



Public Document Pack
North Devon Council
Brynsworthy Environment Centre
Barnstaple
North Devon EX31 3NP

K. Miles
Chief Executive.

CRIME AND DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Crime and Disorder Sub-Committee will be held as a Virtual – Online meeting on **WEDNESDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 2020 at 2.00 pm.**

Members of the Committee

Councillor Tucker (Chair)

Councillors Biederman, Bulled, Campbell, Cann, Chesters, Gubb, Henderson, Hunt, Luggar, Mack, Orange, D. Spear, L. Spear and York

AGENDA

7. Update on the North Devon and Torridge Community Safety Partnership (Pages 5 - 32)
LGA Community Safety Councillor Workbook, (attached)

If you have any enquiries about this agenda, please contact Corporate and Community Services, telephone 01271 388253

NOTE: Pursuant to Part 3, Annexe 1, paragraph 3 of the Constitution, Members should note that:

"If a Member:

- (a) Arrives at a meeting during the consideration of an item; or*
- (b) Leaves a meeting at any time during the consideration of an item;*

They shall not:

- (i) propose or second any motion or amendment; or*
- (ii) cast a vote*

17.11.20



North Devon Council protocol on recording/filming at Council meetings

The Council is committed to openness and transparency in its decision-making. Recording is permitted at Council meetings that are open to the public. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be recorded. The Chairman of the meeting will make sure any request not to be recorded is respected.

The rules that the Council will apply are:

1. The recording must be overt (clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must not disrupt proceedings. The Council will put signs up at any meeting where we know recording is taking place and a reminder will be issued at the commencement of virtual meetings.
2. The Chairman of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of these rules.
3. We will ask for recording to stop if the meeting goes into 'part B' where the public is excluded for confidentiality reasons. In such a case, the person filming should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off. In a virtual meeting the public will be excluded from the meeting while in Part B.
4. Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. We ensure that agendas for, and signage at, Council meetings make it clear that recording can take place – anyone not wishing to be recorded must advise the Chairman at the earliest opportunity. Public contributions to virtual meetings will be recorded, unless, at the Chair's discretion, recording is deemed inappropriate in accordance with point 2 above.
5. The recording should not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or in a way that ridicules or shows a lack of respect for those in the recording. The Council would expect any recording in breach of these rules to be removed from public view.

Notes for guidance:

Please contact either our Corporate and Community Services team or our Communications team in advance of the meeting you wish to record at so we can make all the necessary arrangements for you on the day.

For more information contact the Corporate and Community Services team on **01271 388253** or email **memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk** or the Communications Team on **01271 388278**, email **communications@northdevon.gov.uk**.

Meeting Etiquette Reminder for Members

Members are reminded to:

- Join the meeting at least 10-15 minutes prior to the commencement to ensure that the meeting starts on time.
- Behave as you would in a formal committee setting.
- Address Councillors and officers by their full names.
- Do not have Members of your household in the same room.
- Be aware of what is in screen shot.
- Mute your microphone when you are not talking.
- Switch off video if you are not speaking.
- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- Speak clearly (if you are not using video then please state your name)
- If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.
- Switch off your video and microphone after you have spoken.
- The only person on video will be the Chair and the one other person speaking.
- Only use the Chat function to register that you wish to speak or to move or second a motion.

Virtual attendance by members of the public

If members of the public wish to attend virtually, please contact Corporate and Community services on 01271 388253 or memberservices@northdevon.gov.uk by 12pm on the Monday preceding the meeting.

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Community safety

Councillor workbook



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Foreword

This workbook has been designed as a learning aid for elected members. It makes no judgement about whether you have been a member for some time, or whether you have been elected more recently. If you fall into the former category the workbook should serve as a useful reminder of the key features of community safety.

Those members who are new to local government will recognise that they have much to learn. This workbook will provide you with an understanding of the importance of community safety for the people you serve.

The workbook offers few firm rules for ward members as it is recognised that each individual must decide how best to support the community safety work in their council area. This will be influenced by the governance arrangements in your locality and the nature of the community safety partnerships that have been set up with your council. As such, there is no presumption about 'typical wards' or 'typical members' and the workbook should serve more as a direction marker rather than a road map.

In practical terms, the document will take around **two to three hours** to work through. You do not need to complete it all in one session and may prefer to work through the material at your own pace. The key requirement is to think about the issues presented and how the material relates to your local situation, the people you serve and the council you represent.

