

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN



EASTBOURNE CRIME REDUCTION
PARTNERSHIP

"Making Eastbourne Even Safer"



Member of NAVCA



Eastbourne Strategic Partnership
working together



THE DEVONSHIRE PROJECT

2008 - 2010

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Devonshire Project
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Devonshire Neighbourhood Action Plan

1 Introduction

In 2005 the Devonshire Ward Area Profile was published as a result of an initiative by the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership. This involved a large community consultation exercise together with a bringing together of factual data on the ward drawn from a number of different sources. The profile described considerable areas of deprivation and need.

The report led to the creation of the Devonshire Project, a coordinated strategy which involved key partners from the statutory sector together with other interested parties, most importantly the community itself. A Steering Committee was established and partner agencies developed and refined strategies to address the needs into their service plans. A dedicated Devonshire Neighbourhood Worker was appointed in June 2006. This Neighbourhood Action Plan therefore starts with a review of progress over the first two years of the project. Sections 2 to 10 use the headings from the Eastbourne section in **Pride Of Place**, the East Sussex Integrated Community Strategy.

The Community was consulted about what the 3 key priorities to bring improvements to Devonshire should be and they identified:

a) to reduce crime and improve community safety, b) to improve activities and facilities for young people, and c) to improve the environment as their top 3. Therefore, part 2 provides more detailed action plans for the coming year for the three priorities identified by the community. Activities are identified together with expected outcomes. It should be noted that there are two distinct neighbourhoods within the Devonshire Ward, Town Centre and Seaside. Although many actions apply across the whole ward some are targeted to address particular needs in one of these.

Sections 16 and 17 give more detail on the process and the key measures of success.

This document therefore provides a means by which the community can become more involved in the process by looking for the outcomes and feeding back what works well, what has not been achieved and perhaps most importantly what other actions should be taken.

Part One – What has been achieved so far

2 Communities Working Together

In September 2006 the Devonshire Neighbourhood Worker held an open meeting which began an extensive programme of consultation to find the three community priorities for action. Following a further meeting and a postal survey these were agreed as:

- To reduce crime and improve community safety
- To improve the environment
- To improve activities and facilities for young people

A key theme that emerged during these early meetings was how to involve as many people as possible in the process. Twelve open meetings have been held between September 2006 and October 2008 many to consider the three priorities and other topics including regeneration, housing and planning. More recently, the themes of these

meetings have been aligned to the topics being considered by the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership (ESP) meetings to enable community representatives to take their views and questions to the ESP.

In addition to these open meetings the Devonshire Neighbourhood Worker has had many meetings with community associations and other interested parties.

Effective communication and partnerships are vital. The existing practice will need to develop within the context of the new Eastbourne wide initiative to facilitate dialogue in which twenty one Neighbourhood Panels meet monthly. Representatives from the Neighbourhood Panels meet at the District Panel to enable a borough wide picture to be seen.

3 Community Safety

Crime and the fear of crime has been a frequent topic of discussion at many of the open meetings referred to above. Although crime rates have been going down many residents are still fearful.

In June 2008 crime in the Devonshire Ward showed a 6.2% reduction compared to the previous twelve months. This is lower reduction than in other parts of Eastbourne due crime associated with the major shopping area and the night time economy. More crimes have been reported as a consequence of proactive drugs enforcement and Public Place Violent Crime enforcement. With the assistance of the Crime Reduction Partnership the Police have implemented a number of strategies such as Operation Blitz which is targeted at antisocial behaviour and criminal damage. It mainly runs on a Friday and Saturday night when many incidents occur and works by having dedicated officers out on patrol with a direct phone link to members of the public who are part of the Blitz scheme. Similarly other operations are aimed at reducing shoplifting and other types of crime in the Town Centre.

Operation Synergy in which Police and other partners get together to clean up the town and tackle crime and anti social behaviour was a highly effective strategy run for the first time in 2007. Over one week, untaxed cars were towed away, illegal workers were detained by immigration officers, arrests were made for drugs and theft offences, graffiti and litter was cleaned up, television licence dodgers were targeted and licensed premises were checked for drug usage.

Over half of the towns Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are in the Devonshire Ward and when poorly run can be a focus for crime and antisocial behaviour. Joint action by the Police, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and the Council's Environmental Health Officers has resulted in the closure of some problem premises such as the Cambridge Hotel. This has resulted in a considerable improvement in the quality of life of nearby residents.

4 Environment

The Town Centre is subject to a higher level of street cleansing than other parts of the town with some roads being swept once or twice each day. In addition to this special events are held such as the very successful Operation Synergy. In the first of these in 2007 the council provided cleansing contractors to clean up litter, graffiti and fly tipping and ten overgrown alleyways were also cleared.

There has been an expansion in the enforcement team to allow full time coverage to be extended to the Town Centre without adversely affecting other parts of Eastbourne. A stricter enforcement regime has been initiated through the issuing of fixed penalty notices.

