



## **OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT**

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

The report provides an update on the work of the Safer Woking 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**

Surrey is the county with the lowest recorded crime figures in England at 63.5 crimes per 1,000 population. The crime rate in Surrey (07/08) reduced by 7.9%. Woking has seen a reduction of 13.4% over the same period.

The Safer Woking Partnership works to reduce crime and increase reassurance across Woking. It has achieved targets set in its 2005-8 strategy and has agreed its aims to deliver the objectives set out in its Crime and Disorder Partnership Plan for 2008-11.

#### **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. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) 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 a strategies to deal with crime and 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 through ensuring all services have regard to their activities implications on community safety.
- 1.3 The 2005-8 Community Safety Strategy concluded in March 2008.
- 1.4 Following a review of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act the government issued guidance in 2007, authorities were encouraged to undertake annual strategic assessments for the purpose of providing the intelligence to help all parties prioritise activities. This annual assessment would be used to produce a Partnership Plan specifying objectives and actions.
- 1.5 Partners in the borough undertook a strategic assessment of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the autumn 2007 in preparation for the new Safer Woking Partnership Plan 2008-11. The priorities of which are set out in 2.15.
- 1.6 The CDRP is assisted in delivering its targets through the work 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.

## 2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Surrey remains the safest county in England according to reported crime data. The below figures relate to end of year 07/08 FYTD data.
- 2.2 The target set for Woking for reducing crime over the 2007/08 period was 10.5%. Woking achieved a 13.4% (880 cases) reduction in total reported crimes over this period.
- 2.3 Vehicle crime (theft of and from motor vehicles) – reduction of 14.8% (107 offences). Theft from motor vehicles reduced by 10.3% (57 offences) and theft of motor vehicles reduced by 30.3% (50 offences). This is a positive position to be in although it remains a challenging area particularly around crime prevention due to the public leaving valuable in their vehicles and leaving their vehicle unlocked.

Violent crime – Reduction of 12.2% (186 offences). Public Place violence has reduced by 15.8% (168 offences) and stranger violence reduced by 18.3% (34 offences).

Violent crime domestic related – increase of 1.8% (4 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.

Robbery – reduction of 57.1% (32 offences). There continues to be a significant reduction of Robberies in the Borough with numbers remaining small (24 in total).

Criminal damage – reduction of 9.6% (146 offences). This is a significant decrease for Woking. There have been fewer spates of tyre slashing this year which may be attributed to the tactic of briefing the press but asking them not to report so as to encourage the offenders.

Domestic burglaries – reduction of 27.9% (69 offences). Burglary of both dwelling and non-dwelling continues to fall (Burglary non-dwelling reduction of 32.6% 160 offences) This is an excellent result considering the rates of offending for 2006/07 were also below that of the previous year.

Policing the Town Centre – Footfall comparisons have highlighted that Thursdays can be as busy as Friday and Saturdays in the town centre. The saturation policy is now in place for those applying for an alcohol license in the town centre and the addition of 2 further taxi ranks after 6pm has assisted with reducing the levels of violence occurring. We have continued to run targeted drugs operations and under age alcohol operations which have proved successful. We are in the process of putting in place a licensing protocol which has had verbal approval from Surrey Police, Woking Borough Council, Surrey Trading

Standards and Children's service and Surrey Fire and Rescue. It is envisaged this will be formally signed up to by mid July. This will be the first for the County.

- 2.8 The Surrey Police website [www.surrey.police.uk](http://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

### **2005-2008 Strategy**

- 2.9 The CDRP had achieved most of the targets set in the 2005-8 Strategy by April 2008. The provisional data (subject to final audit) for the three-year period 2005-08 indicates that in Woking the target set for the period – to reduce crime overall by 10.5% - has been exceeded, as the last year indicates a (yet to be confirmed) 16.5% reduction compared to the 2003/4 baseline (as shown in **Annex 1**, which includes the Divisional context)
- 2.10 Reducing fear of crime amongst residents remains a challenge for the partnership. The 2007 Community Safety Survey found that just over one quarter 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.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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 of Woking 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.
- 2.13 Following a review of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, the government issued guidance in 2007 recommending authorities 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.

- 2.14 In Woking 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 2.15.

### Partnership Plan 2008 – 2011

- 2.15 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:

- Crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- Community Reassurance
- Fire
- Re-offending
- Data Quality and Collection

- 2.16 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](http://www.surreybigdrinkdebate.nhs.uk) will be reported in autumn 2008.

### Partnership Developments

- 2.17 At the end of 2007 the local Neighbourhood Policing Team moved into the Woking Borough Council Civic Offices as part of an innovative co-location project that enables the Neighbourhood Officers to operate alongside Borough Council Officers from the Neighbourhood Teams. Details of the Neighbourhood Policing Team are attached (**Annex 2**)
- 2.18 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. Dates of future panel meetings and surgeries can be found at [www.surrey.police.uk](http://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 4**.
- 2.19 Community engagement activities have continued with a series of Tune-In meetings held in each of the Borough neighbourhoods. There are two remaining events to run in this pilot project; on 3<sup>rd</sup> July for Old Woking/Kingfield and 25<sup>th</sup> September for Woking Town Centre.

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking)

- 2.20 In early 2008 Surrey Police reorganised from four to three divisions across the County. Woking is within the West Surrey division, alongside Surrey Heath, Guildford and Waverley. Divisional Commander Sue Warren heads the senior management team in the West division.

### **Safer and Stronger**

- 2.21 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 3**. The Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board (SSCPB) is comprised of all partners who now receive funding for community safety, and 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 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.

## **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 As stated in 2.18 Surrey Police conduct regular consultative meetings at local level with members of the public as part of the Neighbourhoods Agenda.

## **5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

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

Government Office South East	£130,968 (to be confirmed)
Surrey County Council *	£24,000 (to be confirmed)
Surrey Police/Police Authority	£14,000 (to be confirmed)
Woking Borough Council	£17,996
Surrey Primary Care Trust	£ 4,000

\* 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.

## 6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 Incidents of hate crime are monitored carefully. The figures for 2007/8 FYTD are:  
 Racially Motivated Crimes – reduction of 35.3% (54 crimes)  
 Homophobic crimes – reduction of 36.4% (4 crimes)  
 Faith Motivated Crimes – No increase (total of 3 offences)  
 Disability Motivated crimes – reduction of 60% (3 crimes)  
 Total Hate crime – reduction of 34.9% (59 crimes)

## 7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Crime and Disorder implications are implicit in this 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 Woking to the Area Director.

## 9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 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 Partnership Crime and Disorder Partnership Plan 2008-11

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Annexes:4

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking)