

## **CABINET REPORT – COMMUNITIES**

December, 2009

### **Sefton Equalities Partnership**

#### **Equalities Framework for Local Government**

The Council is currently working towards level three of the Equality Framework for Local Government that was introduced in April 2009. It is important to note this replaces the Equality Standard that previously had five levels and the Council, as reported in June 2009, was nearly at level four of the old standard.

Current progress, as shown on the new EFFECT performance management system for the framework, is extremely encouraging with the Council being recorded at 55% of level three working towards excellence.

#### **Diversity and Inter- Faith Weeks 2009**

The annual celebration of Equality, Diversity and Faith took place between Monday 9 and Friday 20 November. The theme for this year's events was "Peace and Reconciliation" and the following series of events took place:

- The annual Sefton Shining Stars Awards which celebrates the achievements of our young people in promoting equality and diversity and overcoming barriers to achievement.
- A workshop on inclusive engagement organised by the Public Engagement and Consultation Team.
- A workshop organised by the Sefton Branch of the Fawcett Society on Challenging Gender Stereotypes.
- A training and learning event organised by Embrace, the community empowerment network for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual residents.
- "Working Together" a disability employment event organised with the Sefton Disability Partnership Board.
- A Men's Health Drop in Session organised by the Talking Men network which was held at the Salvation Army in Bootle
- A drop in session held by the Disability Staff Support Group for Sefton for disabled staff from across the Partnership
- Three schools concerts where held at Southport Arts Centre at which schools from across the Borough celebrated Peace and Reconciliation.

- A multi faith art exhibition was hosted at St Michael's School in Crosby at which over 20 schools participated.

### **Single Equality Scheme**

Sefton's Single Equality Scheme has been ratified by the Council and a number of partner organisations such as NHS Sefton and One Vision Housing. A number of working groups have been established to ensure that a consistent approach to equality and diversity is adopted by all partner organisations resulting in good equality outcomes for our under represented communities.

### **Equality and Human Rights Commission – Strategic Funding Program**

The Equalities Partnership has been successful in securing £230,000 over a three year period from the Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Funding Programme. The project will work to support disabled people and people with a limiting long term illness to gain and retain employment.

### **Public Engagement and Consultation**

The Public Engagement and Consultation Framework was officially launched in October 2009 and a Toolkit that will set out a practical approach to meeting the standards will be available from January 2010.

The Your Sefton Your Say Public Engagement and Consultation Website is now live on the Council website. The website hosts eConsult (Consultation Finder), where members of the public can take part in on-line consultations. The website will also host other resources and information to support colleagues from across the partnership to plan and deliver high quality public engagement and consultation.

### **Health Service Journal Awards**

Sefton Equalities Partnership and NHS Sefton have been praised at a prestigious national awards ceremony for an innovative scheme that is tackling discrimination while improving access to health services. The Transgender Volunteer Programme is thought to be the first of its kind in the country. It supports Sefton's transgender (trans) residents to gain workplace experience within the local health service whilst, at the same time, improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing. The programme was shortlisted in the health inequalities category of the Health Service Journal Awards. It won second place – highly commended - at the awards ceremony held in London on the 30<sup>th</sup> November.

# Community Safety Department

## Mischief/Bonfire Period

Last year Sefton saw a 21% reduction in Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour and a 39% reduction in deliberate and secondary fires.

This year we hoped to build on these achievements by repeating many of the activities that were provided and to complement these further to make 2009 the safest Mischief Period year that Sefton had seen in recent times.

This period is a time when traditionally the prevalence of reported and recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour and secondary fires tends to increase not just in Sefton but also regionally and nationally. This period is often marked with increased potential for harm both to the wider community, and unfortunately many young people through contact with fireworks and bonfires.

## The Programme

The programme can be broken down into two elements;

1. **Diversionsary Events**
2. **Arson Threat Response**

The planned activity for the Bonfire/Mischief period consisted of a full programme of activities targeting prime age groups and the hot-spot areas for anti-social behaviour and secondary fires.

The main events that complement the '**Free & Active**' and the '**Places to Go, Things to do**' Programme over the October half-term period

Part of the programme saw young people from Bootle, Netherton and Seaforth taken to Splashworld on 17, 30 and 31 October and 4 November.

Transport was arranged and although lower than last year **315 young people accessed these nights**. Incidentally, on 4<sup>th</sup> November there were several young people that accessed this event that had been stopped by Police for throwing eggs the previous Friday evening.

