

east sussex
safer
communities
partnership

Community Safety in East Sussex
Information Pack

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Foreword

Community Safety remains one of the top priorities for the people of East Sussex. Partnership working to tackle community safety issues can reduce duplication of effort, create a forum to develop innovative ideas and present a single, co-ordinated response to the public. When all key partners agree joint outcomes, and agree their roles in achieving those outcomes, it promotes collective accountability and minimises the chances of something slipping through the gaps.

This information pack has been prepared to describe the partnership arrangements that exist in East Sussex and inform you of the key community safety priorities in our area. On our website you will also find the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Business Plan and the Executive Summary of the East Sussex Strategic Assessment of Community Safety. The information contained within this pack sits alongside these documents to help set the scene and explain how they drive the work of the Partnership.

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership strives to make East Sussex a safe place to live, work and visit, and we are very proud of the impact our work has had on reducing crime, improving the victim experience and driving improvements for residents in a challenging financial backdrop.

Total crime in East Sussex has fallen over the last five years and continues to do so. Improvements to drug treatment in East Sussex mean more people are receiving effective treatment and are becoming drug free. The numbers of referrals to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences

for high risk victims of domestic abuse is increasing and reoffending rates for Prolific and Other Priority Offenders are low. We have also been successful at reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system through preventative approaches.

I am looking forward to working with our incoming Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver our community safety priorities and welcome the new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Our plans will inevitably develop further as we progress, but the overall aim will be to make East Sussex an even safer place to live, work and visit.

If you have any questions on the work of the Safer Communities Partnership please contact the Safer Communities Team on 01323 466549, by emailing

safercommunities@eastsussex.gov.uk or by visiting www.safeineastsussex.org.uk



Councillor David Elkin, Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety and Chair of the East Sussex Safer Communities Steering Group

1. About East Sussex

East Sussex has a population of just over half a million and covers an area of 1,725 square kilometres (666 square miles), 64% of this falls within two nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The county comprises the Boroughs of Eastbourne and Hastings, and the Districts of Lewes, Rother and Wealden.

East Sussex has many strengths including our natural environment, open spaces, countryside and coast; vibrant towns and villages with many and varied cultural activities, and a mild southern climate, (although this is changing). Against this, however, are a number of challenges including:

- Poor transport and communication infrastructure
- A lack of affordable housing in urban and rural areas
- Poor access to services in some rural areas
- Coastal towns and economies in need of regeneration
- Low wages, skills and aspirations and high part-time employment
- Few high earners in East Sussex, most working outside the county
- An ageing population with an increasing demand for services
- Poor health and high rates of long term limiting illness in some areas
- Significant areas of poverty and of deprivation
- A weak local economy, dominated by small businesses employing fewer than 10 people, with lack of space in which to grow
- Flood risk in some rural and coastal areas
- Social issues, including crime and social change.





2. Community Safety Partnership Arrangements in East Sussex

2.1 What is a Community Safety Partnership?

It is a legal requirement for 'Responsible Authorities' to form Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and work with other local agencies to reduce reoffending, tackle crime and disorder including anti-social behaviour and the misuse of substances in their area.

The Responsible Authorities in East Sussex that make up the CSPs are:

- Sussex Police
- East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
- NHS East Sussex Downs and Weald
- NHS Hastings and Rother
- East Sussex County Council
- Eastbourne Borough Council
- Hastings Borough Council
- Lewes District Council
- Rother District Council
- Wealden District Council
- Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
- Sussex Police Authority (until November 2012)

Sussex Criminal Justice Board and Her Majesty's Court Service and Her Majesty's Prison Service are also community safety partners, but are not statutory Responsible Authorities.

Employment and education agencies, the voluntary and private sectors, victims and communities are also important community safety stakeholders.

2.2 What are the Community Safety Partnerships in the East Sussex Area?

East Sussex has five Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) at a District and Borough level and one strategic county-wide CSP, known as the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership. The reach of these partnerships reflects the local authority and police district boundaries that exist in East Sussex. The CSPs are:

- East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership; and
- Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership
- Safer Hastings Partnership
- Lewes Community Safety Partnership
- Safer Rother Partnership
- Wealden Community Safety Partnership

2.3 What does the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership do?

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is the strategic partnership that oversees county-wide plans to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, re-offending and substance misuse, bringing together all partners with a responsibility for community safety.

Working through the Safer Communities Steering Group, the Partnership ensures best practice is shared across the County and that economies of scale for service provision have been realised. Funds from the Community Safety Grant have been used to support victims of antisocial behaviour, hate crime, domestic abuse and sexual assault. The partnership also works to ensure that the low levels of crime in East Sussex are better communicated to raise levels of public reassurance.

The Safer Communities Steering Group meets quarterly. It agrees priorities, oversees a business plan and monitors performance against agreed outcomes. Actions which contribute to the delivery of county-wide priorities are further developed by Thematic Groups which focus on Domestic Abuse, Alcohol, Anti-social Behaviour, Re-offending, Drugs, Families with Multiple Problems and Road Safety.

2.4 What do the District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships do?

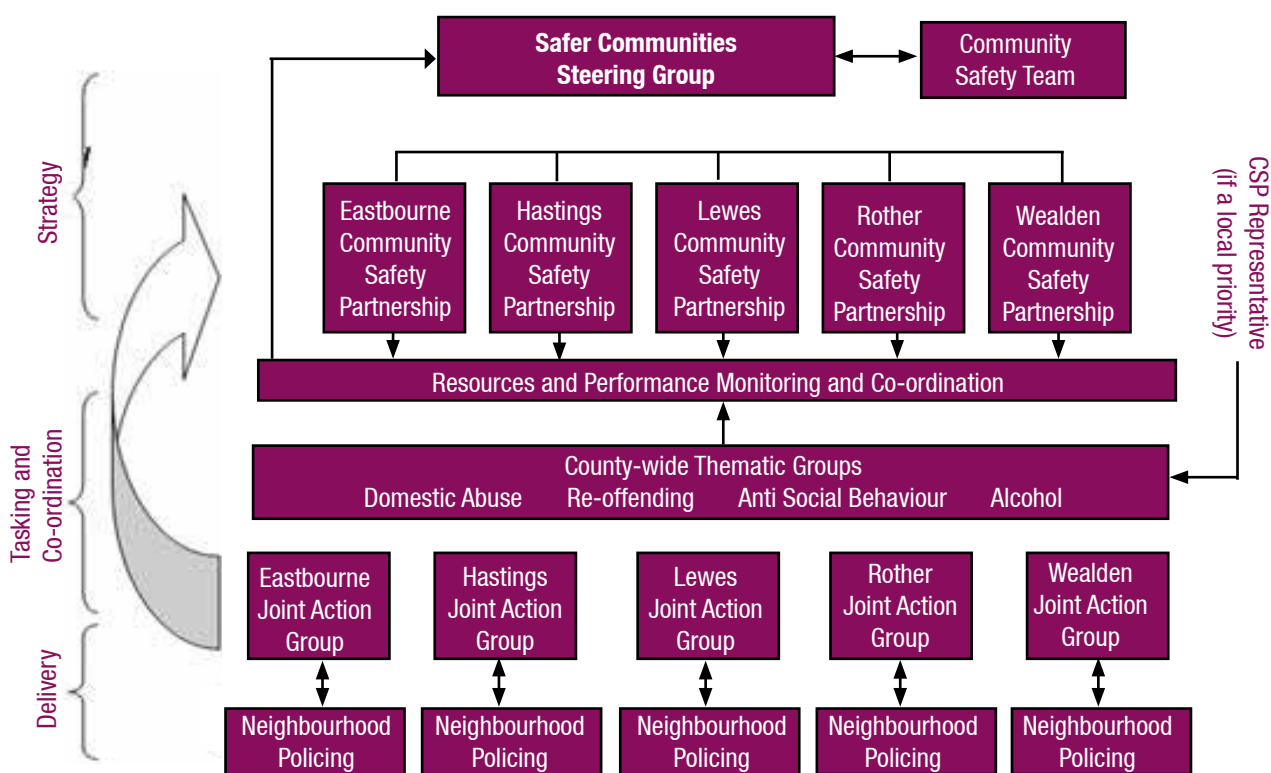
Local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) meet quarterly to monitor performance against their agreed targets, written into three year rolling action plans, refreshed annually. Funds from the Community Safety Grant are currently given to Community Safety Partnerships to support local activity and CSPs work in partnership at a district and borough level to deliver services. Bids for funds to support any projects or initiatives are discussed in monthly Joint Action Groups, which take place in each CSP area and report into the CSP quarterly meeting.

