

Briefing Note for Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Community Safety: Help for vulnerable people and communities

1. Background

This briefing note summarises key activities in Bath and North East Somerset which aim to help vulnerable people and communities, particularly in relation to Community Safety. These contribute to delivering the priorities for our communities included within the Community Safety Plan for Bath and North East Somerset. The briefing does not aim to be comprehensive but it does seek to demonstrate how the needs of the most vulnerable are being addressed across all of the Partnership's priorities.

The Partnership aims to have a positive impact on people's lives, with an increasing focus on protecting the most vulnerable. For example, working with the Council's Public Protection team, we have initiated work to help raise awareness of "scam mail" here in Bath and North East Somerset, following well-documented national cases of the devastating impact this can have on people's lives.

In the sections below we set out, under each of the Partnership's priorities, more examples of outcomes from this work and also identify specific projects.

2. PRIORITY: Increase protection of the most vulnerable victims of crime – domestic violence and abuse, sexual abuse and hate crime

Key Outcomes

- Southside Family Project's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service supports over 3,800 vulnerable people a year. The impact of this work can be seen on this video called "Lisa's Story"

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/changinglives/feelingSafer.shtml>

- The Case Review Panel (CRP) acts on hate crime cases through joint working with local agencies and groups such as Support Against Racist Incidents, Educational Action Challenging Homophobia and Victim Support.
- "Safe Zones" for people with learning disabilities are being extended to promote reassurance

Tools and projects- some examples

Extra home security	Removal of hate crime graffiti
Advice and support	Mediation
Specialist Domestic Violence Court	Sexual Assault Referral Centre

3. PRIORITY: Reducing antisocial behaviour - putting victims, witnesses and communities first

Key Outcomes

- All victims of Anti Social Behaviour receive an action plan, agreed with them, are kept up to date on progress.
- Every high risk victim has an intensive case management plan.

- Overall in the twelve month period 1st September 2010 to 31st August 2011 there was a 12% reduction in calls to Police relating to ASB

Tools and projects- some examples

Enforcement	IDPARTNERS- working with local communities to address concerns
Victim Advocates	Restorative Justice
Support for witnesses	

4. PRIORITY: Create a safe, strong and vibrant night time economy

Key Outcomes

- Bath city centre has gained a “Purple Flag” award. to reflect work in the night-time economy
- The current taxi marshall service sees around 150,000 people home safely every year: this project also leads to reductions in visits to A and E through access to an ambulance service

Tools and projects- some examples

Enforcement	CCTV
.Street Pastors	Midsomer Norton Community Alcohol Partnership

5. PRIORITY- Minimise harm from substance misuse

Key Outcomes

- 734 drug users into drug treatment support services
- 83% were retained in treatment for 12 weeks and 125 discharged drug free

Tools and projects- some examples

Project 28- local drug and alcohol treatment service for young people.	“Brief interventions” for alcohol awareness
Alcohol Treatment Requirements	Alcohol and drug awareness campaigns

6. PRIORITY- Reduce crimes of local concern - tackling re-offending

Key Outcomes

- Since 2008 there has been a noticeable decrease in overall crime, particularly acquisitive crime
- A multi-agency Integrated Offender Management unit -locally known as IMPACT and based in Bath Police station

Central to this approach are ‘the nine pathways out of offending’ set out below

Accommodation	Mental and physical health
Alcohol	Children and families
Employment, learning and skills	Drugs
Finance, benefits and debt	Attitudes, thinking and behaviour
Women offenders	

7. PRIORITY: Safeguard young people – prevent them becoming victims or perpetrators of crime

Key Outcomes

- The YOT Family Intervention Project provides a “whole family” approach to working with young people currently in the youth justice system whose needs have not been successfully addressed by individual interventions from a wide range of agencies.

Tools and projects- some examples

School” buddies”	Student Watch in both Universities
	“Future Fund” for young people