

Safer Derbyshire News

"So What?"



Edition 2 - 2010

This is the new Safer Derbyshire 'So What?' newsletter, aimed to inform people in Derbyshire about projects and what we are doing to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Community safety is about making our neighbourhood safer and a better place to live and work. There are eight Community Safety Partnerships covering the County contributing toward targets and delivering projects in your area. For more information about your Partnership, go to www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk, click on 'In Your Area'.

Safer Derbyshire is a multi-agency partnership between Derbyshire County Council's Community Safety Unit, Adult Care and Safeguarding, Research and Information Team, Derbyshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Derbyshire Youth Offending Service, Police, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and Derbyshire Probation Service.

We have given away 17,000 dusk til dawn sensor light bulbs which come with crime preventions leaflets and property marking kits. The libraries, local authorities and other outlets have helped distribute these to vulnerable people. A further £20,000 has been funded to distribute a further 2,700 packs to the vulnerable through a prize draw. Winners can collect their bulbs from a chosen local library.



STOP HATE CRIME
0800 138 1625
24 HOUR HELP LINE

We continue to fund a 24 hour third party reporting and helpline for victims and witnesses of Hate Crime. Since its launch, 40% of the calls have related to disability compared to 0.5% of the total reporting previously and 60% of calls were taken out of office hours, showing the significance of having a 24-hour service. Reporting can now be done by text, e-mail, online and post at www.stophateuk.org

A 'Safe Places' project is being piloted in libraries at Swadlincote, Alfreton and Chesterfield. People with learning disabilities in these areas are given a card to keep and write information about emergency contacts. They are being told that if they are in the area and feel anxious, ill or scared they can go to the library for help and support. Posters and information is displayed in the area as well as a logo on the library entrances.

Operation Relentless was a success, with more than 3,200 events happening across the county. as a result of the work, a drop in anti-social behaviour incidents reported was more than 700 and an 18% reduction in criminal damage reports (compared to the same period of 2008). Evaluation is underway, and 2010 will see another Operation Relentless with a more targeted approach.



See overleaf for information about projects currently running and what to look out for over the next few months.



What are we doing to reduce Anti-social Behaviour?



Victim support are providing support to residents affected by anti-social behaviour. This has been extended for a further 18 months, meaning that it will be available until March 2011. Fully trained victim support volunteers are on hand to provide emotional and practical support for local residents. Help is also offered whether legal action is being taken or not. If you need advice, support or volunteer to help, call 01629 823748. The lines are open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm.

How are we helping to reduce burglary?

Whilst Derbyshire has a very low burglary rate, it is important to ensure that the level of repeat victims of burglary is also reduced. From August, Amber Valley, Erewash, South Derbyshire, High Peak and Derbyshire Dales have benefited from an alarm fitting scheme after being a victim of burglary. So far, 56 alarms have been fitted, with every resident claiming to feel safer. A 77 year old stated that “being burgled is not a pleasant experience and have an alarm fitted gives a sense of security. The extension to the project covering these areas proved such a success that a further £30,000 has been supplied to cover the whole county. Residents across Derbyshire can now have access to 60 alarms if they fall victim to burglary. Victims will be referred to the project by a police officer who will arrange for the alarm to be fitted. The scheme will provide the victim with a high quality burglar alarm free of charge if they are in receipt of benefits, or for a small contribution of £75 if they are not.

How are we increasing local confidence and reducing fears?

We are funding extra hours for the Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0800 019 8668. this helpline has been running for two years, and is now answered up to midnight every night, 1am into Saturday and 2am on Sunday. This helps victims of domestic abuse as well as people in fear of domestic abuse.

The pilot project to get offenders working in their community has been extended across Derbyshire, with a further £90,000 funding provided by the county council. Community Payback is a project with the Probation Trust where offenders work under supervision to remove graffiti, fly posters and litter amongst other tasks. Two site clearances in Chesterfield used 1,168 offender hours over 22 days and 154 supervisor hours. One payback worker stated that ‘I have really enjoyed working with the team and been shown how the organisation works from the bottom to the top. I have attended management meetings and been on the ground floor removing graffiti.’

Browse the website: www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk to keep up to date with what’s happening with Community Safety in Derbyshire

Editor recommends ‘How we’re doing’ Section, and register to ‘news alerts’