

Rochford District

Crime & Disorder
Reduction Partnership

ACTION against crime

December 2008 Issue No.1

Aiming for a safety first

Rochford has the enviable distinction of being the safest district in Essex and, working together, the partners on the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership intend that it should remain so, says Chairman DAN CARLIN.

THE KEY word here is partnership. The CDRP brings together organisations and bodies (see panel right) determined to improve the quality of life for everyone in the district by working towards a genuine reduction in crime. Our local knowledge gives us an unrivalled ability to identify issues of concern to the community and actively develop lasting solutions to these worries and, in turn, allay the fear of crime.



Dan Carlin

But there is another important aspect to our partnership work and that is the involvement of the wider community in ensuring that Rochford remains a safe place in which to live and work. Without the co-operation of the people of the district, either as individuals or through

local organisations and groups, we could not have made the progress we have.

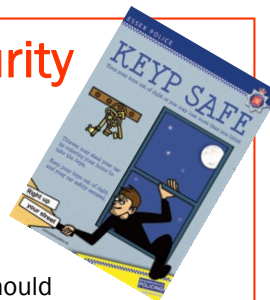
Many of the projects we have supported, either through the provision of resources or direct donations of cash, have been brought to our attention by the community. Initiatives such as the successful Rochford Teen Café which provides an important alternative to youngsters milling around street corners. Your continued participation and support is vital if we are to build on our achievements so far, and we have achieved much.

Set a three-year target by the Home Office in 2004 to reduce crime and disorder in Rochford district by 13.5 per cent, we delivered a reduction of 32.9 per cent – the biggest decrease in the east of England. Now we are on course to bring crime down by a further five per cent this year.

Partnership in Rochford is not simply a word; it is a reality. It works and, with your help, we have proved it.

Vigilance is key to vehicle security

With vehicle security systems becoming increasingly sophisticated, thieves are being driven to more extreme measures to steal cars, including burglary. There have been recent cases of homes being broken into for the sole purpose of taking car keys and then the vehicle. Motorists can protect themselves from this sort of crime by keeping their keys out of sight in the home. They should never be left in vulnerable locations such as hallway tables or in the kitchen, especially at night. Remember also to leave your car safely secured.



ABOUT THE CDRP

The Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is a multi agency group established to reduce crime and disorder. The main partners are: Essex Police, Essex Police Authority, Essex Fire & Rescue, Rochford District Council, NHS South East Essex, Essex Probation Service and Essex County Council.





Backing for frontline police

CDRP support meant police were able to step up their presence on the streets in the weeks leading up to and during the Halloween to Bonfire Night period, traditionally a peak time for incidents of youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

The CDRP paid for four extra officers to be available throughout both Friday and Saturday nights over two months.

Said District Police Commander Chief Inspector Andy Prophet. "Halloween was among the quietest for some years with incidents of anti-social behaviour across the South Eastern Division falling by half compared to last year."

In addition to a stronger police presence on the streets, police took pre-emptive steps to curtail trouble over the Halloween period by writing to the parents of Year 10/11 pupils across the district to enlist their help.

"We asked them to make sure that their youngsters behaved in a considerate and controlled way when out celebrating and not to do anything that would impact on other people," said Chief Inspector Prophet

"This was coupled with a reminder of our determination to take positive action against anyone involved in criminal damage, assault or anti-social behaviour."

Watch this Space

Clive Mayhew has been appointed Essex Watch Co-ordinator for the Rochford district with a brief to further expand the various local 'Watch' schemes that play such an important role in keeping the community safe.

Essex Watch is a police initiative aimed at improving communications between the force and these various groups such as Neighbourhood Watch; it is not intended to replace or take over these existing organisations.

Clive will be working closely with Rochford District Commander Chief Inspector Andy Prophet and his Neighbourhood Policing Teams throughout the district

As well as developing ways of improving information sharing between 'Watch' groups, the police and partners, he will also be working to support the expansion of established groups and the introduction of new schemes.

Chief Inspector Prophet said: " I welcome Clive's appointment. We are very much committed to helping those people and groups who help keep the district safe. They do an invaluable job."

Clive can be contacted at Rochford Police Station on 0300 333 4444 ext 34431.



Giving young people a break

"It is the best thing I have achieved in my life – I enjoyed every single minute of it." That's the unsolicited testimony of a 16-year-old who took part in Firebreak, a scheme run by Essex County Fire and Rescue to help youngsters grow in confidence and get their lives on track.

Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is helping fund two Firebreak courses at Hawkwell fire station, the first held this autumn, the second planned for next spring.

Firebreak is a week long intensive course that takes 14 and 15 year-olds and puts them through the same disciplines that recruit firefighters learn including using breathing apparatus, taking control of the high powered jet hoses, ladder rescues and the importance of teamwork. Said Station Officer John Tidbury: "The scheme develops young peoples' skills in working together, enhances their confidence and teaches them to accept responsibility as they undertake a series of challenging tasks."

Raise a glass to Drinkwise

Drinkwise a week-long programme of activities to raise awareness among all ages of the dangers of alcohol misuse was held through the district recently. With support of the CDRP, the event brought together health, local authority, youth and other agencies with the aim of tackling problem drinking in the community.

The programme featured road-shows, training workshops for health professionals, educational support and events. The London Bus Theatre Company, an interactive educational drama company, campaign toured schools throughout the District with their own version of 'Snow White' to illustrate to schoolchildren of all ages the dangers of alcohol abuse.



Action Against Crime is published by Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, a multi-agency partnership. If you would like to know more about the CDRP please contact Paula Chapman, Assistant Community Safety Officer, Rochford District Council, Tel: 01702 318112.