Introduction

In working through the material contained in this workbook you will encounter a number of features designed to help you think about community safety. These features are represented by the symbols shown below:



Guidance – this is used to indicate research, quotations, explanations and definitions that you may find helpful.



Challenges – these are questions or queries raised in the text which ask you to reflect on your role or approach – in essence, they are designed to be thought-provokers.



Case studies – these are ‘pen pictures’ of approaches used by other people or organisations.



Hints and tips – these represent a selection of good practices which you may find useful.



Useful links – these are signposts to sources of further information and support, outside of the workbook, which may help with principles, processes, methods and approaches. A full list of useful additional information and support is also set out in the appendix of the workbook.

Community safety

The challenge of creating safer communities

Community safety is best seen as an aspect of our quality of life in which individuals and communities are protected from, equipped to cope with, and have increased capacity to resist, crime and anti-social behaviour.



“Community safety is the use of skills, knowledge and techniques, to prevent and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime and develop safer communities in which to live, work and visit.”
www.community-safety.info

‘Solving the problem of crime’ has influenced the reform of the criminal justice system under successive governments. The most recent shift in policy has been from making the system fairer and work better (1960s-1990s) towards more complex expectations including protecting the public; punishing criminals; supporting victims and preventing reoffending.

New ideas have emerged on how public services should be organised and public needs met. There has been a move towards ‘new public governance’ with its emphasis on partnerships, co-working, co-production and collaboration between government departments, local authorities, statutory services, the private and voluntary sectors and other bodies such as users’ groups¹.

The strategic governance of crime and disorder reduction work has belonged with the local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) since the implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This has meant that local strategic management, the commissioning of the local strategic assessment of crime and disorder, the development of local delivery plans for crime and disorder reduction, tackling substance misuse and reducing re-offending, and the overseeing of performance against crime reduction targets has belonged with the CSPs.

The government is currently developing a programme of reform which will impact on the way in which CSPs deliver their programmes of crime and disorder reduction in England and Wales.

¹ Lessons for the Coalition, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies

In summary, the Policing and Social Responsibility Act 2011 contains legislation that will shift the decision-making on policing away from police authorities as well as central and local government. Police authorities in England and Wales will be replaced with directly elected police and crime commissioners (PCCs) who will assume overall responsibility for the totality of policing and reducing crime within a police force area. They will be required to work in partnership across a range of agencies ensuring a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime. The PCC budget may be used to commission services from public, private and voluntary sector partners. The community safety fund and other budgets paid by the Home Office to CSPs will cease on 31 March 2012, and from 1 April PCCs will have a community safety fund from which to commission community safety activity.

A police and crime panel, made up of councillors and a minimum of two independent lay members, will be established for every police force area to provide overview and scrutiny of the PCC and act as the PCC's 'critical friend'.

A new approach

The government's new approach to fighting crime involves a radical shift in power from Whitehall to local communities. The police and their partners will be given far greater freedom to do their jobs and use their discretion. The public will have more power to hold the police and community safety partnership to account and feel empowered to reclaim their communities.

**A new approach to fighting crime,
Home Office**

However, community safety is a key concern of all sections of the local community: young and old, men and women, the business community, special interest groups, victims of crime and offenders, indeed all those who live, work or study in an area or visit from other places.

Community safety is also a key concern for ward members. It determines how people perceive their neighbourhood and helps to reduce the fear of crime. In particular, a low crime rate is frequently seen by local people as their priority for a good place to live. And despite falls in crime rates, the public demand for community safety, and in particular a reduction in anti-social behaviour, remains very strong.

For these reasons community safety continues to be a top agenda item for both the public and councils.



Our vision for safe and active communities

"We all want our neighbourhoods to be safe and enjoyable places to live: a united community where we know and can rely upon our neighbours, where parents take responsibility for their children and where people are willing and able to intervene to challenge bad behaviour, confident that they will be supported by their neighbours, police, landlord, local council, ward councillors and their MP".

Baroness Newlove



Exercise 1 – what do you know about community safety in your area?

Think about some of the community safety concerns in your council area. Write down what you know about the following:

What did the most recent crime statistics reveal about offending behaviour in the area?

What key projects is the council involved in to tackle anti-social behaviour by young people in the area?

What key projects are the council involved in to tackle issues relating to drug or alcohol misuse in the area?

