

# HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

## **Ambition**

Reduce crime, disorder and drugs and make Herefordshire safer.

## **Membership**

Strategic Group Members:

Herefordshire Council  
West Mercia Constabulary  
Herefordshire Primary Care Trust  
National Probation Service  
Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade  
West Mercia Police Authority  
Worcestershire and Herefordshire Youth Offending Service  
Voluntary Sector Assembly (VSA)  
Registered Social Landlords Forum (RSL Forum)

## **Structure of the partnership:**

Over the last six months much work has been done to merge the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership and the Drug Action Team. The two agendas have been pulled together in line with the government guidelines laid out in the Police Reform Act 2002. On merging the two teams, the appointment of a strategic lead (Jane Rose) was made to join the agendas and the team.

The team is located within External Liaison at Plough Lane and consists of a Managers post, theme co-ordinators to include community safety, criminal justice intervention programme, drugs and sports referral; all supported by a community development worker, research officer and admin support. This combined team has resulted in improved communication between staff, best practise sharing, idea generation and the coming together of the crime and health agendas, which historically have been so opposed. This has also had a knock-on effect with local service providers and given them a greater understanding of the two agendas and an appreciation of all the issues concerned.

## **Partnership activities:**

**Strategically**, the partnership is currently developing its next three year strategy to be in place April 2005; this will combine the crime and drugs strategies previously held to one combined delivery plan reflecting the objectives and targets of both. This will further enhance the joined up approach and synergies already being achieved by the partnership. The process involves an extensive audit and community consultation programme, concluding with a conference for key stakeholders (to be held 30<sup>th</sup> November).

Contd. Progress report from Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership

The partnership is also currently working towards improving some of the processes within it, to include performance, financial and information management and communication. The partnership is also engaged in the LPSA2 process.

On a more **operational level**, the partnership is supported by themed Implementation Groups, consisting of members from the public, private, charitable and voluntary sectors. Activities consist of education, prevention and treatment projects.

The partnership has been actively involved in the development of the Councils new Licensing Policy, following the recent Licensing Act changes, which orders all licensees to reapply for their licences next year. The partnerships **Alcohol** Referral Scheme, based both within police custody and A&E, has now gone live; this project is part of on-going work with Bulmers. Although progress in this area has been good, there are concerns that the implementation of the statutory national Door Registration Scheme may lead to a shortfall of staff locally due to the high training costs; this is being monitored.

Work around **anti-social behaviour** has also been progressing very well; many targeted police operations and patrols have had effect in those specific areas. The introduction of Dispersal Orders has also assisted, with the county having two orders in place, one in Bromyard the other on Castle Green; both orders have been extremely effective reducing complaints to virtually zero. During this year, the partnership has worked with the Councils Environment Directorate on a graffiti project. This initiative tackled the much-publicised issue in a holistic way, to include removal, enforcement and youth engagement work – again this has been very successful with several arrests and very positive young people's projects, particularly engaging with those that have been offenders. The partnership has also worked with Trading Standards and developed a 'Think Twice' campaign targeting potential victims of bogus callers; the project is currently being piloted in Ledbury.

Work around **domestic violence** is now focusing on the development of a voluntary perpetrator programme; currently this can only be accessed via court. This will provide support at a much earlier stage. Also the role of advocates is being explored. On-going educational work is being carried out, along with the continual promotion of the county's 24-hour free helpline.

On-going **road safety** educational work is being carried out in schools, most recently focusing on seatbelts. A theatre tour of the Further Education colleges is due shortly focusing on drink driving.

Zig Zag, the young persons **substance misuse** team, is working very effectively across the county, engaging with young people on an outreach basis, providing advice and support. The partnership also commissions training for all agency staff that may have contact with drug users and their families; for example courses are available specialising in young people, adults, alcohol and motivational interviewing. The local Drug Forums are developing well; the partnership has now established one in every town within the county. The aim is to tackle local community issues in relation to drug misuse as identified by group members, these being from the locality and consist of local residents, businesses, schools, police, health workers etc. Projects initiated have included a poetry book written by drug users, local research, tackling discarded needles and working with young people.