

Working together to reduce crime
and the fear of crime



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2008-09

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1. INTRODUCTION

Surrey Heath is one of the safest boroughs in England, with overall crime levels staying well below the national average. Generally, residents' satisfaction with the local area has risen in the last two years - from 79% to 87% - according to the Surrey Heath Borough Council 2008 Place Survey. Surrey Heath ranks third safest for overall levels of crime out of 11 boroughs in Surrey, which is the safest county in England.

The Safer Surrey Heath Partnership (SSHP) is committed to making Surrey Heath even safer - a safer place in which to live, work and go to school. The Partners are:

- Surrey Heath Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
- Surrey Police
- Surrey Police Authority
- Surrey Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Throughout 2008/09, frontline officers from all six partner agencies continued to work with representatives from associated organisations, including the voluntary sector, and with the community, to maintain and enhance the borough's reputation as one of the safest places in the country to live, work and visit.

In the year to April 2009, the Partnership contributed funds towards 27 community safety initiatives/projects, either directly or through funds allocated to the Joint Action Group (JAG) and the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG).

In March 2009, the Partnership undertook a Community Safety Survey canvassing the views of residents, businesses and young people (*see Section 3*). Its second annual Partnership Plan was published in April 2009 following an annual strategic assessment carried out during the second and third quarters of 2008/09 (*see Section 13*).

This Annual Report rounds up the key community safety activities undertaken by partners during the year to April 2009.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Overall crime reduction of 6%
- Offences down in seven out of nine crime areas
- 87% of residents satisfied with the local area
- 27 community safety projects funded
- 21.88% reduction in deliberate secondary fires
- 28,000 Community Safety Handbooks delivered to residents' homes
- Ranked Number 1 borough in the county for tackling anti-social behaviour
- 72.3% satisfaction rate amongst victims of crime
- 25% increase in outreach referrals following Domestic Abuse Awareness Week
- 26.6% decrease in vehicle crime

2. RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS 2008/09 (Surrey Police)

In the year to the end of March 2009, Surrey Heath saw an overall crime reduction of 6% to 4,203 total notifiable crimes, compared to 4,471 during 2007/08. There was a reduction in seven out of nine crime areas:

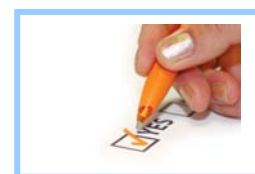
- Most serious violent crime: down by 55.6% to eight offences
- Other violent crime: down by 13.8% to 866 offences
- Robbery: down by 18.2% to nine offences
- Vehicle crime: down by 26.6% to 372 offences
- Criminal damage: down by 11.1% to 957 offences
- Hate crime: down by 6.6% to 57 offences
- Drugs offences: down by 19.2% to 168 offences

There were increases in two crimes areas:

- Dwelling burglary: up by 19.9% to 241 offences
- Non-dwelling burglary: up by 8.5% to 282 offences

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY 2009

A small scale community safety survey was carried out during February/March 2009 to provide a snapshot of the community safety priorities of those living and working in Surrey Heath. The consultation was carried out by Partnership officers using existing resources and channels of communication and comprised of three surveys – one for residents, one for young people and one for businesses. The results helped to inform the identification of community safety priorities as part of the Partnership's annual strategic assessment process for 2009/10.



We received 182 responses to our residents' community safety survey. They told us that the most important community safety concern to them at the time (March 2009) was: **household burglaries**. The neighbourhoods where this was most relevant were: Bagshot & Windlesham; Chobham, Bisley & West End; and Heatherside & Parkside. Residents' (joint) second most important community safety concerns were: **fear of crime; and criminal damage**. The neighbourhoods where fear of crime was most relevant were: Frimley & Frimley Green; Old Dean; Lightwater; St Michael's & Watchetts. The neighbourhood where criminal damage was most relevant was: Mytchett & Deepcut - however, many respondents did not give their neighbourhood.



We received 41 responses to our survey for young people. They told us that the most important community safety priority for them at the time was **fear of crime**. The neighbourhoods where this was most relevant were: Camberley Town Centre; Frimley & Frimley Green; and Mytchett & Deepcut.