What is being done locally to prevent and reduce all forms of 'hate crime', ie threats, physical attacks or abuse driven by the hatred of someone because of their race, ethnicity, nationality, disability etc.?

Reflect on your responses to the questions above. How well do you feel you know about community safety now? Could you learn more? Would you feel comfortable to be asked any of these questions by one of your constituents or the local media? If you feel your knowledge is lacking in any areas, could you speak to any of your councillor colleagues or senior managers to find out what is being done and where you can go for further information?

The focus at neighbourhood level

Working in partnership

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes it clear that tackling crime should be a partnership matter, with key local organisations working together to achieve a shared strategy for the benefit of local communities. Whatever the structural arrangements covering your council area, it is important that you are aware of the ways in which you can influence the strategies and plans of the CSP for the benefit of your neighbourhoods:

Alongside these formal partnership bodies, other initiatives have helped to tackle the need for improved community safety, not least of which have been local Neighbourhood Management and Neighbourhood Policing schemes. Both have been effective in delivering more responsive services and engaging local residents (Neighbourhood Policing is discussed later in the workbook).

The focus of community safety work varies greatly between areas depending on the priorities identified locally. The services commissioned can be creative and imaginative in tackling all of the factors that give rise to crime, help to prevent offending behaviour or assist in building safer communities (see case study).



Street level crime maps

This is an interactive website which provides you with helpful information about crime and policing. Enter any postcode, town, village or street and you will have instant access to street-level crime maps and data, as well as details of your local policing team and beat meetings. You will be able to find out how the police are tackling the problems in your area, and what you can do to help.

www.police.uk



Exercise 2 – community safety: having your say

How much do you know about partnership working arrangements in your council area to tackle community safety? Consider the following:

Who chairs the CSP? How much contact do you have with this person?

Who represents your council on the CSP? How many times have you consulted with them about community safety concerns in your ward?

What channels of communication are in place to enable you to receive feedback from the CSP on its activities and to put forward ideas for consideration by the partnership?



Improving the lives of residents in Forestside Avenue and in West Leigh

Forestside Avenue and Oaskshott Drive are two adjoining roads that sit at the centre of West Leigh within the Havant Borough. Since 2007 there had been serious community tensions within the neighbourhood, escalating from low level antisocial behaviour through to assaults, criminal damage and the victimisation of witnesses.

Over 300 incidents of antisocial behaviour and neighbour disputes were reported between 2007 and 2010. Residents in the area were difficult to engage and sought to resolve issues themselves, escalating the problem.

As a result the community safety partnership did the following:

- engaged with local and county councillors
- held a community focused problem solving meeting
- secured the support of the local football club
- conducted a traffic survey
- met with the local bus providers
- secured funding for family intervention project support
- co-ordinated a series of themed partnership meetings across the areas of concern
- made the area the subject of a monthly tasking meeting.

As a result, calls for service to the area have dropped significantly, while the atmosphere has improved with people able to walk the streets.

National finalists, Tilley Awards 2011, Home Office



Exercise 3 – what's keeping you awake at night?

Look at the following incidents which could impact on community safety. Which of these would you make enquiries about, or seek to prompt action on, as part of your ward role?

Residents of a sheltered housing scheme being disturbed by frequent illegal motor driving in the area.

A family of asylum seekers who complain of being 'imprisoned' in their homes, as they are 'menaced' by youths who hurl abuse at them in the street.

A resident who has had his car window smashed every night for a week – the man concerned has recently been released from prison.

Look again at your responses. It is clearly not within your role (or powers) to intervene and take action alone to solve all of these community safety problems. However, it is important that you find out what is occurring, who is taking responsibility and what is being done to prevent and tackling any threats to community safety. In all of these cases it is not sufficient to say 'this is not my concern'.

Holding partnerships to account

There is a special Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Community Safety in each council. It is unique in that it can call in representatives from the Responsible Authorities on CSPs to be held to account (eg local police officers).

The scrutiny of community safety partnerships can be useful from a number of perspectives, eg it can help to:

- **Improve what the partnership does** by focusing on the outcomes and outputs of partnership activity.
- **Improve how the partnership operates** by reviewing its membership, strategies, objectives and service delivery.
- **Hold decision makers to account** and assess whether the partnership is really making a difference to community safety.
- **Review performance management arrangements** to ensure that they are robust and effective, eg in measuring and monitoring performance at a neighbourhood level.
- **Review policy development** to ensure that the partnership remains focused on those areas of greatest local concern.