Fortnightly Environmental Visual Audits in which Council staff and the Police jointly review an area to identify and remedy problems have been initiated as part of an Eastbourne wide development.

Graffiti removal kits have been purchased and made available to residents.

5 Children, Young People and Families

The community priority to improve facilities and activities for young people clearly lies in this theme and a range of activities have been undertaken. The Devonshire Neighbourhood Photography Walkabout was a joint project with young people from Charlie's Drop In, Compass Community Arts and The Devonshire Neighbourhood Initiative. It was successful and a follow up project was funded by Sussex Downs College. A third project is to be repeated at the Archery Youth Club. Twice weekly street soccer and basketball activities for 12-19 year olds have been introduced.

In addition to these activities a significant achievement was the opening of the Devonshire Children's Centre in Seaside to provide support, advice and information on a whole range of issues for children under five and their families.

A play strategy for Eastbourne which looks at some of the barriers to play and considers inequality, inclusion and anti social behaviour issues has been developed and provides the framework for future action.

6 Health and Social Care

In response to the identified issues highlighted in the Devonshire Profile of substance misuse, transience and insecure housing that beset parts of the ward East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust (ESDWPCT) has developed a Homeless Health Service. This service provides regular primary health care at a day time clinic at the Salvation Army Citadel on Mondays and on Thursday evenings. The service also provides advice, information, advocacy and sign posting to other services. Two local GP's attend the Thursday evening session on rotation. A further informal clinic is delivered on a Tuesday at the Oasis project.

A specialist Alcohol Worker Pilot is being conducted in the area to support those individuals with problematic alcohol use. Provided in partnership with the PCT by Action

for Change and closely linked to the homeless team this worker supports those with often chaotic lives to minimise the harms associated with excessive alcohol use and develop pathways into treatment.

A programme for young offenders working in partnership with the Towner Gallery has also been supported by the PCT as have a number of other projects delivered by our partner agencies within the ward.

In line with developing Department of Health policy and in recognition of the particular needs of the ward ESDWPCT will be developing a GP-led Walk-in Health Centre with Devonshire in the near future. This will give the residents of the ward an increased level of access to healthcare that will provide for the diverse community that is resident in the ward.

7 Regeneration and Economy

Under the heading "Make Seaside your Business" several open meetings have been held to look at the effect of the out of town shopping centres and to consider the impact of any new town centre development. The southern end of Terminus Road and Seaside are problematic with many boarded up and empty, generally run down shops. An approach was made to the Civic Trust and following a meeting with them agreement in principle was reached to run a High Street UK project in the Devonshire Ward. This project is currently on hold pending Civic Trust finding a suitable source of funding.

The Council have introduced an accumulative impact restriction to allow the planning department to limit inappropriate planning applications particularly those associated with the night time economy.

As a result of the economic situation the town centre proposals has been postponed delaying the creation of a flagship development to attract shoppers to Eastbourne. New interim strategies are therefore needed to offset the negative consequences of the imposition of paid on street parking.

Another implication of this delay is that the proposed transport hub will not provide the stimulus for much needed improvement to the traffic movement in the town centre. Work needs continuing on improving the traffic flow by looking at the routing to and from the town centre.

8 Housing

Devonshire has a high proportion of terraced properties and flats many of which are rented privately. Much of the housing stock does not meet the Governments Decent Homes Standard.

Eastbourne Homes, the arms length management organisation that manages the Council's housing stock has secured funding to undertake a programme of updating social housing properties. It is intended to complete work to all traditionally constructed properties within the Ward by December 2010 and other types of construction by 2012. Within the Ward are a number of blocks of sheltered accommodation and Eastbourne Homes has prepared an options appraisal for Eastbourne Borough Council to update these properties to modern standards or amend the stock to suit the local requirements.

Other grants are available for improving privately owned and rented housing, the most recent of these coming from the energy utility companies. Tenants as well as property owners can apply for these.

New national regulations have been introduced for HMOs and the Council have completed an exercise to ensure that all relevant properties have been identified. Officers are now working to ensure that any necessary building and management improvements are made to meet the new licensing arrangements.

Devonshire housing issues are well represented in the Homelessness Strategy which has been reviewed by the Housing Forum which includes many voluntary organisations as well as the Council. Voluntary and statutory sector partners have identified strategies to support vulnerable people in their housing needs.

9 Learning and Skills

Sussex Downs College is represented on the Steering Committee and through its activities to support young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has been addressing the needs of some Devonshire residents. The adult services part of the college has provided courses for young mothers at the Devonshire Children's Centre. It has also used this venue to provide first aid courses.

A number of charities based within the ward work with vulnerable young people and provide vital support to help them develop the necessary skills to manage their chaotic lifestyles. Through the provision of a capital grant from the Council the facilities at Charlie's Drop In have been improved.

Bourne School has benefited from support from the Healthy Eastbourne Board's food and physical activity group. The HEB is a partnership between the PCT and a range of other agencies. After school activities clubs have been provided to give children at the school increased opportunities to engage in sporting and fun activities. Funds have also been used to support out of school activities such as Rock Wall climbing.

