative came into being in autumn 2005, and is a partnership between Surrey County Council, the Surrey Police Authority and Surrey Police. The Surrey Together Team has been reorganised to better meet local needs to provide more targeted youth and trading standards work in local communities. Teams are deployed in areas where there have been persistent reports of disruptive or

nuisance behaviour by young people. Their role is to form relationships with young people to find out what lies behind their behaviour and to offer positive referrals to employment and training advice or to drugs counselling services. The Joint Action Group advises on where the team should be deployed. They have recently been deployed in Goldsworth Park and Knaphill.

- 3.5 Through the JAG and CIAG meetings a range of intervention work regarding anti-social behaviour is undertaken. This includes early interventions such as negotiating Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) through to legal enforcement such as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). The Anti Social Behaviour Case Worker and the Anti-Social Behaviour Manager lead on this area of work.
- 3.6 In line with the Prolific and other Priority Offenders Strategy, there are now monthly management panel meetings where actions are agreed and cases monitored and reviewed to reduce re-offending by prolific offenders. It is estimated that out of a million active offenders in the UK, 100,000 offenders have three or more convictions and are responsible for half of all crime. In March 2004, the Government announced an end to end strategy to address this group of offenders. There is now a North West team based in Woking tackling Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPOs) and leading on ASBO (Anti Social Behaviour Order) case building. Woking has 6 PPOs, 18 PDO's (Potentially Dangerous Offenders) 10 of whom are serving custodial sentences.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PATHFINDER**

- 3.7 North West Surrey is a pathfinder area for the Home Office's neighbourhood policing initiative, which is due to be rolled out nationally by April 2008. The pathfinder began in autumn 2005. Its aim is to "create confident, safe and secure neighbourhoods where people know that the police and partners understand the issues that matter most to them and are able to tackle them together" (Surrey's Neighbourhood Policing Programme Implementation Plan). A dedicated team of uniformed police officers and police community support officers in every neighbourhood have been put in place, with a focus on low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.8 The NW Surrey Basic Command Unit of Surrey Police (BCU) monitors and develops neighbourhood policing in its area. In Woking, there are nine neighbourhood clusters each of which has named officers (see Annex 3), co-ordinated and tasked by Woking Neighbourhood Inspector Lynette Shanks. Residents are encouraged to contact their local officers by telephone or email, or in person at surgeries and panel meetings held in local venues, to let them know about problems or activities in their area (to find out who are their neighbourhood officers, residents can view the internet site [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk) and click inside the inter-active map for their area).

- 3.9 The Police have a system of Neighbourhood Panel Meetings. At these regular meetings local people are invited to come along and talk to their NSO and PCSO about local issues. These meetings may also be attended by Woking Borough Council Neighbourhood Officers. At each meeting the key local issue is identified and the Police Officers commit to looking into this issue and reporting back at the next meeting. Future dates can be found in Annex 4.
- 3.10 As part of the development of the pathfinder, locally a Neighbourhood Management approach is being developed. This aims to build a better co-ordination and response between different partners frontline services, using a geographic basis. It has included joint training, sharing of standards, and community engagement, which includes 'Tune-In' events, with partners, including Police and local county and borough councillors and the public attending. To date there have been three Tune-In events held within Woking borough, in Goldsworth Park, Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford cluster and Maybury. Dates have been set over the coming year for events in the remaining 6 clusters in Woking Borough (Annex 5). These multi-agency Neighbourhood Workshops are designed to encourage members of the community to talk through the issues which affect them and work together to find solutions. The notes from these workshops along with actions arising can be found on the Window on Woking website at <http://www.windowonwoking.org.uk>

### **FUTURE WORKING**

- 3.11 In preparation for the next Community Safety Strategy (from April 2008), an extensive community safety survey is being conducted by the Safer Woking Partnership. The survey is being carried out during October 2007 to find out how people feel about community safety issues in their neighbourhood, and what their issues and priorities are. It follows up previous surveys which have taken place in 2000 and 2004. Once results are in, comparisons will be made with previous surveys to see how perceptions have changed. Surveys will also be circulated to young people through local secondary schools. The results, along with statistical data, will form a strategic assessment to feed into the future crime and disorder reduction strategy for the borough from April 2008.
- 3.12 In future Crime and Disorder strategies will be a rolling three year programme as opposed to the fixed term, three year strategies of the past. There will be annual strategic assessments that seek to look at all the community safety factors within the borough to inform the rolling three year programme. This first annual strategic assessment for the borough is due to be completed in November 2007, with the next Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy due for publication in April 2008.



- 3.13 The neighbourhood management approach will continue to develop, and to inform how partners work together to share expertise and ideas.
- 3.14 The work on community safety and crime and disorder now forms part of the safer and stronger strand of the Countywide Local Area Agreement with Government. The Safer and Stronger Community Partnership Board (SSCPB) was established in 2005/06 and provides an overview of progress, including on funding and performance – monitoring work on practical measures that lead to real improvements.
- 3.15 A partnership group of Police, Surrey County Council and Borough Councils are looking at introducing Community Access Points (CAPs) into the North West of Surrey. These are internet terminals where local people can access local information from existing partner websites. In Woking there are 13 CAPS machines located around the Borough, including the community centres, leisure centre, Lightbox, and the York Road Project.
- 3.16 In November 2007 the local Neighbourhood Policing Team will be moving into the Civic Offices as part of an innovative co-location project. They will be working alongside borough council officers from Local Services, which includes the Community Safety Team and the local neighbourhood officers.

#### **REPORTING AND CONTACT**

- 3.17 Residents with a serious crime to report should always contact 999, the emergency number, and ask for police.
- 3.18 Residents who wish to report a less serious but significant crime or act of anti-social behaviour may contact their neighbourhood police officer by telephone or email (see police website or Annex 2 for details). Surrey Police's single non-emergency contact number, if residents are unsure who to contact in the first instance, is 0845 125 2222.
- 3.19 A further option to report anti-social or nuisance behaviour is by using the government website: [www.direct.gov.uk/mycouncil](http://www.direct.gov.uk/mycouncil). This allows the user to identify the problem they wish to report and to connect via a link directly to the relevant borough or county service.

#### **4 OPTIONS**

- 4.1 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.

## 5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 Surrey Police conduct regular consultative meetings at local level with members of the public, as part of the neighbourhoods agenda. The Safer Woking Partnership will be undertaking consultation in the New Year on a draft community safety strategy for 2008-9.

## 6 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

## 7 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

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

## 8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Crime and Disorder implications are implicit in the report.

## 9 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

## 10 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 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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| <b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>     | Safer Woking Strategy 2005-8.<br><a href="http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking">www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking</a>  |

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Annexes: 5