

SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM UPDATE MAY - AUGUST 2009

Working with others to improve community safety

Following the introduction of the new council, we have changed our name to Safer Communities to reflect the wider brief and linkages under the new Council Health and Well being portfolio. The name change emphasises our focus on working with, and in, communities and our specific contribution to the family of partnerships on community safety.

The Council has a statutory responsibility to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and offending in all that it does. As small specialist teams in 'charge' of this duty, our role is to facilitate, join up and lead Council services in their contribution to community safety outcomes. Although located within the Department for Community Services, community safety is a cross cutting area of work. This bulletin promotes the work being done across all council services and departments with Community Area Boards and with our partners, giving an overview of the contribution that council services have to play in achieving community safety.

Lynn Gaskin



Lynn Gaskin
Service Director Community Safety



Pippa McVeigh
Head of Crime Reduction Team



Hilary Marsh
Head of Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction
Team



Sue Martin
Interim Head of Business Support
Team

Team business plan

Developed by Charlotte Moore, the plan is designed to be used not only by the team but also other Council employees, Members, Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership and other thematic partnerships, for them to gain a better understanding of the work of the Council's Safer Communities Team and what we intend to achieve in 2009 - 10 and contribute to the corporate plan and partnership priorities.

The plan sets out an overview of the team's objectives, a summary of the council's corporate priorities and those of the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership whilst focusing on the unique contribution the team makes within the local authority and partnership. It also includes the national performance indicators that the team is measured against in the Local Area Wiltshire (LAW) and Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Detailed team action plans are now being developed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction, Crime Reduction and Business Support teams and will be available during September.

Working with partners and communities to reduce drug misuse National Tackling Drugs Week 8 - 12 June 2009

Co-ordinated by the project officer, the week aimed to increase public confidence in, and awareness of, the work being done locally to respond to local drug priorities.

Events held included:

- ◆ Three road shows; starting with the launch in Salisbury then Marlborough and finally Trowbridge.
- ◆ Manned information stands at five leisure centres throughout the county.
- ◆ Drugs awareness training at Job Centres Plus and North Wessex Training.
- ◆ Lunch time session for staff held at County Hall, Trowbridge.
- ◆ Life Education visits to schools.
- ◆ Well-being football tournament.
- ◆ A mock arrest at Melksham Police station of Lynn Gaskin to highlight the process of assessment of a class A drug offence.



Representatives from all partner agencies, both statutory and voluntary, were present at the launch of Wiltshire's National Tackling Drugs Week, officially opened by Maggie Rae, Director Public Health, in Salisbury on 9 June 2009



Representatives from the Council, Wiltshire Addiction Support Project and a victim's mother were present at the Marlborough road show on 10 June



Final road show held in the Shires shopping centre, Trowbridge

Well-being football tournament

Tom Ward organised a football tournament in Trowbridge during the week to bring together service users and providers. Organisations that took part were Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Addiction Support Project, Wiltshire Probation, Wiltshire Police and Selwood Housing. The Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board supported the event.

The event was a great success and it has been suggested that it is played annually to raise money for charity.



Mark Rippon with volunteers from Wiltshire Addiction Support Project in Salisbury

Working with Communities West Wiltshire Show 23 - 25 July

This year the team had the use of the Council's newly renovated library van at the show which not only meant cover from the rain but also afforded the opportunity to invite the public to take part in an interactive questionnaire which focused on perceptions of anti-social behaviour. Results from the questionnaire showed that of those who took part 34.25% thought that levels of anti-social behaviour had decreased since last year, with 50% understanding the part that the Council plays in reducing anti-social behaviour. The Local Area Agreement contains a measure on perception of anti-social behaviour. (Full details of the results are available from Mark Rippon)



Pippa McVeigh, Jackie Jasper, Mark Rippon and Sue Martin



Mark Rippon talks members of the public through the anti-social behaviour survey



Keith Robinson with Kelly Fry and Jo Pickett at the Salisbury Community event on 5 May

Working with partners to reduce alcohol misuse

Junior Good Citizen 29 June - 10 July

The Junior Good Citizen Scheme is designed to engage young people from Year 6 (10-11 years) in a fun learning environment, to equip them with life skills as they make their transition from Primary to Secondary Education. Schools, Emergency Services and Local Authorities work together in partnership to promote the safety of young people.

1,100 students attended from 39 schools in the north and west of the county. Nearly all members of the team took part staffing a scenario informing young people about alcohol awareness.

