



Safer Communities Newsletter

Incorporating Domestic Violence News and Annual Review 06/07

Issue 4

New Youth Projects

Working in partnership with CDRPs, Children's Services, and local providers the Safer Communities Team have developed five project proposals for which County Council funding has been granted:

1. A campaign to raise awareness of alcohol use and personal safety. It includes improving alcohol education and support for 16-21 year olds in Further and Higher Education by ensuring alcohol information and advice is routinely available. A communications campaign will also be delivered, and specific local resources on alcohol and personal safety will be produced. Detached youth work sessions on alcohol and personal safety will be provided in town centres, seafronts, estates and FE colleges to give information, advice, education and sign post to services.
2. Early intervention work to prevent young people from misusing alcohol and enhance their personal safety strategies, by increasing their access to support. Delivered by the East Sussex U19's Substance the project includes outreach work, improving referral processes, training for professionals, widely circulating information and delivering group and one to one sessions to young people.
3. Two new full-time Youth Justice Workers to cover North Lewes and Rother. This means that there will now be Youth Justice Worker provision across East Sussex.
4. Extra funding to *Rainer* to increasing the number of volunteer mentors working with

young offenders. *Rainer* is a national voluntary organisation with well-established links in East Sussex.

5. Locally led Safer Communities projects taken forward by Children's Services Planning Groups.



Contact the Safer Communities Team for more information on projects or to receive copies of the new Young People's Personal Safety Leaflet.

Safer Communities Conference 1st November 2007, T & G Centre

Nearly 100 delegates attended last year to hear about partnership work to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

Visit www.safeineastsussex.org.uk for information and booking.

Annual Review 2006/7

This issue incorporates the 2007/8 Safer Communities 2006/7 Annual Review. See page 14

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How much do you know about substance misuse?



Substance misuse affects people of all ages in every part of society – if you work with people then you will work directly or indirectly with the effects of substance misuse.

Did you know...

- There are an estimated 2,500 people injecting heroin and/or smoking crack cocaine in East Sussex
- Nearly 2,000 people in East Sussex are dependent on alcohol and a further 77,000 are drinking at levels which are causing them serious harm.

If you want to find out more it's never been easier, or cheaper! Until the end of 2007 FREE Drug and Alcohol Awareness training is available for anyone in East Sussex working with adults (over 18) in health, social services, education, housing and homeless services and criminal justice.

The well-established and highly regarded two-day DABAC course looks at the reasons for substance use, the common drugs and their effects, the problems that can result and the treatment and support which is available locally. By the end of the course you will be better able to recognise and screen for substance misuse problems, to respond effectively and appropriately in your work and to refer people for specialist help when it's needed.

The DABAC course is accredited by the Open College Network (OCN) and normally costs £60.

Free places are still available on the following courses:

October 2/3rd Uckfield, **November** 14/15th Hastings, **December** 5/6th Eastbourne

For more information and booking form contact Nick Cole, Substance Misuse Adviser: nick.cole@esdwpct.nhs.uk 01323 418996

Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaign

East Sussex Division's Licensing Enforcement Unit recently ran The Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaign (TUSAC) in partnership with East Sussex County Council's Trading Standards.

The Licensing Enforcement Unit, which is part of Sussex Police tackles the ten most problematic licensed premises in East Sussex. The successful Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaign resulted in some licensees changing their working practices to make it harder for underage persons to obtain alcohol. The Licensing Enforcement Unit have created a database to keep track of all test purchasing operations on the division.

See page 4 for more information about the work of the Licensing Enforcement Unit.

Safer Communities Team is National Best Practice

The creation of an East Sussex Safer Communities Team from merging the existing Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Community Safety Team is being included as a best practice case study in forthcoming government guidance accompanying the National Standards for Community Safety.

The teams merged in April 2006 and embarked upon innovative large scale initiatives including the creation of a Safer Communities Steering Group and accompanying Safer Communities Plan. Published in July 2007 the plan sets out how partners will work together to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in East Sussex.

The conception and development of both the county-level Steering Group and plan preceded the mandatory requirement for such plans that were outlined in the National Standards for Community Safety, published in August 2007.

