

May 2009

communicate

Compiled and edited by Julia Pack & Mick Holland on behalf of the Southend Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

Streamlining the response to **Domestic Violence**

Police in South East Essex are streamlining their response to domestic abuse incidents - in order to prevent offences, catch perpetrators and support victims.

Operation Streamline has been launched this month in the South Eastern division of Essex Police, an area which covers Southend, Rochford and Castle Point. It is the division's tough new stance against domestic violence which will see officers step up their efforts to reduce repeat offences, bring more perpetrators to justice and offer enhanced support to the victims.

A new trigger plan has been issued to all officers in the division, in order that a consistently thorough response is set in motion the moment police are called to a domestic incident.

Acting Detective Inspector Caroline Venables is heading the project. She said: "By streamlining our responses and being better prepared to handle domestic abuse incidents more effectively, we hope to have a positive effect on reducing the number of repeat offences.

"Statistics show that a woman is

subject to domestic abuse 35 times before plucking up the courage to contact police - so by the time we are called in, she is already a repeat victim. It is therefore vital that we cover all possible angles during our investigations in order to obtain a positive outcome. We are fortunate to have excellent support from other agencies in this area - including Women's Aid and The Dove Project - and we are keen to refer victims on to the relevant services, so they can get the help and assistance they so desperately need.

"We'd like to encourage residents to report their concerns of domestic abuse regarding their family members, friends or neighbours. The victim may be too scared or intimidated to call us herself but information from your call may enable us to intervene and prevent further abuse from taking place.

"On the other hand, if you are yourself a perpetrator of domestic abuse and want help for an alcohol or drug problem that is influencing your behaviour, we'd urge you to take control and make a call to get help. **The national helpline for Alcoholics Anonymous is 0845 76 97 555**".

To report a concern for welfare, call police on 0300 3334444 and ask for the Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime Unit (DAHCU).

Alternatively, you can contact Southend Women's Aid on 01702 337853 or the National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0800 2000247.



CDRP Team of the Month

Name: Deborah Ford, Paul Davey,
Crista Poole & Ross Bassan
(as pictured left - right)

Position: South Essex Homes ASB Team

Responsibilities

The team comprises of four officers whose specific role is to take positive action to combat and prevent anti social behaviour, hate crime and domestic abuse amongst the 6,500 properties the organisation manages.

Activities to combat anti social behaviour

The action the officers take depends upon the nature of the complaint. Very often early intervention prevents the escalation of a problem and the officers are keen to become involved at the earliest stage and will carry out visits, patrols and referrals to appropriate agencies. These are just a few of the many tools they will use to intervene.

For the more serious reports, consideration will be given to Injunctions (to protect the victim), action against the tenancy, and ultimately possession action, although this is considered as a last resort and only used in exceptional cases. Throughout enforcement action, witness support can be provided to the victims.

Outcome

Following an inspection of the organisation by the Audit Commission, South Essex Homes received 2* award with a specific recognition being given to the ASB Team for the positive action they have taken to combat and prevent anti social behaviour in their properties.



Podcasts

Earlier this year, Southend CDRP received recognition in national police publications following the launch of its innovative radio-ad style podcasts, offering crime prevention advice in an entertaining new format.

The next set of downloads will be available later this month on the subjects of:

- ⇒ Domestic Violence
- ⇒ Mobile phone safety
- ⇒ Dangerous driving

Check out our website: www.southendcdrp.co.uk

Useful numbers

Neighbourhood Policing Teams

Southend Central –	07817 968114
Southend High Street –	07791 315961
Southend Seafront –	01702 613449
Chalkwell Marine –	07866 545291
Blenheim –	07817 968093
Eastwood –	07816 661693
Shoebury –	07710 086590
Southchurch –	07976 325346

To report dumped rubbish and graffiti,
email doete@southend.gov.uk or call 01702 215000

CDRP Manager
Community Safety Manager
Simon Ford - 0300 333 4444 ext.30860

Crime Reduction Officer
Lorna Watson - 01702 423187

Neighbourhood Watch Administrator
Mick Holland - 01702 464199

Media & Communications Co-ordinator
Julia Pack - 01702 423138

...News in Brief...

Community Safety Roadshows

The Community Safety Roadshows have been proving very popular this year as they've made their way across the borough.

Please come along to an event taking place near you – you'll be able to get your bike electronically tagged, have your property postcoded, instigate a referral for a home fire safety check, receive valuable crime prevention advice and much more.

