

**COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION TEAM held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 31 MARCH 2000 at 12.30  
pm.**

Present: Leo Bishop - Essex County Council Social Services -  
Chairman.  
Elizabeth Forbes, Clive Cooper, Rachel Hutchinson, Sarah  
McLagan, Alex Stewart - Uttlesford District Council  
District Councillor - Daphne Cornell  
Councillor Robert Chambers - Essex Police Consultative  
Committee  
Superintendent Peter Sheldrake - Essex Police  
Peter Gowan - Uttlesford Association of Local Councils  
Marylin Stiles - Essex Probation Service  
Christopher White - Essex County Council Social Services  
Duncan Green - Chairman Youth Initiatives Working Group  
Michelle Vogels - Drugs Reference Group

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Alan Haselhurst MP,  
Florence Cattle - North Essex Health Authority and Mike Hillyard -  
Chairman, Drug Reference Group.

**2 MINUTES**

The notes of the meeting held on 28 January 2000 were agreed as a  
correct record.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

**(i) Update on Sub-Groups**

There had been a delay in appointing the new Chairs for the Sub-  
Groups. The Responsible Authority would now be considering four  
possible applicants on 3 May. Michelle Vogels added that there was  
currently no Chair or deputy Chair for the Drug Reference Group.  
Elizabeth Forbes thanked the outgoing Chairmen for their invaluable  
contribution to the work of the Groups.

**4 WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

### **(i) Drug Reference Group**

Michelle Vogels reported on some issues that had arisen at the last meeting of the Drugs Reference Group. The Mobile Information Cafe project was to be launched on 8 June 2000 at the Community Safety Conference. The Essex Schools Drug Education Project had been launched in February and the curriculum packs would be issued to pupils once developed. Further copies of the Family Fact File had been issued to Year 7 and 8 pupils at parent evenings. A debris pick-up scheme was likely to be set up in Uttlesford. The Group had also discussed the "Braintree Football Community Link" and whether this project could work in the Uttlesford area.

Clive Cooper mentioned the software system for data gathering that was being purchased by Essex County Council. This would enable a crime and disorder profile for the District to be created and provide data against which performance could be measured. The first data would be available in May. An agreed protocol for the use of and access to the information was required and was being developed by Essex County Council.

### **(ii) Road Safety Sub-Group**

The initiative for eyesight testing had been successful, 500 people had been tested. A further issue identified by the Group was driver's universal ignorance of road signs. This might be the subject of a future campaign. The group was continuing to examine road traffic accident statistics and considering appropriate initiatives.

### **(iii) Youth Initiatives Working Group**

Duncan Green was pleased to report that the Youth Forum had now been set up, and four of its members had attended the latest meeting of the working group. The Forum was likely to be tasked with running its own budget and this might have resource implications for the Group. The Youth Service had undertaken a survey of existing youth provision in the district, and District Council officers were looking at ways of mapping this information. Visits to parish councils to discuss possible youth provision were ongoing. He also mentioned that the Group was involved in the organisation of the Festival of Music that was to be held in Thaxted Church in May.

Clive Cooper reported on recent meetings of the Stansted 2000 Project which was looking to provide facilities for young people in Stansted. Possible projects were a skateboard park at the Lower Street car park and the conversion of the Youth Club to a coffee bar. A public meeting would be held on 10 April when the young people would be presenting the proposals. The District Council had indicated that it had set aside £10,000 towards the cafe and £19,000 towards the skateboard project.

The Parish Council were donating, as yet, unspecified amounts and it was important that the Community also contributed towards this project.

#### **(iv) Community Support Group**

Alex Stewart reported that the latest meeting had received the results of the domestic violence survey. Unfortunately, there had been a very small response. The Group was currently reviewing its strategy, the involvement of the different agencies and their available resources. An application for £45,000/£55,000 funding from the Home Office was to be made.

#### **(v) Crucial Crew**

The Crucial Crew Initiative had expanded and was now almost county wide. It was becoming clear that the event was under resourced by the statutory agencies, ie the police, fire and ambulance services. There was a clear need for a centralised point of contact for information, calendar, and central booking.

### **4 NEW STRATEGY DOCUMENT**

The new document was to be in a simplified form and the targets shortened to the end of the next financial year. It would be issued to district councillors, parish councils, members of CSAT working groups, the PCGs and other interested organisations. The objectives and targets would be published in the press on the council page. It was essential that the public's awareness was raised about the issues in the Strategy.

Clive Cooper would be issuing more simplified monitoring forms.

The police were to provide more comprehensive statistics on the numbers and trends in the crime figures. Councillor Chambers asked that these be provided in a simpler form. The statistics would be incorporated into the strategy document, as and when appropriate.

### **5 CCTV PROJECT**

The bid for the CCTV cameras in Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Stansted had been successful. Permission was being sought from the Highway Authority for the cameras to be placed on poles rather than on properties, many of which were listed buildings. There were to be eight cameras in Saffron Walden, four in Stansted and five in Dunmow. The Council had also agreed funding for mobile cameras to be available in Thaxted. All Council car parks would be covered. Sarah McLagan asked whether the Council could have secure car parks status when the CCTV cameras were in place. This would need to be looked at when the cameras were up and running.

## **6 THE COMMUNITY SAFETY CONFERENCE**

The Community Safety Action Team Conference had been arranged for 8 June 2000 at the Hilton Hotel, Stansted from 9am - 3pm. The Group were given details of the suggested programme.

## **7 OTHER BUSINESS**

Rachel Hutchinson reported that the revised strategy included matters that had arisen from a joint meeting between the Crime Prevention panels, Neighbourhood Watch, parish councils and the police.

The meeting had identified two areas to be addressed by the Strategy - offences of burglary and auto crime. With auto crime, the aim was to identify the individuals/groups responsible and to arrange public campaigns regarding security measures and car theft reduction. A further meeting of the Group would be held to discuss possible initiatives to tackle burglaries. The projects would be conducted by the organisations themselves, but supported by the Community Safety Action Team.

## **8 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, 19 May 2000 at 12.30 pm.

The meeting ended at 1.40pm.

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