Ward members can contribute effectively to this scrutiny process given their role as community leaders. They can help to ensure that a partnership is 'fit for purpose' and delivering best value from the resources available to the partner agencies. As importantly, they can challenge to make sure that CSPs and other agencies are responding to the community safety issues raised by communities.



Scrutiny of community safety

Tameside MBC has used its scrutiny function to review the impact of current measures to tackle violent crime in the area and to consider future plans in order to inform policy development and help ensure targets are met. The objectives of the Review of Violent Crime (Policies and Performance), were to:

- produce accurate and comprehensive information about the level of violent crime and to consider its effects on the community
- evaluate the impact of a range of current policies and procedures, eg reducing youth involvement in violent crime
- consider future plans for tackling violent crime
- assess measures for tackling violent crime in relation to value for money
- identify examples of best practice in other local authorities and make recommendations for improvement.

The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) will have power to scrutinise PCC activities, including the ability to review the PCC's police and crime plan and annual report, veto the PCC's precept and choice of chief constable, request PCC papers and request PCCs and their staff to public hearings.



Exercise 4 – responding to local concerns

Which of the following would you try to resolve informally, without the need to necessarily refer the matter on to a scrutiny committee? Summarise the steps you would take.

A neighbour complains to you about a group of young people who play football out in the street late into the night and regularly upset local residents.

You are presented with video camera evidence from a local youth club that drug dealers are using the facility to sell illicit substances to teenagers.

A local faith leader points out to you a poster which has been placed in the window of a local convenience store announcing that 'Due to a number of recent disputes and complaints, we can no longer serve any Muslim customers'.

You are given a 2,000 person petition by local residents calling for some action in relation to the increasing incidents of knife crime on two of the estates in your ward.

Reflect on your answers. A simple referral of each matter to the local police commander or beat officer would probably be the best course of action. Scenario (d) is likely to merit more attention, reflecting, as it does, a widespread community concern. However, as a first port of call, you would still be well advised to refer the matter in the first instance to the local police commander, a portfolio member for community safety or another appropriate member of the CSP. Only if the responsible agencies appeared to take no action would you wish to consider referring the matter to your scrutiny committee.

Consulting, engaging and communicating with communities

Engaging communities in community safety activities is essential to the work of CSPs. Doing so can help them to shape effective solutions for preventing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and reducing the fear of crime. Many CSPs have developed separate communications plans for this, while others have integrated the need for consultation, engagement and communications into their overall strategies.

It is not the purpose of this workbook to provide guidance on all of the various ways that CSPs can engage with their communities. However, it is worth emphasising some of the ways that you can assist with this engagement process as a ward member.

You should be in the front line of any initiatives to improve community safety in your area. As a community leader, you are best placed to understand the particular challenges faced by local people. And working closely with communities and a variety of local organisations, you can help to decide how best to respond to any community safety issues.

It is only at a local level that problems such as crime, deprivation and anti-social behaviour can be understood and addressed. Few other community leaders have the mandate to co-ordinate different interests, reconcile diverse views and encourage open debate and dialogue in the way that you can.

The particular strengths and knowledge that you bring to the engagement process are:

- **an understanding of your ward** – the demographics, the key issues facing local people and the way that services are being delivered
- **the representation of local voices** – you are a channel of communication between the communities you serve and the council, representing the views of others and speaking up for the unheard
- **communicating and influencing skills** – you can help to ensure that the views of local people are taken into account when decisions are made by the council or outside bodies and community safety matters are reported in the media.

There are many ways that you can assist the engagement process and alongside your role in scrutinising community safety partnerships, this is one of the main ways that you can influence both policy and practice on the ground. Communities are at the heart of the new legislative framework for community safety and few people are likely to be closer to these than ward members.



Exercise 5 – engaging your local constituents

Imagine your CSP has a new, high profile, project to increase community awareness and involvement in a campaign to tackle escalating street crime, eg knife attacks and alcohol-fuelled assaults. You are keen to assist and have been asked by the CSP to present them with a list of your 'top ten' ideas. Knowing your patch, what ideas would you put forward?