2.5 How do we Select our Priorities for Partnership Working?

CSPs are required to share certain sets of depersonalised information with each other to allow crime patterns and trends to be tracked, and to involve the local community in gathering information to select local priorities.

In East Sussex, a Strategic Assessment of Community Safety is produced annually. Work commences in June and the document is produced in October, to tie in with Business Planning processes for the forthcoming year.

The Strategic Assessment of Community Safety is used to select priorities for joint work and plan activity for the forthcoming year. The assessment also assists the District and Borough CSPs in selecting their local priorities.



2.6 How are Community Views Taken into Account?

Key to planning the community safety activity in East Sussex is seeking the views of local residents and using this, alongside information we hold as agencies, to inform our business planning processes. It is also important that we can tell the community how we are tackling their concerns. The Strategic Assessment of Community Safety looks at community concerns gathered through the Sussex Police Neighbourhood Insight Survey and the Partnership's Community Safety in Your Area Survey.

At a local level the majority of District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships use three methods of community engagement:

- Neighbourhood Panel priorities and feedback
- Quality Streets / Face the People
- Youth Panels

2.7 What are the Links to other Partnership Plans?

The Safer Communities Steering Group makes links to the other Partnerships to ensure that the priorities identified through

the strategic assessment process are included in other relevant plans, and that work streams align and complement each other. These partnerships include:

- The East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)
- The East Sussex Strategic Partnership
- The five District and Borough based Local Strategic Partnerships
- The East Sussex Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT)
- The East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children Board
- The East Sussex Safeguarding Adults at Risk Board
- The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership
- The East Sussex Supporting People Team
- The East Sussex Youth Offending Team (YOT)
- East Sussex Casualty Reduction Board
- The East Sussex Recovery Alliance (ESRA)



3. What are Community Safety Priorities in East Sussex for 2012/13?

East Sussex is a diverse county containing both urban and rural populations, in some places affluence, in others deprivation. It is important that the community safety partnership structures in place are able to respond to this diversity at a local level when issues are specific to a locality or require additional local focus. Some issues are cross cutting, and require a county wide strategic approach. The Partnership priorities in East Sussex reflect this.

3.1 Strategic Priorities Selected by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership

The Strategic Assessment of Community Safety 2012 and Community Safety Partnership Business Plan 2012/13 detail why these were selected as priorities, what the Partnership is doing to address these issues, how the Partnership will measure its performance, the resources required to deliver actions and how services are commissioned. These documents can be provided on request or downloaded from the Safe in East Sussex website <http://www.safeineastsussex.org.uk/police-crime-commissioner.html>

Domestic Abuse	Improve identification of people at risk from domestic abuse and deliver effective multi-agency responses.
Drugs	Reduce drug related offending, supporting people to live drug free lives whilst reducing harm for those who continue to use drugs
Alcohol	Reduce the health and social harms caused by alcohol misuse and underage drinking
Antisocial Behaviour and Hate Incidents	Improve identification and multi-agency response to people whose lives are affected by anti-social behaviour and hate incidents
Community Engagement	Look at how community views are collected, collated and used
Reoffending	Identify and respond to the needs of offenders that make up the Integrated Offender Management cohort to ensure that effective multi-agency responses are in place that reduce the likelihood of further offending
Families	Relevant partners to be involved in and support the work of the Families with Multiple Problems project

3.2 Priorities Selected by Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership

Alcohol Related Crime and Disorder	Reduction in crimes associated with alcohol abuse, to include street drinking, public place violent crime and under age drinking.
Anti-social Behaviour	Reduce anti-social behaviour incidents including criminal damage and youth arsons
Community Engagement	Improve communication and confidence among Eastbourne's residents
Domestic Abuse	Increase reporting and reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse
Neighbourhood Management	Development of effective Neighbourhood Management following on from piloted areas, targeting localised issues.
Volume Crime	Reducing and detecting volume crime including burglary, theft and shoplifting

3.3 Priorities Selected by the Safer Hastings Partnership

Alcohol Related Crime & Disorder	Reduce injury violence by tackling street drinking and reducing alcohol related crime
Anti-Social Behaviour & Environmental Crime	Reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime (including criminal damage) experienced by residents in Hastings. Tackle ASB by focusing on victims and assessing risk
Arson and Fire Safety	Reduce the number of deliberate and accidental fires
Domestic Abuse	Increase reporting of domestic abuse and reduce repeat victimisation.
Hate Crime	Encourage reporting of hate crime. Work with partners/public sector to encourage training of staff in recording and referring hate crime incidents.
Local focus on volume crimes of criminal damage and theft (via JAG meetings) Priority neighbourhoods are Castle and Central St Leonards.	

3.4 Priorities Selected by the Lewes Community Safety Partnership

Anti-social Behaviour	To reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour which includes alcohol related issues associated with the night time economy.
Community Engagement	Increase public confidence through community engagement events such as Quality Streets, Neighbourhood and Youth Panel meetings and through regular communications.
Domestic Abuse	Establish the true level of Domestic Abuse and reduce repeat incidents
Road Safety	Reduce the number of killed and seriously injured people on Lewes District's roads.
Volume Crime	Reduce and detect volume crime to include burglary, theft and shoplifting

3.5 Priorities Selected by the Safer Rother Partnership Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour	Reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour experienced by residents in Rother by looking at key locations/hotspots and offenders and victims.
Cross Border Crime	Reduction in burglary of homes and buildings other than homes, rural crimes and the activity of offenders who travel across neighbouring districts, e.g. rural crime - including metal theft, thefts from rural and farm buildings, caravan breaks, oil/fuel theft
Anti-social driving	Reduction in reports of antisocial driving and other issues of ASB identified priority by local communities and neighbourhood panels.
Reducing the impact of offenders and families with multiple problems	Families who commit crime and anti-social behaviour, which significantly affects communities in Rother, including a reduction in total crime for 2012/13.
Domestic Abuse	Establish the true level of Domestic Abuse in rural communities. Monitor levels of reported Domestic Abuse.

3.6 Priorities Selected by the Safer Wealden Partnership

Burglary Other Than Dwelling	Reduce the number of burglary other than dwelling incidents.
Anti-Social Behaviour	Reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour experienced by residents in Wealden.
Road Safety	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Wealden's Roads.
Community Engagement	Improve communication and confidence amongst residents in Wealden.
Domestic Abuse	Raise awareness and promote the help and support services available for victims of Domestic Abuse.
Partnership working	Work with our partners at County level to support and work towards wider community safety objectives in the East Sussex Community Safety Partnership Business Plan 2012 to 2013.

3.7 How is the work of the Partnership supported?

The East Sussex Safer Communities Team co-ordinates and supports the delivery of the strategic work of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership. The team also coordinates the work of the East Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) partnership, which tackles substance use and associated crime in East Sussex.

