

Date: Friday 15 November 2002

Venue: Penlan Social Club, Penlan, Swansea

Title: Pembrokeshire's Community Safety Group

Background paper

Following the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act in 1998 Local Authorities and the police are obliged to co-operate in the development and implementation of a strategy for tackling crime and disorder in their areas.

Since the first Community Safety Strategy for Pembrokeshire, published in 1999. There has been a significant amount of progress made, for example:

- The establishment of the Youth Offending Team
- There has been a decrease in reported crime since 1998/99
- The appointment of a full-time Community Safety Officer
- Increased usage of CCTV throughout the County
- The introduction of various Domestic Violence initiatives, such as the installation of a Community Alarms system into the vulnerable persons home.

Some of this success can be contributed to the Pembrokeshire Community Safety Group (CSG) which has now been in existence now for around 4 years, in conjunction with other social factors.

Historically the group had a membership of between 20 and 30 members, when the now chair of the group took over that role (April 2000) the structure of the group was changed significantly as members at the time felt a more streamlined system would be appropriate.

An overarching strategic group was created with 7 core partners, namely Social Care & Housing (Pembrokeshire County Council, Education (Pembrokeshire County Council), Dyfed Powys Police, Dyfed Powys Probation Authority, Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Pembrokeshire Local Health Group and the Youth Offending Team. All of these partners are represented at a managerial level.

Sub groups were then established that reflected the priority areas of concern for Pembrokeshire identified through the Crime and Disorder audits and its subsequent consultations. These are:

- Quality of life (Public Reassurance)
- Substance Misuse (known as the Local Action Team)
- Burglary / arson and autocrime
- Violent Crime
- Road Safety
- Youth Issues

The 2002 – 2005 Community Safety Strategy has been written to ensure that the priorities for action have been given ownership by a sub group and as such are requested to feedback to the main strategic group on a regular basis. Examples of action for these sub groups range from the Quality of life group looking at ways of reducing environmental neglect (i.e. abandoned vehicles and fly tipping) to the Substance misuse team looking at extending training for licensing and doorpersons.

On top of this the main group have also taken responsibility for overarching themes, such as:

- Looking at the increased usage of Geographical Information Systems (G.I.S) to inform decision making
- Looking at the possibility of creating a joint data warehouse
- Providing training to partners to take into account the implications of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Auditing the work done throughout the County Council departments in regard to how it impacts on community safety
- Endeavouring to ensure that the work of community safety is an integral part of everybody's work.

The activity for this work is co-ordinated through the Local Authority's Community Safety Officer whose role it is, is to ensure that the targets within the Community Safety Strategy are established.

The projects that will be detailed within the presentation will give a flavour of how Pembrokeshire tackles the issues that are faced within the county in a holistic manner that fully incorporates the partnership ethos of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.