Engaging with local people

Ward members can play a key role in engaging with local people on community safety issues. For example:

- working to build 'social capital', eg bringing together networks of people with shared norms, values and understanding in order to solve community safety problems
- acting as a broker or intermediary between CSPs and citizens' groups, eg helping to secure grant funding for a local community group which is working with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds who may be drawn into violent crime involving guns, gangs or knives
- building relationships with businesses or third sector organisations to promote active and empowered communities, eg supporting the development of Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- posting articles on the CSP website to raise awareness of community safety issues at ward-level
- carrying out periodic consultation exercises to elicit views on community safety initiatives, eg surveys or community newsletter feedback.

Community safety in action

Community safety is about preventing, reducing and tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and drug abuse. It is also concerned with strengthening community cohesion.

And while this workbook is not intended to be a practitioner's guide to the subject, it is important that you recognise the wide range of community safety concerns which CSPs and other partnerships are often faced with:



Community safety in action

Violent crime

Violent crime is a reality in England although the intense media focus is contradicted by the fall in the number of violent offences that have occurred eg Home Office figures for the 2010/11 British Crime Survey (BCS) showed overall violence was down 47 per cent from its peak in 1995. However, the focus on violent crime, and in particular gang-related crime or crime with knives or guns, means that this remains at the top of the community safety agenda, both to tackle the issue itself, and to allay the fears of local people. The crimes that are classed as 'violent crime' for the purposes of statistics are robbery, sexual offences, assault and murder.

Acquisitive crime

'Acquisitive crime' covers crime where items are stolen or acquired fraudulently, eg theft, burglary, vehicle crime and fraud. It accounts for a large proportion (about half) of overall crime measured by BCS and the police. A large percentage of these crimes are committed by illicit drug users not receiving treatment for their addiction, using the proceeds to fund their chaotic drug use. The Drugs Act 2005 gave powers for drug-misusing offenders to be tested for heroin, crack and cocaine on arrest for acquisitive offences (eg street robbery). And while levels of acquisitive crime are falling, the figures remain high, making it a priority for many CSPs.

Reducing re-offending

One of the prime targets for CSPs is to reduce the number of those caught committing crimes who re-offend. It is estimated that out of a million active offenders, 100,000 (some 10 per cent) have three or more convictions and are responsible for half of all crime. Within this 100,000, a further 5,000 (around 0.5 per cent) are super prolific. There are a number of organisations and initiatives targeted at reducing re-offending.

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is a broad term that covers any activity that impacts on other people in a negative way, eg noise nuisance, rowdy and nuisance behaviour, fly-tipping, and kerb-crawling. It can drag an area down or prevent the regeneration of an area where other bodies are looking to invest, and has become a major part of community safety work. Anti-social behaviour can be the result of individual problems, problems within the family, problems at school or problems within the community. When applying solutions, it is important not to just look at the behaviour itself, but also at the root causes. Local authorities and their partners have a range of powers and enforcement tools at hand. The Home Office has reviewed these and has set out proposals in the Anti-Social Behaviour White Paper to simplify the tools and powers available to councils and the police by introducing 'criminal behaviour orders' and 'crime prevention injunctions'. It is

also proposed that members of the public could use a 'community trigger' to require the CSP to take steps to resolve the problem. Responses would be overseen by the PCC who it is proposed would have the power to call in the CSP if they considered it had not given an adequate response. Legislation to introduce these changes is expected in May 2013.

Alcohol and drugs

Tackling drugs and alcohol substance misuse has been a public sector priority for more than a decade. Through drugs and alcohol action teams, councils, police, health services and other partners have been working across their boundaries to reduce drug and alcohol misuse. Police and probation service research shows that up to 50 per cent of those arrested for trigger offences (property crime and robbery) were using Class A drugs (cocaine, heroin etc.) prior to their arrest. The connections between substance misuse and crime and disorder are well researched.

CCTV and surveillance

There is much evidence that, used well, CCTV can make streets safer, reduce the fear of crime and help to detect serious offences. There is substantial public support for CCTV and it has brought significant benefits. While the UK has invested heavily in CCTV, improvements can still be made in terms of effective coordination, maintenance, upgrades and use as evidence, and a Code of Practice for the operation of surveillance cameras that councils will have to have regard to will be introduced later in 2012.

Neighbourhood policing

Neighbourhood Policing has now been rolled out across England and Wales for a number of years, with local teams of police officers and police community support officers working closely with special constables, local authority wardens and other partners. It aims to provide people who live or work in a neighbourhood with 'access' to policing services (through a named contact), 'influence' over policing priorities, 'interventions' by partner agencies and 'answers' (sustainable solutions and feedback). Councils have enthusiastically embraced Neighbourhood Policing, which is often integrated into Neighbourhood Management structures to create cohesive local teams (see information box – street level crime maps).