Other diversionsary activities, visits and residential opportunities were also provided which saw:

- visits to the **Chill Factory**
- a **residential** that took 14 young people away from the Linacre Road area

- a **Canal Day trip** from Stafford Moreton taking 18 young people from Sefton East Parish away for the day.
- A free '**Urban Night**' was organised by both Merseyside Police and The Crosby Plaza Cinema and attracted nearly 30 young people.
- **Free firework displays** are being provided at The Netherton Activity Centre, Bootle Leisure Centre and Winibrook Park, Maghull that were free and attended by over 19,500 people. (The Maghull display attracted 3 times the number of people that attended the previous year)
- The **Faith Communities** were provided with funding that allowed seven different initiatives across Sefton reaching out to numbers of young people.
- **One Vision Housing** arranging events at Cathy Roberts Centre in Litherland and the 'Playing Out' project on the Ford estate.
- **Riverside** providing diversionary activities through St. Leonard's and Linacre One providing a disco in the Linacre Mission.
- **Merseyside Police** ran a 'Stay Safe Operation' on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October in partnership with Mersey-travel, Leisure and Youth Service which saw 84 young people being returned home and a further 46 being taken the Netherton Activity Centre until parents came to collect them.
- The **Anti-Social Behaviour PCSOs** gave a 'hard message' presentation to secondary schools across South Sefton illustrating the dangers of fireworks and the results of anti-social behaviour whilst safety crews are operating.
- **Merseyside Police** carried out Test Purchasing in relation to fireworks and alcohol throughout October in partnership with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.
- **Sefton Security** also gave detailed attention to 12 'locations of interest' where it was believed that anti social behaviour or secondary fires may have occurred.
- **Sefton Environmental Protection Department, Merseyside Probation, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) and Community Safety** worked in partnership over the period to remove hoarded material and attempted bonfire heaps.
- **Skips** were provided within the 'hot-spot' locations that had been identified by MFRS as last year's hotspots and were located in these

locations every Saturday throughout October to prevent the likelihood of residents holding back material to provide for a bonfire.

In total the '**October Saturday Skips**' scheme took **23 tonnes of rubbish** out of the areas that were hot-spot locations in 2008 and that could have been used for bonfire material. It must be noted that **none of these Saturday skips were set alight** during this period.

Environmental Protection also provided the 'Good Neighbour' skips during this period taking 54 tonnes of material.

**In total 156 tonnes of material was removed from Sefton by partners.**

Appendix A – Photograph of **Probation** removing combustible material



### 3. Results

Merseyside Police figures are showing during the period 19 October – 8 November overall there was a **9.7% reduction in Rowdy and Inconsiderate Behaviour** from 2008 to 2009. This is an overall reduction of 23.1% when comparing 2007 to 2009.

	2007	2008	(+ / -) 07/08	2009	(+ / -) 08/09
Rowdy / Inconsiderate Behaviour	425	362	-14.8%	327	-9.7%
Firework Related	106	50	-52.8%	54	8.0%
Nuisance Neighbours	44	44	0.0%	38	-13.6%
Noise	4	4	0.0%	18	350.0%
Hoax call to emergency services	16	13	-18.8%	12	-7.7%
Other	104	70	-32.7%	69	-1.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>-22.3%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>

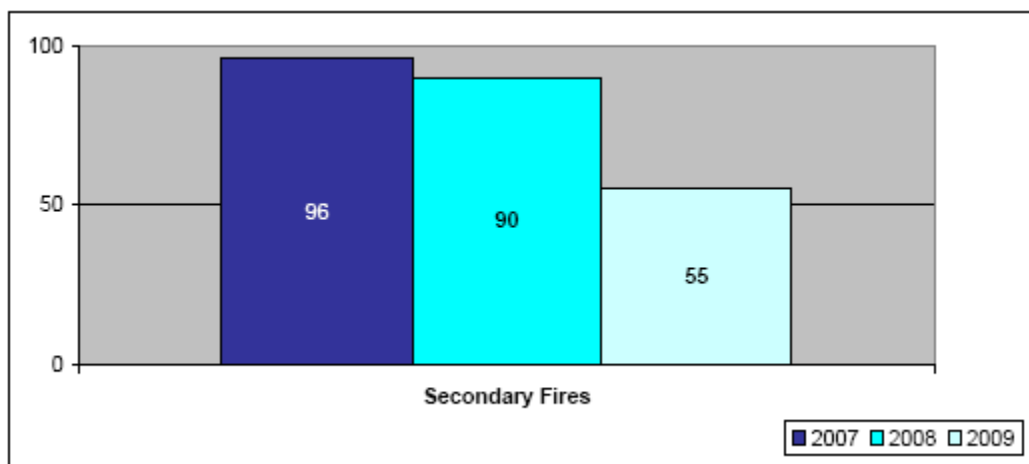
The table below shows the counts of ASB count year on year comparison by Area Committee Area.

