

PARTNER NEWS

A bulletin for partner and stakeholder agencies from
Bedfordshire Police Authority

Welcome to this short overview of our work to improve community safety and reduce crime and fear of crime. If you would like to know more about any aspect please contact me on 01234 842066.

The work we have carried out over the last twelve months is really making an impact, let's hope it continues in this positive fashion.

Penny Fletcher
Chair, RAG



CDRP News

The combined County Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) has had two meetings in its new formation. It is continuing to develop its role while seeking to implement the changes around the CDRP reform agenda. The Vice-Chair of Police Authority, Penny Fletcher, was recently elected as the Chair and takes over from Jon Ruddick, Chief Executive of South Beds District Council. At the last RAG meeting the group received a presentation on the 'fear of crime' and how the county RAG might achieve its stretched LAA target in order to receive the performance reward.

Penny Fletcher, Martin Pantling and Julie Wymer together with Rob Parsons, Community Safety manager (Mid Beds) and Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager (South Beds) recently attended a conference jointly hosted by the APA and the Local Government Association on 'Implementing the CDRP Reform Programme'. The conference was structured around the six standards now being developed for CDRPs:

- Empowered and Effective leadership;
- Intelligence led business processes;
- Effective and responsive delivery structures;
- Community Engagement;
- Visible and Accountability arrangements;
- Appropriate Skills and Knowledge.

South Beds CDRP

This partnership is a "Priority Partnership" for Government Office (GO) East of England because of increasing crime levels. The partnership recently had a problem-solving day, hosted by GO-East to look in more detail at how partnership working could be more effective, this will build on the many good initiatives currently underway to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Mid-Beds CDRP

The Community Safety Conference, hosted by the CDRP, focused on how to establish community safety forums within the district. Funding has been secured for a community engagement post for one year. The conference was well attended by all partners, with Robin Younger and Vic Lee both attending in their capacity as Police Authority members.

Bedford CDRP

Bedford CDRP recently held a community engagement event in Goldington, Bedford. The event was organised in partnership with the local MP, Patrick Hall; Police Authority member Colleen Atkins and the CDRP. Although the turnout was disappointing, residents were able to 'have their say' and an action plan is being developed by the local community safety forum. The evening was facilitated by BRCC.



Luton CDRP

In a bid to address ASB and crime reduction Luton CDRP recently held a 'SOLUTIONS' day which was attended by Kevin Crompton, Chief Executive of Luton Borough Council and Ch. Sup Nicky Dahl. The conference heard from Alan Given, Chief Executive of Nottingham City Community Safety Partnership about the way they organise 'action weeks' to reduce crime and ASB. The Luton Partnership made a commitment to move to a similar model over the next 12 months.

Martin Pantling is now a member of the Luton CDRP and Penny Fletcher, vice-chair of the Authority, and ACC Kath Govier both have seats on the Luton Strategic Partnership.

Local Area Agreement

Chair of the Police Authority, Peter Conniff, and the Chief Constable, Gillian Parker, are both members of the County-wide Partnership. The Partnership met recently in order to refresh their Local Area Agreement and Community Strategy. The Chief Constable was one of the speakers at this event.

From April 2007 the LAA includes a number of new targets:

- to reduce number of young offenders who go on to re-offend
- to reduce numbers of prolific and other priority offenders who go on to re-offend
- to reduce public concern with problems associated with anti-social behaviour, drugs and respect

Every Child Matters

The Police Authority has recently undertaken a self-assessment exercise, using a template devised by the Association of Police Authorities, to benchmark its position in relation to its statutory duties around children and young people. Police Authorities are statutory members of Local Children Safeguarding Boards and discussions are now underway with our partners in Bedfordshire and Luton.

Every Child Matters
Change For Children

Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

The IAG met recently under new chair, Jim Thakoordin, and has organised itself into themed sub-groups to reflect the six strands of diversity. The IAG is represented at the Force Equality and Diversity Programme Board and at the Police Authority's Race and Diversity Panel.

Neighbourhood Watch

2007 marks the 25th anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch in the UK. We are proud that Bedford was the third group to start in the whole country.



Throughout Bedfordshire and Luton, the scheme continues to bring local people together to work with the police and other partners to make their communities safer.

In October, Neighbourhood Watch will be part of a "Not in My Neighbourhood" week of events to say "NO" to local crime, robbery and burglary, anti-social behaviour and alcohol and drug misuse.

Beds Voice

The partnership with Beds CC, Mid-beds DC, South Beds DC and the Fire Service to develop a Citizens' Panel is going strong. Two surveys have been developed - one for use by the councils and a separate 'blue-light' survey which was developed in conjunction with the Force. The surveys are currently with the panel of 5,000 and results will be available for the September seminar. All 5,000 panel members have received a copy of the Police Authority's Annual Policing Plan Summary.

Other News

The ongoing partnership overseeing the Milton Keynes/South Midlands expansion project continues to meet and Linda Hockey, a new independent member of the Police Authority is to attend the next meeting with Ch. Insp. Neill Waring.



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