

BROMSGROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP 2008/09 LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN

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| Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership | This document sets out the local priorities to be addressed in Year 1 of the 3 Year Bromsgrove Local Delivery Action Plan (2008 – 11) commencing 1 st April 2008 |
| About the Partnership and our Vision | It brings together members of the Responsible Authorities: Bromsgrove District Council, West Mercia Constabulary, Worcestershire County Council, Worcestershire Primary Care Trust and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service with representatives from a range of public, private, voluntary and community sector bodies. All Partners share one vision: “To make Bromsgrove District a safe place to live and work in” |
| Audit Process | Strategic Assessment Annual Crime & Safety Survey |
| Headline Results from Audit Process | <p>The key headline results from our Crime and Disorder audit exercises are summarised below:</p> <p>About Bromsgrove District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Bromsgrove District population has experienced growth from 87,800 in 2001 to 91,600 based on mid-2006 estimates. This is an increase of 3,800, or 4.3%. Based on ONS projections, the population of Bromsgrove will have reached around 91,600 by 2006, then fall back steadily to about 90,800 by 2011. This is an increase of 3,000 on 2001 levels. ▪ Covering an area of 83.9 square miles, the district is a mixture of urban and rural communities, with the Clent and Lickey Hills providing a dividing line from the industrial West Midlands. ▪ The largest increases in the population of Bromsgrove for 2001-06 can be seen in the 15-19 and 60-64 age groups, both of which have grown by about 1,000 in this time-period. In contrast, the 30-34 age group showed a decrease of around 900. Projections to 2011 suggest most population growth will be seen in the 60-69 age group, a projected increase of 2,500. The 40-49 age group is projected to increase by around 1,700 whilst there is a projected decrease of 2,900 in age 30-39. ▪ Ethnicity figures from 2005 show that 95.4% of people in Bromsgrove are White, including 92.9% White British, and 2.5% Other White/Irish. Numbers of people from ethnic minorities are small with Indian the largest at 1.1%. |

Crime and Disorder in the District

- Bromsgrove is a relatively low crime area. The total crime rate for 2006/07 was 65.04 crimes per 1,000 population, which is lower than both the County figure and the West Mercia Force averages of 71.76 and 68.83 per 1,000 respectively. It is also substantially lower than the average for England and Wales of 100 per 1000 population.
- The most prevalent crime type within the district over the three year period (1st April 2004 to 1st April 2007) was Criminal Damage followed by Vehicle Crime and Violent Crime.
- Crime types to increase throughout the three year period were Vehicle Crime (+1.89%) and RObbery (+5.13%).
- Crime types showing a decrease throughout the three year period were Criminal Damage (-29.4%), Dwelling Burglary (-22.4%) and Violent Crime (-13.4%).
- Neighbourhood issues that emerged as priorities when residents were asked for the top three that needed to be addressed first were:
 - Groups of people loitering or hanging around in public place; and
 - Vandalism & Criminal Damage;
 - Burglary.
- Around half of the residents sampled believed that anti social behaviour was very or fairly serious in the district (50%), whilst fewer (31%) said that the same was true about their neighbourhood. ASB was seen as a more serious problem in the neighbourhoods of Beacon, Catshill and Waseley (all over 50%)

Fear of Crime

- Around half of respondents remembered at least one specific episode in the previous 12 months when they had worried about becoming a victim of crime. The most common concerns were:
 - Vandalism/criminal damage
 - Burglary dwelling
 - Theft of a vehicle
 - Theft from vehicle

- Children and young people were more likely than adults to worry about crimes that were relevant to them (74%) Fear of crime was also more prevalent in Beacon, Catshill, Hollywood & Majors Green (all over 65%) than in Furlongs, Marlbrook, Tardebigge and Wythall South (all under 45%).
- The vast majority of respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood or district during the day (98% & 95% respectively), which were significant improvements from 2006. There were also improvements in how safe people felt after dark (73% and 59% respectively). Residents of Sidemoor (50%), St Johns and Waseley (53%) felt more fearful in the neighbourhood after dark when compared to wards such as Linthurst, Furlongs and Slideslow where more than 90% felt safe.

Experience of crime

- The experience of crime amongst survey respondents did not differ significantly from the 2006 results (14%), most common of which was vandalism or criminal damage (5% of the sample). Children and young people were more likely than adults to have experienced a crime or problem (57%), which may have included bullying, threats or theft

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)

The LSP has a number of Theme Groups, one of which is Crime & Disorder. Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership delivers this element on behalf of the LSP.

