



**MINUTES of
THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE meeting as the
CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE
7 OCTOBER 2009**

PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor R C Laurie
Vice Chairman	Councillor A J Cussen
Councillors	N R Pudney, Mrs A N Warr, D N Williams
Substitute Members	Councillors B E Harker and J B Sears

365. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION NOTICE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R G Boyce CC, A R Cheshire and R Pratt. In accordance with notice duly given, Councillor B E Harker was attending as a substitute for Councillor Boyce and Councillor J B Sears was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Cheshire.

366. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

367. SCRUTINY OF CRIME AND DISORDER MATTERS – THE MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

(a) Presentation: Maldon District Community Safety Partnership

The Chairman welcomed Julia MacKenzie, Partnership Manager Community Safety and Local Strategic Partnership Officer to the meeting and asked her to make her presentation to the Committee, as attached at Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

In response to a number of questions, the Officer advised that scrutiny powers were given to local authorities by Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 – as amended by Section 126 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; which stated that every Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) was tasked with scrutinising its own area. Although Essex County Council was a partner organisation, the scrutiny function was not county wide.

In relation to the concern raised about the perception of crime, she advised that the signs posted within Maldon High Street warning of handbag thefts had been put up as it was a continuing problem within that particular area and the signs warned the targeted vulnerable elderly people.

The reduction in crime noted during the presentation had been taken from the reported crime figures of Essex Police. Reported crime could only be informed from data collated by Essex Police, however undoubtedly it was likely that a percentage of crime was occurring but not being reported and this could not be taken into account. Officers regularly attended focus groups, working groups and worked with outreach teams from women's aid etc, to learn of the most discussed crimes. The Chief Inspector received figures broken down into types of crime on a daily basis. These had shown fluctuation in certain areas. Those people classed as 'prolific and priority' offenders, following a release from prison, were monitored on a 24 hour basis and additional crimes would be reflected within the Chief Inspector's daily reported figures should they begin to re-offend.

(b) Report: Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Liveability that provided background information on the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership (Maldon CDRP) to assist the Committee in its work on scrutinising crime and disorder matters in the Maldon District.

The report advised that the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a duty on the statutory agencies to work together and with the community, to tackle crime and disorder. The duty had been fulfilled when the Maldon CDRP was formed in 1998. The new provisions enabled Councillors to bring their perspective to bear on how CDRP's tackled crime and disorder.

Attached to the report were two appendices, the Annual Partnership Plan 2009 / 10 and the Strategic Assessment 2009 / 10. These outlined the actions needed to address the issues affecting the Maldon District.

The Committee was informed that the scrutiny function of the Committee was to provide four fundamental roles, these being:

- Provide a 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy and decision makers;
- Enable the voice and concerns of the public and communities to be heard;
- Carried out by 'independent minded governors' who lead and own the scrutiny process; and
- Drives improvement in public services.

It was reported that to date, the Maldon CDRP had been extremely successful in reducing crime and in the last four years, reported crime had been reduced by 27%. The Home Office acknowledged this, stating that it was an 'absolutely phenomenal' success. The challenge for the future that faced the partnership was that it would be difficult to sustain and further reduce crime.

The Chairman and Officers stated that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should meet as the Crime and Disorder Committee a minimum of twice yearly to meet the statutory requirement. As this was the first meeting of its kind, the Chairman asked Members if there were any particular areas of crime that they would like to be considered in detail at a future meeting.

The Committee highlighted some areas that they considered to be important to the area for further consideration, these being:

- The fear of crime and people's perception of what is anti-social behaviour;
- Anti-social behaviour, particularly within the Heybridge area;
- Vehicle theft;
- Underage drinking.

Additionally, Members felt that to scrutinise the subject matter effectively, a brief report was needed at each meeting on the outcome of all sub-groups that related to the Maldon CDRP so that a comparison of the results and performance could be monitored over time. From this, it was thought the areas that looked to be the least successful could be targeted.

In response to further questions, the Head of Leisure and Liveability advised that the role of the Crime and Disorder Committee was not to scrutinise any one agency or specific issue (such as police response times or vehicle speeding through villages). It was noted that its primary role was to look at the priorities reflected in the CDRP's Strategic Assessment, including fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, community safety and how successful performance had been. He advised that the sub-groups' performance was reported to the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) and could be reported back to each meeting of the Committee.

It was requested by the Committee that a glossary of terms also be supplied as there were a number of acronyms within the appendices. This was acknowledged by Officers and agreed to be produced.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for the presentation and Members for agreeing on the way forward.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.27pm.

R C LAURIE
CHAIRMAN

Maldon District Community Safety Partnership

Partnership: Why?

