



South Ribble Community Safety Partnership

Multi Agency Problem Solving Team Bulletin

This is a bulletin on multi agency work by members of the Multi-Agency Problem Solving Team in South Ribble. In the bulletin we will be reporting on interventions by our members on a monthly basis and by doing so informing local communities and partners of the valuable work in reducing crime and improving the quality of life in the borough.

If you have any queries regarding matters in this Bulletin please contact:

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South Ribble Borough Council

Community Safety Team

The **Caretaker Project** has progressed well since the launch in September 2005. An art competition held during the early part of the project was well supported by schools and art groups.

Entries received from pupils at three of the borough's secondary schools and members of youth groups in the borough were judged during the autumn half term holiday.

The schools' entries were of storyboards, in which students provided the illustrations for our three stories about a fictional character "Charlie". The storyboards dealt with different types of criminal damage; graffiti; broken glass and vehicle damage with the aim of highlighting the consequences of this crime. In each story Charlie is caught and faces the consequences of his actions

The poster competition for youth groups covered the criminal damage types of graffiti; broken glass and throwing missiles and again drew attention to the consequences of these actions.

The finalists will be invited to a prize giving on 15th December, at which they will be presented with their awards and the winning art will be exhibited.

“**Charlie**” also features in other parts of our campaign, which aims to change attitudes to criminal damage. These include Charlie’s Diary on the South Ribble Borough Council website www.southribble.gov.uk. In the diary entries, Charlie recounts what happens to him when he is caught offending and faces criminal charges for damaging cars. The aim of this is to identify the consequences of offending to young people. Updates to the diary will continue at intervals throughout the project and is being advertised to reach a wide audience.

Improvements in environmental design contribute to a reduction in the fear of crime and also the number of offences being committed in the locality. Repairing damage and cleaning graffiti, fly-tipping and litter dispels ideas that an area is in decline and further damage will be tolerated. Our aim is to improve the design of some open spaces as a deterrent to crime and a recent project included cutting undergrowth and removing litter in the Merlin Grove locality.

Visuals audits have been carried out in several locations, the Broad Oak locality, Penwortham, Walton Park in Walton-le-Dale and Paradise Park in Leyland. The audits have identified damage which requires repair to deter further offences and other environmental improvements to design out crime.

A series of visual audits will be carried out in the borough over the forthcoming months, as part of the Caretaker Project. Local people are being encouraged to take part in audits in their neighbourhoods. The programme of audits and arrangements for joining the audit team will be publicised on the website www.southribble.gov.uk

Prevent and Deter

The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer has been following up on actions arising from case conferences for those young people involved in nuisance and anti-social behaviour. These cases include those young people referred to the Community Safety Partnership’s “Prevent and Deter” strand of the Prolific and other Priority Offenders Scheme. The actions focus on measures to reduce the risk of offending and encourage changes in behaviour by tackling some of the underlying causes, such as alcohol misuse or lack of housing.

Actions are implemented by support services and criminal justice organisations and are reviewed at regular intervals, together with changes in the risk of the young person committing further offences.

Guidance on the reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour

The Anti-Social Behaviour officer is assisting the Community Safety Partnership to write a series of information leaflets advising on a range of issues including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Dispersal Orders and the use of Mopeds and Gopeds.

Domestic Abuse Awareness

Preparation is underway for the 16 Days of Action Campaign which starts on 25th November and will run until the 10th December. 16 Days of Action has been organised by the local Chorley and South Ribble Domestic Abuse Forum in conjunction with the Domestic Abuse Project Co-ordinator and Community Safety Support Officer. The aim is to increase awareness of domestic abuse and the services available to aid victims and encourage the reporting of these crimes.

The campaign is to be run in conjunction with The Body Shop's "Donate A Mobile Phone Campaign" in which The Body Shop will donate £3.50 for each mobile donated. The mobile phones donated will also be distributed to those living with domestic abuse and for use, free of charge, for calls to emergency services

Chorley and South Ribble Housing Options Officer (Drug Intervention Programme DIP)

Drug Intervention Programmes are government funded initiatives to reduce drug related crime. It's recognised that housing, support and work are key factors in reducing offending. The post with the Chorley and South Ribble DIP team is to help to either secure or sustain suitable housing.

In the first 6 months of being in post almost 50 clients have been dealt with and to date 16 have been assisted in finding housing or supporting them so that they avoid losing their homes

The Housing Options Officer works very closely with a large number of agencies including the Probation Service, Community Drug Teams, Inward House Projects, South Ribble Key, Tower Projects, South Ribble Borough Council Homeless Officers and the Independent Housing Adviser

Encouragement is given to clients to seek help with other issues by referring them to other agencies. DIP clients have greater success in obtaining housing when they are

motivated to change and positively engage in services to overcome their drugs problems

Environmental Health

Fixed Penalty Notices Since the beginning of April 2005 29 fixed penalty notices have been served for failure to clean up dog faeces.

Licensing Act 2003 The first appointed day has now passed and over 95% of premises which need to apply for a Licence have applied. At the moment the Environment Protection team are dealing with applications for late night refreshment premises which include takeaway food shops. The licensing process for the sale of alcohol, late night refreshment and entertainment enable the local authority to regulate these activities giving consideration not only to nuisance but also crime and disorder.

The Environmental Protection Team is taking the lead in organising Visual Audits for Operation Caretaker. A team of auditors have visited the Broad Oak area, Walton Park and Paradise Park to establish environmental problems in the area and to come up with solutions. During these audits, areas are identified where future crime will be resisted and not tolerated.

Operation Cascade The Environmental Protection Team is involved in the multi-agency Operation Cascade, an annual operation to reduce accidents, damage and nuisance around the bonfire period. Visits were made to 14 premises selling fireworks by the police, Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. The shops were inspected and informed about Operation Cascade and reminded of the laws governing firework sales and use. Leaflets were delivered about bonfires and fireworks to the areas previously affected by misuse to inform people about the relevant law and safety precautions for fireworks and bonfires.

Jennifer Mullin, Senior Environmental Health Officer is a member of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy group. The group have been agreeing targets for the delivery of actions set out in Community Safety Partnership's Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Plan.

Park Rangers

Junior Rangers The Head Park Ranger is to launch a new Junior Ranger scheme in Bamber Bridge, which will resemble the existing successful scheme in Penwortham. The main aim of the Junior Ranger Schemes is to educate children within an environmental and ecological context. Issues such as graffiti, litter and general anti-social behaviour are dealt with and the young people are encouraged to be responsible in their use of the parks.

The scheme will cover all open spaces within the Bamber Bridge district but may be based at Withy Grove Park. It will target children between the ages of 7 to 11 and will be programmed to be lots of fun as well as educational. It is hoped that there will be a press release with an enrollment opportunity in the New Year.

It is hoped that the positive focus of the scheme will influence those who may be a risk of causing anti social behaviour or committing crime in the future and, by offering the opportunity to take responsibility within their community, this could reflect on their attitude towards their community in time to come.

Area Improvements

The rangers are to follow up on earlier multi-agency crime reduction work in The Merlin grove locality, Leyland. They will work with a neighbouring primary school St Anne's RC Primary School, to make bird /owl boxes for the woodland. The rangers will lay the hedge adjacent to the woodland to create a better sight line as a crime reduction measure and will involve the children in this traditional Lancashire countryside craft.