

ESCC Report on Wealden CDRP – December 2004

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1. Performance against Crime Reduction targets

- Total crime has risen by 6% in the three years of the audit, 390 more recorded offences in 2003-04 (6,645) compared to 2001-02 (6,255), with increases in Theft, Burglary, Drug Offences and Violent Crime. Changes in the way crimes are recorded partly explain the increase in Violent Crime; drug offences are linked to police activity and thereby signify a greater focus and success in combating.
- Crime is not evenly distributed. Recorded crime is concentrated in the main towns in Wealden in particular Hailsham and Uckfield.
- The most prominent type of offence in Wealden is Criminal Damage followed by Theft, Vehicle Crime and Burglary.

2. Progress towards Public Place Violent Crime PSA target

- Violent Crime as a whole made up 13% of Total Crime in Wealden, a total of 2,586 offences during the three year audit period.
- Violence Against the Person increased over the audit period (33%) from 687 offences in 2001-02 to 916 in 2003-04.
- The rate of Violent Offences in 2003-04 (7.2) is considerably lower than regional, national levels and when compared to similar partnership areas (CDRP Family)
- Violent crime in a public place makes up over half of all violent crime (55% in 2002-03, 50% in 2003-04).
- Offences are concentrated at the weekend and from 11pm until Midnight coinciding with pub closing times.

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:

- Operation Balmoral - multi-agency operation to remove abandoned, unsafe and untaxed vehicles
- Detached Youth Work, Uckfield - Drop in provision, which offers support and information

Appendix 2

Other Partnership initiatives include:

- Safer Villages Scheme - A scheme to bring the community and authorities together to identify and tackle local crime and disorder problems.
- Wealden Independent Mediation Service - a free, independent, confidential and accredited community mediation service to local residents.
- Uplands Sports Diversion & Peer Education Project - to divert young people away from crime and antisocial behaviour
- Diplocks Community Against Drugs - To help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society.
- Domestic Abuse Substance Misuse worker - information and support to women and men who are living with domestic abuse issues.
- A Step Forward - service for people experiencing Domestic Violence through a telephone helpline service and outreach 'drop in' facilities.
- Clued-up Information Shop - provides counselling services, a sexual health adviser and a substance misuse worker.
- Ringmaster Project - improve communications with Neighbourhood Watch and Parishes in the Wealden Area.
- Crowborough Skate Park - providing additional facilities for young people of Crowborough
- Mayfield Sports Diversion - to divert young people away from crime and antisocial behaviour by encouraging/enabling participation in sport.

4. Changes to membership/structure of CDRP

Cl Rex Mathews has recently taken on the Chairmanship of the Safer Wealden Partnership. There has unfortunately been a long period of inactivity due to personnel problems and most of the original 'issue based' action groups lost momentum during this period.

New action groups are due to be launched in the new year, more than likely based on town and parish council boundaries

5. Other issues

Safer Wealden 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 the following priorities:

- Greater sentences for individuals convicted
- More diversionary activities for young people to do
- Improving systems to discourage anti-social behaviour
- Better information on enforcement action taken e.g. anti-social behaviour
- Keep the area nice and clean as this make people feel safer

5. Priorities for 2005/8 emerging strategy

- Substance Misuse
- The Fear of Crime
- Violent Crime including Public Place Violent Crime, Domestic Violence, Racist and Homophobic Incidents
- Anti-Social Behaviour including youth initiatives, criminal damage and arson
- Targeting Prolific and Priority Offenders using the prevent and deter, catch and convict and rehabilitate and resettle methods recommended by the Government