	2007	2008	(+ / -) 07/08	2009	(+ / -) 08/09
Crosby	117	89	-23.9%	72	-19.1%
Formby	27	18	-33.3%	16	-11.1%
Linacre and Derby	119	83	-30.3%	81	-2.4%
Litherland and Ford	87	76	-12.6%	78	2.6%
Sefton East Parishes	107	67	-37.4%	51	-23.9%
Southport	139	117	-15.8%	135	15.4%
St Oswald and Netherton & Orrell	84	76	-9.5%	65	-14.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>-22.6%</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service are reporting an overall 9.1% reduction in deliberate and secondary fires across Sefton with a 33.6% reduction over the previous 3 years. This year Sefton, for the first time, moved to a position where it has less than 100 secondary fires during the Bonfire Period from 19 November 09 to 8 November 2009.

When this period looks at the Mischief and Bonfire period from 29 November to 8 November the figures show a greater year on year improvement with all but 1 Area Committee Area showing a decrease in secondary fires.

	2007	2008	(+ / -) 07/08	2009	(+ / -) 08/09
Crosby	14	15	7.1%	10	-33.3%
Formby	1	1	0.0%	0	-100.0%
Linacre and Derby	25	23	-8.0%	16	-30.4%
Litherland and Ford	17	27	58.8%	13	-51.9%
Sefton East Parishes	4	4	0.0%	2	-50.0%
Southport	15	5	-66.7%	6	20.0%
St Oswald and Netherton & Orrell	20	15	-25.0%	8	-46.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-38.9%</b>



### Impact of Summer Diversionary Activities for Young People

Extensive research has been carried out into the positive relationship between sport and reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The most common way is as a diversionary activity, using sport to distract young people from crime and anti-social behaviour by engaging them in structured and positive activities.

During the summer of 2009 Sefton Council's Leisure Services and Youth Service, have been able to provide Free and Active, Places to go, things to do and Street Games programmes that have offered a wide range of attractive and exciting opportunities for young people to engage in both familiar and new activities.

Activities have included:

Free and Active	Places to go, things to do!
Archery, Athletics, Cycling, Dance, Football, Ju-jitsu and Tae kwon do, Fencing, Tennis, Golf, Swimming and Water Polo  Active Kidz and Active Totz, Climbing Wall, Performance Trailer, Bootcamp and Family Fun  It's a Knockout and Lazer Quest	Outdoor Pursuits such as Rock and River Activity days, Canal Adventure days, Fishing and Mountain Biking  Sailing and Windsurfing, Horse Riding, Scuba Diving  Arts and Crafts, Street Dance, Skateboards

Many of the activities and events have been provided at Sefton Council's own facilities such as Dunes Splashworld, Bootle Leisure Centre, Litherland Sports Park and Deyes Lane Swimming Pool.

All activities were provided free of charge to the users, although in some cases there were small (typically less than £5) equipment hire charges.

In addition to these activities, Street Games has been provided in seven locations across the Borough. Street Games is designed to take sports and dance activities to young people in their own communities, rather than young people having to travel to facilities.

## Outputs

### Free and Active

The events and activities proved to be extremely popular with children and young people. A breakdown of numbers of young people attending the programmes is shown below.

Week	Dry events	Wet events
1	3356	4108
2	3027	4027
3	3424	3485
4	2608	3484
5	1923	3188
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,338</b>	<b>18,292</b>

### Places to go, things to do!

Activity	Male	Female	Total
Horse Riding	6	67	73
Rock and River	45	28	73
Canal Boat Steering	4	12	16
Water Sports Taster	3	4	7
Aerial Extreme	31	29	60
Sailing RYA	6	5	11
Windsurfing	7	5	12
Canoeing	6	2	8
Street Dance	0	2	2
Sail Boat Training	2	8	10
Scuba Diving	65	47	112
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>384</b>

Participants in Places to go, things to do! were aged between 13 and 19 years.