The Safer Communities Team undertakes the following support roles on behalf of the Partnership: policy and project work; performance management of the Partnership plans and Drug and Alcohol Treatment Monitoring Programme; providing the annual adult and young persons substance misuse needs assessments; joint commissioning of services. The team also co-ordinates partnership community

and service user engagement, consultation and communications work, organises and manages the effectiveness of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) for high risk victims of domestic abuse and coordinates Domestic Homicide Reviews.

District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships are supported by a Community Safety Support Officer (CSSO). There are two employed in East Sussex, one supporting the CSPs in Hastings and Rother, and the other officer supporting Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden Community Safety Partnerships. CSSOs' roles are varied, and include supporting the Joint Action Group meetings and Community Safety Partnership meetings, responding to funding application queries, communications and consultation and work on various projects.



4. How well is the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership Performing?

Total crime in East Sussex has fallen over the last five years and continues to do so. In the 12 months to March 2012, total crime in East Sussex reduced by 3% when compared to the same period in the previous year.

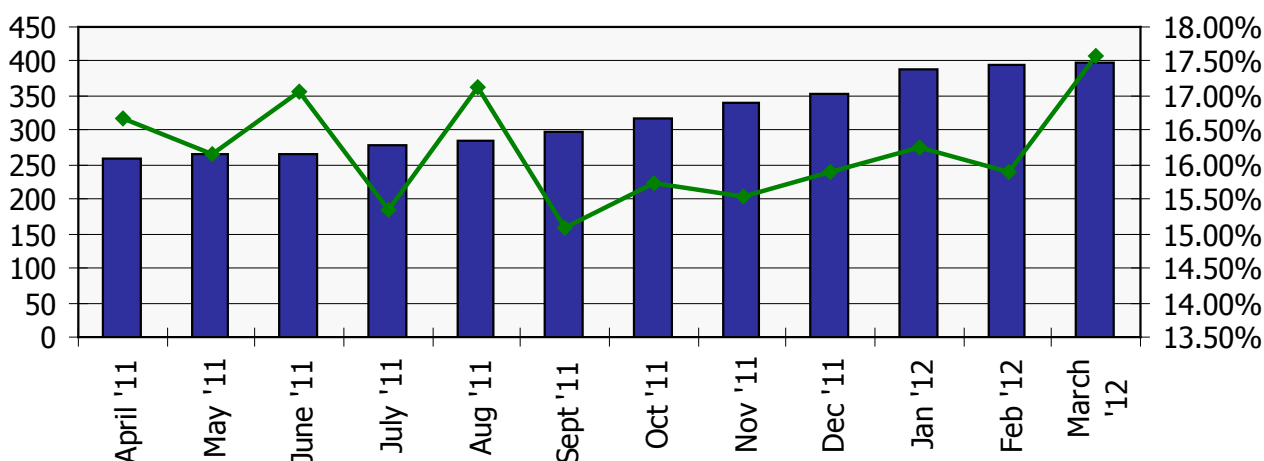
4.1 Performance Against Current East Sussex Partnership Priorities

Domestic Abuse

The numbers of referrals to MARACs has seen a significant increase when compared to the same period in the previous year of 154 (+63.1%) (Positive indicator)

In the 12 months to March 2012, 398 cases were reviewed at MARAC with a repeat rate of 17.6%. All cases discussed at East Sussex MARACs during 2011/12 are shown below:

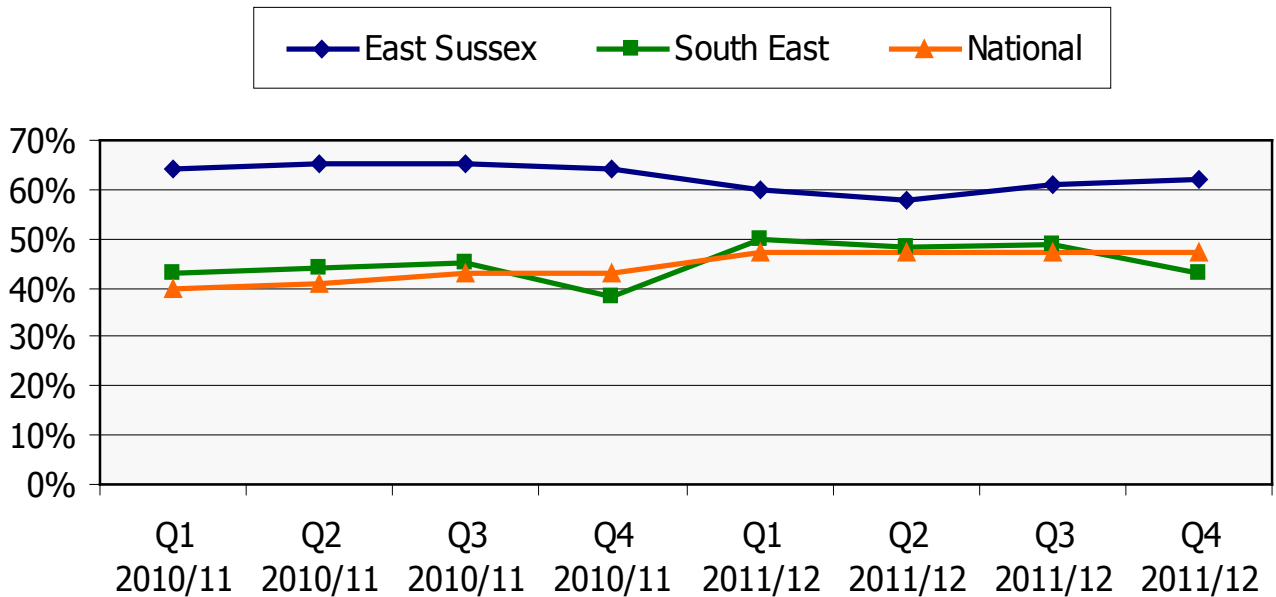
Graph 1: 2011/12 MARAC cases: East Sussex



Drugs

At the end of March 2012, 62% of adults in East Sussex had completed their treatment journey and left in a planned way – compared to 47% for all of England.

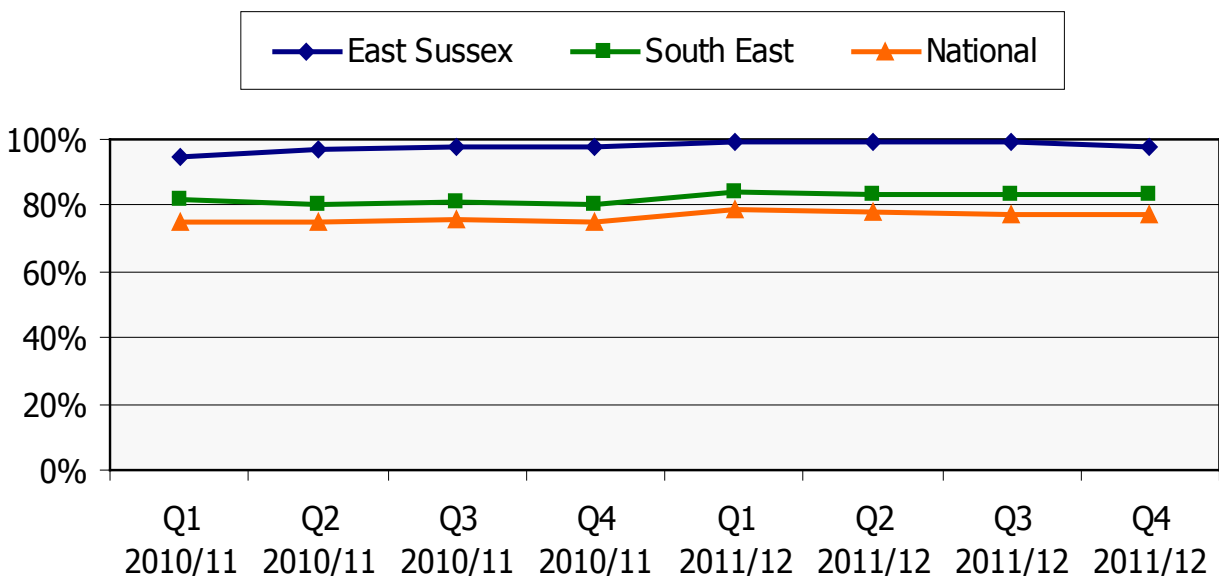
Graph 2: Adult planned discharge rate: 2010/11 and 2011/12



2010/11 estimates also shows that there are 1,509 Opiate and Cocaine Users (OCU's) known to treatment, giving a treatment penetration estimate of 67.9%.

