

New Forest Community Newsletter

News from the New Forest Community Safety Partnership



May 2006

Working together for a safer community

Welcome to the second edition of the New Forest Community Newsletter. The new financial year is well underway and a host of agencies which make up the New Forest Community Safety Partnership are already planning and embarking on new community initiatives, designed to make our area a safer place to live and work. Keep reading for more information on projects we have launched and funded in the New Forest over the past 12 months.

Reducing drug related crime

Steps to reduce drug related crime in the New Forest are continuing as part of a government drive.

The Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) is commissioned by the Hampshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). Thanks to more than £11,000 worth of funding from the Community Safety Partnership last year, a DIP service continued to operate in this area.

The programme consists of three strands, the first to case manage drug users who are contacted in police cells, when attending court, in custody or on bail. An individual is offered a range of services such as one-to-one work, relapse prevention, assessment and advice.

The second strand focuses on working in partnership with Hampshire Probation Service to assist Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) or Drug Treatment Testing Order (DTTO) clients and ensure that requirements of an order laid down by the courts are delivered.

The final strand is an information and referral service which offers a 24 hours a day, seven days a week helpline for anyone wishing to use the service. The DIP is managed by Cranstoun Drug Services who can be contacted on (023) 80 650308.



Troublesome teens

Parents of teenagers in trouble with the law have been learning about ways in which to communicate with their children.

With £10,000 worth of funding from the Community Safety Partnership, Wessex Youth Offending Team (YOT) has continued providing a programme of eight sessions, teaching parents in the New Forest about dealing with their sons and daughters.

The courses, which are led by a Parent Support Coordinator, concentrate on the positive aspects of family life, what causes children and parents to behave in certain ways, listening and communicating effectively, being an authoritative parent and where to go for help when needed. The courses have proved extremely popular and parents can attend voluntarily or may be ordered to attend by the courts. Everyone is welcome.

The organisation works with young people between the ages of ten and 17 who are in conflict with the law. This amounts to approximately 500 young people in the New Forest every year (less than three per cent of the juvenile population). For more information contact Helen Hills, Wessex Youth Offending Team, 33 Selborne Avenue, Harefield, Southampton or ring (023) 80463336.

The New Forest Community Safety Partnership includes representatives from: Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, Social Services, National Probation Service, Wessex Youth Offending Team (YOT), Forestry Commission, New Forest Magistrates Court, Hampshire Police Authority, South West Hampshire Primary Care Trust, Government Office of the South East, Hampshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Community First New Forest, Connexions and health chiefs. The aim of the partnership is to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol crime, domestic violence, criminal damage and reduce the fear of crime.

The New Forest Community newsletter is compiled by New Forest Partnership media officer Gaetana Prassede. The publication is sent out to parish councils and community websites across the New Forest. For more information phone 023 8060 4730.

Summer sports in the parks

Every summer, New Forest organisation, The Handy Trust, works in partnership with Families Matter to provide free sports, arts and crafts for two hours a day in local parks throughout the summer holidays.



The sessions end with a celebratory trip to Thorpe Park. The Handy Trust forms part of the Hythe and Dibden Youth Trust, covering the Hythe, Netley View and Marchwood areas and its summer sports project is open to young people of all backgrounds.

In 2005 the New Forest Community Safety Partnership approved a £2,000 grant to help the organisation deliver its summer sports programme, which was attended by more than 1,000 children during the five week summer break. The project was hugely successful, providing a safe and happy environment where children could enjoy a range of activities and make a positive contribution.

The Handy Trust is a voluntary organisation and established in 1999 after police, council and community representatives recognised the need for adequate youth provision across the Waterside. The trust is serviced by three staff, one full time and two part time workers, who regularly work in partnership with other local agencies. They provide advice and guidance, activities and respond to the needs of young people.



Want to be considered for funding?

Funding for forthcoming community safety projects was allocated and agreed in February.

