

Summer 2006

2005/06

Stafford Borough Community Safety Partnership annual review



Stafford Borough
Community Safety
Partnership

helping to create a safer community

Making Stafford Borough Safer

The Stafford Borough Community Safety

Partnership consists of:

- Stafford Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Staffordshire Police
- Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service
- South Western Staffordshire Primary Care Trust
- Voluntary Organisations

The Partnership is committed to making Stafford and Stone town centres and the outlying villages within the Stafford Borough safe places in which to live, work and socialise.

The Partnership is working constantly together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, looking at ways to improve road safety, helping to reduce the use of drugs and excessive alcohol consumption (which in turn lead to crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic violence).

Contained in this newsletter are just some of the issues which the Partnership have tackled during the last 12 months.

The Community Safety Strategy

The Partnership is now well into its second year of the three-year Strategy which covers the period 2005-2008. This document was put together from information provided by the public in the form of surveys and questionnaires and includes issues which concern all local people. After consultation with residents, businesses and local groups, the priority areas of concern are:

- Alcohol and alcohol related violence
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Drugs
- Speeding and Road Safety
- Domestic Violence

Task Groups have been set up for each of the above issues, as well as youth issues, business crime and Yarnfield, and much has been done to alleviate problems in these areas.

It was also considered that the public perception of crime was far greater than the reality and that there was a need to provide public reassurance and better communications with the media and local press.

The Community Safety Strategy document can be accessed on the Stafford Borough Website at:

www.staffordbc.gov.uk and typing in Community Safety Strategy in the box on the top left hand corner.

or call Jan Arnold on 01785 619595 and she will post you a copy.

You can contact the Stafford Borough Community Safety Partnership office on:
Tel: 01785 619417
or email:
communitysafety@staffordbc.gov.uk



The official launch of the Community Safety Strategy in July in Stafford's Market Square with Mayor of Stafford Borough, Cllr Mrs Joyce Farnham, MBE, JP with Andy Buttery, Commander of Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service and Keith Deavin, Community Services Manager at Stafford Borough Council

New Style Community Consultation in Stafford

Working with other members of the Community Safety Partnership for Stafford, Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been holding a series of new-style Street Meetings over recent months.

Aimed at giving all the local residents the opportunity to raise issues and concerns with the partnership whilst in their community, the meetings have taken place in a variety of locations throughout the Stafford area.

Residents are notified of dates, times and locations of meetings through the local press, radio and local notices displayed in their community.



So far the meetings have been well attended and we have already acknowledged community concerns around anti-social behaviour, litter and criminal damage.

Tackling Business Crime in Stafford and Stone

In November, the Community Safety Partnership Business Task Group in association with Stafford Chamber of Commerce & Industry, arranged a Drop-In event at the Whitebridge Industrial Estate in Stone inviting local businesses to attend for good advice on business security and ways to combat business crime.

Business crimes cost millions of pounds each year but most crimes are preventable if owners take some simple precautions by educating employees how to recognise perpatra-

tors and installing security systems on their premises.

The Fire Service Risk Team were present to provide information on carrying out risk assessments at businesses and how to reduce the risk of arson attacks. Staffordshire Police were encouraging businesses to join together to form 'Business Watch' where neighbouring traders are encouraged to look out for each other and report any suspicious activities by strangers.

Chairman of the group

Simon Crofts from ST16 Limited said, 'The drop-in will encourage businesses to work together to tackle crime and that they will do this by becoming involved in the Business Task Force in Stafford Borough. A 2001 survey by the British Chamber of Commerce stated that business crime was costing nearly £19 billion per year, a staggering statistic that we need to take steps to combat.'

A similar event was held at Energy Exhausts Ltd in Hixon in June.

Stone Pubwatch

The scheme was introduced in Stone town centre in June 2005 and is aimed at reducing incidents of alcohol related nuisance and disorder. The scheme has been taken up by over fifteen local licensed establishments and involves premises being linked by radio to each other and the police.