At the end of March 2012, 348 young people resident in East Sussex had accessed specialist treatment from the Under 19's SMS for the year 2011/12. 99% of all young people referred into treatment engaged with the service, agreed a care plan, and took part in interventions specifically related to their substance misuse. The proportion leaving treatment in an agreed way has not fallen below 95% in the reporting period.

Graph 3: Young People planned discharge rate: 2010/11 and 2011/12

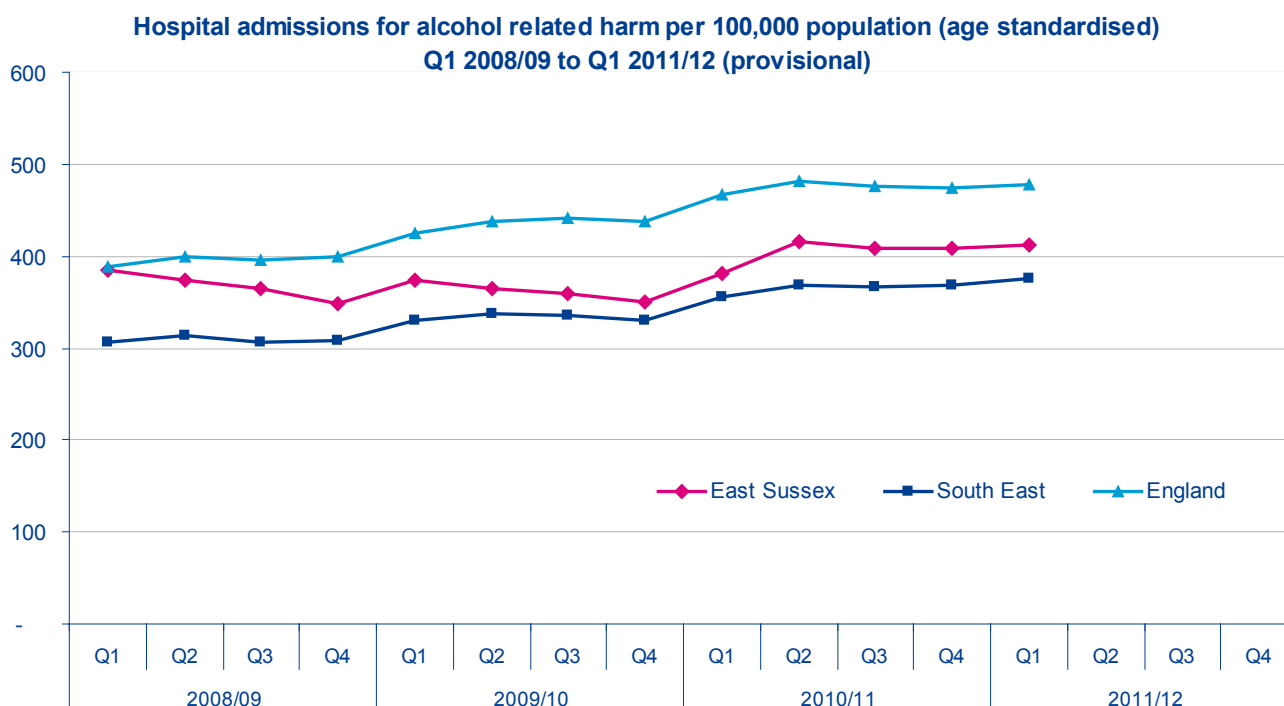


Alcohol

Rate of Hospital Admissions per 100,000 for Alcohol Related Harm:

In 2010/11 there were 1,611 alcohol related hospital admissions per 100,000 population (age standardised) for East Sussex. This is an 11% increase from 2009/10 (1448 per 100,000) reflecting the national upward trajectory.

Graph 4: NWPHO Quarterly Update hospital admission episodes for alcohol related harm compared to England Average



Young people who are admitted to A&E under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs are automatically referred to the U19's Service. During 2011/12 a total of 107 young people were referred to services in this way. There were fewer than 10 young people re-presenting at A&E, indicative of the positive work being carried out with this group of individuals.

Antisocial Behaviour and Hate Incidents

In the 12 months to March 2012, ASB Incidents have increased across the County by 334 (+1.2%): specifically in Hastings (+411) and Wealden (+367).

An increase in reporting can be viewed positively as the pilot that is running across East Sussex is encouraging more individuals to report incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Community Engagement

In the past 12 months only 8% of respondents felt unsafe in their neighbourhood.

91% agree that the police understand the issues that affect their community.

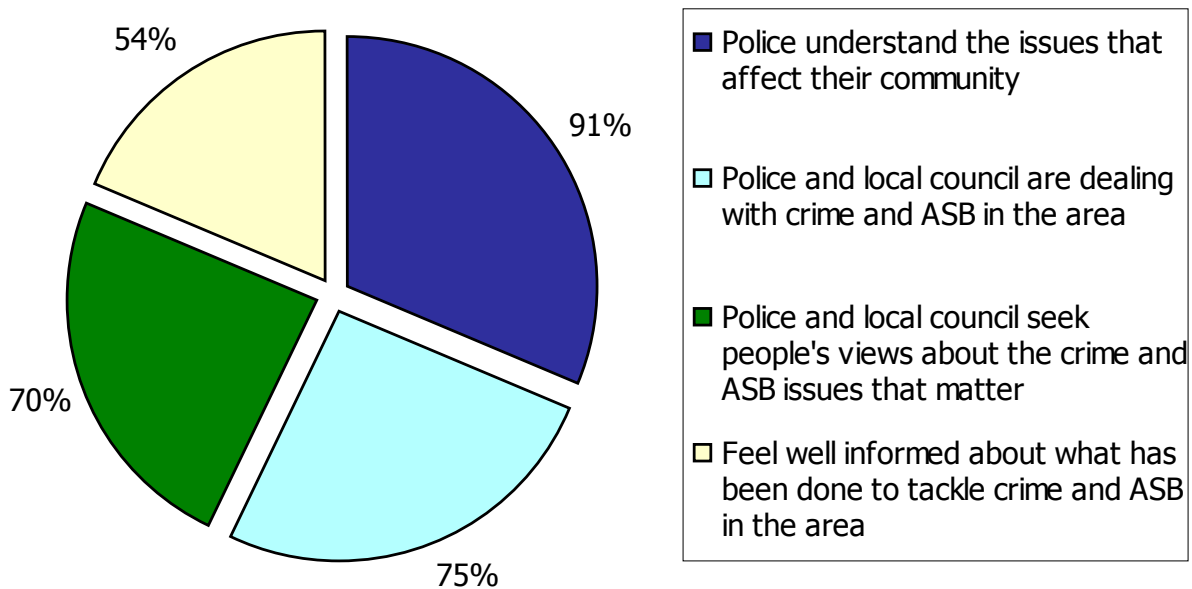
75% agree that the police and local council are dealing with the crime and anti-social behaviour in their area.

