

**COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION TEAM held at 12.30pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN on 28 JANUARY 2000**

Present:- Peter Sheldrake - Essex Police - Chairman.
District Councillor Mrs D Cornell.
Clive Cooper, Maggie Cox, Rachel Hutchinson, Sarah McLagan, Alex Stewart - Uttlesford District Council.
Marylin Stiles - Essex Probation Service
Peter Gowan - Essex Association of Local Councils
Leo Bishop - Essex County Council
Reverend Duncan Green - Chairman - Youth Initiatives Working Group.
Robert Chambers - Essex Police Consultative Committee

I. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Florence Cattle, Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, Mike Hillyard, Peter Pearson, Graham Seal and Chris Whitehead.

I. MINUTES

The notes of the meeting held on 26 November 1999 were agreed as a correct record.

I. KEITH IVORY

The Team recorded its thanks to Keith Ivory, the former Chief Executive of Uttlesford District Council, for the enormous contribution he made to the development of the Community Safety Action Team.

I. UPDATE ON SUB-GROUPS

(i) Community Support Group

There was concern that this group was lacking direction and achievement. At its next meeting, the group would review its past activities and plan future direction. Peter Sheldrake said that domestic violence, as identified by the Group, was an important issue in this district and the Group had to decide how best it could make a contribution. It was hoped that an independent person could be appointed to chair the Group.

(ii) Drug Reference Group

It was hoped that the Mobile Information Cafe would be up and running by April. The launch of the Essex School Drug Education Project would be taking place at the Council Offices at 4.00 pm on 16 February. The purpose of this project was to work with all schools in the district to provide continuous drug education. A joint Drug Reference Group/Drug Action Team conference would be held on 9 February 2000, aimed at the sharing of good practice between these organisations.

Peter Sheldrake confirmed that six full-time arrest referral posts had been agreed for the county, for an initial period of two years.

(iii) Youth Initiatives Working Group

Duncan Green reported on the Group's recent activities. He said that the Group functioned very well as a partnership between the various organisations. It had recently reviewed its Action Plan and hoped to link it more with the aims of the Community Safety Strategy, and was looking at initiatives that would help to access the more deprived/difficult to reach groups.

Progress was being made towards establishing a youth forum. Initially the forum would comprise pupils from the Saffron Walden County High School, Helena Romanes School, the Stansted Mountfitchet School and the Newport Free Grammar School. A residential weekend for some pupils from each school would be held in

February, to carry out preliminary work associated with setting up the forum. The forum was ultimately intended to inform the Council on youth issues.

There had been concern at recent sub-group meetings at the cutbacks in the County Council's budget for youth services in this District. This resulted in insufficient numbers of staff to run the youth centres and other activities. The County Council now appeared to be switching its resources to training the volunteer sector. The Youth Initiatives Working Group did not believe it was within its remit to subsidise what was a statutory service.

Leo Bishop understood that a report had been prepared by the County Council regarding future policy on the funding of the youth service. He would contact the appropriate officer and obtain information for the next meeting on how this would affect services in Uttlesford. He might also arrange a presentation to the next meeting, if appropriate. Robert Chambers said he would lobby the County Council at forthcoming budget meetings regarding the provision of the youth services in Uttlesford. He also suggested that Duncan Green write to the County Council, in his capacity as chairman of the Youth Initiatives Working Group.

(iv) Road Safety Working Group

Clive Cooper reported that the initial meeting of the Road Safety Working Group had been held and attended by a representative from Essex Police, the Council's Road Safety Officer, the Chairman of the Highways Sub-Committee and Council Officers. The meeting had agreed a set of aims and objectives. It had been concluded that the main reason for road traffic accidents in this district was what could be broadly classed as 'unacceptable driver behaviour'.

An initiative that could be tackled straight away was to look at driver vision, especially for the more elderly person. A police car would be placed at the Tesco stores in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow and the public would be invited to read the number plate from the required distance.

At the next meeting, Essex Police would provide up to date statistics to assist the Group in planning initiatives.

I. REVIEW OF MONITORING FORMS

The monitoring forms had been circulated to all the organisations. Most of the projects appeared to be on course. There still seemed to be difficulties in obtaining information from other organisations, in particular relating to drug issues. Clive Cooper said that Essex County Council intended to purchase a software system for data gathering. This would be able to provide each district, to post code level, with relevant information. This would assist in monitoring and measuring the effect of the team's initiatives on crime statistics. It was emphasised that in Uttlesford, the level of crime in the district made it impractical to look at trends over a one year period.

I. STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The Strategy objectives had been updated to take into account the District Audit's comments. More emphasis had been placed on how the team, as a whole, could find ways of achieving the objectives. It was intended that all the sub-groups of the team, including Neighbourhood Watch and crime panels, would be involved in meeting the objectives and given work to do.

The team were asked to submit any comment they had on the draft strategy objectives by the end of February.

I. COMMUNITY SAFETY CONFERENCE

The Group considered a draft proposal for the Community Safety Conference to be held on 8 June 2000 at the Hilton Hotel, Stansted Airport.

I. NEXT MEETING

31 March, Committee Room, Saffron Walden.

The meeting ended at 1.45 pm.