



DACORUM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES

**7.30 pm Wednesday 25 April 2012
Council Chamber, Dacorum Civic Centre**

Present:

Cllr Neil Harden (Chairman)
Catherine Appleby
Tony Coley
Ian Markwell
Jack Daw
Dave Moore
Mike Pryce
Andy Reynolds
Nick Smith
Ron Tindall
Cllr C Wyatt – Lowe
Cllr F Guest
Cllr M Griffiths
Katya Steen
David Marrow

Adrienne Gear
Michelle Anderson (minutes)

Dacorum Borough Council
Dacorum Borough Council Rep
Ex Chair HHCPP
Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Dacorum Borough Council
Chief Inspector Herts Police
Herts Police
Hertfordshire County Council
Herts Police Authority
Dacorum Borough Council
Dacorum Borough Council
Dacorum Borough Council
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Chairman, Dacorum Neighbourhood
Watch Association
Community Action Dacorum
Dacorum Borough Council

ACTION

1. Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Anne Gloag - Neighbourhood Watch, Maria Kraithman-Mediation Herts, Councillor Tiley, Councillor Douris, Councillor W Wyatt-Lowe and Councillor J Marshall.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 5 October 2011 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting on 5 October 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe noted that she gave apologies for the previous meeting; however they had not been recorded.

Matters Arising

It was noted that the end of year detection rate for Dacorum was 34.41% which was above the target.

Further updates were then provided:

- 1) Control Room – claim that it was taking 3 minutes to answer a call – The control Room have a target to answer 80% of non emergency calls within 30 seconds and this target is achieved – clearly within any percentage target like that there will be some calls which fall outside the 30 seconds or they would be achieving 100% (reason being that when a major incident takes place which involves lots of 999 calls they take priority). D Moore noted that he certainly makes many calls each day through the non emergency number to get hold of various people and never has to wait 30 seconds for an answer.
- 2) The target for 999 calls is to answer 90% of these calls within 10 seconds and this target has been achieved without fail for many years now.
- 3) On the point of a message referring callers to DBC the control room were mystified by this. They said that if that was the case they would have to have in place a system which sent out separate messages for each of the districts/boroughs in the county.

3. Performance Update

- **Community Safety Partnership – Dave Moore**

D Moore noted that the group could not be complacent about community safety, as only one month after the last meeting, there was the Billy Dove tragedy in the Marlowes.

The Partnership was measured on achievements, and this was demonstrated in the crime statistics circulated, which were very positive. He felt that that was from contributions made by the Dacorum Partnership, the effort and desire to make the partnership work, community care and working together.

Across Dacorum there were reductions in all categories and the 10.9% reduction in all crime was the best percentage reduction level of the 10 Districts in Hertfordshire.

The Partnership is recommending the following priorities should be adopted for 2012/13:

1. Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage
2. Dwelling Burglary
3. Vehicle Crime
4. Alcohol Misuse
5. Drug Misuse
6. Managing Offenders/ Reducing Re Offending

An additional priority would be for 'Vehicle Crime' as the statistics showed there was a need for concentrated work.

Over the year it was reported that many activities have taken place for each of the priorities. Please see the attached document for details (Annex A).

D Moore explained that work had been carried out with local schools in the lead up to the Billy Dove tragedy. Following this, funding was used to have Chris Preddie come and do an event with young people in the Old Town Hall. He told them his life story and how things could have been different had he have chosen a different path. This event was very successful and they hoped to extend it out to schools in order to have a greater impact.

The partnership was looking to do more work on knife crime.

Questions raised by members:

C Appleby asked if any work was done in schools around bullying.

D Moore replied that the curriculum did include work on bullying. He reported that 'Fearless.Org', which was part of Crimestoppers, would be working with schools to increase awareness of bullying.

Councillor Guest agreed with D Moore's comment that 'behind every crime there is a victim'. She added that Druglink also provided education for schools on Drug driving.

K Steen felt that the Police adult and youth helplines were very similar. She felt that family issues which were hidden behind closed doors were very hard to report and this needed attention.