However there is £13,000 of Small Projects Fund money available to community based projects. Initiatives have to deliver the Community Safety Strategy, which can be accessed from the New Forest District Council website (www.nfdc.gov.uk) or contact Community Safety Coordinator, Stephanie Sutton, on (023) 80285148 for more information.

Teaching young people about the consequences of ASB

New Forest schoolchildren have been learning about the consequences of arson and anti-social behaviour.

The Community Safety partnership provided funding for a 36-hour "999 Camp" at Ferny Crofts Activity Centre near Beaulieu, in which 12 pupils from Arnewood School, New Milton, took part.

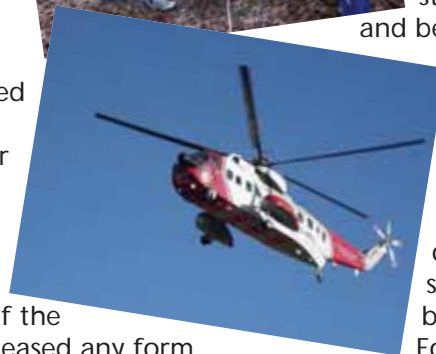
The students worked in groups with members of Hampshire Police, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, HM Coastguard and Hampshire Ambulance in team building exercises including raft building, tent building and wall climbing.

The final exercise saw pupils presented with a mock emergency situation and asked to respond and deal with it. 999 Camp followed on from a series of "Life" courses held by the fire service during 2005, which taught

New Forest teenagers, from a variety of offending backgrounds, about the consequences of arson.

All students attending "Life" were recommended due to their criminal behaviour and lack of respect for their communities. Findings revealed that 68 per cent of the pupils attending ceased any form of criminal or anti-social behaviour. There was a 75 per cent reduction in reported arson in areas focused upon throughout the project.

Three students who had been formally excluded from school



apologised and asked to go back. Parents, carers, teachers and professionals reported a significant and profound impact on student's attitudes and behaviour as a

direct result of both "Life" and "999 Camp" projects.

An application for £30,000 worth of funding for similar projects to be held in the New Forest over the

coming months was recently approved by the partnership. "999 Live", will educate groups of young people (aged 10-16) from across the New Forest, on a five day course at Hardley Fire Station.

Hard hitting campaign warns of binge drinking dangers

Teenagers and young women have been taught about the dangers of binge drinking and serious sexual assault.

A Community Safety Partnership campaign launched in December last year to highlight the issue.

Studies conducted by Hampshire Constabulary revealed that New Forest females, aged 11-20, were more likely to be raped by someone they know than a stranger after drinking excessively, particularly during the festive season.

Eye-catching posters and double sided beer mats, carrying the Southampton rape crisis line number, were placed in pubs and bars across the Forest to target women in their late teens and early 20s.

Posters were also displayed in youth clubs, schools, colleges and sent to doctor's surgeries, warning women of the risks and raising awareness.

The initiative was supported by a ten-day radio advertising campaign on commercial radio station, Power FM. The radio campaign involved New Forest Community Safety Partnership teaming up with neighbouring safety partnerships from Southampton, Portsmouth, Gosport, Havant and Eastleigh, to deliver a strong "drink safe" message across the air.



Beating the burglars

Winter months not only bring the cold weather, but traditionally a rise in burglaries.

Opportunistic thieves often rely on houses left in darkness during late afternoons before householders return from work.

With that in mind, partnership funding helped pay for 10,000 free, property marking packs, produced and distributed to houses in parts of New Milton, Barton-on-Sea, Lymington, Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Sandleheath.

Designed to beat the burglar, the packages contained ultra violet property marking pens to enable homeowners to identify their valuables. In the event of a theft, property can be easily recognised and returned to its rightful owner when marked with post code and house number. Packs were also sent to all police stations across the New Forest and residents were invited to call in and collect one. This was a police-led initiative.

Helping victims of burglary

Hampshire Bobby Trust runs a practical service providing home security and peace of mind to elderly and vulnerable victims of burglary.

Burglary can be a devastating experience causing upset and distress to homeowners. The Bobby Trust operates in partnership with Hampshire Police, receiving referrals from across the county.