District Councils are required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for their area in partnership with public sector providers, private sector and voluntary and community sector. To ensure that the SCS is delivered, District Councils are expected to convene a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), bringing together local partners in order to develop a shared understanding of the particular needs and priorities of their area. The LSP in our District is known as the Bromsgrove Partnership.

The Bromsgrove LSP will:

- Act as the over-arching, co-ordinating partnership, ensuring that links are made between the locally themed partnerships (e.g. Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership);
- Take responsibility for cross-cutting issues that have been identified as critical to the locality.
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- Ensure that district-level plans such as the SCS and Local Development Framework take account of county-wide priorities and that district level priorities are considered, and where appropriate, reflected at the county level, i.e. through targets in the Local Area Agreement.

The SCS therefore sets out a vision for the District and is concerned with addressing issues important to residents, the business community and visitors to Bromsgrove District. It is based on understanding and available evidence and focuses on the way in which services are delivered and how they can be improved for everyone's benefit.

Review of Community Safety Strategy 2005-08

Over the last three years, Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership has successfully delivered a number of key initiatives to sustain crime and disorder reduction. Some of the most effective and high profile have included

1. Partners & Communities Together PACT

PACT was trialled in 2005/06 and is designed to be West Mercia Police's approach to local community engagement. Meetings provide an opportunity for Police, Partners and Communities to meet and agree the local policing priorities and how to solve issues that are impacting on local communities.

PACT Meetings have a chair and committee made up from Partner organisations such as Bromsgrove District Council, Bromsgrove District Housing Trust, Parish, District and County Councillors, PCT, Voluntary Groups, West Mercia Police, Worcestershire County Council, Probation Service, Fire & Rescue Service and Neighbourhood Watch. It is not a discussion group, and committee members are expected to offer practical solutions to issues raised by local residents.

There are 16 PACT areas which meet, on average, 4 -6 times a year. They are: Charford; St Johns; Sidemoor and Woodvale; Tardebigge and Slideslow; Hagley and Clent; Hunnington; Romsley; Whitford; Stoke; Catshill and Marlbrook; Alvechurch; Wythall; Beacon and Waseley; Cofton Hacket; Barnt Green; Lickey and Blackwell

During January to December 2007, a total of 69 PACT Meetings were held and 247 separate priorities were identified. A total of 2,847 residents attend these meetings with an average of 41 per meeting.

2. Joint Tasking

In 2006 a Tasking Group was set up as a group within the Community Safety Partnership. It meets monthly (usually the first Wednesday of each month) with a pre-tasking meeting held the week before. Included in the Group are representatives from the Police, Bromsgrove District Council, County Council, Fire & Rescue Service, Worcestershire Primary Care Trust, Bromsgrove District Housing Trust, Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch and local Community Groups.

Information and data is collated from Partner organisations and PACT Meetings, analysed by the Community Safety Partnerships Analyst and priorities for the following month are agreed at pre-Tasking. The Analyst then prepares all the supporting information including geographical, type of incident, time occurring for the Tasking meeting. Partners are then tasked to carry out supporting action to prevent/alleviate the identified issue.

In 2007 a review of the Tasking process was carried out. In order to maximise Partner resources only those organisations specifically needed to support forthcoming month's actions are required to attend. It was also agreed that the local policing team for the identified areas would attend and be tasked (ie Joint Tasking) direct.

Joint Tasking has enabled Partner resources to be focused on the issues raised by partner organisations and residents and obtain agreement how they will be tackled.

3. Probation

Neighbourhood Wardens funded via the Community Safety Partnership are working closely with The Probation Service tackling overgrown alleys, littering, clearing houses and repainting Virgin Cable boxes that are covered in graffiti. Between 8 – 12 local offenders with Community Service sentences have worked in the Charford, Rubery, Norton and Catshill areas every other Wednesday and Friday. Wardens were instrumental in organising and arranging the clear up and maintenance of an area near Wythall (Alderhanger Lane) which was identified as a hot spot of anti social and criminal behaviour not just affecting Bromsgrove District but also Warwickshire whose border runs through that area. The close working relationship with Probation has been in place for approximately 18 months and has a busy programme of work right through 2008/09.

