

Community Services Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Kathryn Hebbert,
Community Safety and
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Open

Performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership 2007/08

1. Summary

- 1.1 To report the performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership (WFCSP) in reducing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Wyre Forest District against its 3 year crime reduction targets, that were concluded on 31st March 2008.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 In April 2005, three year crime 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
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The Council's representatives on the WFCSP Steering Group are the Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services, the Strategy, Partnerships and Communications Manager and the Community Safety and Partnerships Officer, who is also the co-ordinator of the WFCSP.

3. Performance of the WFCSP

- 3.1 A statistical breakdown of the WFCSP's final 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 2007 – March 2008	% Reduction Target in number of crimes 2003/04 – 2007/08	% Reduction in number of crimes 2003/04 – 2007/08	Status of progress
Total number of British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes	6020	4430	18%	26.4%	Target Exceeded
Criminal Damage	2266	1746	17%	22.9%	Target Exceeded
Common Assault	461	321	18%	30.4%	Target Exceeded
Wounding	1081	823	18%	23.6%	Target Exceeded
Vehicle Crime	1502	909	20%	39.5%	Target Exceeded

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

- 3.2 The WFCSP's strong performance has resulted in an overall reduction of BCS Comparator Crimes of 26.4% from 2003/04 to 2007/08. This is excellent when compared to the target reduction agreed with GOWM of 18% between 2003/04 and 2007/08.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The majority of the WFCSP's key achievements since April 2007 were reported to Cabinet on 29th June 2007, however other significant achievements since then include:
- a) On 1st April 2008, WFCSP published its new Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008/11. Four strategic priorities have been agreed following the assessment of crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in conjunction with a residents' survey. In year one of the Plan,

WFCSP is focusing on delivering the LAA reward targets / LPSA 2 targets and an action plan is in place to support this The priorities are:

- Criminal Damage
 - Vehicle Crime
 - Violent Crime
 - Public Perception of Crime
- b) The WFCSP Tasking Group has developed considerably over the last 3 years and is a proactive and effective forum, being the main operational arm of the Partnership. The key objective is to identify common problems across agencies, and tackle them in partnership. Tasking focuses on tackling key crime issues such as domestic burglary and 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, radio advertising and letters to residents and businesses with crime prevention advice.
- c) A working group has been set up to establish a No Rogue Traders Zone in Offmore. The majority of the homes in the defined area are warden managed and some of the householders have been victims of distraction burglaries. Community Housing, Trading Standards and the Police are all closely involved, with the support of the Ward Councillors. This project will be used as a trial with the possibility of rolling it out to other areas in the District.
- d) In March 2008, the Wyre Forest Hate Incident Partnership was launched. The scheme allows victims and witnesses to report an incident in a location where they feel most comfortable, at centres based in the local community. A third party reporting format also allows people to report incidents on behalf of others. Initially, fifteen reporting centres have been established, these include the Customer Service Centres, Community Housing Group's Area Offices, and the Polish Consulate amongst others.
- e) In November 2007, a successful event was held focusing on working in partnership with the District's Designated Premises Supervisors, to reduce alcohol related violent crime. Since the event a working group has been established to deliver an action plan developed from the day and a follow up event is proposed for October.

4. Key Issues

4.1 The WFCSP will need to maintain and build upon its three year performance of reducing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Wyre Forest District in order deliver the LAA Reward / LPSA 2 crime and fire targets for the area.

4.2 With regards to the proposed merger of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnerships, the Chief Officer Group have at the Community Services 19-06-08

present time decided not to merge the respective community safety teams, due to the need to focus on the delivery of the LAA Reward / LPSA 2 crime and fire targets. A report regarding the proposed merger has been submitted to June's Cabinet.

- 4.3 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 continue to work towards its vision of 'Wyre Forest – An even safer place to live, work, visit or do business in'.

5. Options

- 5.1 To consider and comment on the performance of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership in reducing crime, disorder and anti social behaviour in the Wyre Forest District against its 3 year crime reduction targets.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services
6.2 Head of Community and Partnership Services

7. Implications

- 7.1 Resources: There are no specific financial implications in connection with this report.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Cabinet Report 29th June 2007 – Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership End of Year Progress 2006/07

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