Other community events we have been involved in include:

- 6 April - 'No Messin' Trowbridge, focusing on anti-social behaviour
- 5 May - Salisbury Community fair, general information on safer communities
- 11 June - Malmesbury cubs visit to talk about road and bicycle safety
- 16 June - Castle Combe Bike Night - included bike stamping and promotion of the team's activities
- 26 June - Westlea community event in Chippenham, focusing on anti-social behaviour

Working with Young Peoples Services Youth Alcohol Related Project

Earlier in the year funding was secured from the Home Office to support local problem solving projects which can address local priorities which stem from alcohol related issues. Wiltshire's project comprised of three mini-pilots, which were designed to target interventions for young people at high risk of alcohol related harm (school excludees and those with behavioural problems where parental alcohol misuse may be a factor).

The three pilots were:

- Skills development for staff at the Young Peoples Support Service
- Family activities for the most vulnerable young people and their families.
- Parenting classes for parents of 5 -8 year olds who are starting to exhibit behavioural problems at school due to parental drinking.

Working with Leisure Services 'Tired of hanging around'

Tired of hanging around is an initiative to use sport and leisure activities to reduce anti-social behaviour encouraging partners to focus delivery more effectively in community areas of highest need.

Representatives from the police, fire, health, housing and leisure were invited to a workshop on 14 May to discuss how this initiative could best be used in Wiltshire. The day was hosted by the Safer Communities Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction team and Leisure Services. Representatives from Wiltshire and Swindon Activity and Sports Partnership and other voluntary and community sector were also invited.

Examples of successful initiatives already taking place in Wiltshire are:

- ◆ 'T2a' in Salisbury which provides young people with the opportunity to participate in alternative/adventure activities.
- ◆ Hillrise Social Football in Chippenham, which provides football in an area where there was a high level of anti-social behaviour.
- ◆ Alternative Sports Holiday Programme delivered in Salisbury, providing young people with the chance to go mountain biking, and power kiting.
- ◆ The West Wilts football Street Cup set up in Trowbridge has helped reduce anti-social behaviour at peak times, and also improved relationships between young people and the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

Working with Trading Standards Door step safety—op liberal

With incidence of rogue traders and distraction burglaries on the increase, Trading Standards and the Safer Communities Crime Reduction team launched a training initiative for front line staff within the Council. Parish Stewards were the first to receive the training which began in May and has already led to the police being called to a suspicious incident. It is hoped that the training will be rolled out to others within the council and partners.



Sue Wilkins, Pippa McVeigh and Shane Hall,
Parish Steward for Warminster

The next initiative is a seminar for banks and building societies at the Corn Exchange in Devizes on 9 October. This will highlight the crimes of rogue traders and will inform the financial sector of who to contact if they suspect that a vulnerable person is withdrawing large sums of money to pay for work, under duress.

Working with town and parish councils Burglary campaigns

The crime reduction team regularly inform Council staff and parish and town councils about on-going burglary campaigns that either the Home Office or Wiltshire Police are undertaking. The latest have been to ensure that people are aware of securing their homes before going on holiday and also to make sure that their garden equipment and sheds are secure.

South Hub

Bemerton Heath Dispersal Order

Following many reports of anti-social behaviour in four specific areas of Bemerton Heath in Salisbury, the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership, on advice from the South Wiltshire anti-social behaviour reduction panel, decided to take special measures and impose a dispersal order* to take effect from 1 May - 31 November 2009.

Running alongside the dispersal order, Safer Communities staff, Kelly Fry, is leading a Task and Finish Group to analyse statistics and monitor the multi agency action plan. The aim is for long term sustainable solutions to be put in place, which will address the underlying causal factors of anti-social behaviour in the area. The group meets on a monthly basis and members include Wiltshire Council's Safer Communities Team and Youth Development Service, Wiltshire Police, Salisbury High School and the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.

*Dispersal orders give additional powers to the police in the designated area to move on groups of two or more people who are causing, or likely to cause anti-social behaviour.

North Hub - Jonathan Stiddard

In the north, Jonathan Stiddard attended a public meeting in Purton at which several actions, including the provision of a litter bin, were agreed to help curb anti-social behaviour. Since these have been implemented no further reports of anti-social behaviour have been received. (Sometimes it only takes simple solutions.)

In Chippenham, following complaints of young people hanging around outside a local shop, the anti-social behaviour reduction team worked with Westlea Housing, the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Town Council and local shop keepers to identify some solutions. This resulted in Westlea Housing providing funding for Wiltshire and Swindon Activity and Sports Partnership to deliver some activities for young people on Friday evenings, much improving the situation.