Public Reassurance Seminar

Crime in the county has fallen by 5% but local residents still perceive it to be much higher and place the fear of crime as one of their main concerns. That was the message at the Public Reassurance Seminar bringing partner agencies together in June to discuss community safety and work to reassure the public that East Sussex is a safe place to live and work.

Organised by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership, the seminar brought together representatives including the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Fire and Rescue, local councils, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other agencies to consider neighbourhood policing, involving young people, making communities safer for older people and engaging with the media.

Councillor Bob Tidy, Lead Member for Community Safety at East Sussex County Council said: "Time and time again local people tell us that crime and the fear of crime is one of their main concerns. Crime in the county has actually fallen by 5% in the last year but people perceive crime to be higher. That is why work to engage with residents about this issue is vitally important. This seminar is part of that work and I am delighted that the Safer Communities Partnership is continually looking at ways both to improve community safety and also reassure the public that East Sussex is a safe place to live and work."

For information about future Safer Communities Partnership events including the Annual Stakeholder Conference visit www.safeineastsussex.org.uk

Commissioning Strategy

East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) is asking for your views about its plans about treatment for adults with a drug or alcohol problem. Draft commissioning strategies for substance misuse will be published on the DAAT's website [www.safeineastsussex.org.uk] early in September. The formal consultation period will run to the end of November, with the new strategies being implemented from next year, 2008.

For more information about this contact Jason Mahoney lead commissioner for substance misuse at jason.mahoney@hastingsrotherpct.nhs.uk

Sussex Police: Licensing Enforcement

A specialist Licensing Enforcement Unit is working with partners to reduce Public Place Violent Crime (PPVC). Started in January 2007, the unit target the ten most problematic licensed premises in East Sussex, intervening with action plans and close monitoring, assisted by the local officers and neighbourhood specialist teams. Activity has been so successful that none of the premises targeted have re-offended to an unacceptable level.



The Licensing Enforcement Unit has a key role in Operation Marble, which provides high profile town centre policing on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, focusing resources on reducing violence and antisocial behaviour linked to the night time economy. Where alcohol related disorder has been identified, licensing conditions have been enforced.

Chief Superintendent Nick Wilkinson said "Our Licensing Enforcement Unit are working closely with our partners in East Sussex to tackle the crime and disorder that affects the quality of life for people in the county. This action, together with Operation Marble has contributed to public place violent crime on Friday & Saturday nights being reduced by 11.8% since April, making East Sussex's evening economy safer for everyone to enjoy."

The unit also tackles substance misuse in licensed premises. Using the Ion Track drug testing machine they regularly visit premises to advise licensees on the use of illegal substances and target those who continue to disregard the law on drugs.

Annual Sussex Drug & Alcohol Conference

Over 200 people attended the 11th **Annual Sussex Drug & Alcohol Conference** at the University of Sussex in July, which focussed on the treatment and interventions for people with drug and alcohol problems.

The attendees, who included 'front line' drug and alcohol workers, doctors, police officers, housing workers, teachers, volunteers, carers and service users from across Sussex, were able to share best practice and heard from speakers about initiatives that had worked well in other locations.

The conference, which was jointly organised by agencies from across Sussex was opened by Dr. Emyr Benbow from Manchester University, who is one of the country's leading experts on drug related deaths. Other sessions during the day covered areas such as methamphetamines, cocaine and the impact on families.

Nick Cole, Substance Misuse Advisor for East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT, said: "This annual conference gives us a great opportunity to hear from experts from across the country about particular successes they've had, and to start thinking about whether we could use their ideas in Sussex.



Working with: *Anti-social Behaviour*

Alistair Parkin and Louisa Young are Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinators for the Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership.

"Our job is to help the local community to tackle anti-social behaviour by working in close partnership with organisations such as the Clean Green Team, Sussex Police, Housing, Environmental Health, YMCA, Youth Development Service, YOT and Action in Rural Sussex."