We received 12 responses to our survey for businesses. They told us that the most important community safety priority for them at the time was **alcohol-related violent disorder and damage**. The neighbourhoods where this was most relevant were: Camberley Town Centre; Frimley & Frimley Green; and St Paul's. During a separate survey of delegates at Surrey Heath Borough Council's Business Breakfast in January 2009, businesses told us that the most important community safety priorities for them at that time were: **environmental issues; and speeding cars and dangerous parking**.

The findings from the surveys confirmed a strong focus for 2009/10 on:

- Reducing household burglaries
- Reducing fear of crime, particularly with regards to young people
- Tackling criminal damage

4. COMMUNITY INCIDENT ACTION GROUP (CIAG)

The Community Incident Action Group (CIAG) is a multi-agency problem-solving group, which is accountable to the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership. It seeks to divert, assist or control individuals or families in the community who have been identified as having an adverse impact on the community. Members of the group deal with problems like truancy, anti-social behaviour and prolific offenders, seeking preventative and long-term solutions to reducing crime and disorder in the borough.

Members of CIAG meet monthly to agree actions to reduce the negative impact that problem individuals and families have on the wider community through their anti-social behaviour. During 2008/09, there continued to be a reduction in the number of individuals on the CIAG agenda. At April 2009, there were five cases involving young people (aged 17 and under), two adult cases and one adult case being monitored.

The relevant agencies continue to provide interventions and support for the family unit. All individual cases are addressed appropriately using the relevant partner agencies, with the need for early diversionary activities and intervention of foremost importance. Surrey County Council Youth Development Service and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have become increasingly involved in targeted interventions, along with Surrey Heath's anti-social behaviour caseworker (funded by the Partnership from September 2008 to March 2009).

5. JOINT ACTION GROUP (JAG)

Like the Community Incident Action Group (CIAG), the Joint Action Group (JAG) is a multi-agency problem-solving group accountable to the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership. The difference is that JAG seeks to address problems in specific locations in the community, as oppose to individuals. These could include nightclubs, shopping parades or recreation grounds. The police can use JAG to discuss potential dispersal orders in problem areas to deal with anti-social behaviour.

Using the expertise that exists within the group, JAG members decide priorities, agree action plans, allocate resources and ensure there is a co-ordinated response to issues highlighted at monthly JAG meetings. Examples of issues dealt with by JAG include: residential burglary; town centres (including street drinkers, town centre disorder etc); substance misuse; domestic abuse; anti-social behaviour; and public reassurance.

During 2008/09, JAG processes were fine-tuned to ensure it functions first and foremost as a problem-solving group. As at April 2009, two issues were being monitored by JAG - nuisance behaviour in public parks, and perceptions about crime and disorder levels in Camberley Town Centre. A range of targeted interventions were implemented during 2008/09 to address issues which have been brought to JAG.

6. DRIVER BEHAVIOUR

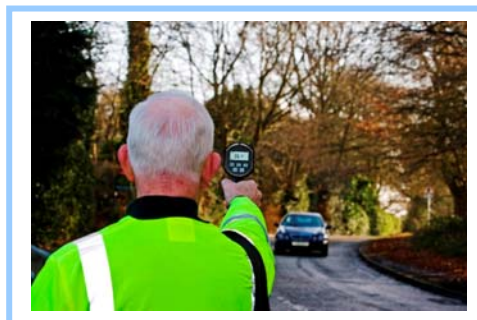
In 2008, a total of 528 people were killed or seriously injured (KSI) in Surrey. This was 10.3% less than in 2007 and 43.3% less than Surrey County Council's baseline figure of 932. The number of KSIs in Surrey Heath rose slightly from 34 in 2007/08 to 36 in 2008/09 – representing 6.82% of total KSIs in the county. The number of fatalities in Surrey Heath decreased from two in 2007/08 to one in 2008/09.

6.1 Enforcement days

During 2008/09, casualty reduction officers from Surrey Heath, Runneymede, Spelthorne, Woking and Elmbridge got together every two weeks to carry out seat belt and mobile phone enforcement days. This resulted in five enforcement days being carried out in Surrey Heath over the year.