Durrington designated public places order (DPPO)

Since its introduction in March 2009, the Durrington DPPO, has helped to reduce the number of alcohol related problems in the areas defined by the order. This tool has not been used in isolation; local practitioners produced a comprehensive action plan to tackle problems head on. The Safer Communities Team will be conducting a review of the DPPO, they have also produced guidance for area boards, should other areas wish to consider such a measure.

An Information sheet on DPPOs is currently being produced and can be requested from Jacqueline Jasper.

West Hub - Tom Ward

Warminster anti-social behaviour survey

Residents in Warminster have assisted in a survey by the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, Selwood Housing and Tom Ward. The survey determined to find out more about the local level of anti-social behaviour, whether residents have reported it and if so who to, and what has been done so far to remedy the various issues. The response rate was 12.6% and of these 62% of people who witnessed anti-social behaviour did nothing and reported it to no one. An action plan is now underway to tackle the issues raised. Actions range from Selwood Housing possibly taking action against a tenant, increased litter picks and log sheets being distributed to residents.

West Wiltshire Football street cup update

The West Wilts latest football Street Cup was played on 19th August. Train & Play sessions are also being run in Trowbridge and Melksham, led by Trowbridge Town Council sports coaches and supported by the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and youth workers. It is hoped that a part-time co-ordinator will be employed in the near future to help keep the project running.

East Hub - John Galbally

Multi-agency problem solving meetings were held in Tidworth in response to reports of alcohol related anti-social behaviour by a large group of young people. Since speaking to the young people and their parents and working closely with the local schools and Sarsen Housing, the number of reports have reduced significantly.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Officers in east and west Wiltshire have recently been working closely with the Police, Sarsen Housing and other partners to identify suitable support for one of the street-drinkers in Westbury. This individual has since been offered accommodation by Sarsen Housing and he has agreed to sign an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. Support is being provided by Salisbury Alcohol and Drug Advisory Service, Sarsen Housing and Community 4.

Working with Adult Social Care

Lynn Gaskin, Service Director Community Safety and Pippa McVeigh, Head of Crime Reduction were invited, as members of the Safer Communities Team, to attend a safe guarding adults away day in April which focussed on:

- Current safe guarding priorities, national and local
- Membership, roles and responsibilities of the Local Safe Guarding Adults Board
- Links with other organisations and partnerships with an interest in safe guarding
- Local Safe Guarding Adults Board work plan and resources required

Overlaps with multi-agency domestic abuse case conferencing (MARAC), serious offending (MAPPA) and other community safety objectives were explored.

Linkages to wider national and local agendas were emphasised, for example 'Think Family', Community Area Boards and achieving the objectives of the Local Agreement Wiltshire.

Working with Youth Offending Services Restorative Justice

At the end of June Tom Ward attended 'Restorative Practices' training led by Wiltshire Council's Youth Offending Service. This was a practical based course that aimed to demonstrate the settings in which restorative practices can be applied.

Restorative practice is a scheme to get victims and perpetrators to meet, discuss and understand both sides of a situation. An outcome could be as simple as the perpetrator apologising or agreeing to help fix damaged property.

These techniques may be used during acceptable behaviour contract meetings to highlight the affects of behaviour and how to avoid it in the future.

Schools have been very successful at implementing the scheme and the Youth Offending Team are training officers, workers and the Police on how to use in the wider community.

Working with the Children's Trust Board and Adult Services on:
'Think Family'

Emphasising how functioning families can contribute to community safety and outcomes, Lynn Gaskin is leading the 'Think Family' initiative across children and adult social care services. It includes the development of a Youth Crime Family Intervention Project and increased parenting provision.

Wiltshire Council have received a government grant of £400K for two years to put provision in place. It is planned to develop the projects within the 'Total Place' concept where all public services work together across organisational boundaries avoiding duplication and providing efficiencies.

More information can be found on the Department of Children, Schools and Families website.

News in Brief

On 10 June and as part of the **induction week for new councillors**, members from the team took part in a departmental market place evening. The event was designed to highlight the breadth of work that each team is involved in and provide a chance for members to ask questions and meet our heads of service. Although this event took place at the end of a long week for councillors, the stand was reasonably well visited by members.

Community Area Board team leaders attended the team meeting on 31 July to discuss the mechanisms to filter the 'issue sheets' which will be sent to the Area Board Managers.

September will see the start of the new '**Society, Health and Development**' diploma, which will be launched at John of Gaunt School, Trowbridge at the start of the new school team. The Safer Communities Team have helped develop the criminal justice elements of the diploma.

