

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
21st December 2006

Half Yearly April to September 2006 Performance of The Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Safer Communities
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Community Safety
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr. Nathan Desmond
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Chief Executive
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APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report half yearly April to September 2006 performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership (WFCSP) in reducing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Wyre Forest District.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1 **The performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership for April to September 2006 in reducing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Wyre Forest District is noted.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In April 2005, three year reduction targets were negotiated and agreed by the WFCSP with Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) for the following British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crimes for the Wyre Forest District.
- a) Criminal Damage
 - b) Common Assault
 - c) Wounding
 - d) Vehicle Crime (theft of motor vehicle / from motor vehicle / vehicle interference)
 - e) Overall reduction of BCS Comparator Crimes

3.2 GOWM monitors the WFCSP's performance of meeting yearly milestones of the above targets on a monthly basis. Locally this performance is monitored on a quarterly basis by the WFCSP Steering Group and monitored monthly by the WFCSP Tasking Group.

3.3 The Council's representatives on the WFCSP Steering Group are the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, the Strategy, Partnerships and Communications Manager, and the Community Safety and Partnerships Officer, who is also the co-ordinator of the WFCSP.

4. PERFORMANCE OF WFCSP

4.1 A statistical breakdown of the WFCSP's six monthly performance (April to September 2006) in delivering the BCS Comparator Crime Targets is set out in Chart 1.

Chart 1

Category of Crime	Baseline Number of crimes 2003/04	Target Number of Crimes 2007/08	Number of Crimes April to Sept 2005	Number of crimes April to Sept 2006	Rank in family group*	Projected Number of crimes 2006/07	Projection - % Reduction in number of crimes 2003/04-2006/07	Status of Progress
Total number of British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes	6020	4936	2295	2334	5	4468	25.8	Ahead of target
Criminal Damage	2266	1881	964	969	7	1938	14.5	On target
Common Assault	461	378	102	77	5	154	66.5	Ahead of target
Wounding	1081	886	427	482	11	964	10.8	Below target
Vehicle Crime	1502	1201	537	539	8, 2, 3	1078	28.2	Ahead of target

* Family Group Rank -There are 15 Community Safety Partnerships in the Family Grouping therefore 1 = best performance and 15 = worst performance

Definitions for each category of crime are available in the glossary of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2005-08

4.2 The WFCSP's strong performance has resulted in an overall reduction of BCS Comparator Crimes of 25.8% from 2003/04 to September 2006. This is very encouraging when compared to the target reduction agreed with GOWM of 18% between 2003/04 and 2007/08.

- 4.3 In terms of the overall Family Group Ranking for half yearly performance 2006/07 the WFCSP is currently 5th out of 15, where 1 = best performance and 15 = worst performance.
- 4.4 WFCSP is aware that wounding is currently below target. However, the Home Office has recently changed the definition for wounding and as a result there are some offences which were previously categorised as common assault are now being recorded under the wounding classification. This in part explains why common assault shows a huge percentage reduction and wounding has an increase.
- 4.5 In this regard, WFCSP has focused on a number of initiatives to support addressing the wounding issue. The initiatives include:
- The establishment of a Wyre Forest Domestic Violence Project Group;
 - Visits by police officers to Kidderminster Town Centre pubs in the early evening to stop anti social behaviour and disorder which in turn will prevent assaults later that night;
 - Work to address repeat offender behaviour and the Prolific and Other Priority Offender Scheme;
 - Twenty four hour response officers who have primary responsibility for dealing with violent crime and
 - The mapping of violent crime in the town centres by time, in order to target resources appropriately.
- 4.6 Significant WFCSP achievements since 1st April 2006 are detailed below.
- a) The WFCSP's funded projects for 2006/07 have commenced and are progressing well. They include:
- Two roving neighbourhood wardens who are employed by the Community Housing Group. They identify, deter and respond positively to incidents of anti social behaviour and have a specific remit to link up with other agencies to co-ordinate and promote diversionary activities for young people.
 - A WFCSP Analyst who provides analytical and data management support for the Partnership. The Analyst also plays a pivotal role in the performance management of the Partnership.
 - A WFCSP Support Officer who provides valuable administrative support to the Partnership and helps to increase capacity.
 - A contribution towards CCTV schemes for Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley which will help to reduce crime and anti social behaviour and increase public reassurance.

- A contribution towards educational/diversionary activities, which are led by the WFDC Ranger Service, to reduce anti social behaviour on nature reserves and to make young people value the District's natural open spaces.
 - A contribution towards Asha Wyre Forest, which is a one stop shop for disadvantaged women situated in the Horsefair/Broadwaters area of Kidderminster.
 - Funding towards the WFCSP Tasking budget, in order to deploy resources to contribute towards reducing crime, increase feelings of safety and raise awareness of WFCSP.
- b) The WFCSP Tasking Group has been established since March 2006. The Group identifies common problems across agencies, and tackles them in partnership. It has been effective in directing the Neighbourhood Wardens and Police Community Support Officers to patrol crime and disorder hot spots in the District.
- c) Working in partnership with the local media, WFCSP secured a six weeks press campaign in the Kidderminster Shuttle, Times and News. This raised awareness of community safety issues which were pertinent to the summer holiday period.
- d) The WFCSP has taken part in a number of events during the last six months which have been used to raise awareness of the Partnership and community safety. These have included Kidderminster Carnival, the Oldington and Foley Park Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Fun Day, the Kidderminster Police Station Open Day, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service Home Safe Home event and Inside Justice at Kidderminster Magistrates Court.
- e) The Community Safety and Partnerships Officer secured a place on a six month GOWM training course focusing on the leadership aspects within a community safety partnership. The skills developed will be used to further enhance the performance of the WFCSP and its partners.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The WFCSP will need to continue to maintain and build upon its 2005/06 and the first six month's of 2006/07 performance of reducing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Wyre Forest District. This will also include the delivery of the Local Public Spending Agreement 2 crime and fire targets for the area.
- 5.2 Discussions have commenced with the Redditch Community Safety Partnership and Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership respectively, to explore a proposed merger with the WFCSP to create a North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership. This approach was endorsed by the WFCSP on 13th April 2006 and will be in line with recommendations published by Government on the merger of Community Safety Partnerships, which were reported to Cabinet on 27th April 2006. However, to date there has been no further progress on the proposed merger.
- 5.3 We are still waiting for the recommendations from the Government Review of Partnership Provision of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The majority of the

changes will come into being when the Police and Justice Bill receives Royal Assent in autumn 2006.

- 5.4 One of the major recommendations from the CDA98 Review is the introduction of the Community Call for Action (CCfA). The CCfA will extend the role of local elected members as community leaders by establishing them as the first port of call for members of the community who believe a crime and disorder issue has not been dealt with adequately by a CDRP partner.
- 5.5 National Standards for community safety are to be developed at the end of 2006. WFCSP will have to take these into account however it is unknown at this stage what the implications of these will be.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific financial implications in connection with this report.

7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The WFCSP will continue to deliver the three year Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2005/08.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 There are no current risk management issues in connection with this report.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The WFCSP will continue to respond accordingly to changes in the levels of crime and disorder, anti social behaviour and the misuse of drugs in the District. Regular monitoring of performance will help the Partnership to work towards its vision of *'Wyre Forest – An even safer place to live, work, visit or do business in'*.

10. CONSULTEES

- Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services
- CMT

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Report 29th June 2006 - End of Year 2005/06 Performance of The Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership
- Cabinet Report 27th April 2006 - Government Review of Partnership Provision of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

3rd November 2006