6.2 Community Speed Watch

The resident-run Community Speed Watch scheme continued to contribute to road safety awareness in Surrey Heath during the year, with support from Surrey Police. The Safer Surrey Heath Partnership funded two radar speed guns, 20 Speed Watch reflective jackets and four Speed Watch signs. Three new Speed Watches were set up during the year and as at April 2009, there were nine Watches in Surrey Heath at: Ambleside Road, Lightwater; Sheridan Road, Frimley; Church Hill, Crawley Ridge and Crawley Hill, Camberley; Coleford Bridge Road and Hamesmoor Road, Mytchett; Whitmoor Road and Guildford Road, Bagshot.



6.3 Safe Drive, Stay Alive 2008

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service continued its award-winning driver awareness initiative for young people (www.surrey-fire.gov.uk/safedrive). A record 11,300 people attended Safe Drive, Stay Alive in 2008. Students from schools and colleges across Surrey, including Collingwood College and Tomlinscote School in Surrey Heath, signed up - as well as members of the public. A VIP day on 20 November 2008 was attended by Safe Drive, Stay Alive supporter and former Formula One World Champion, Damon Hill. Led by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, and supported by Surrey Police, South East Coast Ambulance Service, Surrey County Council, the Royal Surrey Hospital and RoadPeace, the Safe Drive, Stay Alive initiative won a Surrey County Council 'Award for Excellence' in 2008.

7. PUBLIC PLACE DISORDER

In the 'Anti-social behaviour indicators: Rolling year to 31 October 2008 (Surrey Police Strategic Support Directorate), Surrey Heath was ranked No 1 in the county for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. In fact, the county's top three performing Safer Neighbourhoods were in Surrey Heath – with Lightwater, Heatherside & Parkside, and St Paul's ranked 1, 2 and 3 out of a total of 106 Safer Neighbourhoods. The Surrey Police survey also found a 72.3% satisfaction rate among Surrey Heath residents who had been a victim of crime in the past year – the highest of any borough in the county.

7.1 CCTV

The borough's mobile CCTV camera scheme was expanded in April 2008, with Partnership funding agreed for a further six brackets and three more mobile cameras. There are currently 21 locations in the borough where a mobile CCTV camera can be deployed in response to local concerns. They are at:

- Gordon Road, Surrey Avenue, Park Street, Watchetts Road, Crabtree Recreation Ground and Townside Place, Camberley Town Centre
- Cumberland Road and Martindale Avenue, Heatherside
- The Green, Frimley Green
- Grayswood Drive and Mytchett Crossroads, Mytchett
- Windmill Fields, Windlesham
- The Square, Lightwater
- Ansell Road, Frimley High Street and Evergreen Road, Frimley
- Bagshot High Street
- Oakdene, Chobham
- West End Memorial and Rosewood Way, West End
- Bracknell Close, Old Dean

7.2 Taxi Marshals

Between May and August 2007, the Partnership funded a trial of Taxi Marshals to work in Camberley Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights. A police study undertaken during the initial pilot showed that crime and disorder in Camberley Town Centre on Friday and Saturday

nights had declined by almost 30 per cent since the introduction of Taxi Marshals. In addition, 70 per cent of people, when questioned, said they felt safer with them on duty. Due to its success, the Partnership agreed to extend start-up funding to March 2009.

7.3 Halloween Howler event

In October 2008, nuisance behaviour on Halloween night dropped by nearly 50 per cent compared to the previous year as a result of targeted intervention by community safety partners and residents. In the run-up to Halloween, police targeted individuals and areas where problems might occur. They issued 'No trick or treat' posters to the elderly and asked shop workers not to sell eggs and flour to children in the days before the event. During the evening more than 32 officers were on patrol, including 11 PCSOs, working with local shopkeepers, Trading Standards and the borough council to ensure that residents could enjoy the evening in safety. There were seven reports of criminal damage compared with 14 in 2007, and 26 calls about nuisance behaviour compared with 48 calls in the previous year. The Partnership helped to fund the event.



7.4 Anti-vandalism campaign

In response to cyclical increases in criminal damage in Surrey Heath's parks and open spaces, the Partnership funded and produced a stock of 2,000 double-sided anti-vandalism postcards in January 2009. The postcards contain two messages – one directed at victims of criminal damage encouraging reporting, and one directed at perpetrators warning of the consequences of being convicted of criminal damage. The postcards are being used on an on-going basis by Partnership officers in targeted areas.

