



Issue 9 October 2009

# Safe in East Sussex



# Partnership Review

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is currently undertaking a review to explore the effectiveness of current working arrangements within the partnership. The aim of the review is to evidence good practices and identify potential areas for improvement to ensure that future ways of working together make the best use of resources and generate new initiatives to drive up performance.

The Partnership's purpose is to work together to develop the strategic approach to safer communities and to ensure the priorities it contains are implemented. Tackling crime and fear of crime is essential in creating communities which are satisfied and reassured.

Sussex Police are leading on the review for the partnership and the project lead Chief Inspector

Natalie Carron said: "There is a tremendous amount of great partnership working being carried out across the whole of East Sussex. The review aims to highlight what is working well and how we can further improve the service that the partnership provide to the local communities that we all serve".

The relationship between strategic decision-making and tactical and operational local delivery will be assessed in order to identify partnership structures to meet the needs of the local communities.

Findings and recommendations of the review will be considered by the Review Steering Group, made up of senior representatives from Sussex Police, Sussex Police Authority, East Sussex County Council, District and Borough Councils, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, NHS and Probation.

## 2009 Safer Communities Stakeholder Conference

### Date for your diaries!

On 3 November 2009 the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership will be holding its 5th Annual Stakeholder Conference.

The conference gives all stakeholders an opportunity to come together to discuss, network and engage. The theme for this year is the partnership review that is currently taking place.

For more information or to book a place please contact Emma Roberts, Administration Support Officer 01323 466549.

The Safer Communities Partnership brings together representatives of all the local agencies involved in community safety and substance misuse. Agencies include the East Sussex County Council, Primary Care Trusts, District and Borough Councils, Sussex Police, Sussex Probation, East Sussex Children's Trust, Sussex Association of Local Councils, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), Her Majesty's Court Service and the Crown Prosecution Service.

For more information about the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership newsletter or to submit articles, please contact Lizzie Vickery on 01323 466525 or email: [lizzie.vickery@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:lizzie.vickery@eastsussex.gov.uk)

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# New film shows positive impact of 'community payback'

A short film called 'Turning Lives Around' has been made by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership and the Youth Offending Team to celebrate the achievements of young people involved in community payback.

'Turning Lives Around' shows the positive impact that young people have had with the work they have completed on local projects in East Sussex. It includes the work of young offenders as part of the community orders handed down by the courts and demonstrates how this has helped them to turn their lives around.

The film marks the newly completed Youth Crime Prevention Strategy devised by the Safer Communities Partnership, the Youth Offending Team, and the Children and Young People's Trust. The strategy builds upon the work to help all young people in East Sussex to stay safe, and to celebrate the achievements of young people. The strategy involves a variety of organisations all working together to:

- Prevent children and young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- To help change the behaviour of those young people who have offended
- To prevent young people from being victims of crime and
- To improve perceptions of anti-social behaviour and reassure the public

'Turning Lives Around' was shown for the first time at a partnership launch to celebrate the new plans at East Sussex Fire & Rescue Headquarters in Eastbourne. The film and the plans can be viewed via the Partnership website at [www.safeineastsussex.org.uk](http://www.safeineastsussex.org.uk).

Councillor Bob Tidy, Lead Member for Community Services at East Sussex County Council, said: "We often see and hear negative reports about young people and crime and anti-social behaviour. What we don't often see is the positive stories that happen when young people give something back to the community as part of their court sentence. We don't often see the fantastic work of the authorities and volunteers working with the young people but this film helps to redress the balance."

Chief Superintendent Robin Smith, East Sussex Divisional Commander, said: "By working in partnership and by providing opportunities to young people we will see a significant impact on behaviour and the inclusion of young people into our communities."

"In tackling youth crime we need both tough enforcement and effective preventative measures to drive down youth crime and anti-social behaviour. That means intervening as early as possible to prevent offending and to ensure that unacceptable behaviour is tackled successfully. Every agency has an important role to play to ensure that this strategy is effective, by working together we can make East Sussex a safer place to live and work."



# Action on the Ashdown Forest

During the week of 14th September the Wealden Safer Roads Partnership educated drivers who used roads across the Ashdown Forest.

