

## **Appendix 3**

# **Reports of Working Group Chairs**

### **Lancaster Area Action Group; Produced by G Cox.**

This report gives an overview of the progress made by the Lancaster Action Group in its work to reduce crime and disorder.

Over the past months the group has grown steadily from its membership including the main agencies i.e., the City Council, Police, Probation and Lancashire County Council to include groups such as Education Welfare, Health, and Lancashire Clubs for Young People. A new sub-group has also been formed which has been set up to implement the Licensing Protocol. This Lancaster Area Action Group has also become the point at which the Ryelands Racial Harassment Group reports.

The Lancaster Area Action Group was the point at which schemes to reduce violence in Lancaster City Centre, such as the Pub Watch Scheme and the development of the Licensing Protocol, were initiated.

This scheme, which was implemented in November 2000, is aimed at tackling violence in and around the city's licensed premises. The Lancaster Pubwatch scheme involves an elected committee representing all City Centre licensed premises. These committees meet regularly to consider banning people who have committed violent, threatening or insulting behaviour or drugs offences, for various periods of time depending on the severity of the offence. The longest length of time that anyone can be banned for is 12 months.

The bans mean that troublemakers are refused entry to ALL city centre venues, and it is the deterrent effect this has which the scheme promotes as an effective tool in tackling disorder.

At the time of writing the Pub Watch Scheme has 45 members on board who are licensees of pubs and clubs in the City Centre.

1<sup>st</sup> April 2001 saw the first ban being put in place and since then five people have been excluded from City Centre pubs and clubs under the Pub Watch Scheme.

Build on the progress already made through further Licensing Seminars in Lancaster and Morecambe in order to raise the profile of Pub Watch and the value of banning notices.

Set up crime prevention and education schemes working with the Pub Watch Committee to reduce violence and other crimes.

Initial work is also underway to consider the introduction of identity cards to try and reduce the problems of under-age drinking.

The Licensing Protocol is a document which the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership adopts in relation to their submissions to the Licensing Justices and the Council's Licensing Sub-Committee. The Protocol sets out minimum standards which the Partnership believes should be in place for new or changes to existing licenses to be opposed or otherwise.

A group has now been set up to develop this further by ensuring that the agencies work in partnership to implement the Licensing Protocol.

New taxi ranks have been formed in North Road and Damside Street to enable timely movement of people away from the City Centre at busy late night periods to avoid the possibility of violence.

Under the Home Office funding initiatives, together with funding from the City Council and SRB funds, 32 cameras are fully operational with a further 8 cameras due to come on line shortly. These cover the main central areas of Lancaster and Morecambe together with the centres of the Ryelands and Ridge Housing Estates.

Apart from the issues mentioned above the Lancaster Area Action Group has also overseen public events to educate people away from getting involved in Lancaster in the form of educational events in Market Square, at Lancaster and Morecambe College, St Martins College and the University in Freshers Week. Although the Market Square event was unsuccessful (due to rain) the Freshers Week events were successful.

A Summer Splash Scheme had taken place in 2000 on the Ryelands estate. This had been a success, proven by the fact that youth nuisance callouts in the area had fallen from 30 to 11 whilst the scheme was in progress.

Truancy Sweeps were undertaken in December 2000 by Police and Education Social Workers in central Lancaster which targeted young people who were found away from school in school hours.

A young peoples' project is being put in place whereby young people will take part in building a kit car, the aim being to divert young people from car crime.

### *Morecambe Area Action Group – (Report produced by Chief Inspector Steve Watson who Chaired the Morecambe Action Group)*

#### **Introduction**

This report gives a brief overview of progress in implementing the Lancaster Community Safety Strategy as delivered by the Morecambe Local Action Group.

The primary strategic targets are to reduce crime, anti social behaviour, drugs related offences and casualties using a multi agency approach. In this regard I will focus on activity other than undertaken by response or targeted policing.

The Morecambe Local Action Group meets monthly and is made up of representatives from a wide-ranging group of formal organisations. At present the Morecambe Geographic Inspector, Ken Clayson, holds the Chair.

#### **Progress**

The West End Burglary Reduction Initiative seeks to reduce the instances of repeat victimisation by target hardening<sup>1</sup> properties. This work includes the upgrading of security items such as door and window locks. These items have been obtained

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<sup>1</sup> See Glossary

through a successful bid for funding amounting to £5000. Negotiation with Lancaster and Morecambe College of Further Education has provided accredited staffs who are able to fit the new security measures. This initiative may be enhanced with further monies that are provided for increased employment in the area and are currently subject of a further bidding process.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue are finalising a Community Fire Safety Initiative that seeks to offer advice to all and the fitting of detection equipment to individuals most highly at risk. Fire and Rescue personnel staff the scheme at times when previously they undertook statutory inspections of public and trade buildings. This particular aspect has been handed to a specialist unit and the resultant down time has been identified as an opportunity to impact upon dwelling house fires that are the main cause of serious injury and death. This scheme is also being utilised by the Crime Prevention Department of Lancashire Constabulary as a vehicle to deliver Community Safety packs.

Crime Prevention have also initiated a Lancaster City Council and Northern Counties Housing scheme whereby there is an upgrading of security following instances of burglary, which are outside the West End area. Information about the attacked premises is circulated to the Council who has a dedicated worker who visits and upgrades the security.