Domestic violence

Domestic violence covers incidents of threatening or violent behaviour or abuse between adults (usually partners or family members). This covers a wide spectrum of incidents but affects millions of people, spanning 15 per cent of all violent incidents and claiming the lives of around two women a week. Domestic violence is rarely a one-off, and is often a continuing pattern of behaviour by one adult towards another. Figures show that the majority of cases are violence by men against women.

Hate crimes

Hate crimes are criminal offences committed because the perpetrator is driven by hatred of someone of a different race, ethnicity, nationality or colour, disability, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation or religion. These crimes could be threats, physical attacks or abuse/insults, eg damage to property, offensive graffiti, offensive literature, bullying or intimidation.



Exercise 6 – working with others

Imagine you have been asked by a group of local residents to find out what could be done to tackle the following community safety concerns in your ward. What partner organisations (public, private or third sector) would you speak to in assessing what could be done (or is already being done) to tackle the matters?

Spray graffiti appearing on the doors of some garages used by the residents of a large block of flats (both privately-owned and rented public sector accommodation). The parking area is badly-lit as the bulbs in the council-managed street lamps are frequently smashed:

A corner shop which remains open until late in the evening and appears to be selling alcohol to underage drinkers:

Leaflets which keep appearing on a notice-board in a back-street café advertising the services of unlicensed taxi cabs:

Reflect on your answers. There could be any number of organisations that you might wish to consult, including residents' groups and tenants' associations where these exist. A key role for you would be in acting as a conduit in mobilising the support of local people and relevant organisations to work collaboratively to tackle the community safety concerns. There is also the crucial task of 'holding to account' those responsible for producing community safety strategies and delivering improvements on the ground.

The importance of the ward member role

Working with partner agencies and community organisations is a key part of your ward member role. These will deliver services and support locally and contribute to the quality of life for your constituents.

It may be that your council has taken steps to devolve greater powers and resources to neighbourhood forums, giving them influence over the places they live in. Such steps can enable citizens to become more engaged in creating social networks and contribute towards the creation of safer, more cohesive, communities. Whatever arrangements are in place, it is essential that you understand the various mechanisms you can use to facilitate action on the ground.

Your role can also enable you to get closer to marginalised and disadvantaged groups in your ward and provide you with a strong basis on which to act in support of local people on community safety matters. For example:

- **you can assess** whether there is general satisfaction with the council's work on community safety (and that of its partner agencies) and whether local people believe they are getting best value from the money being spent
- **you can speak** with confidence on behalf of your neighbourhoods or communities when community safety issues affecting them are debated or decisions need to be taken
- **you can promote** partnership working between public, private and third sector organisations on community safety and volunteering by individual citizens in response to recognised community needs

- **you can support** community calls for action and promote self-help by neighbourhood groups by understanding their aims, aspirations, views and tactics
- **you can champion** the work of community groups which act to promote community cohesion and reduce social conflict, eg sports clubs, festival communities etc
- **you can encourage** your scrutiny committee to investigate significant crime and disorder concerns which may not be priorities of the CSP.



“I think that the rioting and looting was a consequence of people feeling unheard, unrepresented and unsatisfied with the living conditions in which they have to live.” (Female, 24)

‘Our Streets’ The views of young people and young leaders on the riots in England in August 2011, British Youth Council



Exercise 7 – getting action on community safety

Consider the following questions. They are designed to illustrate the sort of knowledge and information you should have at your fingertips if you are to play an effective role in community safety:

What arrangements are in place for you to receive community safety information relevant to your ward?

How can you be involved in influencing and setting the community safety priorities for your ward area?

How do you find out about what works on certain community safety issues?

What arrangements are in place to fund local community safety initiatives?

What arrangements are in place locally on neighbourhood or beat policing?

How do you access and consult your ward about community safety issues?

What are the key forums that can be used to discuss community safety issues?

If you do not know the answers to any of these questions you will need to do some further research. Speak to your member colleagues (perhaps a relevant portfolio holder if you have one) or chief officers in the first instance. It is essential that you understand all of the key mechanisms you can use to get action on community safety matters.