At the earliest opportunity a burglary victim will receive a visit from a trained fitter who carries out a crime prevention survey, fitting appropriate locks, spy-holes and door chains where practical, and fixing any damage caused through a break-in.

The aim is to restore victim's confidence and enable them to continue living independently. The number of visits conducted each month is determined by the level of incidents.

Fortunately the New Forest continues to be a safe place to live and work and burglary rates are low. Last financial year the partnership allocated £6,000 worth of funding to the organisation.

Hythe Skate Park

In the last financial year the New Forest Community Safety Partnership has allocated £6,400 to help partner agencies establish a new skate park provision in Hythe.

The previous skatepark in the town was used for six years but had come to the end of its lifespan. Plans are now underway to raise enough money to deliver new equipment and enable young people of the Waterside to benefit.



No Cold Calling Zone

A year-long campaign designed to highlight and educate residents about bogus doorstep traders and cold callers, launched in the New Forest last month.

In a Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire County Council Trading Standards initiative, Wavendon Avenue and Hengistbury Road (Barton-on-Sea) were picked to pilot the county's first No Cold Calling Zone.

The scheme was launched at New Milton town hall on March 20 and has attracted widespread support.

Large lamppost signs have been put up in both roads telling cold callers that they are entering an exclusion zone.

Any doorstep traders visiting residents within the exclusion zone can expect to be contacted by either police or Trading Standards.

Night shelter for young people

Before 2003, young people facing the prospect of sleeping rough or homelessness would be referred to shelters in Southampton or Bournemouth.

Local advice agencies can now refer young clients to Nightstop, a team of trained and approved volunteer households and drivers across the New Forest. Young people are risk assessed and if suitable, are able to stay, free of charge in the spare bedroom of a Nightstop household for between one and five nights, while a housing advisor is working on their case.

Any young people showing signs of drug, alcohol abuse or violent behaviour are not able to use Nightstop. Cases are brought to a multi-agency, 16+ accommodation panel which meets fortnightly to allocate a limited number of places according to need.

Nearly £4,000 worth of funding from the New Forest Community safety Partnership in 2005 has enabled Community First New Forest to continue providing help and support to young people through its Nightstop service.

Tackling trouble

A cost effective way of local pubs addressing anti-social behaviour, has launched in New Milton.

The safety partnership has allocated £900 to a "Pager Link" initiative, which incorporates the 26 pubs in the town and surrounding villages currently involved in the Pubwatch scheme.

Hampshire Constabulary and nine of the 26 pubs have made a contribution towards a pager. If an incident occurs at a Pubwatch location, then a message can be sent to all the pagers telling bar staff about an incident or alerting them to an individual or group.

It is then the responsibility for pager holders to telephone two other pubs in the Pubwatch group to pass on the message. Those without pagers can also ring into a unique number, which sends out a message to all those with devices.

The pager link was used within the first week of it launching and is already proving to be an extremely useful tool.

The town's Pubwatch initiative has been operational for more than a year and has led to the banning of 20 individuals from the 26 licensed premises signed up to the scheme. Incidents of public order and anti-social behaviour have greatly reduced as a result of pubs and police working together in a proactive way. Anyone barred under the scheme as a result of their behaviour is banned from entering any of the licensed premises in the scheme for a minimum of 12 months.

The role of the crime analyst

The partnership not only allocates funding to enable vital community projects, but also contributes cash to help fund partnership posts.

One of these roles is the partnership's crime analyst. As a police trained intelligence analyst, James Farr informs partner organisations of the times, locations and people subject to anti-social or unacceptable behaviour.

Multi-agency meetings are held regularly, with James presenting his findings to the police, Accredited Community Support Officers (ACSO) and the council.

From this information, the partnership agencies are able to act or develop strategies to prevent anti-social behaviour and reduce crime.

James also works closely with police intelligence analysts to analyse data and produce reports to inform senior officers of the current levels of crime in the New Forest. He is then able to make recommendations for the future.