70% of people agree that the police and local council seek people's views about the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area.

54% of people feel well informed about what is being done to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in their area.

(Sussex Police Local Neighbourhood Insight Survey)

Graph 5: Sussex Police Local Neighbourhood Insight Survey



Community Engagement

Prolific and Other Priority Offender Reoffending Rates:

There has been a reduction in reoffending of 44% in 2011-12 (n=159), against a baseline of 238 offences committed in 2010-11.

Rates of Proven Re-Offending by Young Offenders:

The overall re-offending rate for young people was 30.84% for the July 2009 to June 2010 cohort, up 1.78 percentage points from 29.06% against the July 2008 – June 2009 cohort.

Families

As this is a new Community Safety Priority no performance data from the previous year is available.

Please contact the East Sussex Community Safety Team for performance information relating to other crime areas.

5. What Services are Commissioned by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership and DAAT?

The following services are commissioned to deliver the Safer Communities and Drugs and Alcohol Action Team partnership outcomes. The Safer Communities Team leads and/or facilitates these arrangements for the East Sussex Partnership:

- A service for high risk victims of Domestic Abuse
- A service supporting high risk victims of ASB or Hate Crime
- A service for victims of rape and sexual assault
- Adult Community Drug Misuse Services
- Adult Community Alcohol Team
- Specialist service for parental drug and alcohol misuse

- A service for drug and alcohol misuse needs at HMP Lewes
- A service for Young People's Drug and Alcohol Misuse
- Residential Drug or Alcohol misuse places

Additional services for young people provided by East Sussex County Council Children's Services Department include the Youth Offending Team and Targeted Youth Support.

Further information about these services and the commissioning arrangements in place can be found in the East Sussex Partnership Business Plan (page 20). Key Contact Details can be downloaded from our website.





The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership in Action

The following section gives some working examples of how the partnership structures and services in place we have described to you in this pack have impacted upon community safety issues in practice.

Examples from each of the District and Borough Community Safety Partnerships have been included alongside the countywide examples.

Details (e.g. names) in the case studies have been altered in some instances.



Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Incidents

The new harm-based multi-agency approach to identify and respond to vulnerable and repeat victims of antisocial behaviour (ASB) and hate incidents across East Sussex.

What is the harm-based approach?

The harm-based approach is the new multi-agency way of identifying vulnerable and repeat victims of anti-social behaviour and hate incidents. It also facilitates closer working between partnership agencies when dealing with high-risk cases. By focusing on the harm caused to the victim, rather than the nature of the antisocial behaviour or hate incident itself, agencies are better able to understand how damaging antisocial behaviour and hate incidents can be.

In East Sussex victims who are considered to be most vulnerable get a dedicated key worker from the new 'Safe from Harm' service.

'Safe from Harm' is commissioned by East Sussex County Council on behalf of the Safer Communities Partnership to provide specialist support to people most at risk from harm as a result of ASB or hate incidents.

Case Study 'Ella'

Ella had been experiencing ASB from a neighbour for a number of months. The neighbour had been throwing litter and rubbish into Ella's garden and creating a lot of noise in close proximity to Ella's house. While alone these incidents weren't deemed to be significant, because they were repeated and made Ella feel targeted they were having a significant impact on her life.

Ella had a disability and felt that she was being targeted by the neighbour because of this. The distress that this was causing Ella led to mental and physical deterioration.

After the introduction of the harm-based approach Ella contacted the police to report further similar incidents of ASB from the same neighbour. On contacting the police Ella was risk assessed. Through this risk assessment process Ella was identified as being high risk due to the repetitive and targeted nature of the ASB and the distress that it was causing her.

Ella was immediately referred to the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference where a full picture of Ella's circumstances was formed, and partnership actions to address the issue were agreed.

The Police instigated legal action against the perpetrator, and the local authority housing association that accommodated both Ella and the perpetrator also intervened.

Alongside this, Ella was referred to the 'Safe from Harm' service. Ella's key worker was able to help by identifying what Ella's support needs were and what issues/barriers Ella faced. The distress of the ASB that Ella had been experiencing and the physical mobility problems that she faced had caused her to isolate herself. With the support of her key worker Ella was able to purchase a mobility scooter and felt confident enough to attend some group activities. Ella's key worker also helped her to engage with other services that could support Ella with mental and physical issues allowing her to continue living independently.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

The multiagency way of reducing repeat offending across East Sussex.

Nationally, it is estimated that 50% of crime is committed by 10% of offenders. Reducing reoffending amongst youth and adult offenders, and the seriousness of their offending, is a central government requirement and a priority for East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership.

What is Integrated Offender Management?

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a multi-agency way of managing those offenders who cause the greatest harm to our communities. The Safer Communities Partnership introduced IOM to East Sussex in 2009, building upon the exceptional success of its Prolific and other Priority Offender Scheme.

IOM targets offenders with serious substance misuse, debt, homelessness, unemployment and mental health issues. The type of offences committed include burglary, theft and shoplifting. These crimes have a significant impact on actual and perceived levels of safety by individuals, businesses and communities. Offenders often find themselves in a revolving door of being released from prison, re-offending and then being sent back to prison. IOM aims to break that cycle by addressing the root causes of their offending in partnership, which in turn reduces the harm in our communities.



Offenders who stop reoffending get the opportunity to repay their debt to society and improve their own life chances as well as those of their children and families. Every offender who becomes an ex offender means safer streets and fewer victims. Turning people away from crime means less pressure on the resources of the Criminal Justice System and its delivery partners.

By working in partnership in order to punish, help, change and control offenders, they are provided with an opportunity for successful reintegration in the community. In this way the IOM team seeks to reduce reoffending and the harm this causes to victims, their families and residents in East Sussex.

Case Study 'Peter'

Since his first conviction aged 16 Peter had been convicted on 23 occasions for 49 offences, committed to fund his heroin addiction. After his release from prison and suffering an unexpected change in his release circumstances he expressed concern about his ability to refrain from his previous offending pattern.

Peter and the Probation Service had planned that he would return to his mother's address in Kent, but when she unexpectedly refused to accept him he returned to East Sussex to stay with his father, but there was no bed available. He had only the clothes he was wearing, no glasses and no teeth.

Although he was released from prison on a methadone prescription and medication for diabetes, he now found himself in East Sussex, with no registered GP and not in touch with the local substance misuse team. He was at high risk of returning to drug use and committing further offences in order to fund this.

The offender was quickly identified by the IOM team and a safety net put into place around him. Through the multi-agency system in place, Peter was registered with a GP so that he could receive his diabetes medication and offered rapid access to substitute prescribing so that he could continue to receive his methadone.

The Local Authority had assessed Peter and found they did not have a statutory responsibility to house him. However, the case was presented at the IOM meeting, and housing agreed to re-examine the case in light of the circumstances and placed Peter into temporary accommodation in the interim period. With assistance from the floating support service, Homeworks, support from his probation worker and drugs worker, and financial contribution from his father he was later able to secure a flat in the private rented sector, in which he now lives independently.

Peter now has glasses and a full set of dentures and is proud of the changes that he has made. He has provided drug negative drug tests since release and the next step is to slowly reduce his Methadone with support from his drugs worker. He is ready to commence training for future employment. His mother eventually accepted him back into her life, once she could see that he was serious about change.

Without the multi-agency response that IOM provides this offender wouldn't have had the support that he needed to find housing, to continue with his substitute prescription or to rebuild his relationship with his family and undoubtedly would have fallen back into his old cycle of offending.