4. Christmas Presence (Violent Crime)

In early December the police ensured that additional patrols were highly visible in the town area of Bromsgrove whilst shops were open and many additional shoppers visited the area. This strategy adding to the public's feeling of being secure during the day. Extra patrols were also visible in the early evening, visiting licensed premises and patrolling the streets, on foot, in areas where ASB and violence had been most prevalent. Both initiatives were a huge success.

The police have instigated a violent crime strategy, starting 10th March 2007, for police officers only to update the district tasking each day with all details of injured parties:

- That the Injured Party has been seen within 3 hours
- What statements have been taken or are still required
- Suspects arrested within 24 hours
- The result of the action taken.
- Does anything else need to be done to complete the investigation?

5. Section 30 Wythall

A Section 30 Dispersal Order was in effect in Drakes Cross/Wythall, Bromsgrove, between 5th March at 19:00 hrs and 3rd June 2007 at 00:00 hrs to combat growing levels of anti social behaviour.

The number of incidents recorded was lower during the Dispersal Order than either of the other 2 time periods looked at. However, there was only a 10% decrease on levels of ASB experienced the previous year, compared to a 48% decrease between the previous 3 months and the time of the Section 30. This indicated an increase in ASB between the end of May 2006 and the beginning on March 2007.

The Drakes Cross area was at a rate of around 20 incidents per month in January to May 2006. It then rose to an average of around 25-30 incidents between June 2006 and January 2007, after which it shot up to 52 incidents in February. . Therefore the levels of ASB experienced during the Dispersal Order had reduced when compared to the previous 3-month period, and returned to a level slightly lower than that of the same time the year before.

- The Dispersal Order did reduce numbers of Crime and Disorder in the Wythall area when compared to the previous 3 months.
- More so in the case of ASB, where incident levels dropped by 48%, showing that the Section 30 Order was a definite success.

- Levels of ASB generally returned to the same levels of the same 3-month period the previous year, after a huge peak in incidents in the months preceding the order. However, when you factor in the usual pattern that reporting increases during a dispersal order, the drop in incidents are more pronounced than first appears.

The section 30 Dispersal Order in Drakes Cross was extended for an additional 3 months from its initial finish date of 3rd June 2007, to end on Sunday 9th September

- Levels of ASB remained low between June and September.
- Though slightly higher than those experienced in the first 3 months of the dispersal order, the number of incidents per month towards the end are well below those of the 3 months preceding the order.
- The slight peak in July can be attributed to the beginning of the school summer holidays.

NO. OF INCIDENTS BY WEEK:

- The average number of incidents per week in the final three months of the order was 6, slightly higher than the average per week during the first 3 months of the order, which was 4, predominantly due to a very low frequency of incidents during April.
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- However, this weekly average remains significantly lower than that of the 3 months preceding the order, where weekly incident numbers peaked at 17 in the first 2 weeks of February, contributing to an average of 8 per week.
- Between 3rd June and 19th September, there was a peak of 11 incidents in the week beginning 23rd July (the first full week of the school summer holidays) and a low of zero incidents reported in the S.30 area in the week beginning 27th August (the last week of the school summer holidays).

6. Diversionary Projects

As well as tackling Crime & Disorder in Bromsgrove District, the Community Safety Partnership has been involved in trying to reduce Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Young people are often alleged to be the cause as well as on the receiving end of ASB. The Partnership felt it is important to provide them with a controlled outlet for their energies. To that end a number of key partners such as Worcestershire County Youth Team, The Multi Agency Resource Centre, Charford, Bromsgrove District Council's Sport Development Team, Fire & Rescue Service and the Police have supported with staff and funding for diversionary activities across the District.

Initially, activity programmes were set up to cover the summer holiday period using sports and arts workers together with facilities provided by Youth Centres, District Council and local schools. Neighbourhood Wardens and Bromsgrove DC Sport Development Team have put on a series of year round 3 month programmes of Basket Ball and Football coaching sessions using the all-weather, multi use games areas (a total of 5 installed or planned) provide by the local authority. Boxing and a new Angling project have been developed for local youngsters. What activities and locations are very much driven by the needs of young people who are always consulted prior to new activities being put on.

Analysis has shown that these diversionary activities produce a reduction in ASB for the area, day and time these are held. It also gives Warden and Workers the opportunity to engage with young people who may be vulnerable, socially excluded or at risk of experiencing or committing ASB.

