

Report to Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Standing Panel



Date of meeting: 7th October 2010

**Subject: Community Safety Partnership - Cross Border
Work**

Officer contact for further information: J Gilbert

Committee Secretary: A Hendry

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – CROSS BORDER WORK

Background

1. In 2009 Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership (CSP) commissioned a 5 year study into offenders responsible for serious acquisitive crime i.e. burglary, vehicle crime and robbery. The research identified that 48% of the offenders resided outside of Epping Forest District, with the majority living within 11 kilometres of the District boundary and almost exclusively within the London area. When the data for dwelling burglary was examined it was identified that 68% of the offenders resided within the London area.
2. Intelligence suggests that the shared borders with the Metropolitan Police areas and the easy access routes into the District have a specific impact on acquisitive crime in the District with many offences being committed from offenders living outside the District.
3. In view of these issues the Safer Communities Team (SCT) approached Essex County Council to consider funding a West Essex Cross Border Officer working on behalf of Epping Forest, Harlow and Brentwood CSPs. Essex County Council agreed funding for a six month temporary post to be based within the SCT in Epping. In May 2010 David Eyles was recruited to the post. David has over 30 years policing experience working at a senior level in the Metropolitan Police.
4. Sections 19 and 20 of the Police & Justice Act have given powers to the local authority to scrutinise SCPs and this report sets out the current situation regarding how the SCP is dealing with the problems of cross border criminality.

Current situation

5. A number of initiatives are underway, with the following worthy of detailed consideration:
 - (a) full participation in and the chairmanship of the East London & West Essex Vigilance co-ordinating meeting. This group consists of the Metropolitan Police and their respective CSPs working together with Essex police and local CSPs to share information, intelligence and best practice. It involves working together on issues of common concern and reducing the chances of displacement when crime reduction measures are implemented in the various areas. Consideration is being given to extending its membership to include the British Transport Police (BTP), Hertfordshire Police and East Herts and Broxbourne CSPs;
 - (b) leading, on behalf of West Essex, in developing an East London and West Essex cross border crime and disorder analytical database (software provided by Zubed). This

project is at a highly advanced stage and is currently being populated with burglary data by all partners. This will allow each partnership area to map patterns of crime and view data within all participating districts. This will allow for more accurate scanning and analysis of cross border trends, the identification of emerging issues and allow a more efficient and effective targeting of these crimes;

(c) participation in the newly formed Regional Cross Border Prolific & other Priority Offender intelligence sharing meeting. This relates to the sharing and actioning of intelligence on those Catch & Convict strand PPOs who are offending cross border. This group involves, West and South West Essex, Havering, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Newham, Tower Hamlets and will soon include East Herts and the BTP;

(d) participating in Western Division Tactical Tasking & Co-ordinating Group meetings each fortnight; and

(e) assisting with the preparation of joint Epping Forest, Brentwood and Harlow CSP and Police Strategic Assessment. This was identified as best practice at a recent DAT strategic assessment review day.

6. The above are excellent examples of the CSP actively dealing with an identified problem area. Members are encouraged to consider these, question the CSP members on progress and bring forward other areas of cross border concern.

7. David Eyles will give a short presentation on cross border issues at the commencement of this item.