

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Stroud District Community Safety Partnership Strategy is a key part of the service delivery plan. Elements of the strategy are delivered by various units within the service, ranging from the Neighbourhood Wardens through to Youth Voice. The strategy is centred on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) priorities, but also has the flexibility to respond to emerging local trends or issues.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) creates objectives and gives the actions to partners to fulfil. The objectives are set according to issues that are affecting areas within the District, or a specific group. An example of this has been the partnership work on Cocooning Days.

Neighbourhood Wardens and PCSO's carry out regular joint patrols across the district promoting community engagement, responding to anti-social behaviour and providing a reassuring presence to residents. The CSP also have mobile CCTV across the district that can assist in monitoring anti-social behaviour and crime hot spots at the earliest opportunity to act as a deterrent. This information is fed back into the CSP to enable a multi-agency approach to issues, if required.

Abandoned vehicles continue to be reported to the council; these are inspected by the Neighbourhood Wardens. Where possible the registered owner is contacted and asked to remove the vehicle. If an owner cannot be found, the vehicle is removed in line with our process. By responding to these reports we are able to reduce the occurrence of Environmental Protection crimes and the impact these have on communities in terms of antisocial behaviour.

The CSP has seen a new multi-agency approach to community engagement. These area specific events are called 'Cocooning Days'. These events are designed to tackle residents concerns regarding illegal activity, anti-social behaviour and to provide a forum to discuss wider community concerns. Neighbourhood Wardens, Youth Work Officers, Neighbourhood Management Officers and Animal Welfare Officers all join forces with Police, Fire and P3 colleagues. So far this year events have been carried out in Paganhill and Stroud, with others planned for Stonehouse and Dursley before the end of the year. These events have been successful, leading to vital police intelligence being gathered, one arrest, multiple new sign-ups for Community Alerts and a reduction in the fear of crime amongst the community. The Fire Service have engaged with residents regarding fire prevention measures. Where required they have installed smoke alarms and issued vulnerable residents with fire retardant bedding. The events have been particularly successful because of the mixture of agencies involved. Careful planning has ensured that visits to

residents were undertaken by all agencies, giving residents the opportunity to ask a wide range of questions.

In partnership with the Police, Stroud District Council hosted a cybercrime event at Ebley Mill. The event gave members of the public and other partners, information on the current issues around cybercrime and tips on how to safely use all types of technology.

The way the popular Careline service is being delivered to customers has been reviewed. The major change is that the Neighbourhood Wardens are now responsible for installing the alarms and responding to faults. The Careline service remains unchanged in its focus to enable people to live independently in their own homes with the control room providing 24 hour, 365 days a year cover for assistance if required. Whilst the Neighbourhood Wardens are visiting customers in their own homes they are using this opportunity to discuss other services they are able to offer, such as Home Security checks and if required, they are able to signpost them to other agencies who may be able to offer help, or advice with specific issues.

We have been working together with our legal service to address the ongoing problem of fly-tipping across the district. In summary, the work has included introducing and implementing procedures to effectively investigate reports of fly-tipped waste and taking steps to identify individuals responsible. Wherever possible, culprits are issued with Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and in more serious cases, prosecuted.

The Council's Youth Service delivers youth work through a community development approach. The service enables young people to have a voice and be heard through a recognised 'youth voice vehicle'. This remains very significant today, particularly on matters concerning young people feeling safe in their community. The aforementioned 'vehicle' includes; Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC) and nine locality based youth forum groups (LYF's) who consistently seek to make positive changes to local communities. Examples include work with local PCSO's and other service providers covering health and education.

This service makes a significant contribution to the PCC's priority dedicated to young people becoming adults. In previous years financial support has been given to the youth voice representatives training programme. More recently the OPCC led project proposal entitled, 'Child / Youth Friendly Gloucestershire' has seen SDYC members engage with the adult project group, in a youth consultancy role – this is set to continue.