

Warwickshire Police Authority – 29 October 2008

Report of the District Partnership Leads

Summary

This report provides an update for Members on issues affecting policing in the 5 Districts.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

1. North Warwickshire – Anne Forwood

PACT/Area Forums

Overall there is a decrease again in the crimes in North Warwickshire.

It still seems that the idea of the Police Surgeries before the area meetings has not quite got into the mind set of people and they want to keep asking questions that are troubling them about local things in the section of the Area Forum where the police give their report instead of beforehand. We have asked the public to give written questions a week or so beforehand so we can structure the meetings better and give better answers to their problems. Because the time police are at the meetings is precious. We know there will always be some questions but are trying to cut back to the allotted time for the police as it always seems to run over.

We have recently had a number of anti social/nuisance youths issues and so there has been a greater police presence in the areas identified. Some of these areas were identified at the Area Forum/Pact meetings and at Polesworth which was the first area to be highlighted recorded incidents have dropped considerably .

At these meetings we have Police / Borough / County joining together to see what steps can be put together to try and combat the incidents and residents are told of what will be put in place.

It is also made clear at these meetings that there has to be public participation in reporting the incidents and if parents or guardians of the young people they should be seen to be contributing to the correction of the young peoples behaviour.

I have attended Residents Association meetings where the only subject was anti social behaviour. We had local Councillors, Police, Borough officers and myself as the Police Authority representative/County Councillor there and listened to them. The residents were told about various things that would be put in place and that were already in place. This seemed to calm down the situation a little. There has not been any reports to me since the meeting.

The main priorities the Area Forum/PACT's have given to the police are anti-social behaviour and parking.

There was a public order operation in Coleshill dealing with incidents outside licensed premises. This was successful as there have been no repeat incidents.

Crime operations took place in Hartshill around vehicle crime and Coleshill for house burglary. Arrests were made and crime reduced following both operations.

There was a disappointing outcome to a meeting held with businesses at Hams Hall where there was not a consensus to the idea of having a barrier put up. The reason for the barrier was to stop cars racing on the estate. They were asked to fund the barrier but it seems that certain head office personnel have not been informed of the dangers to the legitimate traffic on the site. (It seems as if the money part was the stumbling block). This is an on going item.

North Warwickshire Community Partnership

Many things have been highlighted and there are a number of recommendations. Here are some of them.

Domestic violence. To address the intelligence gap for repeat victim of Domestic Violence across all Partnership Agencies

Alcohol Related violence. Partnership initiatives across the borough aiming primarily at males and females aged 18-25

Anti-Social Behaviour. To keep this as a priority and focus on reducing Youth related incidents and investigate ways of addressing local perceptions.

These meetings are well attended by a number of different agencies and they all give reports. It seems to be working quiet well.

2. Nuneaton and Bedworth – Bob Hicks

CDRP Matters

Since my last report, the issue of reviewing CCTV deployment has been completed. I am pleased to say that the principle of deployment according to policing need has been confirmed.

Although the Borough Council may still consider supply of more cameras, the operations will continue to be based on appropriateness of use in a given place to address a given problem. With this assurance, cameras should not become political toys. Should additional cameras stretch the police force's ability to service them, the CDRP will look again at what steps are required.

Nuneaton & Bedworth Safer Communities Partnership (NABSCOP) was ready to commit much of its' capital funding this year to assisting a domestic abuse unit for the Borough until complications set in over property purchase and renovation. This has now been abandoned for this year, and capital bids are being invited from other partnership members during October. Bids should be determined by the end of October.

Similarly, funding is available for a Christmas Alcohol campaign and bids are coming together locally as well as county-wide.

The local Drugs and Alcohol Team are bidding amongst others.

District Performance-

The new local Superintendent has been keen to reinstate the resourcing of Safer Neighbourhood Teams which had been slipping earlier this year. Community groups have expressed approval of this direction.

Among variable directions of travel I am pleased to note that year-to-date returns for Serious Acquisitive Crime are better than target on reported crimes; another 18 detections would also have us on target for detections.

On violent crime, our 5% reduction target is currently a reduction of 21% and our detection rate is 43% against a target of 45%.

Locality Matters-

A further report is coming to Nuneaton & Bedworth Area Committee to confirm - or not - recommendations for introducing Locality Working.

I am aware of continuing apprehension about these arrangements. Issues range from anxiety about pressure groups running localities in pursuit of limited goals to middle class professionals overwhelming the agendas. Some Members still look nostalgically on PACT meetings as the best thing since sliced bread. A decision of some sort is possible by the end of this year.

From a policing perspective, the proposals (boundaries, frequency of meetings, etc,) are not objectionable.

3. Rugby – Katherine King

Community Safety Partnership

The Be Safe/ Feel Safe community led anti violence campaign and weapon amnesty has been taking place over the summer. This attracted national recognition and has been an excellent example of partnership working. Community leaders were actively involved and a number of initiatives took place for example a pledge wall which took over 3,000 signatures over a weekend.

A second recent initiative led by Rugby CSP is the joint initiative with West Midlands Police on accident and emergency data. This involves putting together a database of people who are being treated at A&E with anonymous data including details of gender, age, location of assault, weapons used, relationship to offender and whether alcohol related.