Championing community safety

The Lyons Inquiry identified four roles for members – all of which can be applied to the frontline role of ward members around community safety:

- Engager – working with local groups to understand and promote local preferences and influence decisions.
- Advocate – speaking up for the local community and challenging political and managerial decisions.
- Mediator – reconciling different views in the area and explaining hard decisions that have to be made by the council.
- Political entrepreneur – supporting and generating social networks, engaging people in civic and public life and promoting community action to solve problems.

One of the most significant contributions you can make to frontline community safety is in working with others to *prevent* crime and anti-social behaviour. Much of this does not need to be large-scale or policy-driven, but should be timely, well planned and suitably proportionate given the challenges faced, eg working with a parish council to plan a drop-in centre for teenagers to divert youngsters from street crime.

Clearly, you need to be familiar with the community safety work of your council and its partner agencies before taking any action (and mindful of any guidance or protocols that the CSP has in place). However, most of the preventative work that you are likely to consider will be small-scale and localised and should complement, rather than duplicate or negate, the work of the CSP. Nevertheless your interventions can be invaluable in helping to prevent and resolve potentially explosive crime and disorder matters (see *text box*).



Helping to prevent crime and disorder

Crime prevention is largely about understanding the factors which give rise to criminal or anti-social behaviour and taking action before matters can escalate. Much of this is about keeping your ear close to the ground – understanding what is happening in your ward, what the hot topics of conversation are and what is keeping people awake at night. Some of the early warning signs can include:

- increases in reported racist incidents, racial harassment and racially motivated disputes
- transient populations, both residents and in public spaces
- drug and alcohol activity in public places
- lack of social capital, eg people who don't know or help their neighbours, don't participate in local activities or organisations or resent newcomers, particularly those from diverse backgrounds
- increases in gang-related activities
- increasingly visible hate-related graffiti.

It is important to stress that a large proportion of this preventative work will not be about you finding all of the solutions. Sometimes people need to solve their own problems and resolve their own community safety issues. If this is the case, your role may be more about facilitation: bringing people together; helping to build trust and understanding; speaking up for those who may be largely unheard; sharing relevant information; and ensuring that all views are respected. Much of this is likely to be done through face to face discussions, although you may also be required to act as a 'go-between' in resolving tensions between groups that refuse to meet or interact directly. In either case, you may need to operate in any one of the following modes:

- **the spokesperson** – summing up other people's views and being comfortable to put these across to all kinds of people, including large groups
- **the organiser** – making sure that everyone is prepared for meetings and knows when and where they are going to be and what is going to be discussed
- **the communicator** – making sure that everyone understands what is going on before, during and after the meeting
- **the action person** – making sure that meetings are not just a 'talking shop' but have a purpose and result in action
- **the mediator** – sometimes finding a compromise between two people or two conflicting ideas – being fair and not letting your own feelings get in the way.

A final word

Summary

While the dynamics of crime and disorder can be complex and difficult to tackle, it is clear that early and sustained intervention by partner agencies can reduce and resolve many of the community safety issues faced by local people.

Within this, ward members have some important roles to play: helping to engage with the communities they know best, scrutinising the work of community safety partners and working in the front line of many crime prevention initiatives. They have much to contribute to the creation of safer and more cohesive communities in which people can live, work and travel without the fear of becoming a victim of crime.

Next steps



Exercise 9 – where do you go from here?

Look back over the material contained in earlier sections of this workbook and consider the following:

- (a) What key action points can you identify to improve the way that you support the community safety work in your area, ie what three or four things might you start doing, keep doing or stop doing?

- (b) Have you identified any gaps in your knowledge or shortcomings in your personal skills? If so, please set these out below and identify how any further training or development might help you, eg further reading/research, attending courses, coaching, mentoring, work shadowing etc.

Appendix A – Sources of further information

Printed publications

Anti-Social Behaviour Tools and Powers: Information Pack for Councillors, Home Office/Local Government Association, <http://tinyurl.com/9mzhgk>

A Councillor’s Guide, Local Government Improvement and Development

Crime Reduction and Local Safety: The Crucial Role of the New Local Performance Framework, Department for Communities and Local Government/Home Office, www.communities.gov.uk

Guide to Community Safety Legislation and Policy, National Community Safety Network.

