

# Cabinet Member - Communities Report

Cabinet – 30 September 2010

## SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Please see below a synopsis relating to some of the actions that contribute directly to the delivery of the department's Annual Service Plan and the Council's contribution to the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Plan.

### General perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour

In the last 3 months, working with the Police, we have sent out **47 packs** of information and advice to the parents/guardians **of children** who have been stopped by the Police in respect of anti-social behaviour. Of those sent information and advice **28 included information on alcohol** as this was one of the factors associated with their behaviour at the time.

With reference to **adults**, in the same period we have sent out **45** similar letters, of which **40 related to alcohol**

During June to August 2010 we installed **22 sanctuary schemes** in relation to high/very high risk victims of domestic and sexual violence in Sefton.

In addition **Operation Beach-Safe** has now run to a conclusion and we await a report to the SSCP on 30 September 2010.

Obtained one **anti-social behaviour order** in Sefton (2 years) in relation to a youth who was committing acts of verbal abuse and harassment. The ASBO has non-association and also geographic prohibitions to attempt to break the cycle of anti-social behaviour.

### From April to August 2010

- All crime reports are down 10.2% on same period 2009.
- The Partnership's British Crime Survey (BCS) iQuanta **ranking** for most recent 3 month period available up from 4th in 2009 to **3rd in 2010**.
- **Most Serious Violent Crime** April-July 2010 reduced by 36.8% compared to the same period in 2009 and currently 20% below target (youth related violence for the period down 36.5%).
- **Hate crime** April-July 2010 down 10.9% on same period in 2009.
- **Anti Social Behaviour** for school summer holiday period (July/August) down 4% compared to 2009. Much thanks needs to be given to the work of Leisure Services (Free and Active programme) as well as work from/by Sefton Youth Services and the voluntary and community sector.
- **Perceptions of Youth Disorder** being a problem have fallen by 3.5% in July 2010 compared to July 2009.
- Community perceptions that they can **influence decisions that affect their local area** have increased by 3.8% in July 2010 compared to July 2009.

- Community perceptions for July 2010 show over **80% of Sefton residents are satisfied/very satisfied with their local area as a place to live.**

### **Additional Work**

The **Emergency Planning Team** took control of **the flooding which affected parts of Bootle** in early August. Work undertaken included setting up community facilities at St. Leonard's Centre, Peel Road which was attended by agencies from the Third Sector, Housing, EPD, Adult Social Care, Police and Health to support flood victims. At the subsidence of the waters, Adult Social Care and Sefton CVS have now taken the lead in managing residents back into their homes, with the Emergency Planning Team continuing to oversee and assist the process. The Community Fund is managing charitable donations to residents affected by the floods.

A joint Police and Environmental Protection Division operation (**Operation Maynard**) to tackle owners of "status dogs" has been successfully completed throughout Sefton and reported in the local press. The aim is to reassure the public that anti-social behaviour using dogs will not be tolerated and to discourage owners from using their dogs in inappropriate ways.

Investigations continue to gather evidence against two key offenders in South Sefton with a view to apply for **ASBO's**. Two other youths who are causing anti-social behaviour are to be assessed and reviewed through the Common Assessment Framework process to establish appropriate support and diversionary options to prevent further offending or progress within the Criminal Justice System. A high-need family in South Sefton are now engaged and working in a Family Intervention Programme designed to reduce the risk of their offending behaviour.

Sefton Park Rangers and SING delivered a **Multicultural Festival** partly funded by Safer Stronger Communities, in **Potters Barn Park, Waterloo** in early August. The event was attended by more than **800 local residents** who enjoyed a wide range of activities reflecting cultures from around the world. The festival was designed to encourage people to value differences in cultures and to increase the positive use of parks.

In the past month **Community Payback** have delivered over **400 hours of unpaid work; collecting over 200 bags of litter** and refuse and undertaken "specialist" requests including re-painting the five-a-side pitch surrounds in Derby Park, graffiti removal at Marian Square, painting of Abbeyfield Park railings and throughout the Summer assisted the National Trust at Formby pine-woods every Monday as part of Operation Beach-Safe.

We have run one trial '**operation stay-safe**' in partnership with the Police, Brunswick Youth Club, Leisure Services and Youth Services. The operation designed to reduce the risks and harm associated with anti-social behaviour. It is planned to run operation stay-safe during the 'mischief period' in areas associated with local intelligence on high-risk ASB areas in Sefton. The principle aim is to prevent any serious harm to young people.

## **Planned Activity**

In the next few months we will be introducing:

- New **Anti-Social Behaviour standards** with colleagues in the Police.
- A new **CD-rom** co-produced by the Sefton Community Safety Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Board that will be available to witnesses appearing in court in both civil and criminal trials.
- A new hate crime **CD-rom** that can be used to show victims the support and the way cases can be handled in court (*both these CD-rom's were commissioned/produced by our colleagues in Sefton's Corporate Communications Department, to whom we are grateful*).
- **Tomorrow's Women programme** (launch 15<sup>th</sup> October) will be part of Safer Communities Partnership's work on addressing some of the factors and drivers of women's offending behaviour.
- Scoping and research on the **Family Justice Centre** will be nearing completion. This work will examine the business case relating to the services that work in Sefton to support high-risk victims of domestic and sexual violence. We would wish to extend our thanks to all those that have been involved and have contributed to this exercise.

## **SEFTON EQUALITIES PARTNERSHIP**

### **Equality Act 2010**

Work is underway through the corporate equalities group to ensure that the Council, and Council departments, are prepared for the above Act which was passed in April of this year. Briefing sessions for managers and staff are being delivered across the Council. A new approach is being embedded corporately to effectively manage impact assessing and meet the requirements of the equality duties.

### **Community Development Project for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities**

The bi-lingual Skills Course is now up and running. Forty additional staff have now been trained in the 'Mental Health First Aid' from the public and third sectors. Inter-cultural Competency Training has been delivered to over 20 staff from the public and third sectors. Ten staff have now completed the 'Train the Trainers' Course to deliver cultural competency skills within their own organisations.

### **Mystery Shopping**

Members of the Ability Network have commenced the mystery shopping for One Vision Housing as part of improving access for people with disabilities or limiting long term illness. The outcomes of this work will form the basis of an action plan to remove barriers to access.

### **Values Statement**

The Waterloo Values Statement was launched in June at Waterloo Community Centre and the Queens Road/Bedford Road Values Statement was launched at Bootle Cricket Club in July with key providers of services and local residents coming together to tackle hate crime within their local communities.

### **Work Ability Project**

The above project was formally launched at Sing Plus in June and the project is now formally supporting over 40 individuals with disabilities or limiting long term illness to access employment or training.