This week of action included four days where volunteers used Speed Indication Devices (SID's) on the forest's main roads which display the speed of oncoming vehicles and alert drivers who are over the speed limit. At the end of the week the road policing team spent the day enforcing drivers who were driving over the limit. In total 19 fixed penalty tickets (£60 ticket and licence endorsed with 3 points) were issued.

Inspector Steve Grace from the Road Policing Unit said: "Speeding vehicles is an issue affecting not only road safety but the quality of life for communities and users of the road. We would much rather educate people with SID devices, but if they choose to ignore the speed limit then we will enforce the legislation to improve safety on the roads."

Partners involved in this week of action included the Road Policing Unit, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Ashdown Forest Road Safety Action Group and the Safer Wealden Partnership.

For more information please contact Neil Banks, Safer Wealden Partnership 01892 602746.



# Driving down anti-social drinking in Lewes District

The Lewes District Crime Reduction Partnership is re-branding the District wide street drinking designated area signs.

Drinking alcohol in many of the town centre streets and the seafront of Seaford, Newhaven and Peacehaven and the town centre in Lewes was made subject of legislation in 2005 in order to reduce the number of alcohol fuelled incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The law allows Police staff to require people drinking alcohol within the designated area to stop and to hand over their alcohol for disposal where they are seen to be causing a nuisance or are acting in a disorderly manner. Failure to do so can lead to arrest.

Use of the legislation has been a key feature in the continuing downward trend of anti-social behaviour across the District. The decrease over the last 3 months compared to the same 3 months in 2008 is over 14% - 70 fewer incidents.

Lewes District Neighbourhood Sergeant Martin Theelke (pictured), "The signs are being updated as the summer progresses. This is a time of year where there has often been more anti-social behaviour

fuelled by street drinking and we are determined that the legislation will continue to be enforced to ensure that communities can enjoy their town centres and promenades without the scourge of alcohol fuelled nuisance."

For more information please see [www.lewesdistrictcrp.org](http://www.lewesdistrictcrp.org) or call 01273 484336.

For more information about alcohol please see [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)



# Know Your Limits – Alcohol Awareness Week

From 19 to 23 October the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership and the East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team supported the national Alcohol Awareness Week by making clear to residents across the county about knowing their limits when having a drink.

Organisations from across the partnership worked together to ensure the week was a success and a variety of activities were held. The partnership built on its existing relationship with the Towner Art Gallery's Outreach and Inclusion Programme and developed a range of artwork with young people around the 'Know Your Limits' theme. Throughout the week, the pieces of art were displayed in empty shop windows across Eastbourne town centre.

In order to engage with the general public various 'Know Your Limits' stands were placed in shopping centres across the county. Colleagues from partnership organisations and Action for Change helped to educate residents about alcoholic units and encouraged them to keep a drink diary.

The partnership has also communicated with the thousands of employees within partner organisations. Articles have been written to inform staff about Alcohol Awareness Week and the recommended daily unit intake and placed on websites, intranets and newsletters



If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol access help at Action for Change:  
Eastbourne, Lewes, Wealden – 01323 419696      Hastings and Rother – 01424 460066

Alternatively if you are a parent/carer and concerned about your child and their drinking, you can seek help and advice from your local service:

Under 19s Substance Misuse Service – 01323 841470.

For more information about the week please contact Lizzie Vickery, Communications Officer on 01323 466525 or [lizzie.vickery@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:lizzie.vickery@eastsussex.gov.uk)



# BLAZE Success!

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service hosted the first BLAZE Passing Out Ceremony at Hailsham community fire station recently.

The ceremony celebrated the achievements of the 13-15 year olds who completed the BLAZE (Believe, Learn, Achieve, Zest, Explore) programme, which provided weekly education sessions exploring important fire and road safety messages but also anti-social behaviour, healthy living and coast safety. BLAZE is all about fun and fitness combined with important fire and road safety messages and the programme secured £2,000 of funding from Tesco's Hailsham supermarket.

