

Bracknell News Article

January 2008

Partnership Plan

In 2005 the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership put together a three year plan to reduce crime & disorder in the Borough. The crime reduction targets were set by the government and were very ambitious. As that plan draws to its conclusion some of those targets are close to being met, particularly around vehicle crime, while others have not. There has however been a sharp fall in crime throughout 2007 following rises in 2006. Bracknell can still claim to be one of the safest places in Berkshire.

The time has come to start work on the next three year crime & disorder reduction plan. The first stage has been to produce a 'Strategic Assessment' of the current and projected levels of crime & disorder in the Borough. Over the next few weeks the CDRP will put together its next plan to be reviewed annually to reduce crime & disorder further. The decisions over what the priorities of the plan are to be are the decision of the CDRP which includes Borough Council, Police, Police Authority, Fire Service and Primary Care Trust. Due account has been taken of the recent consultation undertaken by the Neighbourhood Action Groups and the Fear of Crime Survey which was completed in four of our neighbourhoods.

The CDRP plan will be launched soon after April this year. Full details will be made available in the press and copies will be available on line as well as from any of the partners.

Anti-Social Behaviour

During December 2007, the 9th Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) of the year was voluntarily signed by a 16 year old male who agreed to curb his anti-social behaviour by sticking to a list of prohibitions in the contract. This brought the total number of Bracknell Forest ABCs to 28 since 2004, when they were first used locally. Since 2004 we have seen the benefits that these voluntary contracts can bring to communities, as well as to the individuals themselves as they recognise their unacceptable behaviour needs to stop. The majority of the 28 ABCs signed in Bracknell Forest have been successful, and we will be seeking to use them more often during 2008 with both adults and young people.

However, where an ABC is breached, further action is considered, in particular the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). ASBOs are not voluntary, but imposed by the courts, and they can lead to serious consequences for the recipient if breached, with a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment. During 2007, 5 ASBOs were granted in Bracknell Forest, bringing the total number to 10. The majority of these have been on adults. Many agencies are working in partnership across Bracknell Forest to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour. There are already further ABCs and ASBOs in the pipeline for the next few months, and we will be cracking down during 2008 on anti-social behaviour that affects the wider community.

Racist Behaviour

With the growing numbers of people in our community from various parts of Europe and the world, the police and Borough Council are determined to ensure that any racially aggravated incidents that may happen are reported and thoroughly investigated. A racist incident is any incident that anyone considers to be racist. Many people new to our community may not have the confidence or knowledge to report racism so if you witness such an incident, encourage the victim to report it. Or report it yourself to the police on 0845 8 505 505 or to crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.

There have been very few reported racist incidents in Bracknell Forest and we want to make sure that really is the case and not just underreporting.

Have a very happy 2008 and look after yourself, your property and each other.