

## East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

The intention of this report is to give you an update on the current work of the Community Safety Partnership and how we are performing in terms of reducing crime.

The Partnership which has been in existence now for several years has the following five priorities:

- Reduce violent crime
- Reduce acquisitive crime (thefts from vehicles and burglaries)
- Reduce anti social behaviour
- Improve public confidence & satisfaction
- Improve road safety

Each main town in East & Mid Devon has a geographically based Local Action Group (LAG), which is responsible for the town and its rural communities. In East Devon there are four namely, Axe Valley (Axminster and Seaton), Honiton, Exmouth and finally Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary. In Mid Devon there are three namely Exe (Tiverton), Creedy (Crediton), and Culm, (Cullompton).

LAGs were established to tackle crime, disorder and anti social behaviour within those localities and to improve public confidence. They comprise local officers, some of which are from statutory organisations such as the Police, Fire Service, Health etc, but also may include elected members and representatives from the voluntary and business sectors. If you are interested in becoming a member of a LAG please let me know.

In addition there are thematic groups tackling Domestic Violence, and Drug and Alcohol issues. Each of the LAGs and thematic groups have objectives and action plans and from 1st April 2011, they have concentrated on the five priorities shown above.

It is very pleasing to know that crime in both districts for the 12 months up until the end of July 2011 and compared with the same period last year, is showing a reduction. **In East Devon total crime is down 9.9% from 5019 reported offences to 4520.** In Mid Devon the reduction is 9.4% from 2910 reported offences to 2636.

Concentrating on East Devon the following crime trends are as follows:

**Violent crime has increased from 977 to 994 offences (+1.7%).** However serious assaults are down and no doubt the new policing structure, whereby resources are targeted at dealing with late night economy issues, is and will continue to have, a major impact on this crime type.

**Domestic burglary has decreased from 220 offences to 178 (-19.1%).** A number of agencies as well as the Police, through the LAGs play their part in trying to ensure that people take care of their property and by taking simple precautions can minimise the risk. For example when district council staff, health visitors, members of the Fire and Rescue Service etc, visit the more vulnerable within our society they are able to offer basic crime prevention advice re door chains, spy holes etc.

**Other burglary has decreased from 361 to 335 offences (-1.7%).** This is a crime type relating to burglaries of premises other than dwellings. This includes business premises,

shops, outbuildings and the like. Recent multi agency operations run by the Police have successfully disrupted criminal activity across the two districts. Some of the other agencies who took part such as the Environment Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) have significant powers which have contributed to this disruption.

The Partnership has provided funding to enable robust padlock alarms to be distributed to persons who want to make their property more secure.

**Theft from vehicles has decreased from 382 to 293 offences (-23.3%).** East Devon District Council staff have placed posters in public toilets warning of the dangers of leaving valuables on open view in vehicles. This is for the benefit of both locals and holiday makers alike. The Police Community Support Officers also write to the registered keepers of vehicles which are seen with valuables on open display inside them.

**Criminal damage has decreased from 1,216 to 1,015 offences (-16.5%).** Again with Police officers being more visible during the late night hours this has had the required deterrent effect. In the past the Partnership has published articles in the local papers asking people to minimise the risk of becoming a victim of this offence by for example retracting wing mirrors and aerials when their vehicles are parked. It has also asked that persons report any criminal damage to the Police at the time the offences are committed. This of course gives the Police the chance to catch the offenders.

**Reports of rowdy, nuisance behaviour have reduced from 3077 logs to 2826 (-8.2%).** All agencies who are responsible for dealing with such anti social behaviour work to an agreed 'Escalation Process' which is overseen by me as the Community Safety and Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator. Using this process we can increase the action taken against those individuals who cause such behaviour and who do not heed the warnings given to them.

As well as taking a hard stand against this behaviour support is also given where it is needed in an attempt to get people to change their ways. Agencies such as Devon Youth Service and the Fire Service, who attend most LAGs, play a major part in developing interventions for young people who have started to or who may otherwise engage in anti social behaviour.

Each LAG has a priority to improve both public confidence and road safety. I will report on the progress of this work later in the year.

We currently live in very challenging times with severe cuts to public sector funding and a great deal of hardship being experienced by the majority of members of society. It is therefore vital that Community Safety Partnerships act as the adhesive that bonds together the work of the many agencies that are members of it. In this way we can show a united front in tackling the problems and hopefully by doing so we can reduce costs.

From now on I will regularly report on the work of the Partnership but please look on the East Devon District Council website under the 'Community Safety' section to get an overview of the current Community Safety Plan, details of the full structure of the Partnership and copies of the Steering Group minutes together with copies of my reports to that group.

Gerry Moore

Community Safety and Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator

Telephone 01395 273802

[gmoore@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:gmoore@eastdevon.gov.uk)