Alistair has been in the role for nearly four years. *"I've noticed a change in the emphasis from a focus on enforcement activity and getting ABCs and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, to taking a more preventative approach. You could say because of the preventive work that has been achieved we actually now have very few ASBOs."*

"A typical day usually begins by dealing with reports and queries from the public and new referrals, and then taking forward existing cases," says Louisa. *"Referrals come directly from the community or via other agencies and sometimes through councillors and MPs. We visit people to find out how to resolve the issues and this may include providing a diary to log details of anti-social behaviour incidents. Sometimes cases can be resolved by talking to the parties involved, or sometimes stronger measures are put in place."*

Alistair explains that although they cannot always completely resolve the problem it can usually be reduced. *"Individual cases can also be varied from long standing neighbourhood disputes which may involve older people to young people causing a nuisance."*

In addition to casework, the Coordinators run Local Action Teams across the District and attend multi agency meetings to help resolve anti social behaviour cases through weekly intelligence meetings with the Police and Joint Action Group meetings. *"We also have Street Consultations, usually in response to identified hotspots but sometimes just to find out what local issues are,"* says Louisa.

Louisa has been working with Newhaven Community Development Association and the Iveagh Crescent Resident Association to reduce ASB from young people by setting up a pilot youth club which has proved successful

Alistair talks about graffiti as being an emerging area of work. *"We now work with the Clean and Green Team who photograph TAGS to identify local offenders. Recently, following a local reward, 2 people have recently been reprimanded."*

"We really enjoy our jobs. No two days are the same and it's great to be out and about in the community. Working with so many different partners adds interest and it is great when you get to resolve a case."

For more information contact Alistair Parkin or Louisa Young on 01273 484339/484394

Sussex Police say keep burglars out this winter

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Gooch says "We have achieved significant reductions in the numbers of burglaries committed in East Sussex and we will be continuing to robustly target offenders who commit burglary. By following some simple guidance, householders can play their part in helping us to ensure East Sussex continues to be a safe place to live."

- * Use time switches (change timing regularly) on a) an **indoor light** upstairs or in a room that can't be peered into b) a **radio** tuned to a chat station
- * Fit security lighting. **Dusk to dawn lighting** comes on automatically at dusk; **Passive infrared activated lighting** draws attention to movement.
- * Ensure gates and access to the house rear are locked and secure. Lock your sheds too as tools can be used to break in. Trim overgrown plants.
- * Secure windows, especially on the ground floor and above flat roof areas. Use locks and bolts and keep keys out of sight and out of reach.
- * Property mark your valuables with postcode and house number or name. Photograph articles unsuitable for marking - use a ruler to show scale.
- * Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system ensure it is the one most suitable for your needs.
- * Trust your instincts. If you see anything suspicious let the police know. If you think a crime is about to happen or is in progress dial 999.

To join or start a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme contact 0845 60 70 999 and ask for the Crime Prevention Co-ordinator in your local area.

Hastings Carer Support Group Launched

A new support group for carers of substance misusers launches in Hastings next month. Starting on the 3rd October, the group runs from 3 - 4.30 pm at Horizons.

It follows the establishment of a successful Carers Group at the Ian Gow Memorial Health Centre in Eastbourne earlier this year. One group member said: "It's reassuring to know that there's someone I can call to talk about how I'm feeling."

For more information about the Hastings support group contact Sue Munson, 01424 447016. For information about the Eastbourne Group contact Mel Stratford 01323 738 390.

See the Annual Review for more information about Carer Support Groups.



Safer Hastings Partnership becomes first to win Home Office award for tackling the fear of crime

The Safer Hastings Partnership is the first Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to win one of the Home Office's

prestigious Tilley Awards, and is also the first organisation to ever win a Tilley Award for work to tackle the fear of crime.

The Tilley Awards were set up in 1999 to encourage and recognise excellence in crime reduction using problem-oriented principles (POP), and are funded by the Home Office.

As one of the winners, the SHP was invited to run an hour-long workshop twice at the UK POP Conference in Birmingham last week.

Professor Nick Tilley and TV presenter Nick Ross presented the SHP with a trophy and a cheque for £1,500 to enable the Partnership's Communications Manager Natalie Williams to travel to the international POP conference in the USA at the end of September.