East Sussex Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

A multi-agency approach to assist any person experiencing Domestic Abuse who is assessed as being at high risk of harm.

What is a MARAC?

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) bring together representatives from a broad range of agencies to identify those people at high risk of serious harm from Domestic Abuse and to develop a co-ordinated multi-agency plan to reduce the risk of serious harm occurring and maximise their safety. The meetings are held monthly.

Domestic Abuse is often a hidden problem. The MARAC works on the basis that no single agency is likely to have a complete picture of what is happening in the abusive relationship and by bringing together all the information that each agency holds, a fuller picture can be developed.

Up to 60% of Domestic Abuse victims report no further violence following intervention by a MARAC and an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA). MARACs provide agencies with an opportunity to build a better picture of the life of a victim.

For every £1 spent on MARACs, at least £6 of public money can be saved annually on direct costs to agencies such as the police and health services.



Case Study 'Camilla'

For 10 years, 32 year old 'Camilla' had been physically and sexually abused by her husband. For the last few years she felt had she had to account for all her movements and spending; if she did not give a convincing account then her husband would beat her.

Four months ago Camilla became pregnant and, since telling her husband, the physical and emotional abuse had increased. He kept telling her that he wasn't sure the baby was his and that she should "get rid of it". On a routine visit to her midwife Camilla broke down and admitted concerns about the safety of her unborn child. Using an accredited risk indicator checklist, the midwife identified that there was a high risk that Camilla and her unborn baby would experience serious harm or injury. As a result of this assessment, the midwife talked to Camilla about referring her to a MARAC and to an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA). The IDVA was able to offer support to Camilla discuss suitable options and develop a safety plan. The IDVA would also represent Camilla's views at the MARAC.

Eleven days later the MARAC met and the IDVA informed the meeting that Camilla was reluctant to leave her husband as she is frightened about what he might do if she does try to leave, does not know how she will manage on her own and is hopeful that he can change back to the person she first fell in love with. A variety of actions came out of the MARAC meeting;

- The Police agreed to flag Camilla's address and her mobile phone number on their systems to ensure a response was prioritised in the event of a call from Camilla, a neighbour or any other caller.
- The local council arranged to give Camilla housing advice so that she knew what her options were if she chose to leave.
- Children's Services and Camilla's midwife conducted a pre-birth assessment to assess the risk of harm to the unborn child.
- After 10 years of abuse Camilla was also experiencing periods of anxiety and depression, the IDVA talked to Camilla about getting treatment for depression through her GP.
- The IDVA agreed to contact Camilla's doctor and local hospital so that they were aware of the potential cause of any injuries sustained in future.
- The IDVA agreed to discuss with Camilla further safety planning and recommend that she consider going to a refuge.

The MARAC also agreed that Camilla's husband should not be made aware of Camilla's disclosure of abuse, so that she was not placed at greater risk of being punished by her husband for this.

One month after the MARAC, Camilla called the police. When police officers arrived at her house they were aware of the history due the address and phone markers. They found her husband holding a knife and shouting at Camilla through a locked door. Her husband was arrested and charged and remanded into prison custody - pending trial. The next day Camilla called her IDVA and decided to move to a refuge, which she did later that day.

Reducing Risk Taking Behaviour amongst Young Male Drivers in Wealden

Using Social Marketing to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Wealden's roads

What is Social Marketing?

Social marketing is the use of marketing alongside other techniques traditionally used by the commercial world to achieve specific behavioural goals for social good. It is a proven tool for influencing behaviour in a sustainable and cost-effective way.

The 'We're Keeping an Eye on You' Campaign

The Safer Wealden Partnership were keen to apply social marketing techniques to the serious problem of tackling the number of people who are killed or seriously injured on Wealden's roads. It is clear from crash data that young male drivers pose a significant risk both to themselves and other road users.

A research project has been undertaken which focuses on young male drivers, aged 17 to 19 years, in the Wealden District. The research involved the use of semi-structured interviews, focus groups and a self-completed questionnaire. This has created a body of new knowledge and developed insight into this subject. Generally the results of the research and the literature review indicate that campaigns based upon the outcomes of crashes and people being seriously injured may not have the desired effect. They are commonly interpreted by young people seeing or reading them as happening 'to others', not them.

A campaign has been developed based upon the notion of the social inconvenience that young male drivers would suffer if they were to lose their driving licence. Using the strap-line and branding: 'We're Keeping an Eye on You', a range of interventions are planned. Posters will be displayed in places where the target audience frequent such as fast-food establishments and college/school common rooms. Alongside the posters, details of the number and type of driving offences for which this age group have been punished will be displayed.

The first design, of what will be a range of posters, has been the subject of a further focus group to ensure that the messages are targeted correctly. Alongside the marketing campaign other interventions are being actioned as part of this project aiming to put psychological pressure on young male drivers to convince them that there are few rewards to indulging in poor driving behaviour and that good driving behaviour is the norm. All the interventions recommended by this project will be closely evaluated to assess both the financial and behavioural changing effectiveness of them.

The project will be launched at from mid-September to October 2012 to coincide with the month when this age group are statistically most at risk, which is October.

Further work of Wealden Community Safety Partnership

Wealden is a safe place to live with one of the lowest crime rates in the country and the Partnership wants to keep it that way. The Safer Wealden Partnership was set up in 1998 to tackle crime and disorder and improve residents' quality of life.

The main activity of the Partnership is driven by the Joint Action Group (JAG) which meets at different locations across the District every month. This is chaired by the Neighbourhood Police Inspector for Wealden. This meeting drives action and makes decisions on funding from all partner agencies. It works towards the priorities that are set by the Partnership.

The Partnership has had a lot of success over the years with reducing crime. In the last 5 years burglary of people's homes has been reduced by nearly 50%. This has been achieved by working together and not in isolation.

The partnership recognises the links between crime and disorder and initiatives to tackle health inequalities, particularly encouraging sensible drinking, accident prevention and positive parenting.

Criminal damage and anti-social behaviour are key concerns for our communities. The Partnership has funded a Police operation for the last 2 years called Operation Blitz. This allows the public direct phone contact with Officers on a Friday and Saturday night so that they can deal with any ASB issues quickly and before they get out of hand. Last year we saw a reduction in criminal damage of nearly 20% and ASB crimes down 8%. That's fewer victims of crime. Satisfaction levels have increased across the District due to issues being dealt with quicker.

Overall crime across Wealden has dropped by 40% in the last 5 years and Partnership working has been instrumental in this success.



Neighbourhood Management in Eastbourne

Communities and local agencies working together to improve crime and ASB in neighbourhoods

Overall crime in Eastbourne has been reducing over a number of years. In April 2011 the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership launched its Community Safety Plan for 2011 – 2014. This incorporates areas of work for the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Sussex and Eastbourne Borough Council, who all have a stake in community safety for Eastbourne.

Neighbourhood Management is an approach to service development and delivery which focuses on the needs of particular neighbourhoods and brings service providers, including the Community Safety Partnership, together with local communities. One major aim is to radically change the way we do things in order to address concerns and to improve people's quality of life, especially in deprived neighbourhoods.

There are currently four Neighbourhood Management areas set up in Eastbourne; the Town Centre, Willingdon Trees, Old Town and Shinewater, with more areas to follow over time.

Each Neighbourhood Management area has a comprehensive Area Action Plan which is driving the developments identified by Neighbourhood Action Teams. Each area also has a Coordinator (Product Champion) to drive through potential blockages and make things happen.

Examples of positive action in the Town Centre include; actions to reduce ASB on the routes home from the town centre pubs and nightclubs, improving community representation on licensing variations in the Town Centre premises and improving the attractiveness of the immediate area outside Eastbourne Railway Station.

