

HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2002 – MARCH 2003

1. Introduction

This report looks at the progress of the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) during the first year of its second strategy. For the period April 2002 – March 2005, the following priorities for action within the county were identified:

- alcohol related crime and disorder
- anti-social behaviour
- domestic violence
- drugs and drug related crime
- and road safety.

It was also accepted that for crime prevention work to be effective, young people must be engaged. Youth work was therefore incorporated into each priority as a cross-cutting theme, as per the work of the Herefordshire Partnership, rather than a separate priority as it had previously been.

A new priority, Anti-social Behaviour, was set in line with the governments push to tackle this area of work. This also strongly appeared as a concern for residents in Herefordshire and was clearly highlighted in all our consultation work.

The strategy document detailed new aims and objectives for each priority, together with targets, actions and performance measures for the three-year period. This report will now examine our progress against those targets.

2. Alcohol related crime and disorder

Target: To reduce alcohol related crime and disorder by 5%

Baseline figure: 2,280

Total number of incidents for year: 1,906

Result: 16.4% reduction

Progress against actions:

- Evaluation of taxi rank locations in Commercial Road and Bridge Street carried out – rank space and hours to be increased
- Group is integrating Pub and Club Watches into the CCTV control room
- Funding applications made to establish alcohol referral scheme. Bulmers involved in project.
- Bylaws have been introduced at the Rose Garden, Ledbury Road and the churchyard and playing fields at Madley, to introduce alcohol free zones

Issues:

- Taxi rank alterations still to be carried out
- Referral Scheme Objective 2 bid failed. Yet to receive decision on RRZ; if this is unsuccessful limited other funding sources. Project is vital as fills a gap in service delivery
- Section 17 failed in Wetherspoons case. Paper sent to GOWM, which has been forwarded to the Home Office outlining the difficulties when attempting to implement it.

Future work:

- The group is in the process of merging with the Alcohol Strategy Group, a health established group. This will bring a more balanced approach to our work, to now include education and treatment, rather than merely focusing on prevention and licensing issues

3. Anti-social Behaviour

Target: to develop a Herefordshire database based on West Mercia Police profile of disorder

Result: Established

Target: To achieve a 5% reduction on the first years baseline figures

Total number of incidents for year: 6345 (baseline figure established)

Progress against actions:

- New group quickly established with key players
- Two key areas of work evolved –
 - around young people
 - targeted work in identified hotspots (areas and people)
- Xtreme Youth Projects carried out further 'Noise' events. Successful funding bids for events and the employment of two young people to run Youth Action Groups
- Set produced for Crucial Crew, examining hate crime
- ASBO work progressing well. 7 ASBO's have now been obtained in the county. On-going staff training. Early intervention work has also been successful. Currently 104 targets and 16 further potential targets
- Successful bid for 10 Community Support Officers; key in progressing this area of work. Very positive feedback to date

Issues:

- Push the use of ASBO's in tackling prolific offenders and engaging the CPS to obtain order on conviction

Future work:

- Rolling out the Rural Safety Initiative
- Further 'Noise' events and rolling out Youth Action Groups to schools
- Working with The Courtyard to produce a video looking at young people and anti-social behaviour, examine the perceptions of young and old and the 'real picture'

4. Domestic Violence

Target: to increase the reporting of domestic violence incidents by 15%

Baseline figure: 786

Total number of incidents for the year: 795

Result: 1.1% increase

N.B. Women's Aid have received approximately 200 more calls to the Domestic Violence Helpline for the same period.

Target: To ensure 80% of participants on the perpetrators programme do not re-offend within two years

Baseline figure: 6 participated in programme

Number re-offended: 1

Result: 83% achievement rate

Target: Develop an educational programme for schools promoting non-violence

Result: This is currently being progressed. The pack has been modelled on best practice from around the country. Delivery is mainly drama based, so we have negotiated with The Courtyard to train the teachers in this area.

Target: To reduce the percentage of reported domestic violence incidents that involved victims of a reported domestic violence incident in the previous twelve months by 28%

Result: 34.61% 5% above Force average

Progress against actions:

- Awareness raising conference held in November, extremely positive feedback
- Information leaflets for victims and professionals distributed across county, again positive feedback, demand high
- PSHE lesson plan being developed designed to address conflict resolution and gender roles

Issues:

- Consent of victims required to progress multi-agency advocacy network
- Funding for both the perpetrators programme and advocacy network required

Future work:

- Development of an advocacy providers network
- Developing the perpetrators programme outside the criminal justice system

5. Drugs and drug related crime

Target: to reduce vehicle crime by 30% by 2004 (LPSA target = 1150 incidents)

Baseline figure: 1250 (2000/01 figure used)

Total number of incidents for the year: 1379

Result: 10.3% increase

Target: to reduce domestic burglaries by 25% by 2005 (LPSA target = 860 incidents)

Baseline figure: 990 (2000/01 figure used)

Total number of incidents for the year: 959

Result: 3.1% reduction

Please note:

Since the publication of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, David Blunkett has reviewed the National Drugs Strategy, from which the targets were originally taken, and removed them, as they were deemed immeasurable or unachievable; the overall aims of the strategy have stayed the same. The Government is currently developing 22 PI's across the DAT Plan.

Progress against actions:

- Detailed action is within the DAT Annual Return
- new group has been established, as the previous structure was not hitting the targets around criminal justice. There was also confidentiality and ethical issues as support workers were part of the group
- groups focus is targeting prolific offenders
- 'We don't buy crime' project launched, educating people on the crime/drug lifecycle

Future work:

- Detailed within the DAT Annual Plan

6. Road safety

N.B. Figures for the year refer to calendar year 2002. Baseline figures are from the LTP.

Target: to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 29% by 2005

Baseline figure: 249 (1994-98 average)

Total for 2002 150 (previous year 179)

Result:

Target: to reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured by 32% by 2005

Baseline figure: 21 (1994-98 average)

Total for 2002: 8 (previous year 7)

Result:

Target: to aim for a slight casualty rate of 755 casualties by 2005 (this figure takes into account year on year traffic growth)

Total for 2002: 847 (previous year 867)

Result:

Progress against actions:

- Highways Agency is now attending meetings; work of group now more balanced, previously very educationally biased
- Mock accident event held in High Town, Hereford in September - very successful with lots of press and television coverage
- Development of 'Community Speed Watch'
- Christmas Drink Drive campaign
- Child car seat checking on-going
- Crucial Crew set
- IAM and HeARTS now integral members of group

Issues:

- Slight casualty rate is higher than target

Future work:

- Developing a road safety video with The Courtyard and a theatre performance for primary schools
- Motorcycle safety campaign
- Pedestrian safety campaign
- Courtesy, care and consideration campaign

7. Developing the Partnership – continuous improvement

Target: to evaluate targets on a yearly basis

Result: Achieved

Target: to review action plans on a quarterly basis

Result: Achieved

Progress against actions:

- development and implementation of performance management framework
- merger with Drug Action Team
- Pilot area for Partnership Quality Assurance Assessment (PQAA), which will become a CSP yearly statutory assessment for the Home Office
- On-going training / awareness raising events held
- Improved community consultation and involvement, particularly in tackling anti-social behaviour
- Improved marketing and promotion of both the partnership and projects

Issues:

- Capacity to deliver Home Office PQAA and monitoring
- Capacity for audit process; planning Autumn 03, action 04

Future work:

- Pilot area for Community Safety Apprentices (community involvement workers)
- Implementation of PQAA
- On-going community consultation and involvement

- On-going marketing