Vernon Coaker MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime Reduction, praised our work, saying, "The Safer Hastings Partnership demonstrated how a local, tailored communication strategy was targeted at residents of Hastings. It was designed to promote positive images of the town. It made residents feel safer and more confident about crime reduction. This project has been successfully replicated in other places."

Mike Fagan, Community Safety Manager with the SHP, said, "All of us at the Safer Hastings Partnership are delighted to have been recognised at this national level and this was due, in particular, to the outstanding work of our Communications Manager Natalie Williams."

The Home Office received 88 entries – more than ever before – and judges praised the SHP's work as "imaginative", "important" and "innovative".

Pictured left to right: Chief Constable Sean Price (Cleveland Police), Professor Nick Tilley, Mike Fagan (SHP), Natalie Williams (SHP), David Furness (SHP), and Nick Ross.

For more info, please contact Natalie Williams, Communications Manager, Safer Hastings Partnership, (01424) 451843, nwilliams@hastings.gov.uk.

Safer Wealden Partnership and Sussex Police launch Community Contact by e.mail

Community Contact, a new name, a great scheme with wider appeal and messages sent direct from Sussex Police. The new scheme is an improvement in that messages now originate from a dedicated Police Community Support Officer. There is no confusion with any traditional Neighbourhood Watch schemes and it aims to appeal to the widest possible audience. The scheme replaces the original NHW by Email scheme, existing members do not need to re-apply.

If you are online in the Wealden area, you are invited to join the free 'Community Contact' scheme. This scheme provides a safe, efficient and speedy way of exchanging information between Sussex Police, our SWP Partners and the Community. As it is two-way, it allows members to respond quickly with information that could assist Sussex Police. All messages are sent out as 'blind copies', so members e.mail addresses remain confidential. Members will receive news bulletins from:

- *Sussex Police on crime, crime prevention, "good news" in the fight against local crime, traffic accident appeals
- *The Sussex Police Authority with news, meetings and surveys
- *East Sussex Trading Standards regarding scams, rogue traders, etc.
- *Community Safety Messages from the SWP, WDC, ESCC and ESFRS

Chief Inspector Neil Honnor said: "I am really excited about the opportunities that Community Contact will provide. What we need to do is open up lines of two way communication, where we provide information about local issues and in return, receive intelligence from the community. Community Contact is the springboard for enhancing community participation, in making safe neighbourhoods feel safe".

To Join: Please send an e.mail to: cc.registration@sussex.pnn.police.uk also advising of your postcode and contact phone number. Community Contact Schemes also operate in Rother, Bexhill and Hastings.



Lewes Local Action Team – A Safe Summer for all...

This summer saw the launch of the "Parksafe" Project to increase young people's access to outdoor recreation areas. With help from the Lewes Local Action Team and Lewes District Council, Lewes and District YMCA are providing a regular presence in Landport, De

Montfort and Malling throughout the summer months and into the autumn. Youth Workers will help young people participate in sports and other activities as well as providing support and information. There will also be opportunities for young people to be more involved and have a say in what happens in their own communities by volunteering. The project is proving a great success already with an average of almost 60 young people taking part each week.

For further information about Lewes CDRP contact Carina Hinkley, carina.hinkley@lewes.gov.uk.

More Success for Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership

The Government of the South East (GOSE) has recently praised Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership for its success in reducing crime in Eastbourne.

Acquisitive and Business Manager for GOSE stated, *"I have been reviewing the acquisitive crime figures for Eastbourne and notice that since the 2003/4 baseline you have been making good progress in reducing your acquisitive crime especially with theft from vehicles (53% reduction from baseline) and domestic burglary (60% reduction)"*.

Neil Fuller, chair of the Partnership, and a Director of Eastbourne Borough Council stated, *"our strong performance stems from a strong and vibrant partnership of statutory, voluntary and business organisations with each representative determined to do his or her best for the residents of Eastbourne"*.

Eastbourne's successful tactics are being mirrored in other towns throughout the county of East Sussex. Bob Gough, Eastbourne's Crime Reduction Co-ordinator, explained that *"we will not rest on our laurels and the partnership focus will continue to reduce crime further and drive down anti-social behaviour in all its guises to further improve the quality of life in this safe and popular seaside resort."*

For more information contact Bob Gough, Bob.Gough@eastbourne.gov.uk.

