

## CABINET MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor	Committee	Date
Peter Dowd	Cabinet Member Communities	27 January 2011

### Safer Stronger Communities (November – December 2010)

#### Community Payback

Deployed weekly across the full Sefton region and managed by Strategy Support Officer. Main headlines for weekly work include:

- removal of dog fouling and stencilling on Park Lane Estate (Netherton);
- removal of fly tipped rubbish and litter removal from shops in Marion Square (Netherton);
- Bowersdale Park clean up as part of a Xmas celebration in Linacre/ Derby; and
- removal of dog fouling in Brooklands Avenue, Brookvale, Greenbank Cycleway and in Little Crosby.

Work by the service has seen removal of over 200 bags of dog fouling and litter, 5.15 tonnes of fly tipping and undertaken 611 hours of unpaid work.

#### Drug Action Team

The Coalition Government's new drug strategy has now been published and it would appear that Sefton DAT is already delivering on all of its main priorities. Many DAT partnerships across the country will find delivering the new strategy something of a challenge but Sefton less so, because over the last 18 months we have transformed our treatment system from one that attempted to reduce the harm caused by drugs by initially stabilising addictions to one that ends them. Sefton's successful treatment rate for problematic drug users is now above both the regional and national average. Although the DAT is still preparing for an as yet unannounced cut in its budget, there is a commitment by all DAT partners to ensure that the work that supports this improved performance will continue in 2011/12.

More generally, Cocaine use is on the rise in Sefton. The DAT, CPS, Police, and Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) have jointly developed a protocol to support the introduction of conditional cautioning for individuals caught in possession of small amounts of Cocaine. The key condition, for those meeting the set criteria, is a requirement to attend a minimum of three appointments with a CRI drug worker. The introduction of conditional cautioning will allow partners to tackle low level offending quickly and effectively and divert offenders from the court system. It has the added benefit of allowing drug treatment workers to inform offenders of the risks they are undertaking with their personal health at an early stage before more serious health and criminal issues arise.

Following a series of briefings for police officers within Sefton's custody suites the initiative will be rolled out early in 2011.

---

### **Anti Social Behaviour Unit**

---

The work of the team continues and includes securing a 3 year ASBO against an individual in South Sefton and engaging with existing clients across the Borough, most notably in Litherland, Bootle, Netherton, Aintree, Maghull and Southport areas. The team has undertaken research into possible funding sources with Ministry of Justice to identify funding streams for continued vulnerable victim support, attended a Common Assessment Framework meeting, and managed a neighbour dispute in Formby. The team continued to offer a single point of contact for high risk victims throughout the working week and at weekends, which translates as a significant amount of one officers time spent liaising with victim outside of core hours and continued to gather evidence regarding several CRASBO and ASBO applications, including liaison with colleagues at all police stations for work plan progress meetings. Liaised with RSLs regarding current cases (high risk victims) and received several new referrals including numerous from Call Centre following the Lets Stop ASB Campaign.

All officers are engaged in case management, updating records and reviewing cases - this is an important part of the work; officers must evidence decision, rationale, actions and outcomes for each case so as to create an auditable investigation record and one officer is currently overseeing the Gang Related Violence Injunctions investigations, there are two 'gangs' that are being investigated, each with numerous members and Police have provided one full time officer to assist for a 6 week period.

Present caseload – Over 120 live cases and supporting 7 Vulnerable Victims.

---

### **Media / Marketing / Communications**

---

As with previous years, the Community Safety Division is managing the "Christmas Presence" campaign for Sefton, in partnership with Merseyside Police. To date, an overall Operational Plan has been put into place and runs from 29th November 2010 to 3rd January 2011, and includes various Police Operations such as "Guardian" (Robbery), "Nemesis" (Roads Policing) and "Spotlight" (Drink driving). 10 key dates have been identified (17th, 18th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 31st December and 1st and 3rd January) which includes 6 public holidays, as the main dates fall at the weekend. Other key parts of the plan include test purchase operations, Domestic Violence support, and 7 separate Police beat plans. Led by Communications Colleagues, Adshels along Lord Street, Southport have been booked between 22nd November and 31st December using the agreed imagery of the campaign, and access to an Advan for 3/4 days evenings a week from 1st December, have also been booked and form part of the plan. A3 posters for pubs and clubs in Southport have been produced and planning remains on-going.

A press release has been issued to the papers promoting the new "Informed" newsletters, which forms part of the Let's Stop Anti-Social Behaviour campaign, and this document has been added to the partnership website ([www.respectsefton.co.uk](http://www.respectsefton.co.uk)). 20,000 copies of the newsletter have been inserted into the Bootle Times, following the approach to inform residents that was used in October to promote the campaign leaflet.

A further press release on the success of partnership working to tackle the mischief, Halloween and Bonfire night period had been issued to the local media and one more on "Safer Shopping in Southport" during Xmas period has been sent.

The latest issue of "Snapshot" has been issued to staff, partners and members.

---

## **Civil Contingencies**

---

Sefton's Mortuary Capacity and Escalation Policy (in case of excess death and mass fatality planning) has been reviewed and the team liaised with schools regarding their emergency plans as well as other counter-terrorism services in Sefton with security advisors. A report on Bootle Flood incident has now been provided to Local Authorities Strategic Director and undertook a meeting of the Merseyside Local Authority Contingency Planning Group, reviewing comments made to GONW on the Scientific and Technical Advice Cell plan. The team also developed a training package and delivered same to Southport college students and reviewed all Service Level Agreements and budgetary commitments.