D Moore explained the Navigator project and that a new member of staff would be starting soon to help to improve services for mental health issues. He would discuss this with K Steen outside of the meeting.

T Coley thanked D Moore for an excellent report. With regards to the crime statistics circulated, he requested that the figures are rounded up or down to show whole numbers.

DM

D Moore said he could adjust these to whole numbers for this group.

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe suggested that the new recruit for the Navigation Project talks to the Learning Disability Forum in order to tie their work together.

DM

D Moore would pass this on.

- **Police – Mike Pryce**

M Pryce explained that 2011/12 had been one of the best years for Dacorum, with 944 fewer incidents, which was a 10.9% decrease in all crime for Dacorum compared to the previous year. He felt that the success was helped by the great partnership work, the community involvement and the links with local councillors. He thanked the council for the PCSO funding received last year. He also thanked R Tindall for all the support and advice he provides.

He explained that the Billy Dove tragedy saw amazing partnership work and support. The Dacorum CCTV department were phenomenal on that night.

He explained the work that had been carried out over the past year:

- Operation Scorpion – this involved dedicated officers looking at 'hotspot' areas of crime, therefore providing a pro-active response.
- Daily briefings are more focussed and discuss how to maximise the use of resources
- Youth and ASB work – Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) have been helping a lot
- Community – great work has been done to improve Community and Business Watch.

He explained that there was currently no concern for staffing levels. Front line numbers would remain the same this year and have no impact. He did not see there to be any reason for concern for next year.

He noted that the main aim in Dacorum was to identify and intervene early.

He reported that there were 24hr response teams and safer neighbourhood teams in Berkhamsted and Tring. He added that there had been no major issues in Hemel

Hempstead around the revised opening hours of Custody and front desk.

He felt that there were a number of challenges to face in the forthcoming year including the Queens Jubilee and the Olympics; however the plans seem to be going well for these locally.

Motor vehicle crime was becoming more challenging, and the Police were now seeing theft of number plates and Catalytic converters. These crimes were hard to detect, only around 15% could be, and therefore the public's help was needed.

In addition social networking sites also involved a lot of Police time and resources to monitor certain areas.

He concluded to note that the new Neighbourhood Inspector would be George Holland and the new Detective Inspector would be Justine Jenkins.

Questions raised by members:

Councillor Harden asked if further information could be given as to how Catalytic converters were stolen.

M Pryce explained that the thieves go underneath the car and unbolt or cut the converter with chain cutters. The Community need to raise the alarm if they see suspicious behaviour near a car, people with tools, a few people together and their vehicle nearby.

T Coley asked if the percentage of stolen number plates not picked up was nationally or locally.

M Pryce confirmed it was nationally.

R Tindall reported of a case where somebody's number plate had been cloned and they were therefore receiving fines for crimes they had not committed. If anyone had to report such a case, they were advised to then carry the relevant documents with them.

- **Fire Service – Ian Markwell**

I Markwell gave a presentation to the group, highlighting the following points:

- The Fire Service had seen continuous improvement over the past year around the level and speed of response times
- Performance was also improving, seeing a fall of 17% in Arson, 16% for building and property fires and the number of injuries had fallen by 64%
- Many activities take place, such as arson audits in all infant/junior schools, sheltered housing talks, and Operation 'Sponge Pudding' – which targets those receiving Meals on Wheels to have fire safety checks and vulnerability checks. A road traffic programme is also taken to year 11/12 students.
- Important work with Druglink is also carried out and see's great benefits.

Questions raised by members:

C Appleby asked how long the smoke detectors last and noted that some detectors cannot have their battery changed.

I Markwell said the detectors the Fire Service fit last 10 years and the battery cannot be changed. The detector would beep when the battery needed changing. It is recommended that the detectors are regularly tested.

T Coley asked if the Fire Service would start to issue Carbon Dioxide detectors too.

I Markwell said this had been looked at in the past and it was too expensive.

T Coley recommended it was looked at again as the cost of them had fallen dramatically.