7. Beauty spot car parks

The Lickey and Clent hills car parks were identified as places vehicles were continually being broken into and property stolen whilst drivers and or passengers were out walking. Having been identified at the partnership tasking meeting both Officers, CSOs and Neighbourhood Wardens were directed to not only patrol these areas at regular intervals, particularly during the mid day hours but also to take refreshment breaks, on site and in full view of members of the public. An analysis of the Warren Lane site was conducted by the Crime Risk Manager, by contacting every victim of crime, and plotting the site where vehicles were attacked. From the analysis the partnership was able to work with the Birmingham City Council, the site owner, in cutting back particular foliage/hedges making the car park safer. A covert police operation was also carried out over a period of 1 week. Whilst no offenders were captured it is pleasing to say that no crimes were committed during that week on that beauty spot car park.

8. Burglary Dwelling

The CDRP analyst identified a trend in increased Burglary Dwelling offences during early winter months on the lead up to Christmas. The Police were able to supplement normal patrols with a additional resources (Operation Sleigh) patrolling areas identifies as the most likely areas to be attacked. BDHT officers, Neighbourhood Wardens and Lifeline officers were briefed and gave advice on home security. Stickers and postcards, with safety and crime prevention messages were also displayed or distributed around the district. The resulting figures were impressive, a reduction by 54% in this category of offence compared to the previous year and by 63% compared to December 2004.

9 ASB/Criminal Damage

Local Policing teams, including Sgts, LPOs and CSOs from each of the nine PACT areas have realigned their shift patterns, to form a team of staff that will visit identified ASB/Damage hotspots. On a Friday and Saturday night, in the early evenings, the team travel to different areas in an effort to reduce the disorder and give confidence and reassurance to the local communities across the District.

LOCAL PRIORITIES

| | Intervention | Required Action | Owner |
|---|---------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Criminal Damage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Forge stronger links with Probation Service to utilise Community payback in order to repair existing damage and improve environments around the District so as not to encourage further offences. Network with Community Groups to look at local environmental improvements * Data sharing between registered landlords and data analyst. * Aim diversionary and educational activities towards young people via the schools system to target reduction of crime at source. | Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Bromsgrove Tasking Group |
| 2 | Vehicle Crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Undertake an on going environmental audit to assess the factors that lead to increased vehicle crime * On going work to Improve the accuracy of recording systems, to enable analysts to work with reliable data when informing crime reduction initiatives | Bromsgrove Police Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Bromsgrove Tasking Group |
| 3 | Violent Crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Instigation of a reporting and recording system for proxy alcohol sales based on Cardiff model adopted by Redditch CDRP. Investigate joint Action Plan with Redditch CDRP | Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership |

| | Intervention | Required Action | Owner |
|---|---|---|--|
| | | <p>Improved Data Sharing from the PCT and A & E</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure compliant stricter guidelines for charging of offences to aid reduction strategies * Multi-Agency risk assessment visits to licensed premises * Implementation of Domestic Abuse support network and referral system. * Positive Action for Domestic Abuse Plan | <p>Bromsgrove Tasking Group</p> <p>Bromsgrove Police</p> |
| 4 | Anti Social Behaviour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *ASB related issues brought to Tasking via CDRP Analyst and from priorities via PACT *Exit Strategy for Section 30 Orders *Local Policing Teams to change weekend shift patterns to engage robustly with prioritised communities * Outputs from District Crime/Fear of Crime Survey | <p>Bromsgrove Tasking Group</p> <p>Bromsgrove Police</p> <p>Bromsgrove Police</p> <p>Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership</p> |
| 5 | Perception of Crime & Anti Social Behaviour | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Delivery of campaign to tackle Fear of Crime related issues identified via PACT and annual West Mercia Fear of Crime Survey *Action Plan in place to respond to Wards to highest response across 5 x highest scoring issues | <p>Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Bromsgrove Tasking Group</p> |

| | Intervention | Required Action | Owner |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| | | <p>*Media Plan to use good news stories to combat perceptions of crime and anti social behaviour.</p> <p>*Partners to carry out walking survey of 2 x Wards with highest fear of crime v actual crime/asb and organise event at date to be confirmed tackle issues highlighted</p> | <p>Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Bromsgrove Tasking Group</p> |
| 6 | Fixed Penalty Notices | Plan to deliver fixed penalty notice system into Bromsgrove District in 2009/10 | <p>Bromsgrove District Council</p> <p>Bromsgrove Police</p> |