New partnership CCTV Scheme in Rye

Rye Station now has a *Safer Station Award* thanks to new CCTV cameras that are helping to catch criminals and make Rye and Rye Station a safer place.

With the support of Southern Railway, the Safer Rother Partnership purchased additional CCTV cameras that can be viewed by Southern Rail and Police in Rye.

Heather Keating Inspector Rural Rother who attended the projects summer launch alongside Rye Mayor Cllr Paul Osborne and Mayoress said: *"Reducing the risk and the fear of crime is a task for the police and the community working together. I am sure that these cameras will make Rye which is a safe town even safer and give the community the confidence to go about their daily lives in the knowledge that security has been improved."*

The initiative demonstrates the type of multi-group collaboration that partnership working can achieve. Anticipated benefits are a reduction in the fear of crime, actual crime, antisocial behaviour and increased opportunities to bring offenders to justice. At the time of the launch two people seen on camera breaking into a vehicle were arrested after a prompt response.

The CCTV scheme is just one of a number of crime prevention initiatives in Rye to reduce fear of crime, provide crime prevention advice and remind people that Rye is a safe place. Other recent successes include high visibility and educational scheme to reduce vehicle crime.

For information contact Partnership Coordinator Carol Studley 01424 456150



Domestic Violence News

Three Domestic Violence Courts for East Sussex

East Sussex now has three specialist domestic violence courts.

Based in Eastbourne, Lewes and Hastings the courts will reduce waiting times and enable victims to feel more supported through the court process.

Each court has a set day for hearing domestic violence cases; with remand hearings taking place in the morning and trials commencing in the afternoon. In Eastbourne the dedicated day is Monday, for Lewes and Hastings it is Wednesday.

The Government initially piloted specialist domestic violence courts to ensure that both criminal and civil courts, recognised the difficulties and special concerns faced by victims of domestic violence. The aim was to develop court systems that put domestic violence victims at the heart of the process.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) have been appointed as part of the specialist court programme. These trained specialists ensure the safety of victims and pilots have shown that IDVA involvement with victims decreases victimisation; increases notification of children at risk and reduces the number of victims unwilling to support a prosecution. In East Sussex IDVAs work with victims of not guilty pleas, which includes representing them at adjournments hearings which can therefore be a

particularly vulnerable time. In supporting clients through the Criminal Justice System, they also provide advice to victims, assess and manage risk, explain civil and criminal legal options, help victims to plan for their safety and ensure that they have access services to which they are entitled. They also refer victims to other services and multi-agency groups as appropriate.

For more information contact Jacquie Ballard 01323 466527,
Jacquie.ballard@eastsussex.gov.uk

Sussex Police promotes free legal advice and access to injunctions

Sussex Police are promoting the services of the **National Centre for Domestic Violence**, which offers confidential, 24-hour legal advice to victims of domestic violence, usually resulting in a non-molestation order being obtained from the County Court. This free service is provided to everybody, regardless of financial circumstances.

NCDV - Tel: 08709 220 704
24 hr Freephone: 0800 9 70 20 70



White Ribbon Day 2007

November the 25th is White Ribbon Day, the international day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Following on from the success of last years events which included a benefit gig, prize draws and fun days, the day is being marked in a variety of ways.



- Hailsham Children's Centre Fun Day 22nd October
- Eastbourne Children's Centre Family Fun Day 20th November*
- Displays, PSHE lessons and fundraising events for *White Ribbon Week* (Hastings)
- Launch of the Hastings Sanctuary Plus Scheme
- Multi-agency celebration of reduction in repeat domestic violence incidents, including launch of new poster campaign (Rother)

*The Eastbourne White Ribbon Group organise on-going events throughout the year. Contact Pam Pritcher for details (07810515623)

CRI to provide countywide domestic violence services

CRI have won the tender to provide countywide domestic violence support services to victims.