Here are some dates for your diary for the forthcoming Spring/Summer roadshows:

Friars Library, The Renown, Shoebury

Saturday 30 May - 9am to 2pm

Dickens Close

Saturday 13 June - 10am to 2pm

Shoebury High School

Saturday 20 June - 12 noon to 4pm

Southend High School for Boys

Sunday 21 June - 1pm to 6pm

Garon Park

Friday 24 July - 10am to 3pm

Sherwood Way

Friday 31 July - 2pm to 5pm

Coleman Street (Community Centre)

Monday 10 August - 10am to 2pm

Bournes Green Park

Tuesday 25 August - 12 noon to 5pm

Southchurch Park

Thursday 27 August - 10am to 3pm

Chalkwell Esplanade (cul-de-sac)

Saturday 19 September - 12 noon to 2pm

What number should I use?

There is often confusion over which number should be used to contact police.

In an emergency or if a crime is taking place, call **999**. To report a non-emergency issue, e.g. to report a crime or other incident not requiring an emergency response, call **0300 333 4444**. This number should also be used to call your local police station.



Marine Unit needs your help

Southend has boasted a Foreshore Watch scheme for several years now covering the seafront from the defence boom at Shoebury right through to Two Tree Island. Its purpose is to encourage the various yacht and boating clubs, watermen, sea anglers, beach hut owners etc to work together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour along our coastline – Neighbourhood Watch for the seafront, so to speak.

At the April meeting of the scheme, Marine Unit liaison officer, PCSO Susie Smith suggested that the fight against marine orientated crime could be extended by involving Neighbourhood Watch members. What we are asking you to do is promptly report any suspicious activity along the foreshore, amongst the moorings and beach huts to the police. In the event of you witnessing crime in progress, we would ask that you report it via the 999 system. Otherwise, reports should be made using the non-emergency number of 0300 333 4444.



Anyone interested in being involved in Foreshore Watch should call Mick Holland on 464199

Park Watch Update

Members of Park Watch meet regularly to discuss issues in the local parks. Membership of Parkwatch is open to all park users in the Borough of Southend-on-Sea. We are always open to observations on improving security etc in the parks and it is to this end that Parks Management Officer, Ian Brown, is planning to run a walk-about session in Priory Park.

The plan is for park users to meet and accompany Ian around the park where he can update people on proposed improvements and the park users can feed back opinions etc. The date is yet to be set and once it is the local media will be informed, flyers handed out in the park and notices displayed.

Contact Mick Holland on 464199 for further details.

A Credit to Southend

The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) has been running in Essex since 2005, to enable other agencies to work closely with the police in order to assist in tackling local issues.

CSAS allows organisations and their employees (such as street wardens, park rangers and security staff) to be given targeted police powers to deal with incidents including anti-social behaviour, disorder and nuisance. By extending the police family, the accredited individuals can also help to improve quality of life issues in the local community - such as littering, underage drinking and graffiti.

In order to receive accreditation, organisations must meet strict standards set by Essex Police and individuals must satisfy the criteria, which involves extensive police vetting and training.

At the moment, Essex has 25 organisations within the scheme. One of these organisations is SAVS in Southend, who operate the Turning Tides Neighbourhood Management Partnership covering central Southend wards. The scheme allows street wardens to be the eyes and ears around the local community and also to work closely with PCSOs and to share information that will help not only the police, but the local community as a whole.

Recently Jenny Ayres, a CSAS Officer who works at Essex Police HQ in Chelmsford, visited Southend to patrol the town with Turning Tides warden Linda Marchant alongside local PCSOs to see how the scheme works in practice.

The community wardens wear their own company uniform and CSAS supply ID Cards which have their organisation logo and also the Essex Police crest and the Chief Constable's signature. The presence of the CSAS badge proves that the individual has achieved the approved standards



Turning Tides warden Linda Marchant, PCSO Danny Callender and CSAS Officer Jenny Ayres

of competence and training. These high standards, together with the enhanced police vetting procedure, offers great reassurance to the public they are dealing with.

Jenny Ayres said of her visit: "Together we visited several tower blocks in the area and, by completing joint patrols, made sure the blocks were safe for the residents and any graffiti or damage to the block could be reported and dealt with. The day gave me a real insight of just how important the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme is and how these joint patrols make such a difference to the local communities."



Accredited people will wear the uniform of their own organisation displaying a nationally approved standard badge, as pictured left.

They will have an ID badge displaying their name, which will also confirm the powers that individual has been granted by Essex Police.

Tell us what you think!

We're always keen to receive your feedback, comments and ideas on 'Communicate' and the work of the Southend CDRP in general.

If you have a viewpoint you'd like to share with us, please contact either Julia Pack or Mick Holland via the contact numbers of page 2, via email to Julia.pack@essex.pnn.police.uk or southendnhw@aol.com or by letter to Police Station, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-sea, SS2 6ES. Thank you!