Examples at Willingdon Trees include delivering specially designed lessons to the local Primary School on Citizenship, community garden "Big Digs" and improved youth service delivery such as enhanced football activities.

The Action Groups regularly report to the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership who are providing funding for activities and ultimately to the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership, which guides on strategy and overall direction.



Case Study:

Willingdon Trees Amateur Boxing Club in Eastbourne

Willingdon Trees Amateur Boxing Club (ABC) was established in 2008, to divert youths from ASB and crime by promoting positive activities for them. The project is one of many supported financially and its outcomes monitored by the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership. The project was developed by the Chairman of the Willingdon Trees Neighbourhood Panel alongside the Neighbourhood Police Officer.

The project gives its boxing club members a safe environment in which to train where they can meet people from a varying range of social backgrounds. The use of strict coaching guidelines aims to install discipline, respect for others and self control, all of which are integral life skills.

The club was initially given a grant of £500 from Sussex Police to buy the essential equipment required to start boxing sessions. Further funding of £3,000 was provided by Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership. In 2011 plans were approved to extend the current building to incorporate a modern boxing gym that will also be used by other community groups. An amount of £90,000 is required to complete this work and to date the club has raised a staggering amount of £66,000 in a short period of time. Willingdon Trees ABC has links with local schools, the Youth Offending Team, Probation and Pupil Referral Centres, who regularly send people to the club.

Willingdon Trees ABC has very quickly become a name in boxing circles with several good competitive boxers and many more up and coming young boxers. It has been documented in local news and in 2010 won Eastbourne Herald Community Project of the Year.



Harnessing the Power of Peer Support in Lewes

A Domestic Abuse initiative called Step by Step

Lewes District is a very low crime area with a current reduction of 15% in overall crime for the rolling 12 months to June 2012 compared to 2011, meaning considerably fewer victims of crime. The Lewes Community Safety Partnership will fund projects whose aims meet the priorities highlighted in its three year plan. Step by Step has received financial support from Lewes Community Safety Partnership alongside other sources.

Step by Step is delivered by Newhaven Community Development Association, a charitable organisation. It provides and facilitates a drop-in peer support service in Newhaven for people at risk of domestic violence or those leaving domestic abuse services. By facilitating peer support, victims are provided with access to others who have experienced similar events and the project enables them to support each other to keep safe and to educate and raise awareness amongst their peers. Those affected by abuse can also learn how to facilitate support groups and to provide awareness training for the local community, including rural communities and the BME community.

Step by Step provides informal access to Police, Health and support services which helps to reduce escalation and demands on specialist crisis services. The support worker has strong links with local agencies, is able to assess risk and has established referral routes into support services for group members. If group members know people or have friends currently experiencing abuse peer referral into the East Sussex IDVA service is encouraged.

This project supports mothers whose children are on child protection plans due to past domestic violence incidents. The groups may help women identify patterns of behaviour in being targeted by abusive partners; thereby increasing the confidence of child protection teams that they are less likely to form future relationships which might put their children at risk again.

Whilst there are domestic abuse services and refuges in East Sussex, these are generally for victims in crisis, or at high risk. Step By Step aims to provide a service for people who do not feel ready to continue unsupported but do not know where to receive support. The programme provides a safety net for these individuals giving them independence but also the knowledge that they are not alone. It provides an opportunity for people to gain confidence and sense of achievement, supporting and educating other potential victims and preventing further incidences of domestic violence by bringing attention to warning signs and advising people where they can find support rather than waiting until a crime has been committed.

Further work of Lewes Community Safety Partnership

The Lewes District Community Safety Partnership is made up of statutory and non-statutory organisations that work together to reduce crime and disorder for the benefit of the community. The aim of the Partnership is to reduce the fear, incidents and the consequences of crime and anti-social behaviour in Lewes District. They are also joined by representatives from business and community groups to work together to tackle crime, the underlying causes of crime, and the fear of crime to make Lewes District a safer place to live, work and visit.

Reducing Anti-social Behaviour in Public Places

Operation Blitz is a Sussex police operation aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour, underage drinking and low level crime. In Lewes, there is a means of allowing the community to report ASB directly to Police Patrols, who can then respond immediately, to stop the ASB and increase public confidence.

The initiative works on a subscription basis. Members of the public who subscribe to Op Blitz will be notified where police will be for the evening. The operation runs mainly at times more prone to ASB problems, such as Friday and Saturday nights, but there may be additional patrols during the week during school holidays, or as required.

Patrols provide a high visibility presence in potential problem areas and subscribers are then invited to report any ASB they witness such as under-age drinking, vandalism, or aggressive behaviour and the close proximity of the patrol enables a swift and direct response. The Operation has had very positive results with community feedback confirming increased public confidence and reassurance.

Engaging with the Community to address concerns

Quality Streets is a form of face to face community engagement, which evolved from the previous 'One Street a Month' initiative in Lewes. It is designed to address locally identified issues through a multi-agency approach. Concerns are identified through locally distributed surveys and neighbourhood panel meetings and brought to the monthly Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings for discussion. The types of issues raised can be anything from the wide range of problems associated with ASB, littering and dog fouling to poor parking and speeding. The JAG will agree a date and which agencies are required to take part. The event can be a mixture of stands for the public to visit, for example if the purpose is awareness raising, or where more appropriate residents may be visited by members of the agency best placed to deal with their concern. Quality Streets has proven to be a successful approach to community engagement that help in both identifying recurring problems and formulating an effective response.



Reducing Public Place Violent Crime in Hastings

Managing violence associated with drinking in towns centre pubs and nightclubs.

Since the Safer Hastings Partnership was formed in 1998 it has strived to achieve reductions in crime, disorder and ASB as well as the fear of crime, and to improve the quality of life for local residents and visitors. The alcohol industry can create employment and contribute to a vibrant evening economy, but the resulting alcohol related violence can have wide ranging consequences.

Reducing public place violence is therefore a key issue for the Safer Hastings Partnership, who have used community safety grant funding to better manage the evening economy, drawing on best practice nationally. This, together with proactive policing, has resulted in a reduction of 21% in public place violence in the town over the last 5 years. The coordinated interventions below have contributed significantly to this reduction:

1. Barwatch

The Barwatch scheme operating in Hastings is widely acknowledged as being very effective. Monthly meetings are held and a range of sanctions are used against those who have been violent, disorderly or found in possession of drugs. These range from warning letters to bans of varying length depending on the seriousness of the incident. Bar Watch members receive photographs of those barred via the 'Barwatch on-line' system.

2. Safer Drink Ware

The Safer Hastings Partnership has supplied large quantities of polycarbonate glasses for (non pub chain) licensed premises in Hastings town centre. This helps prevent serious violence due to glassing injuries as well as accidents.

3. Late Night Visible Policing Operations

A major contributor in reducing violent crime has been the very proactive high visibility policing approach, known as Operation Marble, adopted by Sussex Police in potential hot spots, adopting a policy of early intervention.

4. Safe and Effective Transport home

A Taxi Marshal scheme is in place to supervise the town centre taxi rank, a hotspot area for alcohol related violence in the town. The managed queuing system and presence of Marshals prevents people leaving town centre pubs and bars from getting involved in violent disputes. The Safer Hastings Partnership has also provided subsidised Night Buses at key times that are likely to see increases in violence, providing cheap, safe, regular and quick transport to get people out of the town who might otherwise become the victims or perpetrators of violent crime.

Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Hastings using an Intensive Family Approach

The Safer Hastings Partnership will fund projects whose aims meet the priorities highlighted in its three year plan. Community safety partners, along with Hastings Borough Council, have funded CRI to deliver an Intensive Family Intervention Project (IFIP) for families in Hastings committing crime and antisocial behaviour. A caseworker will deliver intensive, whole-family support to the families who are referred to the project.