7.5 Street Angels

With start-up funding from the Partnership, a two-year project to establish a Street Angels scheme in Surrey Heath began in October 2008. The scheme is being coordinated by Churches Together in Camberley and will see a dedicated team of volunteer Street Angels operating in teams of four in Camberley Town Centre providing on-street care and support for anyone in need on Friday nights until around 4am on Saturday mornings. The team will patrol on foot and will be in radio contact with police and emergency services. The Street Angels will be trained in a wide range of issues and skills, including personal safety, listening skills, cultural awareness, drugs and alcohol awareness, child protection and working with emergency services. The scheme is due to begin in early 2010.

7.6 Partnership van

In early 2009, the Partnership agreed to support a new Partnership liveried transit van. The van is dedicated to the local policing team and enables a more efficient response to local issues, particularly those around alcohol-based disorder. The van prominently displays the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership logo to separate it from mainstream police transport resources, and to ensure a highly visible presence around the borough.

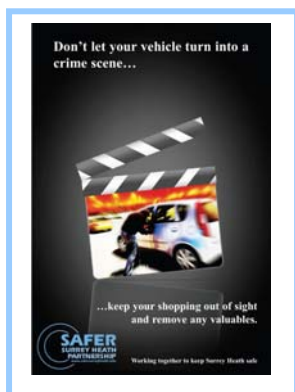
The van is available for use at community events, with an awning and table – providing a mobile police surgery for hard to reach groups within the community. It is available for all partners to use.



7.7 Neighbourhood Watch

During 2008/09, the Partnership continued to contribute funds towards the production costs of the Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch's quarterly newsletter, *HeathWatch*. The newsletter provides community safety messages to residents and provides information about community safety initiatives. The Partnership also contributed towards Neighbourhood Watch's expenses during the year.

7.8 Vehicle crime campaign



In the November and December 2008 issues of the Camberley Vue cinema magazine, *PreVue*, the Partnership ran a full-page advertisement providing a blunt reminder to cinema-goers not to leave valuables and shopping on display in their vehicles. The advert warned, "*Don't let your vehicle turn into a crime scene...keep your shopping out of sight and remove any valuables*", and depicted an attempted car break-in within a movie clapperboard. Partners supported the advertising campaign by placing car park barrier sleeves with a similar anti-theft message at Knoll Road, Camberley, and Frimley Park Hospital car parks. Officers also targeted vehicle crime hotspots during the Christmas period. Vehicle crime in Surrey Heath dropped by 26.6% between 2007/08 and 2008/09 – from 507 reported incidents to 372.

8. YOUTH PROJECTS

8.1 Heatherside youth facility project

The multi-agency Heatherside project was first launched in response to an identified need for better youth provision in the area. To fund the development of a new facility at Heatherside Recreation Ground, the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership allocated £150,000 to Surrey Heath Borough Council. Local agencies have continued to work with the community to come up with a viable and sustainable new youth facility for Heatherside residents. At its April 2009 meeting, the Partnership approved four final options for public consultation - with the fourth being to do nothing. The consultation was due to start in July 2009.

8.2 SNAP club nights

The Partnership continued to provide marketing support for the Crimestoppers themed SNAP (Say No And Phone) club nights at Camberley Theatre for young people aged 11 to 16. It produced new leaflets and flyers to promote the events during 2008/09, and there continued to be capacity audiences of 500 young people at each Friday night event.

8.3 Camberley Youth Café

During the year, the Partnership contributed towards the running costs of the Camberley Youth Café for young people aged 11 to 17 held on Friday evenings at the Good Taste Café on Camberley High Street. Average attendance remained high during the year thanks to the hard work of all those involved – Surrey County Council's Youth Development Service, Surrey Heath Borough Council community safety and development officers, the coffee shop staff and the young people themselves.

8.4 YES scheme

Four young people from Surrey Heath were among around 20 teenagers who graduated from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's highly acclaimed Youth Engagement Scheme (YES) at Farnham fire station in February and March 2009. With funding support from the Partnership, firefighters welcomed the groups of young people to the fire station for a week of hands-on learning.

