

Crime and Disorder Partnerships Beacon Case Study

Authority Names: West Sussex County Council, Sussex Police, Adur, Arun, Chichester, Horsham and Mid-Sussex District Councils, Worthing and Crawley borough councils

Overview of the authorities

In West Sussex we have developed a strong, flexible and successful model of partnership working (the West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership - WSSCSP) that brings together principal local authorities, the Police, YOT, the DAAT and other key stakeholders within a single, voluntary framework. This creates an environment that nurtures partnership working, encourages innovation, shares good practice and delivers safer communities.

The main focus is on enabling action to achieve outcomes that are more easily achieved at the county level but the model allows issues to be tackled effectively at both the strategic level and at district/CDRP level or levels in between as appropriate.

Our partnership has been a crucial vehicle for achieving safer communities across West Sussex. Key outcomes have been achieved in all parts of the county and two district areas (Horsham and Chichester) are among the ten most safe in the South East, itself now the safest region in the country.

What has been achieved?

The partnership has facilitated culture and behavioural change within our organisations as community safety priorities have been "mainstreamed". E.g. the Sussex Police Force Review included a change in BCU/district structure to make them coterminous with district-based CDRPs in order to facilitate better partnership working and more direct local accountability.

The countywide framework provides an umbrella for working across district/CDRP boundaries. The "go4it" project, funded by three CDRPs and Sussex Police, supported by a wide range of other partners from the statutory and voluntary sectors, works with young people to divert them from crime to driver education and mechanical training.

The strength of partnership working has enabled partners to overcome obstacles to joint working and create positive relationships e.g. between the DAAT and the CDRPs. The framework engenders an environment where innovation is encouraged: Operation Crackdown includes exchanging power and responsibility between agencies and using technology to deliver faster removal of abandoned vehicles.

Sophisticated pooled budgets enable services to be set up and delivered on a countywide basis e.g. the West Sussex Domestic Violence Development Team which has:

- Raised awareness and understanding by training over 1,500 professionals from a wide range of partner agencies
- Supported local development of new or improved services such as drop-in centres which last year helped approximately 250 victims of domestic violence

There has been a real improvement in terms of community safety

- Horsham achieved the largest reduction in crime anywhere in the South East in 2002/03

- For the year to the end of June 2003, "all crime" had fallen for the County as a whole and in five of the seven districts when compared with the year to June 2002
- Vehicle crime had reduced in six of the seven districts in the year to June 2003 when compared with the previous year
- Robbery crimes had reduced or stayed the same in five of the seven districts in the year to June 2003.

Service Delivery Tips

Key messages:-

- The importance of strategic partnership working which is focussed on supporting delivery and CDRPs;
- The ethos of WSSCSP, includes subsidiarity, existence by consent, the County Council taking a facilitative and enabling role, the recognition of commonality as well as difference;
- Leadership and positive engagement is vital;
- The model supports stronger and weaker partnerships alike;
- Joining up resources and activity at the most appropriate level makes things happen;
- The importance of good quality data about needs and the sharing of information;

The Partnership formed a Crime and Disorder Data Group to ensure that information is timely, accurate and shared. The Group has developed an innovative and nationally recognised project, CADDIE (the Crime and Disorder Data Information Exchange) using GIS techniques to plot and analyse overlaid data sets from various agencies. This allows targets and focused actions to be identified which deliver key strategic objectives for improving community safety. Budgets, working practice and protocols are shared across the county as part of this project and now with agencies in East Sussex and Brighton too.

The firm foundation given to the Strategies means there is a very high degree of commitment to them and to achieving outcomes. There is a clear Executive Member lead in each of the local authorities. Both Sussex Police and the Police Authority are positively engaged at senior level.

Local communities have been widely involved in developing, implementing and evaluating key projects e.g. the DAAT and CDRP's have worked together to develop community grants called 'Innovations Funds' which can be accessed by resident and community groups quickly and easily where their actions aim to help communities resist the infiltration of drugs. Projects financed include parent support groups, sports activities.

Learning Activities

Open Day, date to follow, will centre around key theme of voluntary partnership with a focus on delivery, subsidiarity, the importance of high quality data and information sharing (CADDIE), leadership, positive corporate engagement and pooled resources. The Open Day will be followed by a series of smaller seminars showcasing particular outcomes.

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