Projects we have supported Safer Communities, Youth Development Service and NHS Wiltshire have contributed funding for a pilot for **Tough 2ID**, a scheme to curb alcohol sales to the underaged, to be launched in October. Wiltshire Police are leading the pilot.

Working with the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership DOMESTIC ABUSE

The new Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009 - 2011 was launched at the Wharf Theatre in Devizes on 22 May 2009. David Warren, Criminal Justice Manager from Government Office South West wrote afterwards that *'the event was exceptional and achieved the right balance between professionals and survivors, yet at the same time hard hitting, leaving us all in no doubt that everyone has a role to play.'*

Hayley Mortimer, Pippa McVeigh, Athleen Earle and Emma Harrold organised the event with partners and police lead Superintendent Paul Williams.

Wiltshire's second Community Safety Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy builds on previous work and reflects the level of commitment by local agencies and organisations in working together to effectively combat domestic abuse. The strategy sets out a co-ordinated approach, providing effective leadership for dealing with the impact of domestic abuse in the future. It is the result of extensive consultation with key stakeholders, both in the statutory and voluntary sector, as well as with service users, including children and young people.

The event was opened by Pippa McVeigh, Head of Crime Reduction, with presentations by:

Wendy Turner Webster

TV Presenter, Writer and Staunch Campaigner against domestic abuse

Lisa Johnson

Victim of an abusive partnership

Capri Kaynak

Young person who has experienced witnessing domestic abuse within her close family

Solomon Theatre Associates

Performance from *'The Power of Love'* KS3/KS4 healthy relationships education production.

A bulletin highlighting the activities and initiatives that have been implemented throughout 2007 - 2009, to help raise the profile and awareness of domestic abuse has been produced and can be requested from Jacqueline Jasper.



Above: Launch of the 2009-2011 strategy



Above: Hayley Mortimer with Wendy Turner Webster

At a recent Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Quality Assessment training event, Hayley Mortimer, Wiltshire's Domestic Abuse Reduction Co-ordinator, was approached and invited by the Chief Executive of Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) Diana Barran to sit at a national steering group looking into developing guidance on MARAC disclosures and working with the Family Courts. The meeting took place in London on the 23 July and was chaired by the Ministry of Justice, Head of Domestic Violence and International Family Policy branch Jodie Smith. This invite was prompted and in recognition of the work that has been led through Wiltshire around dealing with disclosure requests. It was an excellent opportunity for Wiltshire to be involved in being asked to share our experiences, and help inform and shape the future guidance.

Welcome to:

Councillor Keith Humphries (pictured right) who has been appointed as the new portfolio holder for Health and Well Being which includes community safety.



Councillor Humphries told me 'I am delighted to be working with the Safer Communities Team as part of my portfolio and I am looking forward to continuing the joined up working with our partners to enhance the wellbeing of all our residents'.

Aileen Fenlon who has been appointed as Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Officer for the south.

Sarah Thomas who is assisting with the Family Intervention Project and anti-social behaviour strategy.

We have said goodbye to:

Louise Duman who started her maternity leave on 22 June. See congratulations box!

Jo Pickett Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Office for south Wiltshire who has left for a job with the police.

Ally Palmer who has left to work with NHS Wiltshire.

Joe Baker who has left to work for the European Commission in London.

Congratulations to:

Louise Duman who gave birth to Ella Jasmine (pictured below) on Sunday 26 July.



Hayley Mortimer and Danni Travell who both ran the 'Race for Life' in aid of Cancer Research.

Hayley Mortimer and Emma Harrold who were nominated in the category 'Keeping People Safe' for their commitment and hard work on multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC) at the Adult Social Care Awards.

Tom Ward who has been granted Accredited Prior Learning for an MSc in Criminology and Community Safety from the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth.

Hayley Mortimer, Jackie Jasper, Athleen Earle and Charlotte Moore will all be taking part in a 28 mile bicycle ride for Marie Curie on 4 October. All sponsorship gratefully accepted.

Dates to note 2009

24 September

Lunchtime session for Council Managers on Safer Communities

9 October

Financial Seminar, Op Liberal

19 - 23 October

Inside Justice Week

19 - 23 October

National Alcohol awareness week

2- 6 November

Not in my neighbourhood week

23 - 27 November

Domestic Abuse Awareness Week

27 November

Domestic Abuse annual conference

For more information on the team, their work, useful documents and contacts, please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/safercommunities.htm

For more information on any of the contents of this bulletin, please contact Jacqueline Jasper, Safer Communities Team, 01225 776773 or email Jacqueline.jasper@wiltshire.gov.uk