

**RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2012
title: RIBBLE VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: BILL ALKER – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of various initiatives which Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership is wholly or in part responsible for.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions - }
 - Community Objectives - }
 - Corporate Priorities - }
 - Other Considerations - }
- The Council has, as one of its key ambitions, "making peoples lives safer and healthier". By initiating these early intervention tactics via our partners we hope that this ambition will be achieved.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership was formed in 1998 to bring different agencies together to help combat crime and disorder.

2.2 The key agencies involved in the Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership are:

- Ribble Valley Borough Council;
- Lancashire County Council;
- Police;
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services;
- Probation Service; and
- NHS East Lancashire.

2.3 Over the 14 years of existence the Community Safety Partnership has been responsible for a number of successful initiatives as listed below:

- Providing a skate park for Longridge.
- Friday night sports and football leagues.
- Providing training for door staff for licensed premises.
- Plastic glasses for licensed premises.
- Numerous awareness raising campaigns (alternate, show DV the red card etc).
- One-to-one mentoring scheme with young people.

2.4 During the period from 2006/07 to 2007/12 reported crime had reduced from 2,449 to 1,583 incidents a year. This is a reduction of over 35%.

- 2.5 Whilst the Community Safety Partnership does not claim primary responsibility for this decrease it can claim to have had an impact at the fringes by changing people's behaviour.
- 2.6 We have been informed by the Judicial Office that the Senior Presiding Judge has decided that it is inappropriate for Magistrates to either be members of Community Safety Partnership or to fulfil an administrative support function for a CSP as part of their employment or other activity.
- 2.7 We are currently seeking clarification on how this will affect Councillor Jan Alcock who chairs the CSP and is a Magistrate on the Blackburn Bench. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 There are a number of current initiatives which Committee should be aware of.
- 3.2 Castle Grounds Project – Operates every Friday evening in Clitheroe and targets young people in the Clitheroe Castle grounds, offering them an alternative to underage drinking and drug taking.
- 3.3 That “offer” is worked in conjunction with Clitheroe Youth and Community Centre and has a “menu” which includes sports, cookery, IT skills, DJ'ing etc.
- 3.4 Community Alcohol Network – Also targets underage drinking but in a more impactful way. Teams of Special Constables and Trading Standards Officers target known hotspots in Clitheroe and Whalley.
- 3.5 Any young people found to be drinking underage or taking drugs or smoking illicit tobacco will be taken to a place of safety and parents contacted to call and collect their children.
- 3.6 Follow up education with parents is undertaken to address the reasons why young people were allowed to drink underage in the first place.
- 3.7 Results so far have been very encouraging. There have been interventions with a high success rate.
- 3.8 Renewal of alcohol signs – Ribble Valley has 7 designated public place orders which came into force between 2002 and 2006. The signage has recently been renewed and replaced for the following parts of the borough:
- Clitheroe Town Centre.
 - Longridge Town Centre.
 - Whalley.
 - Read.
 - Sabden.
 - Simonstone.
 - Chatburn.
 - Billington.
 - Langho.
 - Clitheroe (Henthorn and Low Moor).
 - Wilpshire.

- 3.9 Wasted Lives Campaign – This is a campaign being run by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services and is aimed at educating young drivers on safer driving, speed, awareness of other road users etc.
- 3.10 The Campaign has targeted schools, youth clubs and apprentices and has the full support of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.11 Smart Water and Farm Watch – In an effort to provided some protection and reassurance to rural communities the Community Safety Partnership has worked alongside the Police and Ward Councillor Rosie Elms to provide smart water liquid to rural homes, farms and businesses.
- 3.12 Smart water is a product which gives a unique series of microdots when smeared onto a property which needs to be protected. This can then help trace goods which may have been stolen and is a valuable tool in tracking stolen goods.
- 3.13 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) – Elections for the new post of Police and Crime Commissioner will take place on 15 November and this casts some doubt as to the future direction of individual Community Safety Partnerships.
- 3.14 Funding for CSP's has dramatically reduced over recent years and it is anticipated that the new PCC will expect greater value for money from initiatives together with sustainable solutions.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – None.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – None.
 - Political – None.
 - Reputation – The Council's reputation as one of the safest places in England depends to a certain extent on a successful Community Safety Partnership.
 - Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership brings together the number of partner agencies specifically to help reduce crime and disorder and has operated for the past 14 years.
- 5.2 There have been a number of successful initiatives which have either been led or supported by the Community Safety Partnership (see paragraph 2.3 above).
- 5.3 Whilst funding still exists the Community Safety Partnership has taken the decision to use its limited resources to support a number of initiatives during 2012/13 (see paragraphs 3.2 to 3.12).
- 5.4 Whilst it would be wrong to claim reductions in crime were only down to Community Safety Partnership involvement it is also fair to point out that a number of interventions have kept crime figures down.

5.5 Good partnership working has been crucial in a number of those successful initiatives.

BILL ALKER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Various report to Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership.

For further information please ask for Bill Alker, extension 4412.

REF: BA/CMS/POLICY & FINANCE/250912