Hailsham Watch Manager Jason Hull led the team of BLAZE instructors and said: "The young people who participated in BLAZE displayed a great deal of development since the first session. They worked incredibly hard to expand their knowledge of road safety, fire safety, anti-social behaviour, healthy living and also improving their own individual fitness levels. We are incredibly proud of them."

The morning consisted of three sections. Firstly, the BLAZE University Quiz tested participants' knowledge of the ten subjects that were covered over the course of the programme.



The Physical Fitness Test saw participants undergo the same physical fitness test that firefighters must pass in order to qualify for the role of a firefighter. Tasks included a ladder climb and leg lock, equipment assembly, a hose reel drag and a casualty rescue.

And finally, Chief Fire Officer Des Prichard whilst presenting the young people with their awards in a ceremony that was attended by friends and family said: "BLAZE was an excellent example of young people displaying skill, enthusiasm and energy in a pioneering project. The initiative supported young people in developing a great deal of self-confidence and in instilling a sense of pride in everything they have experienced throughout the course."

# Young people educate their peers about alcohol

The Safer Hastings Partnership last month launched an exciting project to get local young people engaged in educating their peers about alcohol and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The 'Recreate' project started by consulting around 250 young people, most aged 14 and 15, on their views and experience of alcohol and ASB. Interactive workshops were held at four of the five mainstream secondary schools in the town and with a local youth group, a group of young offenders or those at risk of offending, and with teenage members of Hastings Young Person's Council. As well as young people expressing their opinions on these issues, they also took part in activities designed to find out how they would speak to their peers about alcohol and ASB.

The findings of the consultation are informing a new resource pack for teachers in Hastings, which will include a film on each issue. Over the last couple of weeks, a smaller group of local young people has been working with a professional film production crew on a script for each of the films - one about the dangers of underage drinking and the other about the consequences of ASB.



Filming will take place in Hastings in November, and local young people will help to develop the lesson plans that will accompany the films. The teaching resource will be available to local secondary schools in the new year.

For more information about the 'Recreate' project, contact Natalie Williams at the Safer Hastings Partnership on 01424 451843.

## A New Hate Crime Directory

**In October a new Hate Crime Directory was launched by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership in an effort to help increase awareness and reporting of Hate Crime.**

Although hate crime in East Sussex is relatively low in comparison to the national figures, we know it is under reported. The directory has been created to provide information to assist victims, witnesses or third parties to understand how to report a hate crime or incident, and where to send completed forms. It also provides contact details for those that wish to access specialist support.

A Hate incident or crime is defined as 'any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by prejudice or hate'.

The partnership welcomes the directory to be used by anyone and in particular hopes that voluntary and statutory agencies and community groups will download a copy for reference.

Graham Hill, from Victim Support warmly endorses the production of the directory and said "People and communities who suffer from crimes and incidents motivated by hate need to know where they can go to get help and support. The agencies in the directory are all committed to improving services to those who need help, and are working closely together so that people no longer have to suffer in silence."

To download a copy of the directory please go to [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/hatecrime](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/hatecrime).

If you have been a victim of a hate crime or incident, and would like somebody to talk to, please call Victim Support on 0845 3899 528.

Don't suffer in silence.



# Town centre safer after alleyway clear-up



Nick Downs, Sussex Probation Area Employee and PC Lisa Cousins

## Rubbish-strewn alleyways used by street drinkers in Eastbourne are being cleared up by offenders in a bid to make the town centre a safer place.

In a joint operation between Sussex Probation, Eastbourne Police and Eastbourne Borough Council, graffiti and more than two tonnes of rubbish and weeds have been removed from alleyways in Station Approach, Cornfield Road, Andwell Court and Ashford Road.

The work was carried out by teams of offenders who have been sentenced to carry out unpaid work in the community. The project was identified by the town centre Neighbourhood Panel, who reported that some of the alleys were eyesores and attracted street drinkers to the area.

Once the alleys were cleared by offenders, Eastbourne Borough Council removed a large skip and more than 20 wheelie-bins of rubbish including hundreds of beer cans, shopping trolleys and food packaging.

Offenders supervised by Sussex Probation will return to the alleyways every few weeks to ensure they stay clear.

