
UPDATE ON CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the current situation with regard to progress on the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The new Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy was launched in April 2002. It specified primary objectives and actions to be carried out by this authority and a number of key partners. An update of these objectives and actions derives from a recent Crime and Disorder Partnership monitoring group meeting.

- 2.2 In the context of Rochford District, the Responsible Authority Group Partnership comprises of: Rochford District Council, Essex County Council, Essex Police, Essex Police Authority, Castle Point and Rochford Primary Care Trust, National Probation Service.

- 2.3 Effectively, the Partners have a responsibility to:

- Conduct and publish an audit of local crime and disorder problems
- Consult locally on that audit
- Determine priorities for action
- Formulate and publish a strategy that seeks to tackle these priorities, setting out objectives and performance targets for measuring the extent to which the objectives have been achieved.
- Monitor progress
- Repeat the process every three years.

- 2.4 From this the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership meets bi-monthly to progress the strategy. This group has a wider membership, with Rochford District Council represented by Cllr Mrs Brown.

3 ROCHFORD CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP MONITORING GROUP UPDATE

- 3.1 The Monitoring Group was formed specifically to update the progress made by the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

- 3.2 Membership of this group comprises representatives from Rochford District Council, Essex County Council, Essex Police Rayleigh Division, Rayleigh and Rochford District Association of Voluntary Services, Castle Point and Rochford Primary Care Trust, Essex Probation,

Hawkwell Parish Council, Essex Fire and Rescue Service. Cllr Mrs Brown (RDC) is a member of this group.

3.3 *Primary Objective 1: Crime Reduction*

3.4 Action point 5, Motor Vehicle Crime, aims to continue to increase security of car parks throughout the district. A car park car crime awareness day is being planned for early next year to address the many areas of car park security. The exact date and venue for this is yet to be confirmed but it will need to be held before the end of March 2003.

3.5 Action point 7, Criminal Damage, aims to monitor, and instigate measures to reduce, damage to Council buildings and assets. The Council monitors the damage to its buildings and assets regularly reporting to Members through the Community Services Committee. In addition, the Partnership is looking at ways to monitor the full extent of deliberate damage to private and public property across the District.

3.6 Action point 8, Rural Crime, aims identify crime that occurs within rural communities. To achieve this, a Partnership sub group has been established and an independent consultant has been employed to investigate public concerns and views. A report on the findings has been scheduled for January 2003, from which actions will be identified to address crime in rural areas.

3.7 *Primary Objective 4: Substance Misuse*

3.8 Action Point 4 aims to make resources available to scope the extent and level of problematic substance misuse in Rochford District. The Home Office has set out a three year programme to support communities in tackling drugs. Funding is available for partnerships to help disrupt drugs markets, tackle drug related crime and strengthen communities. A report, conducted by consultants, is the first step in addressing the problem of substance misuse and it will be submitted to the Drugs Reference Group on 11 December 2002. The findings and recommendations of this report will be decisive in determining the next course of action for the Partnership.

3.9 Action Point 6 aims to promote greater awareness and use of the drug related debris removal scheme. This action came about in response to an increase in anecdotal evidence from the public concerning drug related debris. In order to promote the Council's removal scheme and ensure rapid removal of debris, the Partnership have given £500 to Neighbourhood Watch to help the co-ordinators identify the debris and pass this knowledge to householders. A drugs supplement was also included within the latest edition of RDM to increase public knowledge

on the subject, particularly helping parents to identify the behaviour associated with drug abuse and providing contacts for advice.

3.10 *Primary Objective 6: Quality of Life*

3.11 Action Point 2 aims to initiate effective ways of communicating with the young, and hard to reach groups, and explore ways of giving them a greater voice within the community. To this end the Partnership set up a youth sub-group. This group has met four times and has been successful in getting the support of local groups and businesses in relation to youth projects:

- Both the Rochford Hundred Rugby Club and Ashingdon Boys Football Club have indicated that they would be supportive of any young people wishing to be involved with their clubs.
- Sponsorship has been made available from a local firm to allow up to four youths to sample country pursuits and fishing. Likewise, vocational training in farming has been made available for interested young people.

3.12 The group is also seeking to identify and engage with hard to reach sections of youth.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The report seeks to address crime and disorder issues as detailed in the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 An amount of £95,000 was set aside to support the aims of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Minute 607/99). The balance now stands at £46,628.

6 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the report be noted and update reports be submitted to future selected meetings of this Committee. (CEX)

Paul Warren
Chief Executive

Background Papers:

None

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