Together with CCTV monitoring, any potential troublemakers will be identified and enable early intervention. The licensees have also agreed to the "ban from one, ban from all" scheme and the "Challenge 21" where customers are to provide proof of age when asked.



Student Fire-fighters in action



Annual Review of Student Fire-fighters

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service—Student Firefighters

There have been two Student Firefighter courses run in this financial year from Stafford Fire Station. Both the courses have been hailed a success by the students, instructors and teachers alike. The 22 students each nominated by their schools have had the opportunity to work with operational fire-fighting personnel from Stafford, Stone, Gnosall and Eccleshall Fire Stations. They

have also received input from Staffordshire Ambulance and Staffordshire Police and received drugs awareness training.

The Student Firefighter programme is designed to give the young people an alternative learning environment which raises their awareness, self confidence and self-esteem; it fosters greater teamwork and improves communication

skills amongst its young participants. Through performing activities such as hose running, pump operation and learning fire fighting techniques and the fundamentals of emergency first aid, students are able to build on practical lessons learned in real life that can be applied back in the classroom.

Public Reassurance

Highfields was chosen as an area in which to undertake a special Public Reassurance Project to help make people who live in the area feel safer. This project runs hand in hand with the Joint Operations Group and a number of actions have taken place on Highfields, such as street-meetings with the Police. King Edwards High School have assisted in distributing maps and questionnaires to pupils to ensure that the views of young people are taken into account.

Staffordshire County Council Road Safety & Sustainable Travel Unit are working with the Community Safety Partnership to raise the profile of all aspects of Road Safety issues. The first of these campaigns was held in April and related to 'in-car' safety—non wearing of seatbelts. Later in the year the Partnership will be looking at issues such as drink driving, motorcycle safety, mobile phones and

Road Safety and Speeding

speeding.

Staffordshire County Council has recently launched a new scheme to help newly qualified drivers become safer drivers. This scheme is subsidised by the County Council who is one of only four authorities in England that offer the subsidy. Figures show that one in five newly qualified drivers have an accident within the first

six months of passing their test. The Pass Plus Extra scheme aims to raise driver awareness and is hoped will reduce the number of accidents occurring in the 17-25 age group. Road casualties aged between 17 and 25 account for 40% of the Killed and Seriously Injured on Staffordshire roads. For further information contact: 01785 276617

Community Spirit in Silkmore

In a local initiative in Silkmore, residents have created a collection of portraits, collages and images as part of the "Building Bridges in Silkmore" project. The initiative led by Staffordshire Youth Service and part-funded by Stafford Borough Council is designed to bring teen-agers and older people of the area together.

Young people are often wrongly blamed for the majority of incidents of anti-

social behaviour. This Community art exhibition is designed to break down age stereotypes, tackle ageism and cultivate community spirit. The collection of seventeen thought provoking images were seen on varying dates in St. Peter's Church in Rickerscote.

The project has led to a much stronger community spirit in Silkmore and has really inspired these young people to become positive members of society.



What we got out of it

Although everyone was pleased that they had got involved in this project, over half of the participants admitted to being a bit nervous about working with a different age group. However, because of this project everyone agreed that their ideas about the other age group had changed, that they had enjoyed their company and would do it again if they could.

More PCSO's for Stafford Borough

As part of a two year force-wide implementation 28 Police Community Support Offices (PCSO's) will shortly be joining the divisional team and will be deployed in the Stafford area from mid-May 2006.

With more members of the police family out in the community, there will be more opportunity to get to know your local officers and raise local issues and concerns.

Our policing service will

now be measured not only on volume crime, but also on communities' sense of safety and we will be working with our partners to ensure that neighbourhoods are and feel much safer.

"By October 2007, the current number of Police Community Support Officers in the Chase Division will increase from 18 to 87, all working alongside regular officers, members of the special constabulary and volunteers.."

Tackling Domestic Violence....