Partook in a review of weather related guidance and reports forwarded from GONW on legal requirements for highway, pavement and legality of clearing outside homes and attended an Olympic 2012 meeting on counter terrorism and policing strategy, and chaired Silver Group meeting on Bootle Flood Incident

With a Strategy Support Officer, the team attended, "Operation Victoria" – a Merseyside based desk top exercise on Counter Terrorism/Prevent agenda and, separately, all officers attended Civil Contingency business planning meeting reviewing Sefton's Business Continuity Policy in line with BS:25999 to develop a programme to develop business continuity planning in Sefton, a very large piece of work which is going to take whole teams commitment over a course of months. The team liaised with Regional and Local colleagues regarding the "Whiston Bid" (a Home Office bid to make Whiston Hospital the epicentre of mass fatalities policy), and engaged with Southport Hospital Emergency planning group.

---

## **Strategy Support Officers / Community Safety Area Partnerships**

---

Major headlines for work of Strategy Support Officers and Community Safety Area Partnerships:

- Attended a "Community Walkabout" in Crosby to speak to residents about their concerns regarding ASB, crime and environmental issues, together with Community Payback, Cleansing and Police were advised and tasked to act on residents' concerns.
- Installed Radio link (Business Watch) in retailers at Marian Square linked through to PSCOs at Copy Lane Police Station.
- Removed bench from Copy Farm Park, at residents' request, in order to reduce complaints regarding ASB in park.
- Attended King's Gardens Steering Group (Southport) to ensure that Community Safety issues are incorporated into redesign and redevelopment of gardens.

- Undertook site visit and commenced work on making the “back parts” of Firwood Cricket Club safe, on a piece of ground where drinking and drug taking activities had been reported as taking place.
- Attended a series of final wash up briefings with MFRS on the successful Bonfire and Mischief Plans.
- Attended the external Dilapidated Buildings Working Group, looking at issues of abandoned buildings across the former HMRI building, many of which had been raised through the CSAP process.
- Attended a Positive Futures workshop (Breaking Cultures) which looks at Hate Crime and also attended the Sefton Hate Crime Group meeting, where the report that an Strategy Support Officer had led on reviewing Hate Crime Centres reporting mechanisms was discussed.
- Undertook site meeting with MFRS and Sefton MBC’s Building Control about Character Mailing building, to secure and make safe this dilapidated building which youths have been accessing.
- Undertook week of action – in partnership with OVH – in Kings Avenue / Marsh Avenue / Stone Square on ASB. Used AdVan giving “Informed” campaign information and all residents leafleted with Tackling ASB Leaflets. Also litter picking and community skip provided.
- Sourced rock salt for Community Payback to undertake work in numerous elderly resident accommodations across Sefton.
- Arranged Cleansing team and Community Payback to undertake work on Bowersdale Park both in preparation and at the conclusion of a Xmas event by Crosby Housing.
- Commenced Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 review; full results expected in the New Year.
- In partnership with Southport Town Manager and SCP Communications Manager, prepared press release highlighting Christmas Operation to secure safety and well being of shoppers in Southport over Christmas.
- Attended MFRS Peer Review/assessment of Equalities and Diversity Policy, looking at Partnership (actions) and risks for 2011. Commenced preparation of “Helping Victims of Hate Crime Booklet” – a very positive outcome noted nationally.
- Attended Operation Victoria, a table top exercise partners with on Counter Terrorism and local profile around the Prevent Agenda.
- Undertook meeting with Leisure Services and Park Rangers at Meleanear Park and Lonsdale Park, concerning future diversionary activities preventing ASB.
- Undertook site visit to Russell Road, Southport to establish environmental factors causing repeat victimisation.
- Successfully dealt with emergency issue regarding vulnerable adults living on Ford Lane Estate.
- Site visit to Bootle and Southport One Stop Shops championing ASB campaign, which included handing out leaflets, and speaking to residents and visitors.
- Chaired SONO, Litherland/Ford, Southport, Crosby, Linacre/Derby, Formby and Sefton East CSAP 6 monthly review meetings. Headline figures from the separate reports include:
  - St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell – 22% reduction in Domestic Burglary;
  - Litherland/Ford – 23% reduction in Criminal Damage;
  - Southport – Significant progress/reductions made on all agreed priorities;

- o Crosby – 25% reduction in Theft from Vehicle;
- o Formby – Increase in overall crime but offset by reductions in Vehicle crime, ASB, Environmental and Criminal Damage (the latter at 48.1%); and
- o Sefton East - a saving of £12,440 in costs of crime against BCS crimes, with 8 of 11 crime types showing real terms cost savings

---

## **Performance**

---

Figures released in October show that for the 7th consecutive month there has been a reduction in BCS crime. BCS crime for October has reduced by 8.3% on October 2009 and year to date reductions stand at 15.5%. Month on Month reductions in Criminal Damage for the whole of Sefton result in a Year to Date overall reduction of 16%, equating to a cost saving of £201,960 based on Home Office cost of crime estimates. There have been year on year reductions across all ACA's - Linacre & Derby, the worst affected ACA, has seen offences reduce by 23%.

Further, figures released also shows that Most Serious Violence for Sefton (for Year to Date) shows a reduction of 27% on 2009 figures and is currently 13% below 2010's target. Serious Knife Crime shows a reduction of 34% on 2009 figures and is currently 22% below 2010's target and Racially/Religiously aggravated Offences show a 6.5% reduction on 2009 figures.