Mark Burden, Senior Probation Officer in charge of Community Payback, said: "It's great to be working closely

with the Police and Council to address issues that we know are of concern to residents and traders. By clearing these alleyways, we have made the town centre look better and feel safer.

"Offenders are paying back for the crimes they have committed in the community while gaining skills and teamwork experience which is proven to reduce reoffending."

Eastbourne Neighbourhood Inspector Tony Wakefield said: "This is another great example of how the community via its Neighbourhood Panel can drive local priorities at a street level which realise the needs of the neighbourhood. I look forward to working with the Probation Service and Eastbourne Borough Council in similar future ventures"

If you would like to nominate a project for Sussex Probation's Community Payback scheme you can nominate online at [www.sussexprobation.gov.uk](http://www.sussexprobation.gov.uk) or email [sussexcommunity.payback@sussex.probation.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sussexcommunity.payback@sussex.probation.gsi.gov.uk)

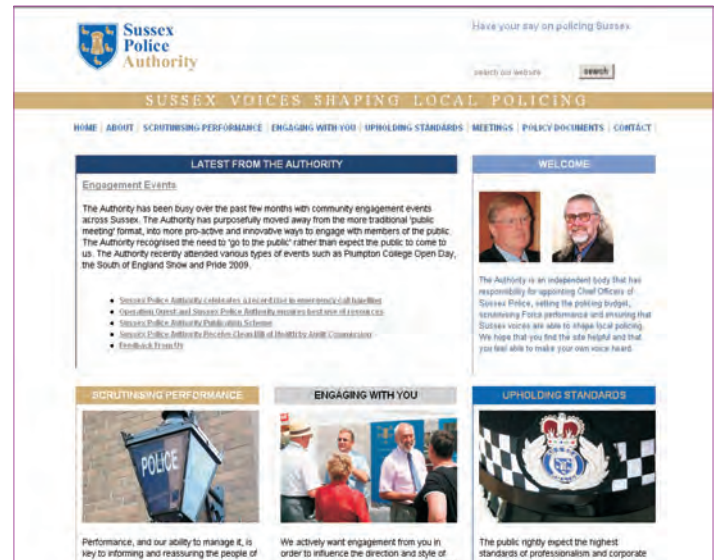
# New website for Sussex Police Authority

Sussex Police Authority has launched a brand new website which will give you the chance to voice your opinions, learn more about the Authority and see how Sussex policing strategies are formed.

Sussex Police Authority oversees Sussex Police and sets the Local Policing Plan for Sussex. This plan sets the direction for Sussex Policing for the coming years and is directly influenced by the views of Sussex residents. The Authority regularly meets the people of Sussex and listens to their views at a number of local events throughout the county. The idea behind the website is for the Authority to be able to expand this consultation process and reach even more people of all ages, backgrounds and areas.

The website will give everyone the chance to see the latest news stories, have their say, look up crime figures and view Authority meeting agendas and policy documents.

Sussex Police Authority Chairman Dr Laurie Bush says “A vital aspect of the work of the Sussex Police Authority is the way in which we make contact with



the local population and they with us. We hope many will take the opportunity of using it to do just that to ensure that we are able to continue to focus our activity on responding to their needs.”

Visit [www.sussexpoliceauthority.gov.uk](http://www.sussexpoliceauthority.gov.uk) to find out more and to join in.

## Free UV property marking pens for Rother residents

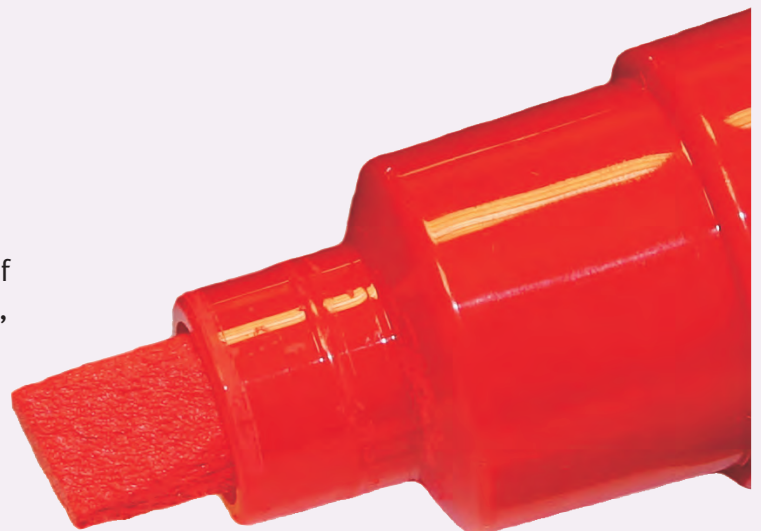
**More than 800 UV property marking pens and advice leaflets have been given out by the Safer Rother Partnership over the last couple of months as part of Sussex Police's Operation Sunshine.**

