

Area West Committee - 21st July 2010

6. Promoting Community Safety in Area West

Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Place and Performance
Assistant Director: Martin Woods, Communities
Service Manager: Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)
Lead Officer: Zoë Harris, Community Regeneration Officer
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The following items relate to the same theme, the active promotion of Community Safety in Area West. The short presentations should stimulate debate about tackling community safety issues in our area.

a) Area West Community Safety Panel Update

Purpose of the Report

To refresh and update members on the work of the Area West Community Safety Action Panel.

Public Interest

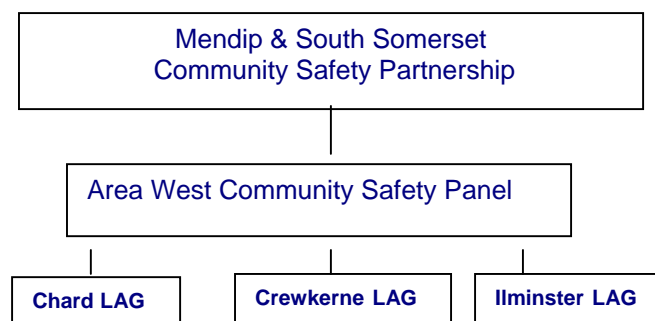
The Area West Community Safety Action Panel is a partnership of organisations that meets to tackle crime and anti social behaviour at a local level.

Recommendation

Members take note of the report.

Background

The Area West Community Safety Action Panel is a sub group of the Mendip and South Somerset Community Safety Partnership (MSSCSP).



At a local level each of the three market towns in Area West has a Local Action Group (LAG) made up of representatives who live and / or work in the town and have an interest in community safety. These LAGs meet regularly and are particularly successful in bringing together the local authorities, police and voluntary sector organisations to tackle crime and Anti Social Behaviour and to support local communities to tackle their own identified issues.

The Chairs from each of the LAGs also attend the Area West Community Safety Panel, which meets four times a year. The Panel comprises representatives from

the police, SSDC, MSSCSP, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, Community Justice Panel, Youth Service & Yarlington Homes.

The representatives at the Panel raise any issues of concern and also update the meeting on relevant work their organisation is currently engaged in. Representatives from the Area West Community Safety Partnership in turn then attend meetings of the Mendip & South Somerset Community Safety Panel where community safety issues are dealt with at a more strategic level.

Feedback from Area West Youth Network Event

Volunteers who organise and deliver activities for young people in Area West were invited to this event at the Henhayes Centre, Crewkerne on the evening of 3rd February 2010. The event was a great success, and altogether we had 38 people from local community groups and 24 people from various agencies.

The purpose of the event was to give people the opportunity to network, swap good practice and gain useful information and support. The evening started with networking and an opportunity to look at display stands provided by a wide range of relevant organisations. There were then a number of short presentations from the Police, the Youth Service, SSDC Sport Development, SSDC Young Persons Officer and Somerset Rural Youth Service. The rest of the meeting was given over to workshops and the attendees were each able to attend two. The workshops covered the following subjects:

- Funding - where to go and how to apply
- Training - how to access relevant free or cheap training for workers and volunteers
- Resources - activity ideas and where to get resources
- Procedures - CRBs and child safety
- Starting Out - for people new to working with young people

Feedback from the event was very positive. Of the evaluation forms completed 95% felt that the presentations were very useful and 100% felt the workshops were useful. The vast majority of people said they would like to attend a similar event if it is held next year.

Update from Onside – the Community Football Project

The football project is continuing well in all three towns. A second annual tournament was recently held in Yeovil, which was won by the South Petherton team.

Update from the AWCSAP meeting on Thursday 30th June

Amongst the partners in attendance at the meeting the following updates were provided:

Last Orders

The MSSCSP Community Safety Project Officer and the Community Safety Assistant have recently arranged for a drama event aimed at young people to take place in South Somerset. Solomon Theatre, the company that last year performed the 'Scamwise' shows around South Somerset, are coming back with 'Last Orders' a performance aimed at young people.

Developed by a team of doctors, police, NSPCC professionals and teachers, the performance looks at the consequences of binge drinking by two young girls. The play is based on true events and uses professional actors to show students how alcohol affects the way people think – their inhibitions, attitude to risk and ultimately their self-control. After the performance there are workshops, which explore the themes of anti-social behaviour, illegal purchase (including law on alcohol & age-restricted products), attitude to risk and sexual health.

This event is taking place in two secondary schools in South Somerset; one of which is Wadham School in Crewkerne.