Another leg of the work of Crime Prevention is 'Secured by Design', which relates mainly to new building works. However, problems have been identified on the Langridge Way estate near Westgate, which showed that several footpaths carried little legitimate traffic but were used by local youths as an escape route following anti-social behaviour. This made it difficult for individuals to be identified and for police officers to apprehend offenders. Liaison with Lancaster City Council has now secured the removal of these otherwise redundant footpaths and they will be converted to garden areas and suitably planted with shrubs that deter intrusion.

'Street Cred' is an initiative focussing on personal safety of vulnerable groups and in particular young people and has found universal welcome from the groups addressed so far.

Crime Prevention have highlighted those car parks which are regarded as safe and have broadcast this information with the assistance of Lancaster City Council in local media for both residents and visitors.

The Group, using Crime Prevention, has sought to reassure the people of Morecambe by proactively giving advice utilising crime prevention stands in Asda and Morrisons, together with inputs on Bay Radio

The fear of crime is as much a concern as the actual offences themselves and one of the ways that we seek to reassure are to make police officers more visible and accessible. To achieve this, Beat Managers posts have been created to provide a constant accessible resource that will provide a focus for people to make contact with. These posts are subject of competition between police officers which assures us that on selection we will have in place officers who are willing and able volunteers bringing an interest and ownership to the problems of an area. These posts are expected to be filled before the end of May 2001.

## Conclusion

There has been a core of regular attendees at the meetings and we are actively looking to expand the group to encompass the views, skills and abilities of a greater range of participants. This year has been centred around building firm foundations and the coming year is expected to test our resolve as we attempt to bring a partnership approach to solving those problems which affect the quality of life of so many residents and businesses.

It is clear that the Morecambe Local Action Group has accepted the challenge of a multi-agency approach to community problems and the outcomes listed above provide evidence of clarity of purpose. There is much to be done but we can be confident of future progress based on the agreement and adherence shown by the Group so far. I believe that it is important that we constantly obtain the views of the communities we serve in order that we can tailor our response to attack the root cause of the problems presented.

### *Rural Area Action Group : Report produced by Mr John Gordon*

The Rural Action Group was formed in July 2000, with similar targets to the other two geographical sub-groups. Over the last 10 months we have been 'finding our feet' so to speak and membership of the group has steadily increased. We have had regular attendance from the Police, City Council (Leisure Services), County Council (Education Welfare and Youth and Community Services) and the local Youth Offending Team. Recently, representatives from Community Futures (formerly the Community Council of Lancashire), Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and British Transport Police have joined the group. We are also exploring ways of involving schools in the process.

As you would expect, the group has looked at a wide range of issues since July. Most significantly no hotspots have been identified in the area over the period. Issues to be dealt with have varied considerably; in location, nature of problem and date/time. These have often been short-term problems, due at least partly to the prompt response of respective agencies. The lack of hotspots has enabled agencies to be more flexible in targeting their resources; though has also meant a lot of initiatives have been reactive. The group seeks to balance this by looking forward and trying to identify likely problems in the forthcoming months.

Issues related to juvenile nuisance have featured highly. These occurred across the rural area, as in both Lancaster and Morecambe locations. A number of responses have been developed to address difficulties. These have included:

- Supporting the development of local voluntary youth clubs
- Promoting the provision of local informal facilities for young people
- Diversionary activities, within available resources
- Local mediation

Overall, the Community Safety Partnership's targets have been met in the rural area. With significantly low levels of Crime and Disorder, percentage reductions can fluctuate widely from one month to the next - two *topic* crimes in a month can skew figures considerably. Despite the low figures though, the group addresses all crimes and issues. Detailed annual figures to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001 can be found elsewhere in

this document. Set out here are some of the initiatives undertaken during the period August 2000 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001:

Both the Police and City Council have actively promoted Crime Prevention in the area. Leaflets have been circulated to many homeowners, Parish Councils have been contacted and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have been encouraged and supported. This has been undertaken both as general prevention campaigns and in response to individual or spates of burglaries.

Crime Prevention campaigns have included presentations and circulation of publicity to students at both St Martins College and Lancaster University. These campaigns have been focussed on the domestic burglary and town centre violence (young people make up a large proportion of victims) targets.

Active campaigns, such as 'Bike Safe' have targeted motorcycle riders, especially those travelling along the Lune Valley in the summer months. A recent campaign involved Police officers stopping riders and offering feedback/advice when there was cause for concern. As well as education, awareness raising and enforcement campaigns.

Dummy CCTV cameras were piloted in a rural car park last summer. Wider use of these, in targeted locations, is being considered as the pilot showed a 24% reduction in theft from cars during the trial period.

The use of intelligence has contributed considerably to the stopping of a series of crimes and the detection of those responsible. Notable examples are auto crime offences (in Bolton-le-Sands) and domestic burglary (in Borwick and Wray).

Educational projects on drugs related issues have been run, in both Carnforth and Hornby High Schools, by both Youth and Community Service and the Police.

The Rural Action Group meets monthly. At these meetings we receive an update from the Police on the latest Crime and Disorder statistics, update each other on current initiatives and plan future actions in response to actual or anticipated problems.