

Appendix A

Background information on the Area Action Panel and Neighbourhood Police team.

The **Area North Community Safety Action Panel** is one of four panels in South Somerset, and is part of the structure of the Mendip and South Somerset Crime Reduction Partnership. Its aims are:

The panel aims, how it works to achieve those aims, and some examples of current or recent initiatives and actions are included in the table below.

Aim	How the Panel works to achieve this aim	Examples of current or recent action supported by the Panel and / or its partners
Reduce crime and the fear of crime in Area North	As Area North is a very rural area, action to achieve this aim is largely co-ordinated at a parish level through the Neighbourhood Police teams. Specific crime locations or types of crime may be targeted by special police operations.	Operation Relentless targeted vulnerable premises and crime prevention advice offered. Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators networking group under development. Area North Restorative Justice Panels established.
Be easily accessible by local people	Direct public access is largely achieved through partners and Local Action Groups / local PACT meetings. There are community offices in Langport, Somerton, Martock, and South Petherton, through which local people can report concerns. All town and parish council meetings are open to the public. The Area Committee meets monthly in local village halls. Regular beat surgeries are arranged by PCSOs across Area North. The Beat team will attend Town & Parish Council meetings on a regular basis.	South Petherton Community Office and Police Post opened in December. Dates of open meetings within parishes are published on the ASC website. Area-wide Community Safety workshop planned for Spring / Summer 2010.
Identify local issues and themes by consulting widely with local people	Through the above means, distinctive local priorities will be set and addressed across the area. Through reviewing these, and other forms of consultation and research the Panel updates its Action Plan priorities annually. The SSDC Area Forums and Annual Town & Parish Meeting are also used to identify local or thematic issues.	As above Neighbourhood Police newsletters and website aims to provide feedback on actions taken to address local issues raised.

Be an effective link for community safety information between parishes and the relevant agencies	Through the above means, communications are maintained between parishes / communities and the relevant agencies. The Neighbourhood team now publishes a household newsletter, which may replace former newsletters published by the Action Panel. The Action Panel has hosted a successful annual workshop covering a range of topics. Regular reports to the Area Committee are distributed to parishes.	As above Environmental enforcement workshop – Oct 09 “Scamwise” – community event against rogue traders and bogus callers – March 2010.
To have an action plan in which the panel can have a significant role in influencing or addressing local issues	The action plan is updated annually, and monitored throughout the year. The priorities are used to influence and guide the allocation of staff and finance for those services with responsibility addressing community safety. Local priorities are reviewed and updated by the beat teams, either through Local Action Groups or with parish councils.	The current Area North action plan was published in October 2009. Local action plans / priorities are published on the ASC website for each ward.

The Area North Community Safety Action Panel is a sub-group of the Mendip and South Somerset Community Safety Partnership.

The panel is made up of representatives from the statutory agencies including, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Somerset County Council, South Somerset District Council, Yarlington Housing Group, Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Somerset Primary Care Trust and a range of voluntary and community groups who work or live in the area.

The panel's work is hosted by South Somerset District Council, which supports the creation of the action plan, and arrangements for communications, consultation and workshops, to support the work of the panel.

Notes of meetings, terms of reference and the current Action Plan can be viewed on-line at <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=10538>

Further details on the current work of the Panel are available from Leslie Collett, Community Development Officer, whose details are at the top of this report.

Neighbourhood Policing within South Somerset is co-terminus with the SSSC area structure, within the Somerset East district of Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Each of the four South Somerset areas has a Sergeant who leads a team of Beat Managers, PCSOs, Specials and Volunteers to work with partners and the community dealing with local issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Avon and Somerset website has an extensive range of information including crime prevention, crime statistics and contact details for the Neighbourhood Policing team. <http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk>

The following link will go to the page for all Area North beats:

<http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/LocalPages/PersonProfile.aspx?pid=1715&t=2&lid=20>