Councillor Guest asked if the work of ASDAN was specific to young people involved in Arson.

I Markwell said it was for any disaffected young person on the fringe of ASB, and wasn't just for Arson.

K Steen raised concerns of the level of drug use in Hemel Hempstead.

M Pryce reassured the group that drugs were serious and the Police did respond to any problems. He noted that the crime figures were low and it was not a problem across the whole of Hemel Hempstead. He suggested that if anyone had concerns for their areas, to contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team who would follow it up.

R Tindall explained how invaluable it was to receive intelligence from the community. There was a great deal of trust involved with this in that they feel able to talk to their PCSO. He congratulated DBC and the Neighbourhood Action groups for their great work.

Councillor Harden noted that the launch of Street Champions was working well with the community and the Police to gather intelligence.

4. Police & Crime Commissioners

D Moore explained that the Police & Crime Commissioners election would be held on 15 November 2012.

Commissioners will assume their legal responsibilities on Thursday 22nd November 2012, seven days after the election. Until that time Hertfordshire Police Authority will be operational.

Police and Crime Panels will hold the PCC to account on behalf of the public. The PCC is expected to play a role in wider community safety and criminal justice issues, beyond policing.

He explained that currently HCC received funding from the Home Office and distributed it to the partnership. However as of April 2013, the Police Commissioner would be allocating funding directly to the partnerships.

R Tindall added that further guidance was due from the Home Office as to the future arrangements. With regards to the Election, the Chief Executive of Broxbourne Council would be the Returning Officer and a dossier had been produced to give to all candidates to provide further guidance.

5. Funding Update

D Moore noted that a table illustrating funding levels would be distributed with the minutes.

DM/MA

He explained that in 2010/11 £100,000 funding was received by the partnership, this fell to £68,000 in 2011/12 and £34,000 in 2012/13. Funds must therefore be spent carefully. Bids for funding up to £1,500 would be discussed by the Joint Agency Group (JAG) and anything above £1,500 would go to the Responsible Authorities Group.

Last year's budget was used for things such as Arson posters, knife crime awareness, youth support teams, letterbox guards, Youth Connexions and adventure playgrounds.

Councillor Harden explained that the reduction in funding meant that the allocation of funding to partnership work must be more strategic.

6. Part Night Lighting

R Tindall explained that the recent move to switch lights off in the area between midnight and 6am. This would save £1.3mil at HCC and would help towards funding other programmes such as for Elderly Care.

With regards to the concerns raised by the community, the Chief Constable had noted that there had been no evidence of crime as a result of part night street lighting. This scheme would be reviewed and relevant statistics would be produced.

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe explained that the Police OSC survey was very specific and split between crime that definitely happened between midnight and 6am and crime which may happen between those hours. She was aware that this scheme had caused some disquiet amongst residents however some gave sympathy once they had discussed it and had been reassured. The scheme would be reviewed in Summer 2013.

R Tindall added that HCC had given commitment that the lights would go back on if a strong case was made and if there was evidence to support it.

7. Closing Comments

Councillor Harden said this had been an excellent & positive year for the Partnership, with the performance figures reflecting this. He is aware of the concerns for the following year and how these great statistics needed to be maintained. This shows the Partnership working well and proving to be a success.

8. Dates of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd October 2012.

The meeting ended at 9.17pm.

Issued by Michelle Anderson
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2011/12UPDATE ON ACTIVITY SUPPORTING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