Tackling Domestic Violence remains a key priority in the Stafford Borough area. During the year 2005/06 much good work has been accomplished. Charlotte Almond, Stafford Borough Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, said "Domestic violence is an issue that cuts across all sections of society and it is vital that as well as raising awareness of domestic abuse we let victims know that support is available, while delivering a strong message to perpetrators that **Stafford Borough does not tolerate domestic abuse.**"

Posters In June Stafford Women's Aid and Stafford PAIRS, the Domestic Violence Forum, launched a range of four new post-

ers to raise awareness of domestic violence and the support available. The posters, designed by Stafford College Art Students, are intended to raise the awareness of domestic abuse and the help available for young children, teenage girls and women across Stafford Borough.

The posters were launched by



Bruno Langley and Scarlett Johnson at a special ceremony at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre. Both starred in Romeo & Juliet at Stafford Castle. The Outreach Service Manager at Stafford Women's Aid, described the launch as "A celebration of young local creative thinking in raising awareness of domestic abuse."

Much good work is being done to help victims of Domestic Abuse and anyone who would like to know more can contact Stafford Women's Aid on 01785 608151 or call the 24 out-of hours helpline via the Samaritans on: 01785 243333.

In memoriam

Last July the Community Safety Partnership lost a very enthusiastic team member. Fran Sandy, the Community Services Manager sadly died, aged 38, and is very much missed by all who knew her.

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Neighbourhood Policing in Stone

helping to create a safer community

Anti-Social Behaviour will not be tolerated

The Partnership employs two Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinators, one at the Borough Council and one with Staffordshire Police. They work with Registered Social Landlords and other partners in the Borough to tackle this problem.

Staffordshire Police operate a seven stage anti-social behaviour process. This begins with a verbal warning, followed by letters, an Acceptable Behaviour Contract and, in extreme cases, an Anti-Social Behaviour Order. In addition, the Partnership organises activities aimed at tackling the causes of anti-social behaviour, including initiatives to bring old and young together; educating the young; providing advice on parenting; and providing positive activities for young people to take part in. For further information contact the Community Safety Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator on: 01785 619309.

Yarnfield

Since the last Annual Review, much work has gone on in Yarnfield after the village had become the centre of media attention after eleven Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) were given to young people who were causing problems to the residents.

The Partnership has been holding regular meetings with the residents including young people in the village and a "Planning for Real" exercise was carried out with input from the local people on how facilities within the village can be improved for both young and old alike.

BT employees volunteered their services for a day in the village and undertook painting of the village hall toilets, railings, and litterpicking and special meetings for young people of Yarnfield have been arranged to air their views.

All this has helped to improve the quality of the life in Yarnfield and to bring both old and young together.

JOG—Joint Operations Group

A multi-agency taskforce aimed at targeting minor crime has tackled a host of problems in Stafford and Stone over recent months.

The Joint Operations Group (JOG), which includes representatives from the police, fire service, borough and county councils and Primary Care Trust, meets fortnightly to look into problems such as vandalism and nuisance behaviour. Since its foundation last year the group has raised in excess of 80 actions and has been hailed a success by its members. Examples of JOG's work includes:

- A joint police and trading standards operation to combat the sale of alcohol to underage customers in Stafford and Stone
- Police and Fire Service working together to reduce the number of arson attacks in Stafford
- Promotion of Challenge 21 initiative in Stafford and Stone.

Section 30 Legislation Working in Stafford

Staffordshire Police and Stafford Borough Council are ensuring that rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour continues to fall in the town centres of Stafford and Stone.

Under Section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act, there are restrictions in designated areas in both town centres. Aimed at curbing anti-social behaviour and reducing the fear of crime, the legislation provided police officers additional powers to take action against any persons acting or likely to act in an anti-social manner by directing them out of the designated areas. Those who fail to do so or return will be arrested and charged.

**Stafford Police Telephone Number
for non-emergency calls for any station dial:
08453 30 20 10**

In an EMERGENCY it's still: 999