CRI are already a significant provider of services to substance misusers, offenders, young people at risk of homelessness or of committing anti-social behaviour and the families and carers suffering stress, deprivation and who need targeted support.

Their successful bid will build upon CRIs experience as a provider of domestic violence services within Hastings since 1996, and across the rest of the county when they took over service provision from A Step Forward in 2006.

CRI will be working with victims to facilitate change, encourage peer support and develop links with a range of community agencies to encourage the development of positive social networks skills that promote independent living. The package of support that CRI will be offering to victims includes undertaking assessments of risk and need in order to develop a care plan, providing structured interventions, working with victims on safety planning and referring them to other local services as appropriate. In addition, CRI have developed a therapeutic service for children and young people who have been victims or witnesses of domestic abuse. CRI are committed to ensuring that service users are provided with the opportunity to maximise their involvement in the provision of any service they receive.

Contact CRI Domestic Abuse Service:

Hastings & Rother: 01424 716629 Eastbourne, Wealden & Lewes: 01323 414224

Round up of changes in legislation

On the 1st July 2007, section 1 of the **Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act** was finally introduced. This makes *breach of a non-molestation order issued after 1st July a criminal offence*.

This means no powers of arrest will be granted on non molestation orders from 1st July (as by definition it has a power of arrest if breach is a criminal offence). Powers of arrest on orders before 1st July continue. One application for their extension can be made.

The new **Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007** sends out a clear message that forced marriage, a breach of an individual's basic right to choose who and when they marry, is not acceptable in our society.

The act enables courts to make orders where a forced marriage has or is about to take place to protect the victim or the potential victim and help remove them from that situation. Importantly, third parties may apply for an injunction on behalf of somebody else. Courts will be able to attach powers of arrest to orders so that if someone breaches an order they can be arrested and brought back to the original court to consider the alleged breach.

From 1 June 2007 victims of domestic violence and stalking can apply to have their name removed from the electoral register. Regulations under the **Electoral Administration Act** offers protection to victims able to provide evidence such as an order under the Family Law Act 1996 or the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. If an application is granted, all that appears on the register will be a person's electoral number and the letter N

Domestic Violence Reduction Panels become Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences

Funding has been obtained to develop the successful East Sussex Domestic Violence Reduction Panels (DVRPs) into Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

The first DVRP commenced in Hastings and Rother in 2004 bringing together multi-agency professionals to provide a joint response to high risk cases of domestic violence. The model was rolled out to the Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden area in 2005. DVRPs have been successful in reducing repeat incidents of domestic violence, with over 50 cases being jointly worked on within the DVRP last year, 46 of which ceased to need any further involvement.

The joint problem solving response provided by the DVRPs will be enhanced as the panel's membership expands to fulfil MARAC criteria. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety. A MARAC Coordinator will be appointed to develop this new way of working. Once the MARACs have been developed in the East and West of the county, the Coordinator will minute meetings, ensure case files are updated and will carry out routine monitoring and reporting procedures on behalf of the group.

Domestic violence is more common than most people realise. Anyone can experience domestic violence regardless of age, gender, sexuality and culture. Domestic violence can take many forms and includes physical attacks, emotional abuse, financial control, threats, isolation, intimidation and using children against you.

CRI Domestic Abuse Service:

Information, advocacy and support to women and men, living with domestic abuse issues.
Hastings and Rother: 01424 716629 Eastbourne, Wealden and Lewes: 01323 414224

CRI Children's Service

A therapeutic service for children and young people living with domestic abuse. Referrals are made via the Domestic Abuse Service.

Eastbourne District General Hospital – Domestic Abuse and Alcohol worker (CRI):

Information and support to both men and women, and training for health professionals.
01323 417400 ext 5880

Sussex Police, Adult Protection Teams:

The role of the Adult Protection Team (APT) is to investigate serious crime against vulnerable or intimidated adults. This includes domestic violence.

West Team: 01323 414147 East Team: 01424 456143

24 Hour National Helpline Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247

run in partnership with Women's Aid and Women's Refuge

A freephone helpline providing support for women experiencing domestic violence.
www.womensaid.org.uk or www.refuge.org.uk

NEW Freephone number National Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327

Provides support for any man experiencing domestic violence from their partner.
www.mensadvice.org.uk

Broken Rainbow : 08452 60 44 60 www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

Supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people experiencing domestic violence.