The government has developed a tool to estimate the cost savings that family approaches such as this can yield. The example below is estimated to have saved £317,668 public spending on crime and ASB in just over one year.

Case Study:

A Hastings family, consisting of two parents and four children, was referred to the IFIP. The father was a prolific offender who had a long history of vehicle crime, incurring multiple prison and community sentences. All four children were subject to a Child Protection Plan. The family was committing ASB and becoming involved in neighbour disputes. Their tenancy was at risk as a result of this.

The IFIP key worker used persistence, patience and non judgement to engage with the family. She worked with the whole family to look at their current behaviour from a different perspective, focusing on the costs and benefits, as well as the impact their behaviour had on others.

As a result of this, and with their caseworker's support, the family took a deliberate decision to break away from offending peers. They felt they needed to move home to distance themselves from some of the negative factors in their neighbourhood, and were supported to do so.

The father successfully completed his community sentence, a Supervision Order that included 300 hours of unpaid work. This was the first time he had ever completed a community order, in his eight year history of involvement with probation. He began volunteering and improving his basic skills. As his confidence grew, so did his ability to confide in his key worker when he was feeling weak, being pressured by peers to offend or when motivation was low. It is now 12 months since he has committed a crime, the longest period of his adult life to date. He says:

“Everything has changed; the police no longer come to our house every day to either search it or to arrest one of us. Our home is secure and we love where we live. It has given us the fresh start we needed. There are far less arguments in the home. We are better parents, the children are better behaved and we now have fun as a family.”



Keeping Rother a Safe Place to Live, Work and Visit

The most significant characteristic of the Safer Rother Partnership is its effective working relationships, adding value and delivering effective communication between the key stakeholder agencies. Good communications between partners enable us to respond quickly and effectively to issues that arise across the district.

The Parish of Camber has over three miles of sandy beaches and sees an average of 25,000 visitors every day over a hot weekend during summer.

Operation Radcott is a multi-agency operation which was established due to the increasing demand in the Parish created by these visitors.

The area is relatively quiet for eight months of the year and this huge influx of visitors created key problems for partners and disruption for local residents including: an increase in alcohol fuelled violence and domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, missing children on the beach, traffic congestion including two hour tailbacks in and out of Camber, car crime due to the amount of valuables left in view in cars, parking issues and abandoned cars which had an impact on local residents, caused an obstruction to emergency services and environmental damage.

These problems were identified and a plan of interventions were agreed by key stakeholders. The Safer Rother Partnership and Sussex Police, the Coast Guard, Highways, Rother District Council, Camber Parish Council and the Holiday Centres have all worked together to improve liaison, reporting structures and ultimately target the problems at source to ensure this area is now manageable.

Extra funding is provided to increase the levels of Police staff and officers, Sussex Police Roads Policing Department works closer with the Highways agency to provide quicker information around congestion and parking options with innovative use of mobile data road signs. Local officers and Rother District Council carry out parking enforcement and use of information cards advising owners of vehicles where property is left on view. Vehicles are towed away where necessary and warning signs are deployed to warn of this. Wristbands were introduced to help reunite lost children with their parents. This year Twitter is being introduced as another useful communication tool. #CamberBeach will keep visitors and residents informed on issues as they arise.

By working together, this operation enables a much more effective use of partners' resources and time, has reduced criminality and anti-social behaviour, reunites children in a quicker timeframe and ensures a better experience for visitors to Camber and a better standard of living for residents of Camber. This project has run successfully over a number of years and is an extremely effective use of agency resources.

Examples of the work of the Safer Rother Partnership

The Safer Rother Partnership participates in strong multi-agency partnership work on a range of innovative projects that address the communities concerns about anti-social behaviour, the impact of individuals involved in crime and anti-social behaviour within Rother district and work to provide positive interventions for young people involved in and at risk of antisocial behaviour and crime. This can be seen in the multi-agency commitments through our Joint Action Group (JAG), partnership projects, offender and ASB multi-agency groups. Good communications between partners enable us to respond quickly and effectively to issues that arise across the district. The following are further examples of our innovative and effective work:

Family Intervention Group and targeted work with young people

Education, Police, Rother District and East Sussex County Council, Youth Justice and probation staff working within Rother district provide holistic interventions for young people and families involved in activities of concern to more than one agency, such as anti-social behaviour, school attendance and engagement, mental health, sexual health, substance misuse. These groups are time limited and focus on individuals and geographical areas with the highest need at any one time.

‘Prevent and Deter’ Group and ‘Deter Young Offenders’ Group

Multi-agency case discussions to divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour have demonstrated significant and positive changes in behaviour. The strength of this Group is on-going communication in between formal meetings that enables rapid response and intervention for these young people.

Housing interventions to tackle crime and ASB

The Safer Rother Partnership has made a significant investment in finding innovative short term and long term housing solutions for prolific offenders and those whose offending and anti-social behaviour has a significant impact on the community.

Reducing Antisocial Behaviour and Underage Drinking

Operation Blitz is a Sussex Police operation aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour, underage drinking and low level crime. Actions in Rother include interventions by secondary school staff, council licensing officers and, since May 2012, Street Pastors in Bexhill.

The Safer Rother Partnership has achieved significant reductions in crime across many years. The Partnership reduced crime by 5.4% on the previous 12 months to 3,820 crimes at the end of March 2012. We have demonstrated consistent reductions year on year.



Protecting Vulnerable People from Accidental Fires

Safeguarding local people through partnership working

Nationally, possible impairment by drugs or alcohol is a factor contributing to around 14% of fire deaths annually and smoking is known to be the biggest killer in accidental fires in the home. This is why, through the Partnership, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service's Care Providers Scheme is promoted, ensuring we reach the people at the highest risk of accidental fires in the home, assessing the risk and helping put measures in place to reduce that risk.



Case Study 'Joanne'

Joanne is a 53 year old woman who drinks heavily and smokes. She is also on prescription medication for anxiety. When Joanne slipped in her home and broke her ankle, she came to the attention of the alcohol service provider, Action for Change, whilst she was in hospital. The alcohol team engaged with Joanne around her alcohol misuse, but also identified she would benefit from a Fire Home Safety Visit. With Joanne's permission a referral was made to the Home Safety Team, who arranged to visit her home. The local Fire and Rescue Community Safety Advisors identified Joanne as a highly vulnerable person because of her lifestyle, medical needs and previous history of falling and arranged to visit her the next day. During their visit they provided Joanne with advice about the safe disposal of cigarettes, advised her not to smoke in bed and they checked the condition of her favourite armchair to see if it was likely to have retained its fire retardant properties. There were no smoke alarms in the home so they fitted one on each floor, free of charge, before they left.

Because of Joanne's vulnerability, the Community Safety Advisors scheduled a repeat visit for 12 months time, unless a change in Joanne's situation was reported which would warrant an earlier re-visit.

Joanne was very pleased with the service she received regarding her Home Safety Visit, and this in turn helped to cement the relationship she was developing with her alcohol keyworker.

Action for Change signed up to East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service's Care Providers Scheme as they recognised that their clients were often at increased risk of fire because of their alcohol use. The Partnership has provided safer living conditions for a number of Action for Change's clients and has dramatically reduced the likelihood of serious injury or death as a result of an accidental fire starting.



**Written by the East Sussex Safer Communities Team on
behalf of the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership**

Contributors

East Sussex Community Safety Partnership

Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership

Hastings Community Safety Partnership

Lewes Community Safety Partnership

Rother Community Safety Partnership

Wealden Community Safety Partnership

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