Community Speedwatch

So far this year the various community speedwatch groups in Area West have carried out nearly 250 sessions in total and have reported 1,660 speeders.

Partnership Update

The SSDC Community Safety Officer informed the Panel that the future of the Mendip & South Somerset Community Safety Partnership was uncertain beyond March 2011. There are two reasons for this, firstly, Somerset County Council is making cuts to its community safety budget, which has been used to partly fund the Mendip and Community Safety Partnership. Secondly, there is a countywide review taking place, which is currently looking at the delivery structures for community safety in Somerset. There is a proposal to form a countywide partnership but a decision has yet to be made regarding this option.

Local Action Groups (LAGs) Update

The three market towns of Crewkerne, Chard and Ilminster have an active Local Action Group. Each of these LAGs has an Action Plan and meets regularly to progress those actions and raise any new issues and establish how to deal with them. Recent and/or forthcoming work of the LAGs is referred to below.

Chard LAG

- The Chard Local Action Group is planning a Community Safety Family event on 30th July at Holyrood School. They are appealing for community groups that would like a stall at the event to come forward and apply for a place.

Crewkerne LAG

- The Crewkerne LAG is planning a large community safety event at the Henhayes Centre from 10am on Saturday 18th September.
- Concerns about bullying at Happy Valley have been raised at this meeting. Work is now taking place to attract more people into the park, with more people using the park the incidents of bullying should decrease.

Ilminster LAG

- Ilminster recently held a community safety event in the Market House in the town centre. Although the event took place on a cold windy day

attendance was good and a steady stream of people picked up useful information and no major issues were raised.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Corporate Priority Implications

4.9 Develop a range of approaches and initiatives that build confidence and reduce fear of crime by maintaining a level of 92% of population that feels safe in their community by 2012.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The needs of different groups are considered through the work of the Community Safety Action Panel, for example the use of accessible venues for events and making published material available in different formats and languages.

Background Papers: *Area West Community Safety Update January 2010*
Area West Community Safety Update July 2009
Area West Community Safety Update January 2009

(b) Community Justice Panel - Update

Lead Officer: *Valerie Keitch, Community Justice Panel Manager*
Contact Details: *valerie.keitch@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01460) 260423*

Purpose of the Report

To note progress of the Community Justice Panel in South Somerset.

Recommendation

It is recommended that members note and comment on the report to be given by Val Keitch.

Background

In July 2004, Area West Committee appointed two representatives to the Community Justice Panel Implementation Group, this has since been increased to three to include Crewkerne representation .The Panel went live in 2005 and progress reports have been submitted to the committee each year.

Val Keitch, the Manager is based in the SSDC Area West Offices at Chard.

Progress Report

Funding is in place from the Home Office, Police, Somerset County Council, Mendip and South Somerset Community Safety Partnership, Area East and

various contributions from Town and Parish Councils until March 2011. There may be other contributions to come from Yarlington Homes.

The Panel dealt with some 156 cases in 2009/2010.

Training

Training courses have been delivered to Police staff, Volunteers, Councillors and Yarlington Homes staff. Volunteer recruitment is up this year and spread across the District, which is partly due to the item that appeared in the SSDC newsletter that went to all households. Very good volunteers are coming forward.

Further Expansion of the Project

This is well in hand. The Justice Panels in Areas East, North and West are up and running and plans well ahead for Area South and Mendip. Extra funding has allowed us to employ 2 more Co-ordinators who will take up post in August.

The Management Group structure has changed and there is now a Strategic Management Group to oversee all 4 projects in South Somerset and Mendip, the local Management Committees will remain.

General

Since the General Election, briefings have been requested from the Ministry of Justice for the new Ministers. It is part of the new Government's programme that Justice Panels are rolled out nationally. The Panel here in SSDC is unique and that is being recognised by a wider audience.

Members will no doubt be aware that it was announced recently that the Justice Panel has been awarded the Queens Award for voluntary service. The presentation will take place in the Autumn here in Somerset. Four members of the Justice Panel attended a Garden Party last week at Buckingham Palace as part of that award.

Funding has been obtained for the production of a new DVD to assist with training and publicity. Filming has been completed and it should be available in about 6 weeks.

Financial Implications

The Council have supported the project from its beginnings. A structural review will take place to look at funding streams and as yet it is unclear if money will come from Central Government.

***Background Papers:** Progress report to Area West Committee - 15th July 2009*

(c) Police Performance and Neighbourhood Policing

Inspector Jackie Gold and Sgt. Andy Lloyd will attend the meeting and give a short presentation on local issues, crime trends and initiatives.