Detective Inspector Owen Poplett, chair of the Safer Rother Partnership's Property Crime Action Group, said, “Burglary in Rother remains at low levels, but we encourage residents to pick up one of the UV property marking pens from Bexhill, Battle or Rye police stations and use it to write their house number and post code on their property so that, if they do become a victim of burglary, we can identify stolen property we recover. We continue to strive to keep burglary low and reduce it even further, but residents have an important role to play in this too.”

Immobilise leaflets were distributed at the same time. Immobilise is the world's largest free register of personal property and is used by all UK police forces, including Sussex Police, to return stolen property to its owners. Valuables can be registered on the Immobilise website: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com).

Residents are advised that they can help to keep burglary low in Rother by following the advice of Operation Sunshine, such as closing and locking all ground floor doors and windows when they are in the back garden.

For more information about the Safer Rother Partnership, visit the community safety pages at [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk).



# Making Eastbourne Even Safer

'Eastbourne is officially a safe place to live, work and visit.' A report, presented to Cabinet by CRP Co-ordinator Bob Gough on 2nd September, highlighted the strong working relationship that exists within the Crime Reduction Partnership that has delivered a sustained and comprehensive reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour in Eastbourne over the years.

Compared to 2003/4 overall crime in 2008/9 was down 24%. Burglary of houses was down 75%, vehicle crime down 53% and robbery down by 54%.

Reductions in crime have continued into this performance year and as of the end of June 2009, compared to the previous 12 month period, criminal damage is down 9% and anti-social behaviour has reduced by 18%.

Leader of the Council, David Tutt said, "These are significant reductions and have come about by dedicated hard work of the Partnership. The working groups have identified where there are increased risks and resources have been targeted in order to deal with them."



Chair of the Partnership, Eastbourne Borough Council's Director of Housing, Health and Community Services Neil Fuller said, "Eastbourne CRP has been recognised by the Audit Commission as having a good track record in reducing crime which has resulted in a considerable improvement in the quality of life for local residents."

## New Opportunities in the Substance Misuse Field

Would you like to learn more about drug and alcohol services or fancy a change in direction of your work? Read on to learn more about how you could gain a qualification in this field.

The East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team are now recruiting students to start on the Certificate in Community Justice – Drug and Alcohol Services course which runs at Sussex Downs College, Newhaven. The course is an excellent way of achieving a career change, with many students gaining employment with a substance misuse employer or gaining skills for their current job.

The course is open to everyone, from people with a minimum experience of education to those who perhaps volunteer or already work within the substance misuse field. This adds variety and interest to the learning environment because students come from many backgrounds with different experiences.



Students from the course have said:

*"It has given me knowledge, insight and courage to learn the professional workings of the drug and alcohol treatment services"*

*"Doing the course has given me the confidence to get a job in treatment services"*

To gain a certificate in Community Justice students will need to attend college one day per week for 36 weeks, however, the award is predominately practice based so during the course students will undertake paid or voluntary work in the drug and alcohol sector.

The course begins in January 2010 and recruitment is starting now, so if you would like an application form or more information, please contact Elizabeth Flegg, Workforce Development Manager on 01243 382621 or email [Elizabeth.Flegg@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Flegg@westsussex.gov.uk). The closing date for receipt of applications is **1 December 2009**.

# What do people think about crime and safety in their neighbourhood?

The Safer Communities Team has worked with all five district and borough Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) to develop a new online community safety survey.