DACORUM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

PRIORITY 1

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & CRIMINAL DAMAGE

ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	TARGET	TIMESCALE	UPDATE
Recruit Family Intervention Programme Worker to implement FIP Programme	DBC	Worker to be in post by end of 2011/12 – Aim to reduce involvement of families with agencies	Project is ongoing	Worker in post 1/3/12
Instigate Joint Agency activity over Halloween period	Herts Police/DBC	Reduce levels of ASB over this period	Pre-Halloween to November 5 th 2012	120 young people spoken to – 35 litres of alcohol seized
Effective use of Community payback scheme	Probation	To reduce reoffending	Ongoing	12,000 hrs. unpaid work carried out in reporting year – Tasking carried out by JAG
Provide Twilight sessions at Adventure Playgrounds	DBC	To provide activities to reduce ASB	July- Sept	Events carried out ASB down by 20% across Borough
Develop closer working between DBC CCTV & Herts Police	Herts Police/DBC CCTV	To improve working arrangements	Ongoing	Direct tasking of CCTV now available to Police – 461 arrests attributable to CCTV
Support Programme of Drive Safely Events across Dacorum Schools	HFRS/Druglink/HCC/Herts Police	To instil safe driving habits in pre 17 yr. olds	May – October 2011	3 schools involved – All Dacorum Schools to be included in 2012-13

PRIORITY 2

DWELLING BURGLARY

ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	TARGET	TIMESCALE	UPDATE
Support Community Action Days	DBC	Hold 2 Visual Audit Multi Agency events	During 2011-12	Due to logistic issues , only 1 event held - Op Tip Stop May 2011 – Visual Audit combined with vehicle checks
Provide Crime Prevention Advice	Herts Police	Provide CP Advice across borough	During 2011-12	Seasonal thematic messages throughout year – also specific issues e.g. advice to Asian community re theft of jewellery
Support locally based Burglary Initiatives	Herts Police	Use technical means to prevent detect burglary	During 2011-12	Deployable CCTV Camera funded by CSP and managed by police linking to DBC CCTV Control room
Target Second hand outlets	Herts Police/Trading Standards	Visit second hand outlets to prevent disposal of stolen property to raise awareness of preventing criminals disposing of stolen property	During 2011-12	Second hand outlets visited during year as planned.
Joint Working between	HFRS/Herts Police	To highlight services	During 2011-12	Programme initiated

Police & Fire Services		available around fire prevention and crime prevention/home security		focusing on elderly & vulnerable – smoke detectors and security measures fitted to homes
Provide Burglary advice to families of Indian sub continent origin	Herts Police	To focus on targeted families in response to a specific issue	During 2011-12	Specific leaflets designed and circulated – advice also provided by Police hate Crime officer

PRIORITY 3

ALCOHOL MISUSE

ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	TARGET	TIMESCALE	UPDATE
Instigate Joint Agency activity over Halloween period	Herts Police/DBC	Reduce levels of ASB over this period	Pre Halloween to November 5 th 2012	120 young people spoken to – 35 litres of alcohol seized
Support Programme of Drive Safely Events across Dacorum Schools	HFRS/Druglink/HCC/Herts Police	To raise awareness of pre driving age children re safe driving/dangers of driving whilst under influence of alcohol/drugs and effects of road crashes	During 2011-12	Programme delivered to 3 schools- to be extended to all schools in 2012-13
Support Alcohol Diversion Scheme	Druglink/Herts Police	To deal with offenders referred from police	Ongoing	Service effectively provided by Druglink
Support facilities for street/problem drinkers	Druglink/DENS	To provide temporary accommodation for homeless with alcohol/substance misuse/mental health issues	Ongoing	Temporary accommodation provided by both organisations during year with aim of reducing substance dependence
Support for Homeless and Vulnerable	Druglink/DENS	As above	Ongoing	As above
Support Alcohol Awareness month	Hertsreach/Druglink/HCC	Hold two events in Marlowes	June 2011	Events staged in Marlowes, 24 th & 30 th June 2011

PRIORITY 4

DRUG MISUSE

ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	TARGET	TIMESCALE	UPDATE
Maintain Programme of Substance Training across Dacorum Schools	Druglink	To provide awareness training to teachers students and staff across Dacorum Secondary Schools	2011-12	All schools visited with programme delivered to over 2000 students
Support Programme of Drive Safely Events across Dacorum Schools	HFRS/Druglink/HCC/Herts Police	To raise awareness of pre driving age children re safe driving/dangers of driving whilst under influence of alcohol/drugs and effects of road crashes	During 2011-12	Programme delivered to 3 schools- to be extended to all schools in 2012-13
Support for Homeless and Vulnerable	Druglink/DENS	To provide temporary accommodation for homeless with alcohol/substance misuse/mental health issues	2011-12	Temporary accommodation provided by both organisations during year with aim of reducing substance dependence