The first course in West Surrey, YES involves 12 to 14 young people, aged 14-16, spending a week at Farnham Fire Station, where they experience hands-on training (in a controlled environment) about the essentials of being a firefighter. The YES scheme is aimed at young people who are considered at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and/or crime. Candidates are nominated by multi-agency groups, including Community Incident Action Groups (CIAGs). The scheme will continue to support young people from Surrey Heath during 2009/10.



8.5 Junior Citizen 2009

In February 2009, around 1,000 Year 6 pupils from 15 Surrey Heath schools learnt at first hand how to deal with emergency situations as part of a Junior Citizen course. With funding support from the Partnership, the scheme equips youngsters with knowledge that will help them to broaden their own personal safety skills and is held annually at the Basingstoke Canal Centre in Mytchett.

Junior Citizen is a multi-agency initiative organised by Surrey Police in conjunction with Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, St John's Ambulance, THUS Computers (Cable and Wireless Group) and Surrey Heath Borough Council. The services join forces to provide each school unit with half a day's tuition on subjects including Stranger Danger, fire safety, recycling, anti-social behaviour, Internet safety, first aid and water safety. In 2009, for the first time, pupils took part in a mock 999 call reconstruction. The pupils were shown a film of a road traffic collision and they then made a call to the emergency services to explain what they had just witnessed.

8.6 Youth outreach projects

During 2008/09, the Partnership contributed funds towards several outreach projects to provide diversionary activities for young people who had been excluded from school and involved in anti-social behaviour. Partnering organisations included the Army, Parents Get Lost (PGL) and Surrey County Council Youth Development Service.

9. DOMESTIC ABUSE

9.1 Sanctuary Scheme

A funding bid from Surrey Heath Borough Council and partners was agreed to maintain availability of the Surrey Heath Sanctuary Scheme initiative to support victims of domestic abuse, and help them remain in their own home. During 2008/09, the Sanctuary Scheme helped 12 families stay safe in their own home.

9.2 Outreach worker

The Partnership continued its annual grant to fund an outreach worker for Surrey Heath to help victims of domestic abuse. The Surrey Women's Aid run helpline is available for all victims of domestic abuse, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There were 221 referrals within Surrey Heath to the outreach service during 2008/09, compared to 239 in 2007/08. In the three months following Surrey Domestic Abuse Awareness Week (Oct-Dec 08) there was a 25% increase in referrals to the outreach service.

9.3 Surrey Domestic Abuse Awareness Week 2008

As well as supporting the annual Surrey Domestic Abuse Awareness Week 2008 locally with marketing, promotions and publicity, the Partnership funded the cost of new domestic abuse awareness raising posters tailored for Surrey Heath. It also funded discreet promotional items

(stress balls and stress mobile phones) featuring the domestic abuse outreach number to hand out to the public during the Week. The Partnership supported two workshops, run by Surrey Women's Aid, at Surrey Heath House for staff and local voluntary and public sector partners, which increased the diversity of the source of referrals.



10. ARSON

10.1 Arson Task Force

Partners continued to work with Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's Arson Task Force (ATF) to reduce the number of secondary fires started in the borough, and to educate the community about the risks. In 2008/09 there were 75 deliberate secondary fires in Surrey Heath compared to 96 in 2007/08 – a reduction of 21.88%.

10.2 Firewise scheme

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's Firewise Scheme aims to address fire setting behaviour and reduce the likelihood of children playing with fire in the future. Firewise advisors visit children, with their parents present, who are showing an unhealthy interest in fire or who are involved in setting fires. Through one to one educational sessions, in the home or in school, the advisors aim to make children and young people more aware of the dangers and potential consequences to stop them playing with fire. Advisors work with between 80 and 100 children per year, with over 200 visits to their homes, giving educational input to children and parents.

11. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

11.1 Underage drinking campaigns

In May 2008, Surrey Crimestoppers worked with community safety partners to raise awareness of the illegal supply of alcohol to children and young people in Surrey Heath. With support from the Partnership, the charity launched a three-month poster and postcard campaign targeting those who sell or supply alcohol to under-18s. The hard-hitting campaign urged members of the community to contact Crimestoppers anonymously to report those who are supplying alcohol to underage drinkers. Postcards were sent to every household in the borough and posters were displayed on council notice boards.