- A Partnership to tackle Crime and Disorder in Districts around UK.
- Founded in 1998
- Legal Requirement for Statutory Agents to work together under Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

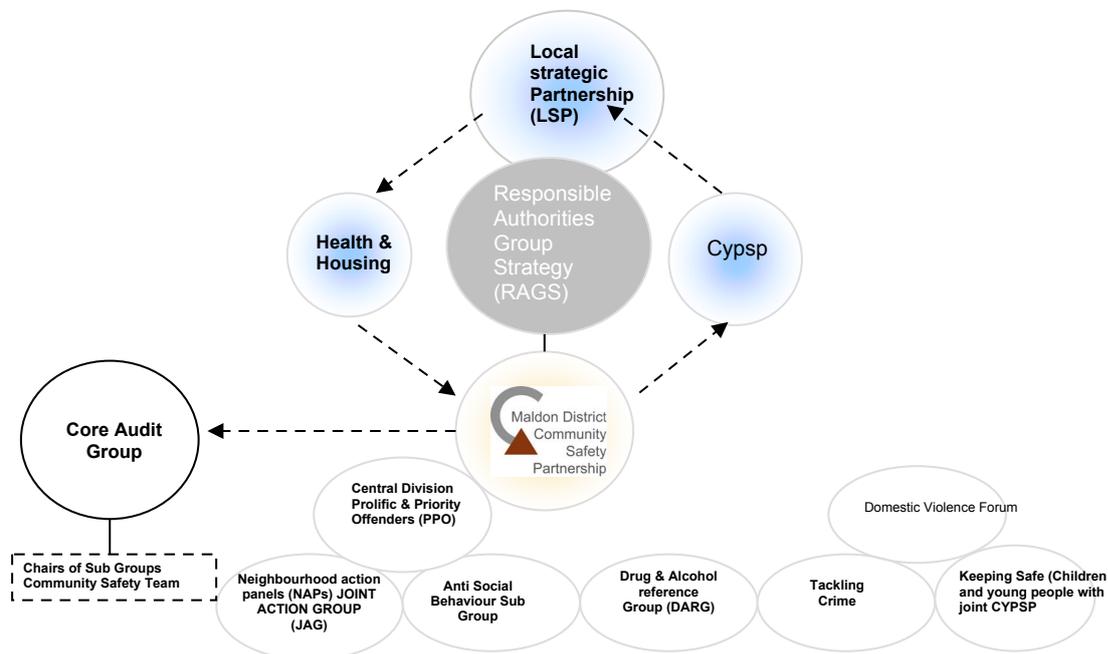
Key Agencies are

- Essex County Council
- Essex Fire and Rescue
- Essex Police
- Essex Probation
- Primary Care Trust
- Police Authority
- Maldon District Council

- These statutory agents are then joined by many other partners including schools, housing associations and the voluntary sector to support our aims



Partnership Structure



Priorities

- Priorities come from YOU and identified crime pattern analysis.
- Priorities are reviewed and refreshed annually implemented on Strategic Assessment.

2009/10 Priorities

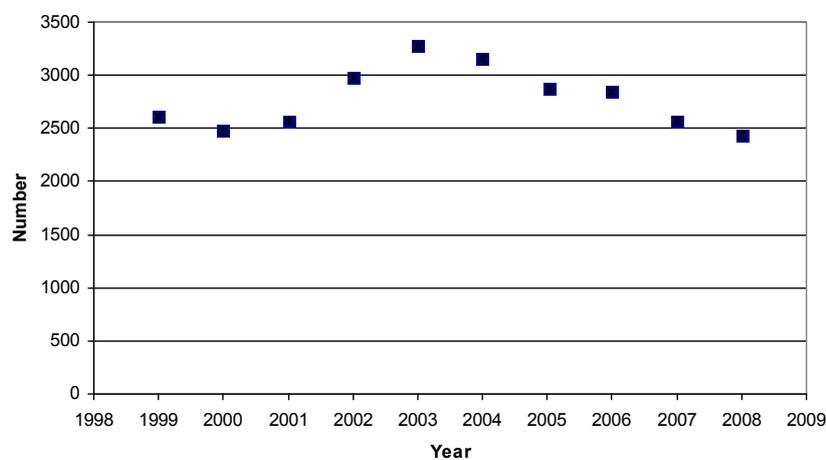
- This year's Targets address:-
 - Drug misuse
 - Alcohol misuse
 - Fears and concerns of Crime
 - Intergeneration perception and respect
 - Serious Violent Crime including domestic violence.
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Meeting Community Needs
 - Reduction in all crimes by 5% (Again!)

TOGETHER
TACKLING
ANTI-SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR

Does it work?

- Maldon District is one of the safest places
- Currently the lowest all crime level for 10 years ☺

Crimes Per year Maldon District

Continued Success

- 2005-2008 Go East Strategy target was to reduce crime in Maldon District by 12.5%.
- Partnership Achieved
- Reduced Crime by 22%
- 2008-2009 Target set to reduce crime by 5% - ACHIEVED!
- **HOW LOW CAN WE GO????**

Current Issues/ Concerns

- Increase of related incidents of D.V.
- Increase in burglary + theft from Vehicles.
- Economic downturn.
- Maintaining Low Crime rate.
- Increase in Ageing Population- Increases vulnerability.
- Advances in technology- Cyber bullying compact electronic items.
- Funding Restraints.
- Concerns a fear of crime

Achievements

- Reduction in reported crime by 27% over period of 2005-2009
- High Sheriff Award 2008 for Turning Young Lives Around (Kool 2b Kind Scheme)
- Criminal Justice Award 2008 for Youth Participation
- 02 It's Your Community Award 2009 for Fishing Project.

How can you help?

- Attend Events like this and tell us your concerns, ideas and appreciation ☺
- Organise workshops in your area – we deliver free awareness.
- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm or ask for a home safety visit
- Be our eyes and ears – join neighbourhood watch.
- Support and enable young people – they are our future not our enemy.
- Become a CS Volunteer
- PREVENT, PREVENT, PREVENT



For more details about the Partnership please visit our website
www.maldondistrictcsp.co.uk

JULIA MACKENZIE
Partnership Manager
Community Safety