## Street Games

Whilst the project remains in the developmental stages, a significant amount of progress has been made towards meeting its objectives. In partnership with local community groups, Park Rangers and Police Community Support Officers, Football, Multi Sport & Street Cheer sessions have been running on a weekly basis.

Location	No of hours of delivery *	No of visits *
St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell	79	708
Litherland and Ford	69	1077
North Park	48	447
Coronation Park	6	132
Woodvale	46	488
Canning Road Rec'	24	119
Glen Park	80	681
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>3652</b>

\* Figures are correct as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. Additional sessions took place during August, figures for which are not available at the time of writing.

## Outcomes

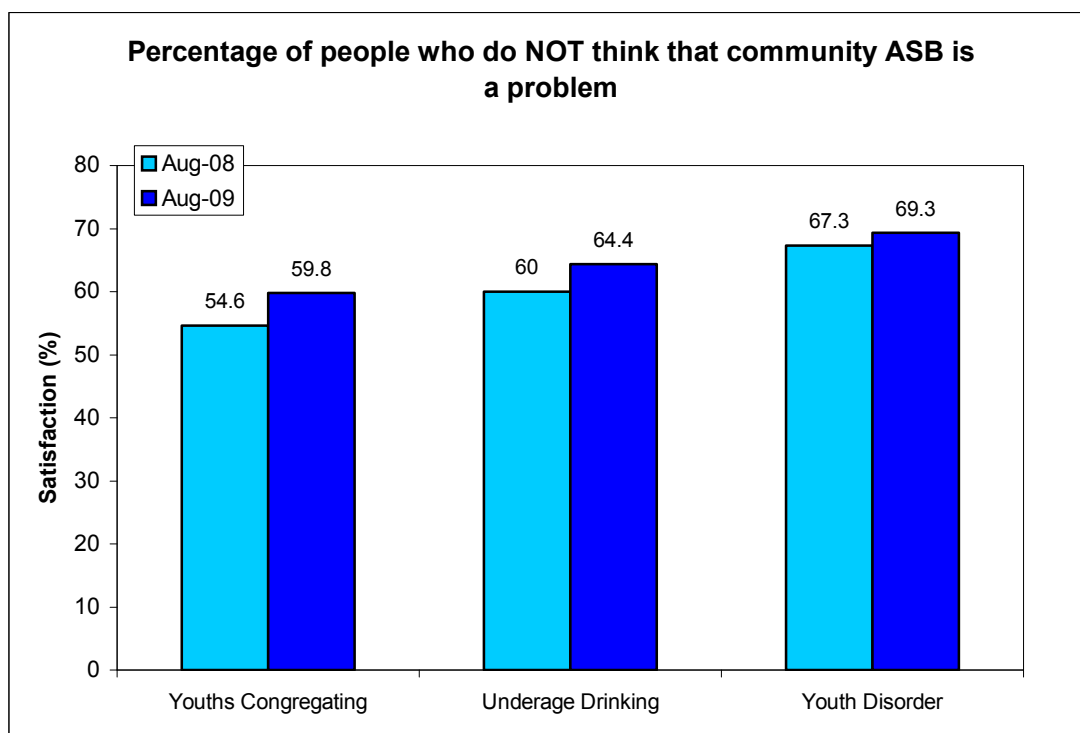
### Anti-social Behaviour

The provision of the diversionary activities outlined above appears to have had a significant impact on reducing the level of anti-social behaviour being experienced across Sefton.

Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour			
No. Of Incidents Reported			
Jun to Aug 2008	Jun to Aug 2009	Change	% Change
1959	1610	-349	<b>-17.8%</b>

In addition to the reduction in prevalence of rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, perceptions of antisocial behaviour caused by young people have also improved significantly since August 2008.

Percentage of people who do NOT think that community ASB is a problem			
	Aug 08	Aug 09	% Change
Youths Congregating	54.6	59.8	-5.2
Underage Drinking	60.0	64.4	-4.4
Youth Disorder	67.3	69.3	-2.0



## Conclusion

The reduction in calls to service for youth related anti-social behaviour is significant. While the total reduction in reported anti-social behaviour cannot be wholly attributed to the diversionary activities provided by Leisure and Youth Services, there are very strong indications that the programmes have made a real and significant impact significantly.

The evidence suggests that the provision of high quality, attractive diversionary activities for young people provided in areas identified by the Community Safety department is a major contributory factor in reducing the prevalence of youth related anti-social behaviour.

**Councillor Porter**  
**Cabinet Member - Communities**