The survey went live in July and was supported with £100 prize draw to help encourage all residents of East Sussex to tell us what they think about crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area.

Everyone involved helped to publicise the survey across the county with posters and leaflets pinned up in a variety of places from village halls and libraries to police stations and town councils. The survey was also sent out to the East Sussex County Council residents' panel.

From July to the end of September there have been an astonishing 2,000 responses received. The results from the survey will help to build upon a picture about residents' feelings towards crime and safety where they live and will help to set the priorities for the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership for the next year.

Go to [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/safetysurvey](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/safetysurvey)

For any further information, please contact Lizzie Vickery, Communications Officer, Safer Communities Team on 01323 466525 or email [lizzie.vickery@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:lizzie.vickery@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## Improvements in drug treatment

**There is good news from the drug treatment services in East Sussex as the latest figures show some of the best ever results for the county.**

There are more people in effective drug treatment than ever before. This is reassuring because people are seeking help for their substance misuse problem. Not only are more people coming forward, but also more people are staying in treatment for more than twelve weeks and are leaving treatment in a planned way.

This has meant that in East Sussex we have 1070 people in effective drug treatment. The 2009/2010 target was 971, so the county has exceeded the target by 10%.

On top of this, there has also been little waiting time before people are able to start their treatment. The average waiting time for first being seen by the treatment service was less than 2 weeks for all the different types of treatment.

Jason Mahoney, Joint Commissioning Manager for Substance Misuse said "Local people are getting the right help with the practical, day-to-day problems that their drug use causes. Help with health, financial and housing issues, and the breathing space they need to make long-lasting changes. Many of us are directly affected by the impact of drugs in our communities, and we all feel the benefit when individuals get the support they need to put their problems behind them."



# A Day in the Life . . . Geoff Forster

## What is your working role?

I work for East Sussex County Council in the Youth Offending Team, as a Reparation Coordinator

I manage the reparation team and ensure that young offenders carry out their imposed community service activities.

I liaise with local charities and other public bodies and speak at various public meetings about crime in the community.

I am also a member of the Public Confidence Delivery Group which involves various partner organisation working with the Sussex Criminal Justice Board to improve public confidence.

## Beginning of your day

My day starts at 06:00...shower, feed Mr. Moz (my huge cat) say goodbye to my lovely wife and set off to Eastbourne from my home in Newick. John Humphries keeps me amused for the 45 minute journey as I do battle with the A22 where I generally fume behind a car incapable of achieving speeds over 20 mph. Grrrrrr!!!

I'm in the office by 7:20 and the first order of the day is strong black coffee, and catch up with my boss Mark (the Haff) Haffenden.

## Your morning

The first task of the day is to check my diary and then check in with my team. It's my responsibility to see that case notes are completed and case workers informed of any issues that have occurred; new referrals from case managers will be booked in. By now I'm thinking about food! (Actually I think about food a lot, how sad is that!)

## Late morning

The most significant event of the day occurs around 10:30...The sandwich trolley comes to call and despite all my best intentions of cutting down on bread and other lard producing ingredients, I'm the first one there, hoovering up enough calories to feed a small country. Filled with shame I enter the next phase of the day...planning and scheming – my absolute favourite bit. This includes looking for cash or worthwhile projects, thinking about improving our performance (being better than all the other YOTs in the country) and how we can really make a positive difference to the young people we work with and the communities that we serve. I generally work through lunch.

## Afternoon

I'm out and about in the afternoon keeping in touch with our partners in the community. This might involve a visit to one of the charity shops we support or a site visit to a proposed new project or even trip to our allotment, where our young people have grown some impressive vegetables.



## Your top tip

I think we beat ourselves up about things that really don't matter

How many people went to bed after a disagreement with their loved one without resolving it and telling them that they loved them, the night before an air raid flattened the house they were sleeping in?

The point is, it's people that matter, not things, not prosperity, not...football

However, and I digress, one of the things that I have found in trying to bring positive change to this element of youth rehabilitation is that people find change difficult. I have therefore selected this quote from Arthur Schopenhauer to emphasise the point.

*"All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident".*

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)

Geoff Forster  
Reparation Coordinator  
. . . and loving it.