

**Brierley Hill Area Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**The Work of the Joint Activities Group**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Area Committee Meeting in respect of the work of the Joint Activities Group as requested earlier in the year.

**Background**

2. The Joint Activities Group is a sub-group within safe and sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) partnership structure.

The Joint Activities Group is accountable to the Crime Reduction Implementation Group who is in turn accountable to safe & sound Strategic Board.

3. The Joint Activities Group. (J.AG.) is chaired by the Performance and Commissioning Manager who is based within the Local Authority's Community Safety Team.
4. The Joint Activities Group is a multi agency group that meets monthly to develop joint medium and long term actions to address crime and disorder issues.

The group consider information from all partners and focuses its discussion on victims, location and offenders, that pose the greatest threat to crime and disorder and which provide the maximum opportunity to resolve problems.

5. Partners that attend JAG include:
    - West Midlands Police
    - British Transport Police
    - West Midlands Fire Service
    - Youth Services
    - Trading Standards
    - Youth Offending Service
    - Communications and Public Affairs
    - Housing Services
    - CCTV
- Community Safety Team
- Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator
  - Community Cohesion Manager
  - ASB Project Co-Coordinator

Other partners contribute to the JAG agenda by exception work and having issues raised with them rather than attending every JAG meeting, for example the Department of Urban Environment -street cleansing, green care and waste enforcement.

6. The work of the Joint Activities Group contributes to delivery against safe & sound's priorities which for 2012/13 are as follows: -

**Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2012-13 (All of equal importance)**

- Improve town centre safety
- Improve quality of life in key neighbourhoods
- Increase the understanding of Dudley's Youth and Young People
- Tackle re-offending
- Reduce repeat victimisation.
- Safeguarding vulnerable groups and ensure appropriate signposting and access to support services
- Manage community tensions and improve community cohesion.

In addition to the intelligence and crime analysis reports JAG develops action plans against agreed priorities and commissions activity accordingly. It undertakes to monitor and evaluate activities and promote achievements. It has ownership for delivering co-ordinated partnership working to impact upon key crime areas identified as a priority and which have an impact on overall crime for the borough.

7. Making strong links with other groups to ensure work is taken forward and 'doing the right thing' for victims and the vulnerable is a key theme from JAG. JAG has reciprocal working and intelligence arrangements with both Safeguarding Children and Adults boards.
8. Below are examples of work undertaken by the Joint Activities Group and are a snap shot and not an exhaustive list.

JAG undertakes each year its seasonal campaigns. JAG is currently operating its Darker Nights campaign aimed at reducing opportunities for offenders to commit serious acquisitive crime and ASB. The operation deploys a number of tactics including awareness raising campaigns, crime prevention advice, bespoke activities in key neighbourhoods and diversionary measures.

JAG is currently planning its Christmas campaign to reduce crime and disorder over the festive period.

Operation Spotlight- The aim of this operation was to prevent repeat victims of burglaries, raise offenders awareness of the increased likelihood of being apprehended and to reassure victims and their neighbours that positive action was taking place.

The operation was conducted by officers visiting victims of house burglaries and supplying them with DNA property marking kits a product that irrefutably links criminals to crime scenes. Repeat victim of burglary rate fell from the local average of 6.8% to 1.7%.

Operation Teamwork- Partners and the community working together to restore pride in communities through intense activity which included litter picks, surgeries and housing advice.

Rogue Traders scheme “Who’s after your money?”. To deter rogue trader activity in the borough raising awareness and protecting vulnerable people in our communities.

JAG reacts not only to seasonal campaigns but also issues causing the most concern at any one time to a community. Rising number of complaints regarding ‘Off Road Motorcycles’ was tackled by raising awareness and providing support for those affected. Delivering messages around the law, health, tenancy conditions and noise abatement the leaflet produced aims to reduce the incidents. This is currently a piece of work under evaluation.

Other campaigns and activities are our Drop Dead Gorgeous campaign around the dangers of mixing alcohol and cocaine, Operation Stealth reducing metal thefts, Operation Rattrap reducing vehicle crime and Operation Capture reducing burglaries are all co-ordinated through JAG with the aim of reducing serious acquisitive crime.

JAG instigated and co-ordinated efforts to reduce cases of domestic abuse during sporting events fuelled by alcohol. During the European football championships a high profile Booze and Abuse campaign an innovative marketing campaign using beer mats and window vinyl’s to deliver a hard hitting message was used.

The work undertaken by JAG has contributed to making Dudley the safest borough in the West Midlands and to the continued reduction in the number of victims and incidents of crime and disorder.

- 9 In addition to the seven overarching priorities for the Community Safety Partnership that are referred to in paragraph 6 of this Report, three Vulnerable Localities have also been identified through Dudley Borough’s Strategic Assessment. These Vulnerable Localities are Pensnett (Brockmoor and Pensnett Ward), Wrens Nest Estate (Castle and Priory Ward) and Kates Hill (St. Thomas Ward).

Additional work in these localities has included: -

- To reduce serious acquisitive crime particularly burglary capture houses have been installed in Brockmoor and Pensnett and Kates Hill- Locations are secret.
- ASB off road leaflets delivered by PCSOs to all of these locations.
- Work with petrol stations Neighbourhood Police Teams/Fire Service to ensure petrol not sold to underage purchasers.
- Fens Pool area clean up organised by Princes’s Trust but with a partnership input.
- Young Fire-fighter course delivered at Burton Rd Fire Station 4 out of 8 delegates from priority areas.
- UV marker pens provided to boiler installers to mark boilers and copper cylinders in void houses.

### **Finance**

10. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report for the Committee

### **Law**

11. Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 enables the council to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the borough.

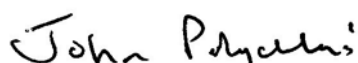
The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amendments as well as the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 are of particular relevance to the Community Safety Partnership

### **Equality Impact**

- 12 Young people as well as adults have been consulted in respect of setting partnership priorities for 2012/13

### **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report



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**Chief Executive**

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