A further campaign to promote safe sensible drinking among young people was implemented by the Partnership in March 2009. A full page colour advert appeared in the March and April issues of the Camberley Vue cinema magazine, *PreVue*. It was designed to encourage parents to help their children make sensible decisions about alcohol when the time is right, and promoted the Drinkaware Trust.

11.2 National Tackling Drugs Week 2008

Police and partner agencies supported the annual Home Office National Tackling Drugs Week in May 2008. During the Week, the Surrey Police Drugs Bus visited the Old Dean Parade and Sommerfields in Bagshot. Staffed by Safer Neighbourhood Teams, the Drugs Bus featured posters, balloons, pens and information about the dangers of drugs. There was a short quiz for young visitors with prizes up for grabs. A special display was erected in the entrance to the Contact Centre at Surrey Heath Borough Council, Knoll Road, Camberley, with posters, leaflets and giveaways including pens, mousemats and post-it notes.

11.3 Surrey Big Drink Debate 2008

Surrey's Big Drink Debate was a major public engagement campaign launched by Surrey Primary Care Trust right across the county – in partnership with Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and all 11 boroughs. The Partnership supported the campaign locally, which sought to find out more about people's drinking habits and how they felt about excessive drinking. The survey was carried out principally via a web-based questionnaire and a series of community consultation events and saw 4,033 responses (208 from Surrey Heath). The results of the survey have been used to inform a new Surrey-wide alcohol strategy (2009-12). Hazardous drinking levels in Surrey have been found to be greater than anywhere else in the country. In Surrey Heath, 19 per cent of respondents to the Big Drink Debate believed they had witnessed anti-social behaviour related to alcohol in the last month.



12. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

12.1 Surrey Heath E-team

In 2008, Surrey Heath Borough Council introduced a new partnership community e-team to help keep Surrey Heath a pleasant place to live and work. The multi-disciplinary team is made up of five officers, including a community warden whose role it is to educate Surrey Heath residents and visitors about the consequences of littering the borough and enforce where necessary. The community e-team works in partnership with Surrey Police Community Support Officers to encourage a reduction in littering, graffiti, anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, pest control, dog fouling and parking and nuisance vehicles. On 1 March 2009, the team gained the power to serve on-the-spot fixed penalty notices.

12.2 Drugs litter leaflet

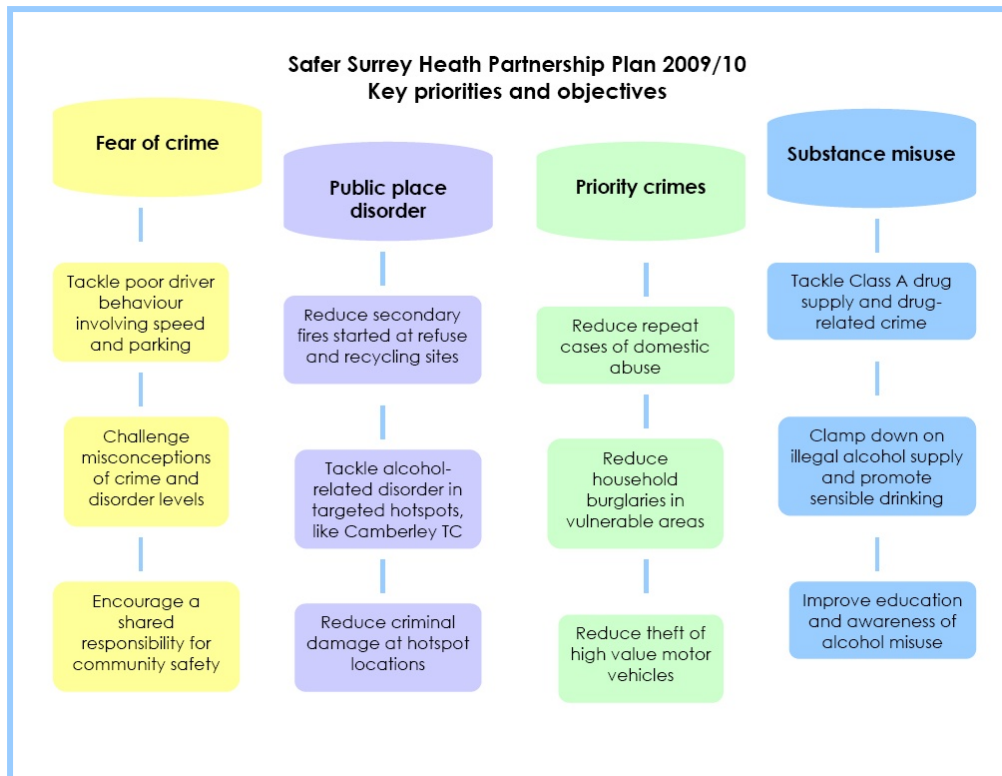
In 2008, the Partnership joined Surrey's other 10 CDRPs (crime and disorder reduction partnerships) in allocating funds to the Surrey Drugs and Alcohol Action Team to produce a leaflet entitled, '*Drugs litter: a practitioner's guide*'. The leaflet is designed for all community safety partner agencies to help them manage and reduce drugs litter, and reduce the impact of drugs on local communities.

13. PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2009/10

Each year, the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership assesses the level of crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour) that has been reported. Known as an annual strategic assessment, this takes into account information supplied by all partners, and supporting organisations such as housing associations and local drugs and alcohol action teams. As well as giving the Partnership a detailed picture about the actual levels of crime in the borough, it also provides information about the public's perception and fear of crime.

The findings of the Partnership's 2008 strategic assessment have been used to help decide a refreshed set of priorities contained in its Partnership Plan. Its Partnership Plan 2009/10 has been designed to ensure that Surrey Heath remains one of the safest boroughs in the safest county in England.

A summary of key Partnership Plan priorities and objectives for 2009/10 is given overleaf.



14. COMMUNICATIONS

During 2008/09, the Partnership continued to fund the post of Communications Officer to devise and deliver a Communications Strategy and Communications Plan to raise awareness of crime and disorder reduction work being undertaken in Surrey Heath, and to help reduce fear of crime. Reporting to the Partnership Chairman, the Communications Officer acts a primary point of contact for Partnership officers in all communications matters, as well as for the public, working with partner agencies' communications teams when appropriate.

As part of the Communications Strategy for 2008/09, communications activities were targeted with key messages and output tailored to the objectives of the Partnership Plan 2008/09. The Partnership continued to present a strong brand image in all its communications. In May 2008, the Partnership published its first *Community Safety Handbook*, in association with the Crime Services Agency. The handbook contains community safety advice, information about local initiatives and relevant Partnership contact details. It was distributed to 28,000 households within the borough.



The Partnership website's content was expanded during the year, with 1,012 total page views recorded in March 2009 compared to 640 in June 2008. New sections added including: Parenting support; Young people; Surrey Heath Crime Maps; Community Engagement; and Drugs and Alcohol Misuse.

During the year to April 2009, 10 Partnership press releases were issued and 21 news items were published to the Partnership website. Community safety articles were published in all four issues of the borough magazine, *Heathscene*, and the Neighbourhood Watch quarterly newsletter, *HeathWatch*, continued to be an important communications tool for community safety messages. A quarterly internal e-newsletter, *Community Safety E-Update*, was launched in December 2008 to keep partners up-to-date with community safety developments and projects.

15. ABOUT THE SAFER SURREY HEATH PARTNERSHIP

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, agencies in England and Wales have a statutory duty to form a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to tackle key community safety issues. The agencies required to take part are the borough and county councils, primary care trust (PCT), fire authority and police authority. CDRPs are required to review the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area, and develop and implement strategies to tackle these problems.

In Surrey Heath, the CDRP is known as the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership and is made up of Surrey Heath Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (a department of Surrey County Council), Surrey Police, Surrey PCT and Surrey Police Authority.

All six partners work together to provide reassurance, raise awareness of community safety issues and implement a Partnership Plan to reduce crime, and fear of crime. The Partnership works closely with safer neighbourhood policing teams, as well as voluntary organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch, to maintain the borough's high safety record.

www.safersurreyheath.info