

## Crime and Disorder Partnerships Beacon Case Study

**Authority Name:** Teignbridge District Council

### Overview of Authority

Teignbridge is a mainly rural district in South Devon, with a population of 121,000. For total recorded crime the District remains consistently lower than the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary average and was the safest in our Home Office Family Group of 39 similar CDRPs for 2002/3. Our vision is *'to make Teignbridge an even safer place to be'* by striving to maintain low crime rates and address the communities concern about crime.

The decision to make an application for Beacon status as a CDRP was driven by the belief that the agencies and individuals involved in our partnership deserved recognition for their efforts, and this could only strengthen future work. Every effort was made to involve partners in the application process from the original application to panel presentations.

The partnership working demonstrated by the CDRP was also recognised as a key area of strength in our recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment and contributed to us being rated as a 'good' Authority.

### What has been achieved?

Teignbridge District Council has been described by the Advisory Panel on Beacon Councils as a shining example of what can be achieved within a small authority. As one of only 2 District Councils successful in gaining Crime and Disorder Partnership Beacon status, we are proud that our innovative approaches to partnership working make a little go a long way.

The projects chosen to demonstrate our approach, which we believe others would benefit from learning about, have made every effort to engage the community in their own language to either direct our future work or disseminate information.

**The Cultural Audit** – working alongside volunteers from the community, South Hams District Council and IODA Consultancy we engaged with 320 black and minority ethnic residents in their language of choice to gain an understanding of issues that affect their quality of life.

**Drugs Peer Education Project** – a peer education approach to alcohol and drugs education that joined with South Dartmoor Community College and the Youth Service which trained 12 young people to deliver sessions to 250 others on the impacts of drugs and alcohol.

**StonerLemmings.com** – the website development pushed the boundaries of partnership working by enlisting the services of Kikass, a small London based charity who engaged local young people to devise fresh solutions to communicating drugs and alcohol information. The 30,000 visits to the game and drugs sheets have delivered real information as well as being fun to use. Plans are underway to develop it even further.

**Community Mediation** - the mediator assists the community to resolve conflict by encouraging the stakeholders to sit around the same table and take a problem solving approach to tackle the issues that the community is experiencing.

**Community Safety Questionnaire** – developed to ensure the partnership is aware of the priorities of the community, assist evaluation and focus future action.

### Service Delivery Tips

The projects which we intend to showcase over the Beacon year clearly demonstrate how the future direction of the Partnership is built around the needs and aspirations of our community, using innovative techniques not only to consult but also genuinely engage hard to reach sections of our community.

For a CDRP which has low crime rates and relatively small budgets, we utilise partnership working to open up opportunities, which if we tried to address on our own we would fail. This has included teaming up with our neighbouring CDRP, South Hams on several occasions as well as looking to external service providers such as IODA, Kickass and the Youth Service for specialist skills.

In projects such as the Cultural Audit and Stonerlemmings.com, engaging volunteers from the community in the design and completion of the work, has been essential in creating an effective project, which has shown real outcomes. We have only been able to achieve our outcomes by talking to people in their own language. The Cultural Audit was undertaken by a company with employees who could speak to people from Black and minority ethnic communities in their own homes, in their language of choice. Stonerlemmings.com was developed with local young people, for young people and therefore uses language, which would not normally be used by a district council or partner agencies.

The use of young peer educators for drugs and alcohol education and the Community Mediator for neighbourhood issues have produced better results than the traditional approach by partner agencies.

### Learning Activities

The Teignbridge Open Day is being held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at the Langstone Cliff Hotel, Dawlish, South Devon. The open day will be our opportunity to showcase our 5 projects, whilst setting the scene of how we utilise partnership working to direct our vision, tackle crime and concern about crime.

### Authority Contact details:

Lynn McElheron

Phone: 01626 215168

Email: [lmcelheron@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:lmcelheron@teignbridge.gov.uk)