RESPECT Phonenumber: 0845 122 8609 www.respect.uk.net

For perpetrators of domestic violence.

The Hideout: www.thehideout.org.uk

Help and support for children and young people living with domestic violence

ALWAYS CALL 999 IN AN EMERGENCY

Safer Communities Plan Published

Work to ensure that East Sussex remains a safe place for residents and visitors has been boosted with the publication of the first-ever Countywide Safer Communities Plan.

The plan brings together all the partners working to tackle crime, disorder, anti social behaviour and substance misuse. The partners have set out a series of action points that balance prevention, treatment and enforcement activity to address the causes of crime and nip criminal activity 'in the bud'.

Priorities in the plan include partnership work to reduce priority crimes, prevent and reduce public place violent crime, reduce re-offending, support victims of domestic violence and hate crime, reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol misuse and build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Copies of the full plan and summary versions are available to download from www.safeineastsussex.org.uk or tel: (01323) 466549

Review of Hate Crime Services

The Safer Communities Steering Group agreed the need to expand current provision for racist incidents to include all hate crime and to undertake consultation with relevant groups on the current arrangements and areas for improvement. An independent consultant was funded by East Sussex County Council to conduct a review of service provision for Hate Crime in East Sussex.

The Main Findings of the Review of Hate Crime Provision in East Sussex

- The need for a more strategic approach to Hate Crime
- Routine sharing of best practice that exists amongst the voluntary sector would contribute towards a more strategic countywide approach
- Current reporting options remain limited and consideration should be given to broadening these.
- Consideration should also be given to embedding training more firmly for staff within reporting sites to overcome issue of staff turnover.
- Across the County there are varied levels of service provision.

The findings and recommendations have gone to the Safer Communities Steering Group and have been consulted upon widely with current partners. The Safer Communities Team are currently progressing the findings of the review in consultation with partners and the local community. Work includes the development of quality standards for reporting points and casework agencies and providing a directory of services which would enable all partners to make appropriate referrals to other agencies by providing a brief description of a service, who to contact, and what to expect.

Other aspects of tackling hate crime which are being addressed as a result of the review are training, awareness raising and the need for robust monitoring procedures.

Better support for victims of domestic violence

Victims of domestic violence in East Sussex will be offered more support following a shake-up of services in the county.

Safer Communities Partners are seeking to build on current work to support women, men and children who are living with domestic abuse issues. Improvements include 3 new domestic violence courts which should reduce domestic violence court waiting times. This initiative, which is being developed after local partners gained Home Office funding, includes two specialist advocates who will work with victims as they go through the criminal justice system.

In September Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) were named as the new county-wide providers of specialist support services.

Harm Reduction Strategy Launched

Following extensive consultation with partners, the East Sussex DAAT Harm Reduction Strategy is now available to download. The strategy focuses on reducing the harm that drug taking causes to the individual, their family or the wider community. It includes action plans to reduce drug deaths and blood borne viruses that have been jointly agreed with the local Health Protection Unit and encourages everyone to adopt approaches that make drug misuse safer.

To download a copy of the Harm Reduction Strategy visit www.safeineastsussex.org.uk

Drugs misuse – who cares for carers?

If carers of people with drugs and alcohol issues want advice and support - where can they go?

A new group, at the Ian Gow Memorial Centre in Eastbourne provides the answers. Carers attend each month and meet other carers, drug workers and representatives of the charity Care for the Carers.

The group has been provided by the County Council, Eastbourne Downs and Weald PCT and Care for the Carers. A similar support group in Hastings will be set up later this year. For more information please contact Care for the Carers on 01323 738390.

2006/7 Performance Highlights:

- * Crime overall in East Sussex decreased by 5% in 2006/7
- * 1,039 public place violent injury crimes on weekend evenings meeting the Local Area Agreement target to reduce the number to 1,068
- * There was an overall reduction of 19% in the number of young victims of crime
- * 5,711 incidents of domestic violence were reported against a target to increase to reports to 5,350
- * There were reductions in the number of crimes recorded as Domestic Burglary, Vehicle Crime and Robbery
- * In 2006/7 there were record numbers in drug treatment.

