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Welcome to the latest edition of the Safer and Stronger Partnership Newsletter. In this issue we focus on the current Partnership priorities and a round-up on what's happening locally. If you have any news that you would like to share please contact Karen Robinson. Telephone 01934 426752 or email [karen.robinson@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:karen.robinson@n-somerset.gov.uk)

### New challenges for the Safer & Stronger Partnership

In a changing landscape, partnership working is more important than ever to ensure that we build on our successes and continue to achieve community safety outcomes with communities in North Somerset.

Below, we look at some of the key changes, the risks and opportunities and consider some of the ways the Safer & Stronger Partnership is looking to the future.

At a national level, some of the main changes impacting on the Safer & Stronger agenda include:

- The Home Office has set out a new approach to fighting crime:  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/new-approach-fighting-crime>
- There is a plan to introduce an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in every Police Force area in May 2012. Draft guidance on the role of the PCC has recently been published by the Home Office:  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/police-commissioners-protocol>

There are plans to change health services too, with a white paper setting out a long-term vision for public health in England and on-going consultation about changes to the NHS.

### New expectations

Alongside these planned changes, there are new and greater expectations of Community Safety Partnerships. In April 2010, the statutory responsibilities of Partnerships were increased to include reducing re-offending. There is a national Violence Against Women and Girls plan and a consultation has just been completed by the Home Office on proposed changes to powers and responsibilities in relation to anti-social behaviour. Community Safety Partnerships also have new responsibilities in relation to domestic homicide reviews.

Recovery is now at the heart of expectations of drug treatment services, with expected outcomes set out in the new national drug strategy.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-drugs/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010>

## Budget challenges

Dealing with the issues which matter to local people and meeting national expectations is all to be achieved within fewer resources. The Home Office has announced significant cuts to Partnership funding in 2011/12 and further cuts in 2012/13. It is also proposed that Police and Crime Commissioners will be the main budget holders in their areas rather than Community Safety Partnerships.

## How we're preparing

The Safer & Stronger Partnership has identified a small number of clear priorities – ones which matter to local people, where partnership working can make most difference and which meet national expectations. These are:

- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing domestic abuse
- Preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour
- Drugs and alcohol – recovery

We're building on our successes and focusing on key gaps in service which we know will make the biggest difference – better assessing risk and supporting victims of anti-social behaviour, looking for ways to work with domestic abuse perpetrators to change their behaviour. We will need to explore ways we can work differently together to achieve results.

One of the most pressing challenges is changes which will begin to take effect in 2012. We need to 'mind the gap' as budgets are proposed to transfer to Police and Crime Commissioners before new arrangements are in place. We need to make sure that there is no loss of momentum in achieving community safety priorities in North Somerset.



All of this makes working together more important than ever. For more information please contact Jo Mercer, CSDAT Manager. Telephone: 01934 42 6880 or email [jo.mercer@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jo.mercer@n-somerset.gov.uk).

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## North Somerset Stroke Service

The service which covers the whole of North Somerset, meeting the needs of Stroke Survivors in the community, which is funded for a three year period, has now changed direction for the final year, in a hope that sustainability of key community services can be established and maintained by stroke survivors themselves.

As from 1 April 2011, Weston Active Stroke and Heart Ltd, a social enterprise organisation, will be delivering some of the services currently in place along with a new communication project in conjunction with Frenchay and Weston Hospital to local stroke survivors. In addition, the Stroke Association will be producing a local stroke services directory and undertaking stroke education sessions for community groups.

For more information contact the link officer: Heather Whittle 01934 529321 or email [heather.whittle@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:heather.whittle@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## New Anti-Social Behaviour MARAC

Anti-social behaviour not only affects the lives of individuals, it can also have a detrimental effect on the communities in which we live. Anti-social acts such as graffiti or incidents of vandalism result in visible scars on an area, which in turn, have an adverse impact on the quality of life of the local community. There are also less visible forms of anti-social behaviour, such as acts of intimidation and verbal abuse, which can make life unbearable for those who are targeted.

