

ESCC Report on Lewes CDRP – December 2004

CDRP Member Representative: Cllr Michael Murphy

CDRP Officer Representative: Duncan Jordan (Transport & Environment)

1. Performance against Crime Reduction targets

- Total crime has risen by 17% in the three years of the audit, 932 more recorded offences more in 2003-04 (6,520) compared to 2001-02 (5,588), with increases in all crime types. Though changes in the way crimes are recorded partly explain the increase in Violent Crime, whilst drug offences are linked to police activity and thereby signify a greater focus and success in combating substance misuse.
- Crime is not evenly distributed. Recorded crime is concentrated in the main towns in particular Seaford, Newhaven and Lewes.
- The most prominent type of offence in Lewes District is Criminal Damage followed by Theft, Vehicle Crime and Violent Crime.

2. Progress towards Public Place Violent Crime PSA target

- Violent Crime made up 16% of Total Crime in Lewes District during the audit period, a total of 2,731 offences.
- Violence Against the Person increased over the audit period (41%) from 725 offences in 2001-02 to 1,024 in 2003-04.
- The rate of Violent Offences in 2003-04 (12) is considerably lower than regional, national levels and when compared to similar partnership areas (CDRP Family)
- Violent Crime in a Public Place makes up the majority of violent crime (53% in 2003-04).
- Offences are concentrated at the weekend and from 11pm until Midnight coinciding with pub closing times.

The Violent Crime Action Group meets monthly and is chaired by the District Commander. Despite active participation and actions from key players (particularly the Youth Development Service) as documented in the Eastbourne report changes in Police recording are thwarting the efforts of the group.

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:

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- A Youth Mobile to engage with young people and raise awareness of substance misuse in rural areas
- A Racist Incident Caseworker to promote the reporting of racist incidents and to encourage victims and witnesses to come forward
- A distraction burglary awareness campaign
- A diversionary project for young people excluded from school

Other Partnership initiatives include:

- A Drugs Fighting Fund for targeted proactive operations against drug dealers
- An Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Officer post to take action against acts of anti-social behaviour such as Good Behaviour Contracts and Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- An Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator post to focus on preventative and diversionary measures and to have strategic overview in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour
- A Step Forward Domestic Abuse Project to provide tailor made services to victims
- A Community Street Wardens Scheme to deter anti-social behaviour, and reduce crime and the fear of crime
- A specialist service for families and friends of substance misusers

4. Changes to membership/structure of CDRP

Cllr Liz Lee chairs the Lewes District CDRP and alongside statutory partners representatives from the LSP Area Partnerships also sit on the group. Current action groups comprise:

- Violent Crime Action Group
- Acquisitive Crime Action Group
- Anti Social Behaviour and Persistent Offender Group
- Hate Crime Action Group
- LATS

5. Other issues

Lewes Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership engaged Priority Research to conduct a survey of residents during August 2004 on the subject of the crime and disorder. Results of the Perception of Crime Survey suggest that the following should be priorities for the future:

- More visible policing
- More things for young people to do
- Appropriate/safe places for young people to gather
- Educate young people how they can be less intimidating to older people
- On the spot fines for anti-social behaviour

Appendix 2

- Stricter controls on alcohol consumption

6. Priorities for 2005/8 emerging strategy

- Substance Misuse
- Property Crime including burglary, vehicle crime and business crime
- Public Place Violent Crime including drunken rowdy behaviour
- Domestic Violence
- Anti-social behaviour including youth initiatives, criminal damage, arson, racist and homophobic incidents