The Guide to Neighbourhood Agreements, National Association for Neighbourhood Management, www.localneighbourhood.org

Community Mapping and Tension Monitoring, WLGA, www.shu.ac.uk

Community engagement in policing: case-study evaluations of various projects, www.apa.police.uk

Police and crime commissioners – A guide for councils, Local Government Association, <http://tinyurl.com/bt9zxzg>

Police and crime commissioners – A guide for community safety partnerships, Local Government Association, <http://tinyurl.com/cwm8w6l>

Police and crime panels: guidance on role and composition, Centre for Public Scrutiny/Local Government Association, <http://tinyurl.com/bmndgn2>

The riots: what are the lessons from JRF’s work in communities? Joseph Rowntree Foundation www.jrf.org.uk

Our Streets The views of young people and young leaders on the riots in England in August 2011, British Youth Council, www.byc.org.uk

Useful websites

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/communitysafety

The Audit Commission website has information which can help to guide improvements in local community safety work.

www.cfps.org.uk

The website of the Centre for Public Scrutiny contains a specific section on local scrutiny reports relating to anti-social behaviour.

www.community-safety.info/

Provides information and advice on crime and disorder prevention, combating drug and alcohol misuse and related police, justice & penal reform issues to help develop safer communities.

www.community-safety.net

Website of the National Community Safety Network (NCSN) which is a practitioner-led organisation supporting those involved in promoting community safety/crime reduction throughout the UK.

www.crimeconcernuk.net

Crime Concern is a national charity working across England and Wales to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk

Contains a wealth of material on all aspects of crime reduction and community safety work, including a mini-site dedicated to the work of CDRPs.

www.justice.gov.uk

A website containing information and guidance for people working in the criminal justice system. During 2008, it was developed to provide a single source for guidance, best practice and news affecting criminal justice.

www.local.gov.uk

The Local Government Group's website is an invaluable source of help and advice for all those in local government. There is a specific section on Community Safety and a 'community of practice'.

It also contains information on the work of the LGA's Safer Communities Board which is focused on promoting the health and safety of local communities.

www.nacro.org.uk

Website of Nacro which is a crime reduction charity aiming to find practical solutions to reducing crime.

www.popcenter.org

Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, USA web site detailing approaches and models like SARA and The Problem Analysis Triangle.

www.statistics.gov.uk

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) website contains population data which can be analysed at local authority level.

www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Sub section of the main ONS website providing data for download by geographical area and topic.

www.police.uk

Website providing street level crime information including policing.

Appendix B – Relevant community safety legislation and policies

Main legislation/policies	Key features
Crime and Disorder Act 1998	<p>Gave local authorities and police services duties to work together to develop crime and disorder audits crime and disorder audits and implement reduction strategies and to work in partnership with other agencies – Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) – to tackle the identified problems. Over the years this has evolved through legislation and practice.</p>
Police and Justice Act 2006	<p>Comprehensively revised the CDA 1998. The new Act places a duty on responsible authorities to share evidenced-based data to support CDRPs. This now also includes the Fire Service, Probation Service, Health Service, local Police Authority and a representative of Registered Social Landlords (Housing Associations).</p> <p>The legislation also places a new duty on CDRPs to join together in a formal strategic group to undertake frequent strategic assessments of levels and patterns of crime and drug misuse in their area and to produce annual rolling three year community safety plans.</p> <p>Extended the remit of local authorities to scrutinise the functioning of the local CSPs in England Wales. It puts in place arrangements to ensure that every local authority has in place a committee with power to review and scrutinise, and make reports or recommendations, about the functioning of the CSPs responsible authorities (local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, the police, primary care trusts in England and local health boards in Wales).</p>
Cutting Crime Together – Policy	<p>The Coalition government’s reform agenda was outlined in a letter sent to Community Safety Partnership Chairs on 17 December 2010.</p> <p>www.community-safety.info</p>

Main legislation/policies	Key features
Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders- Green Paper	Covers punishment, rehabilitation, payment by results, sentencing reform, youth justice and working with communities to reduce crime.
Policing & Social Responsibility Act 2011	Covers five distinct policy areas: police accountability and governance; alcohol licensing; the regulation of protests around Parliament Square; misuse of drugs; and the issue of arrest warrants in respect of private prosecutions for universal jurisdiction offences.



Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Telephone 020 7664 3000

Fax 020 7664 3030

Email info@local.gov.uk

www.local.gov.uk

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For a copy in Braille, larger print or audio,
please contact us on 020 7664 3000.
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