PRIORITY 5

REASSURANCE

ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	TARGET	TIMESCALE	UPDATE
Initiate a programme to tackle Disability Hate Crime	DBC/Herts Police/MENCAP	In response to an identified issue of people with disabilities being targeted for both ASB and crime to develop a programme of prevention, awareness and enforcement	2012-13	Funding obtained for programme – promotional materials obtained.
Support & Develop a Street Pastors Scheme	Hemel Churches Together/Herts Police/DBC	To provide a pastoral/counselling/reassurance measure for those utilising the night time economy	2012-13	Scheme now being developed for implementation in 2012 – funding provided by CSP
Support positive media messages	CSP/HertsPolice/HFRS	To counter negative crime stories	Ongoing	Regular items provided for local media though DBC and Herts Police Comms Teams
Provide Fire safety Advice	HFRS	To raise awareness of causes of fires	Ongoing	Arson Posters , Christmas Fire Safety Messages, Hot oil Demonstrator
Provide reassurance messages around sexual assaults	Herts Police	In response to a specific issue to provide positive reassurance	Summer 2011	Positive messages provided to local media
Support No Cold	Trading Standards/Herts	Provide support to local	July 2011	Funding provided by

Calling Zone, Northchurch	Police/CSP	community to counter cold calling sales		CSP to purchase necessary signs and CP advice provided
Provide support to the Business sector	DBAC/Herts Police/CSP	To promote joint working between CSP partners and business sector	Ongoing	Formal arrangements between DBAC and CSP regularised
Provide detailed statistics to key stakeholders	DBC CSP Coordinator	To provide awareness of actual levels of ASB and Crime in the Borough	Ongoing	Since August 2011, detailed breakdown of priority figures provided at ward level to CSP Partners, County & Borough Councillors, Town and Parish Councillors. Now extended to NAGs also.

PRIORITY 6

YOUTH RELATED CRIME & DISORDER

ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	TARGET	TIMESCALE	UPDATE
Instigate Joint Agency activity over Halloween period	Herts Police/DBC	Reduce levels of ASB over this period	Pre Halloween to November 5 th 2012	120 young people spoken to – 35 litres of alcohol seized
Provide Support to Global Rock Challenge	Global Rock Challenge	Divert young people from Substance Misuse & Crime & Disorder	2011-12	Funding provided and events held to which all schools invited to attend – good uptake from Dacorum.
Provide Support to Life Skills Course	Herts Fire & Rescue	Divert young people from Crime & Disorder	Ongoing	Courses run throughout year
Develop initiatives to tackle knife crime and gang culture	DBC/Crimestoppers/Herts Police	To increase awareness of dangers of carrying /using knives	Ongoing	3 secondary schools visited by Crimestoppers; Knife Crime workshop held with audience made up of targeted young offenders along with self selecting young people from local schools
Support Programme of Drive Safely Events across Dacorum Schools	HFRS/Druglink/HCC/Herts Police	To raise awareness of pre driving age children re safe driving/dangers of driving whilst under	During 2011-12	Programme delivered to 3 schools- to be extended to all schools in 2012-13

		influence of alcohol/drugs and effects of road crashes		
Support Diversionary Activity Events	HCC Youth Connexions/DBC	To provide activities to divert young people away from ASB/Crime	June – November 2011	Various events held at various venues
Support young people in dysfunctional families	DBC/Herts Police/HCC Targeted Youth Support/Youth Connexions	To provide support and activities for affected young people	Ongoing	FIP Worker in post; ASB team work closely with TYST and Police; Adventure Playgrounds contribute to this. Activities provided by Connexions & DBC
Provide support to Adventure Playgrounds (APGs)	DBC APGs	Provide support to APGs to maintain their service delivery of activities for young people	Feb – March 2012	Funding provided by CSP for structural renovations