The information gathered will give us an idea of the level of non-accidental injury (assault), and will provide real evidence of whether there is under reporting by getting an actual picture of the level of assaults. An example might be where an individual is intoxicated to such a high level that they cannot remember the details of what took place. A conclusion that may be drawn on examination of the data is that many of these assaults are alcohol related.

District Performance

As a major feature of the District Lead role I continue to keep in close contact with our Rugby District Commander, Chief Inspector Bob Musgrove, both to discuss Rugby policing and the CSP, and also to further develop Rugby Police's role in the 6 Locality Panel's.

I have been attending the Rugby Quarterly Review meetings, most recently on 20th October, to discuss Rugby in relation to the force priorities. These meetings are extremely useful in gaining an overview of the operational performance of Rugby Police.

Rugby has suffered some major high profile serious assaults which have had a significant impact on the perception of violence in the town. This has unfortunately generated a higher fear of crime. However serious violent crime has in fact reduced overall by 10% compared with the same period last year.

Unfortunately we haven't seen similar decreases in the town centre, therefore local officers have been working very closely with venues, one of which has the highest levels of violence in the County, and this has resulted in a 50% reduction in violence in the past 6 months.

In terms of acquisitive crime, Rugby has seen a 15% decrease this year to date. Even though the county has experienced an increase this month, Rugby's performance is still very positive comparatively.

Localities

Since the last report, Locality Panels have met in all of the Rugby localities and minutes of all these meetings are available from the Rugby Area Office.

In the last round of meeting's Rugby Police officers have held an hour's police surgery allowing the general public the opportunity to discuss any issues that they wish to raise privately with officers. This initiative seems to have been successful and surgeries are planned again for the next round of meetings later in the year.

It is my intention to attend a different Locality Panel meeting at each round in addition to the Benn, Brownsover and Newbold meetings, so that I can get a wider perspective on the meetings across the Rugby Borough.

At a recent joint seminar of County and Borough Members led by the Warwickshire County Council area office, feedback and best practice were discussed. It was also widely agreed that in Rugby we wish to stick to the name locality panel rather than community forum for the time being. The main reason is that we do not wish to compete or become confused with community associations.

Rugby BID

I continue to represent the Authority as a Director of Rugby Business Improvement District (BID). The BID has had an extremely positive impact on Rugby town centre, in terms of the environment and cleanliness, the welcoming presence of the BID Rangers, the CCTV, The marketing of the town and the partnership working with local agencies and traders.

4. Stratford-on-Avon – Richard Hobbs

CDRP

As a result of the Strategic Assessment of South Warwickshire, an action plan has been developed by the CDRP. This has resulted in a very successful multi- agency operation in the Warwick District. It is proposed for similar operations to take place in Stratford District. Recently GOWM agreed the merger of the two South Warwickshire CDRPs

District Performance

Since Mid July Stratford district has seen a reduction in Serious Violent Crime but the alcohol related incidents are still higher than the average for the county. Although the incidence of serious acquisitive crime is 7.6% down on last year recent figures show an upward trend along with increases of reported anti-social behaviour. This may be a reporting issue since the majority of anti-social behaviour is categorised as rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, and is recorded under the guidance of the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIC).

The Strategic Assessment identified part of Guild & Hathaway and Avenue & New Town wards as a priority neighbourhood and within this priority area, all crime has seen a reduction of 10.8%

It is pleasing to see that the trends are carefully monitored and action is swift to take place to address any changes in performance.

Operation Crunch which is a force wide initiative to reduce Serious Acquisitive Crime is targeting hotspots and PPOs along with an intensive media and reassurance campaign.

Operation Orleans is also in place to target the anticipated escalation of ASB incidents during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

Localities

The local forum meetings are now in place and are also acting as PACT meetings for the local community. They are receiving a mixed reception from the local communities.

The policing of the Bulldog Bash was criticised by the local community but, at a recent meeting in Quinton to discuss the aftermath, it was agreed that there would be better communications between Police and the Parish Councils if a similar operation was necessary next year.

5. Warwick – Chris Davis

CDRP

The combined Stratford and Warwick CDRP now has been approved by GOWM, at least verbally. No further report information is available at this time.

District Performance

Serious violent crime has shown an increase of 48.3%, with almost two thirds of these offences being alcohol related. This category now includes section 47 ABH – assault with injury. A concerted effort has been made to address violent crime with the Your Town / Your Choice initiative in Leamington Town Centre. Progress is being made towards closing Bedford Street at night time and making Tavistock Street one way to reduce Crime and Disorder and ASB in the area.

Vehicle crime including theft from vehicles has increased, particularly in North Leamington, but a number of arrests have halted the trend.

Criminal damage offences are diminishing with a year to date reduction of 15.2%

Levels of user satisfaction for victims of crime have been improving. 35 of the 36 victims surveyed were satisfied

Localities

The transformation of Safer Neighbourhood Panels (or PACTs) into Locality Forums has been slower than expected due to issues over chairmanship.

Leamington North SNP is targeting street racers and under age drinking and is to have its next meeting for the first time in Milverton Ward at Trinity School.

South Leamington SNP is actively planning a Brunswick "Respect Week" to take place in February 2009 focussing on broadly based community engagement and participation in the area.

Whitnash Community Forum had its first meeting where older residents raised issues regarding bus services, a meeting place for the elderly, and overgrown hedges.

Lastly I have taken advantage of the "Ride Along Scheme" to get a valuable snapshot of local tasking and activity of SNOs and PCSOs working in my own North Leamington Locality.