

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Community Development

REPORT NUMBER: **H32**

TO: **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE (COMMUNITY SERVICES)**

DATE OF MEETING: 20 May 2008

BABERGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To detail the progress and work of Babergh's Community Safety Partnership, (formally titled the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the content of the report be noted.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with the content of this report

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The nature of this report is such that a risk assessment is not required as the Committee is not being asked to make a decision or agree any recommendations.

5. KEY INFORMATION

- 5.1 Crime and disorder reduction partnerships were formed by Local Authorities following the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Nationally structures vary, but in Suffolk all the local authorities at district/borough level have adopted similar models; a Responsible Authorities Group (RAG), which principally has a strategic remit and in Babergh is chaired by Nick Ridley (Chairman of Strategy Committee) with Martyn Booth, member for Sudbury South, as vice-chair; and an Officer Working Group (OWG), which principally has operational responsibilities. Suffolk County Council provides a supporting strategic role. Both groups include key partners from the Police, Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, Fire Service, Suffolk County Council and the Primary Care Trust.
- 5.2 Crime and disorder reduction partnership, recently branded in Suffolk as Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) as this was thought to be a more accurate reflection of the wider work of the partnerships around, for example, fire prevention and personal safety advice, are required to carry out regular audits of crime and disorder issues within their local authority area. From that audit, priorities are agreed amongst the partner organisations, along with actions to tackle the issues emerging from the audit. Babergh CSP has just come to the end of its strategy and action plans for 2005-2008 and has just completed a new action plan for the coming year. Changes in legislation now require the CSP to agree and review actions on an annual, rather than three year basis.

- 5.3 Results for 2005-8 are encouraging. Overall reported crime has reduced in Babergh by 8% over this period, with a 4.5% reduction in 2007/8 on the previous year's figures. This falls short of the LAA targets set, however this is common throughout Suffolk, with the exception of Waveney which had specific extra investment. Overall the LAA target for reduction across the County was a reduction of 16.9% with Babergh being set a target of 13.5%. We have done well to make significant progress on reducing reported crime and it is acknowledged by the LAA board that the target set for Suffolk was unrealistic given the low levels of crime in the County. We also compare well with districts in Suffolk with similar crime levels; Suffolk Coastal (down 4%), Forest Heath (down 6%) and Mid-Suffolk (down 4%).
- 5.4 The past year has seen a significant increase in Babergh CSP activities with a number of targeted crime prevention initiatives and high profile events designed to heighten awareness and inform the public about community safety issues. Improvements have also been made in tackling anti-social behaviour with, for example, the implementation of a structured ASB process and a reporting and recording system at BDC.
- 5.5 Significant new initiatives last year include:
- The launch of Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) in Babergh – an initiative led by the Police, with BDC playing its full part jointly organising the launch event in October 2007 and attending a number of key public meetings, which set the priorities for each SNT area.
 - The launch of the 'Survivors' DVD in November 2007 – this was produced through the Babergh DV Forum and has received positive feed back from as far afield as Japan, Germany and the U.S.A.
 - BDC's decision to end the CCTV monitoring contract and to establish a local control room at Sudbury Police Station for the whole district – transition due to be completed in February 2009 (a year's notice having been required to end the current contract). This will reduce costs and increase the effectiveness of the system.
 - The District's first dispersal order – used to tackle disorder, criminal damage and general anti-social behaviour and an example of the increasingly effective joint working on these issues between BDC and the local Police.
 - Targeted crime prevention work in a number of car parks throughout the district which is thought to have contributed to significant reduction in incidents in those locations – a good example of the CSP increasing capability to react to emerging crime trends.
- 5.6 Following a comprehensive County-wide audit of crime and disorder, Babergh CSP has recently signed off the action plan for 2008/9. The action plan is based on an intelligence led approach to agreeing priorities, building on the audit and factoring in local knowledge. Five priorities areas have been agreed with specific actions detailed under each of those themes. The five themes are:

- Town centre management and the night-time economy – this theme being based on the need to tackle alcohol; fuelled disorder which accounts for a large proportion of the high volumes crimes in Babergh (criminal damage and public disorder).
- Anti-social behaviour and Engaging with Young People – this theme, as well as continuing to build on the work underway to improve the response to ASB casework, also looks long term at prevention and diversion, focused on young people.
- Domestic Violence – All CSPs in Suffolk have struggled to make any significant progress in reducing incidents of DV
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse – In Babergh the most problematic drug use in community safety terms is the use of alcohol. This theme is therefore very much focused on tackling alcohol misuse.
- Enhancing Community Safety – this theme looks at working on crime prevention initiatives and personal safety campaigns (e.g. safer driving/ fire prevention in the home).

5.7 Babergh CSP will look to make progress against the actions agreed in all of the above themes and a copy of the full action plan has been placed in the member's room. Progress against that action plan will be reported back to Members via the annual report next year. One event to note for this year is the launch of a Community Safety Booklet for Babergh, the first in Suffolk, which will be launched at an event on 2nd June 2008. All Members of the District Council and Parish/Town clerks have been invited to this event.

6. **APPENDICES**

None

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

Babergh CSP action plan and performance monitoring reports

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