Full end of year performance report available on www.safeineastsussex.gov.uk

MP Opens New Combined Drug Service

Eastbourne MP Nigel Waterson opened CRI's new substance misuse base for people living in the Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden in June 2007.

Lift House in Eastbourne is home to a range of substance misuse services including advice and information, structured treatment, services for offenders with drug problems, and counselling.

Opening Lift House, Mr Waterson thanked CRI and East Sussex DAAT for investing its resources and hopes in his constituency. He said the opening was an important day that would touch people's lives in many different ways.

Lift House is home to:

- Open access advice information and needle exchange services for people concerned about substance misuse problems.
- Assessment and referral.
- Criminal Justice Intervention Team (comprising arrest referral, Prolific and Priority Offender housing and outreach), working closely with the police, prison services and probation service.
- Structured day care including a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement programme that works with the statutory prescribing and probation services to work with people with established drug and offending histories
- Care planned counselling run mainly by volunteers.

Contact Lift House on 01323 410092



Helping Families Tackle Substance Abuse

A multi-disciplinary East Sussex Family Substance Misuse Service hosted within the county's Under 19s Substance Misuse Service is supporting parents with drug and alcohol problems who have children on the child protection register.

Front-line workers in the service include health care and addiction specialists working alongside children's social care practitioners. The service receives referrals from social workers and health service professionals. The service aims to reduce the parental substance misuse and increase positive parenting. For more information contact Vicky Finnemore, Service Manager 01323 841470

First Partnership Strategic Assessment

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and Reducing Injury Related Public Place Violent Crime are amongst the community safety priorities identified in the first East Sussex Partnership Strategic Assessment. Partners from Sussex Police, East Sussex County Council and local CDRPs worked together on the Strategic Assessment, which focuses on trends affecting the long term local community and crime performance.

Following a review in September the other priorities are: focussing on high impact crimes (including targeting suspects and class A drug activity), burglary, Castle and Central St Leonard's and Devonshire wards, Prolific and Priority Offenders (including a focus on Persistent Young Offenders) and reducing repeat domestic violence.

CADDIE Review

Consultation with representatives from neighbourhood and strategic partnerships including partnership analysts and a number of researchers informed the 2007 Review of the CADDIE website and service.

Working towards the need to meet new National Standards regarding intelligence and information sharing, the Review scrutinized the usability, functionality, data integrity and credibility of the website and to the role of the CADDIE Analysts. Key aims were to produce a list of data sets currently in use and those that the partnership would like to have access to and incorporate in their performance intelligence and information products. It also sought to produce a set of minimum standards for data. Previous analysis of the use of the external and partnership CADDIE websites was also revisited in order to make recommendations as to whether the website should continue to be supported.

The recommendations of the review delivered in June 2007 are now being implemented locally. In East Sussex the key changes are:

- CADDIE website closed in July 2007
- CADDIE Analyst posts will be centrally located within the Safer Communities Team

The East Sussex Service Specification is currently being revisited in response to the CADDIE Review.

2006/7: The Year in Brief...

- First Safer Communities Stakeholder Event – October
- White Ribbon Domestic Violence Events held across county – November
- Christmas and Summer Safer Clubbing Campaigns – December/July
- Family Service for parents with children in child protection process – January
- Strategic Intelligence Assessment – February
- Substance Misuse Harm Reduction Strategy launched – March
- Support groups for Carers of substance Misusers established - April
- Domestic Violence Service User Groups established – May
- Safer Communities Public Reassurance Seminar – June
- Safer Communities Plan developed – July
- Combined Drug Service developed in Eastbourne – July
- Three Domestic Violence Courts established – July
- Launch of Apprenticeship scheme for ex-substance misusers – September

Contact: The Safer Communities Team

St Marks House, 14 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1EP Tel. 01323 466549

Email: safercommunities@eastsussex.gov.uk Web: www.safeineastsussex.org.uk