A new initiative placing focus on the risk assessment of high risk and vulnerable victims, alongside tackling serious and persistent perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, is due to be launched in North Somerset in June 2011.

The Anti-Social Behaviour MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) will be based on the nationally-recognised best practice model currently utilised to address the risk posed in cases of domestic abuse. It has been established in order to support victims who may be at risk of suffering emotionally, psychologically and/or physically as a result of relentless and prolonged anti-social behaviour. It will also manage the risk posed by persistent perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, by establishing a multi-agency action plan to effectively deal with every aspect of their behaviour.

A victim Risk Assessment Scorecard, currently being used by the police in ASB cases, will be used by other partnership agencies that have contact with victims to assess the level of risk posed. Victims who are identified as high risk will then be referred into the MARAC process. Agencies will also be able to refer the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, where immediate intervention is required due to the seriousness of their conduct, or where previous efforts to prevent further deviant activity have proven unsuccessful.

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Natalie McLaren, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator explains,

“Sharing information through the MARAC in this new way enables agencies to make better informed decisions on how to support victims and tackle trends of anti-social behaviour.

No single agency can make victims safe, or curb ongoing anti-social behaviour, so a shared understanding is essential to make sure resources are used effectively.

While partnership agencies in North Somerset already successfully work together to address these issues, this new multi-agency case management approach provides a more thorough and comprehensive model.”

For more information with regards to the Anti-Social Behaviour MARAC, contact Natalie McLaren, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator, telephone 01934 426687 or email [natalie.mclaren@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:natalie.mclaren@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## Neighbourhood’s Team Update

We have decided to change our name from 'Neighbourhood Management' to 'The Neighbourhood’s Team'. What's in a name you may ask, well we feel the new name marks the shift from working exclusively in South Ward to our new role in Central, South and West Wards.

We have created a new facebook page to publicise events and news; to keep in touch with people; and spread the word of the neighbourhood’s team. Please take a minute to look at our page and like us!! You can do this by clicking ‘Like’ when the page comes up!!

Search for **Weston super Mare Neighbourhoods Team** in the search bar on Facebook and we should appear. Please take a minute to look at the page and let us know what you think and any suggestions you may have for it. It is early days and we are just getting to grips with the new technology but this is a good start!

Central and West Ward work is currently focused on working with residents and partners on the following issues: Parking enforcement; Housing issues; and Recycling. We meet every 2 months at the Badger Centre for the PACT (Partners and Communities Together) to tackle problems and feedback to residents on progress. All Central and West Ward residents are welcome.

We are working with a group of local residents to set up a timebanking project, enabling local people to exchange skills and services through volunteering. We hope this pilot project will encourage community spirit and increase volunteering.

South Ward work is focused on engaging residents in working with service providers, we have commenced a process of neighbourhood planning and regular meetings are held at the Healthy Living Centre. For more information please contact Sara Brown Tel: 01934 426310 or email [sara.brown@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sara.brown@n-somerset.gov.uk)

## Challenge Your Community's View of Crime



The Local Crime Community Sentence project (LCCS) is a national scheme which aims to improve public confidence in sentencing, and raise awareness of the effectiveness of community penalties. If you know of a community group or organisation with an interest in the way crime is managed, or who would just like to find out more about it, a short presentation given by staff who actually work in the criminal justice system is now available.

Each hour long presentation is delivered by a local Magistrate and a member of Probation staff at a time and place to suit the group. This means they can ask those important questions about the giving and management of community sentences. Also, through an interactive presentation they will have an opportunity to decide whether the offender goes to prison or is given a community penalty.

The presentation is free of charge and we will bring all the equipment and materials needed. We can even provide a venue if required. So don't miss this great opportunity to challenge your community's views about crime and punishment and find out some real facts about crime in your area.

For further information, to book a presentation, or nominate an interested group, please contact: Debbie Scott, LCCS Co-ordinator, Avon & Somerset Probation Trust, Central Office, Marlborough Street, Bristol, BS1 3NU, Tel: 07711 038237, Email: [debbie.scott@avon-somerset.probation.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.scott@avon-somerset.probation.gsi.gov.uk),