

## **REPORT OF CRIME AND DISORDER REVIEW PANEL**

(Meeting held on 19 June 2001).

### **1. COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO.8).**

The Government Office for the South East has brought forward the timetable for the production of the Community Safety Audit by 2 months. Although it had been intended that the Council's own Officers would do the work, this was impractical under the new timetable. Following consultation with the partnership organisations, funds have been made available to employ consultants to do the survey work. Five consultants were interviewed and Sheffield based Priority Research Ltd (PRL) was selected as they had submitted the best proposal. They had distributed 3,000 questionnaires to a balanced cross section of the District's population. They will track the results and ensure the analysis is based on an even distribution across the District. Their initial analysis will highlight the major issues that need to be explored further.

The Audit has been developed from the 1998 data, to allow meaningful comparison and for trends to be assessed. The final report is expected in the last week in July.

In addition, statistical data is now being collected from partner agencies and held on a geographical information system (GIS) database. The project has encouraged all the agencies to start collecting data on as a similar format as possible. Because of the sensitive nature of the information, partners can only access the information they have provided themselves, for the time being, although access protocols are being discussed. The Community Safety Audit data will be added into the system, highlighting problems such as fear of crime.

Consideration will have to be given to the time period for which information should be archived. It is however possible to limit searches to specific time periods, which will allow meaningful analysis of the information and for trends to be developed.

The Panel were shown a demonstration of the operation of the GIS system.

The Panel noted that the Best Value Review process has highlighted the need for genuinely open co-operation between the partners that actively seek to overcome differences in culture and resources. The operation of the partnership should be reviewed through the Panel in due course. In the meantime, the Panel has asked for an update on the Best Value Review process at the September meeting, to include the comments from Cllrs Tipp and Shand who have taken part in the verification process.

**2. DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE IN YOUNG PEOPLE (MINUTE NO. 9).**

The Panel received a presentation from Jane Finan, of the Hampshire Youth Service on her experience with drug and alcohol abuse by young people in the New Forest District. She had concentrated on the 14-17 age group.

The key points that she raised were:-

- Young people said that very little education around drug issues would deter usage, although television drama (particularly soaps) could make them think , but not give up existing use patterns.
- Across the District tobacco and alcohol use were common. Alcohol use tended to be binge drinking on a Friday night. Young people, in general, were in control of their intake.
- Cannabis use was also widespread across the District.
- Use of other drugs – amphetamines, ecstasy, LSD, heroin – showed variations by geographical area, situation, time and day of week.
- Young people used the drugs and alcohol to mask difficulties and challenges in their lives and to have a period of escape.
- The young people said they would move away from drug use if alternative leisure activities were available and accessible to them. This had indeed proved to be the case as the Youth Service had provided some specially targeted courses and activities that had been well attended and supported by these vulnerable young people.
- The Youth Service had very clearly defined protocols on confidentiality, acceptable behaviour and limitations on substances being brought to their organised sessions. These worked well.
- The Youth Service provided an invaluable source of support to the young people by being available for them to talk to. It was also noticeable that some young people had very little experience of “play” activity and could be surprisingly receptive to very simple organised play sessions.
- It was very important to listen to the young people both in establishing what their needs were, and including them in developing solutions. There needed to be avenues available to the young people to influence policy making about them.
- Initiatives such as “soft drinks rooms” in local pubs, proposed when youth clubs were shut, could be extremely successful provided the young people were involved in developing the rules of behaviour that apply to users.

The activities of the Youth Service may need to be more focused and targeted as the results of the crime GIS analysis developed.

The Government Office for the South East has made some money available to the crime partnership specifically to help reduce drug supply and demand problems. Part of that money will be used to provide a Detached Youth Worker, who will develop diversionary leisure projects.

**3. WORK PROGRAMME (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO 10).**

The Panel considered their work programme to guide their activities over the coming year.

***RECOMMENDED:***

***That the Work Programme for the Panel to guide their work for 2001/02 be as set out at Appendix 1 to this report.***

CHAIRMAN

(CD190601)

## WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2001/02

### 18 September 2001

- ◆ Draft Crime Audit Strategy
- ◆ Volunteer Community Guardians initial evaluation of potential role
- ◆ \*\*Identifying key priorities for detailed research to support the Crime Audit, needs to be brought back into the work programme at this stage
- ◆ Budgets also need to be brought back into the work programme at this stage
- ◆ Best Value Update - to include the impressions of Cllrs Tipp and Shand.

### 23 October 2001

- ◆ Budgets

### 20 November 2001

- ◆ Road Safety – Speeding (including 20 mph limits)
- ◆ Flooding/Coastal Emergency Response Plan

### 22 January 2002

- ◆ Final Audit Strategy Report
- ◆ Review of numbers served and effectiveness of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Antisocial Behaviour Orders.

### Future

- ◆ Drugs/Alcohol Abuse
- ◆ Domestic Violence