

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
29th JUNE 2007

End of Year 2006/07 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 end of year 2006/07 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 2006/07 in reducing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Wyre Forest District be 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. This performance is reported on a quarterly basis to the WFCSP's Steering 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 end of year 2006/07 performance in delivering the BCS Comparator Crime Targets is set out in Chart 1.

Chart 1

Category of Crime	Baseline Number of crimes 2003/04	Number of crimes April 2005 – March 2006	Number of crimes April 2006 to March 2007	% Reduction in number of crimes 2003/04 – 2006/07	Rank in family group*	Status of progress
Total number of British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes	6020	4485	4660	22.6%	8	Ahead of target
Criminal Damage	2266	1873	1855	18.1%	2	Ahead of target
Common Assault	461	168	182	60.5%	4	Ahead of target
Wounding	1081	799	899	16.8%	9	Below target
Vehicle Crime	1502	1121	1181	21.4%	11, 15, 11	Ahead of target
<p>* Family Group Rank – There are 15 Community Safety Partnerships in the Family Grouping therefore 1 = best performance and 15 = worst performance</p> <p>Definitions for each category of crime are available in the glossary of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2005-08</p>						

4.2 The WFCSP's strong performance has resulted in an overall reduction of BCS Comparator Crimes of 22.6% from 2003/04 to 2006/07. 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 year 2006/07 the WFCSP finished 8th 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 changed the definition for wounding and as a result there are some offences which were previously categorised as common assault that 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. Nevertheless, WFCSP will be addressing this under performance through the development of a multi agency action plan, which will put in place interventions to tackle wounding.

- 4.5 Members are reminded that monthly crime, disorder and anti social behaviour statistics for all Wards can be accessed from the Community Safety Section of the Council's Intranet.
- 4.6 The majority of the WFCSP's key achievements since April 2006 were reported to Cabinet on 21st December 2006, however other significant achievements since then include:
 - a) From 1st April 2007 the WFCSP secured the services of the Partnership Analyst on a full time basis. The Analyst provides analytical and data management support and plays a critical role with regard to achieving the LAA reward target and the associated potential £1 million reward for the Worcestershire Partnership.
 - b) WFCSP has purchased a number of talking signs, which are an excellent way of getting crime prevention messages across. The signs will be moved around the District as necessary and the messages can be changed to give out different crime prevention advice.
 - c) The Partnership has recognised the need to focus on tackling vehicle crime in particular hotspots across the District. This is being achieved through an action plan driven by key partners. Initiatives include signage, poster campaigns and letters to residents with crime prevention advice.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The WFCSP will need to maintain and build upon its 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 Area Agreement Reward / LPSA 2 crime and fire targets for the area.
- 5.2 The Chief Executives of North Worcestershire are meeting on a regular basis to further discussions on the proposed merger of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnerships. A Working Group is to be established in order to look at the implications of a potential merger in further detail.
- 5.3 Regulations will be introduced regarding the working of CDRPs in the form of a framework of National Standards, which will commence in Summer 2007. WFCSP will need to ensure that it is 'fit for purpose' and capable of meeting the necessary standards.

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 21st December 2006 – Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Progress Report – April to September 2006

23rd May 2007