

## **ESCC Report on Eastbourne CDRP – December 2004**

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### **1. Performance against Crime Reduction targets**

- Total crime has fallen by 3% in the three years of the audit, 383 fewer recorded offences in 2003-04 (10,883) compared to 2001-02 (11,226).
- There have been noticeable reductions in Criminal Damage, Theft and Vehicle Crime over the audit period, with increases in Burglary, Drug Offences and Violent Crime
- Crime is not evenly distributed. Recorded crime is concentrated in the town centre.
- Crime rates in Eastbourne are lower than similar areas however compared to the national average and Sussex as a whole, rates are higher in Eastbourne.

### **2. Progress towards Public Place Violent Crime PSA target**

- Violent Crime as a whole made up 15% of Total Crime in Eastbourne
- Violence Against the Person increased over the audit period (37%) from 1,237 in 2001-02 to 1,695 in 2003-04.
- The rate per 1,000 population of Violent Offences in 2003-04 (21.8) is higher than regional and national levels, though lower when compared to similar partnership areas.
- Violent crime in a public place makes up the majority of violent crime (68% in 2003-04)
- Offences are most likely to take place at night and during the weekend coinciding with pub and nightclub times.
- Offences are concentrated in The Town Centre area, with an increased concentration of offences in this hotspot area during the audit period.

Changes in the way crime is recorded, with a more victim-led approach in recording crime and focussed Police activity in hotspot areas has played a significant role in the increase in the offences. The most common offences are minor offences, such as assault, with the majority of cases involving slight or no injury to the victim.

As part of a concerted effort to try and drive down PPVC the CDRP has appointed more senior officers to lead the Violent Crime Action Group (Assistant Director of Housing and Health and a Detective Inspector) and is also now funding a Violent Crime Co-ordinator.

### **3. Successful initiatives with a specific ESCC input**

During the 2002 to 2005 Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy a wide range of interagency activity has been undertaken. Examples with a specific ESCC input include development of:

- A Youth Mobile Bus to engage with young people and raise awareness of substance misuse
- Trading Standards initiative leading to a reduction in one year from 60 per cent to zero of people prepared to sell alcohol to under 18s in Eastbourne.
- A Racist Incident Caseworker to promote the reporting of racist incidents and to encourage victims and witnesses to come forward
- A Positive Activities Programme for young people
- A Step Forward Domestic Abuse Project to provide tailor made services to victims
- [A YOT-run early intervention project to support families and children through schools](#)

Other partnership initiatives:

- A Community Street Wardens Scheme to deter anti-social behaviour, and reduce crime and the fear of crime
- A specialist Crack Outreach Worker to provide an effective response to the problem of crack cocaine, stimulant use and associated offending
- A Community Outreach Worker to engage substance-misusing clients who are not currently in treatment, and to assist them in accessing treatment
- A Drugs Fighting Fund for targeted proactive operations against drug dealers
- An Anti-Social Behaviour Worker post to take action against acts of anti-social behaviour such as Good Behaviour Contracts and Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- A Schools Intervention Officer Post to assist secondary school Head teachers prevent crime and incidents of anti social behaviour in and around schools
- A Domestic Violence Perpetrators structured group work programme aims to motivate and assist offenders to change their behaviour

### **4. Changes to membership/structure of CDRP**

The District Commander, CI Peter Mills currently chairs the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership. Three 'umbrella' action groups sit beneath the CDRP:

- Property Crime Action Group
- Violent Crime Action Group
- Anti-Social Behaviour Action Group

## Appendix 2

Various sub groups and Local Action Teams (LATS) feed into these 3 groups although the emerging Persistent and Priority Offender agenda means that structures are likely to be re drawn in the near future

### **5. Other issues**

Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership engaged Priority Research to conduct a survey of residents during August 2004 on the subject of crime, disorder and substance misuse. Results of the perception of crime survey suggest that the following should be priorities for the future:

- Three major priorities emerged. These were: Work with young people in schools to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, stricter controls on alcohol consumption and Increase the number of Community Safety Wardens
- The next most important priority, but of less significance, was 'Increase the number of Police Community Support Officers'.

### **6. Priorities for 2005/8 emerging strategy**

- Substance Misuse
- Property Crime including burglary, vehicle crime, business crime and arson
- Violent Crime including Public Place Violent Crime, Domestic Violence, Racist and Homophobic Incidents
- Anti-Social Behaviour including youth initiatives and criminal damage
- Targeting Prolific and Priority Offenders including prevent and deter, catch and convict and rehabilitate and resettle