10 Culture and Sport

The Royal Project has recently been launched. This aims to restore the Royal Hippodrome Theatre and develop it as a community resource. It is intended that this will become a year round, day long attraction for a wide range of cultural activities.

Sports activities have been delivered through EBC Prevent and Deter Officer at the Archery MUGA as mentioned in section 5.

The future use of Fisherman's Green has been considered and plans are now in place to update some of the sporting facilities.

Note

The Devonshire Ward Area Profile and other information on the Devonshire Project may be found at:

www.eastbourne.gov.uk/community/strategic-partnership/devonshire-project

Part Two – Plans for 2009/10

11. The Plan.

- The Community have been involved and consulted on what the priorities should be. This plan now tells them what actions are being taken in the light of these priorities.
- Regular quarterly meetings are held in the Community to keep people updated and support and encourage their involvement – for example, how to link with Neighbourhood Panels or how to develop their own local groups.
- This plan will be launched in the community of Devonshire and the community will be asked for their feedback.
- The residents of Devonshire will be surveyed again in 12 months to measure the success of this Action Plan
- The Product Champion for the Action Plan is the Chief Executive of EAVS, Adam Chugg. Day to day monitoring of the Action Plan will be undertaken by the Crime Reduction Partnership Co-ordinator Bob Gough. This is a live document and as such will be subject to regular updating.

12. Community Strategy – Young People

12	Aim	Provide positive activities for young people to be involved and to improve facilities	
	Action	Date complete	Responsible Manager
12.1	Collate and review data from young people to establish their needs and aspirations		CRP (Lead) David Kemp EBC YDS EAVS
12.2	Fisherman's Green – improved basketball & tennis facilities with provision of a youth shelter & flood lighting		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley YDS CRP ESSC
12.3	Skate Park – Provide new ramps, fencing & flood lighting		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley ESSC
12.4	Princes Park / Channel View Rd / Wartling Rd. Resurface & design play areas		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley
12.5	Explore late night facility in town for young people on Friday & Saturdays		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley CRP EBCG YDS
12.6	Identify additional facilities and explore opening them up for young people		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley EAVS YDS
12.7	Improve drop-in facilities		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley YDS
12.8	12-19 yrs Provide weekly activities at The Archery & at other venues in Devonshire – Street Soccer & Basketball		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley YDS CRP
12.9	Increase Art & Cultural opportunities. Towner & out reach projects		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley YOT
12.10	Develop a Play Strategy for Devonshire		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley

13 Environment - Litter and Cleanliness

13	Aim	Improve cleanliness of streets & alleyways	
	Action	Date Complete	Responsible Manager
13.1	Operation Synergy – Multi-agency Audit, Enforcement & Engagement Operation	Twice yearly	Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield EBC ESFRS CRP ESCC
13.2	Conduct Environmental Visual Audit	Fortnightly	Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield EBC
13.3	Establish on street recycling points		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley
13.4	Increase the number of litter bins & replace older ones – Terminus Road`		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley
13.5	Review list of streets requiring daily cleaning		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley
13.6	Support residents self help to clean up private alleyways		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley CRP
13.7	Purchase graffiti kits to remove graffiti & to promote self help.		CRP (Lead) David Kemp
13.8	Increase enforcement of litter & dog fouling offences		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley
13.9	Increase enforcement of fly posting legislation		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley
13.10	Animal Wardens to visit schools to give advice about cleaning up after dogs		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley

14 Crime and Community Safety

14	Aim	To reduce overall crime on Devonshire Ward by 20%, as recorded by the Police, during the lifetime of the Crime Reduction Plan from the baseline year 2007/8 by March 2011			
No.	Action	Initiative	Date Complete	Responsible Manager	
14.1	Focus on the Top Ten Licensed Homes of Multiple Occupancy	1. Planning Group set up with Action Plan. 2. HMO's fully legislation compliant		ESFRS (Lead) Julie Gilbert-King Police EBC CRP	
14.2	Reduce theft from shops in the Town Centre	1. Action Plan to be developed & Implemented		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield EBCG	
14.3	Enhance High Visibility Patrol enforcement activity in the top Six streets in the Ward	1.Actions plans in place 2.Monitor against stated delivery		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield CRP EBC	
14.4	Targeted Activity in relation to Handling Stolen Goods	1. Action plan in place. 2. All relevant premises targeted.		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield ESSC EBC CRP	
14.5	Operation Synergy – Multi-agency Audit, Enforcement & Engagement Operation	Actioned twice yearly		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield EBC ESSC CRP & Others	
14.6	Implementation of Smart Water & Immobilise Property marking systems	1. Action plans in place. 2. Marketing Programme		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield CRP NHW ESSC	
14.7	Reduction in Criminal Damage	Implement system for speedy removal of graffiti.		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley Police CRP ESSC ESFRS	
14.8	Reduction of Arson Incidents	1. ESFRS Action Plan in place. 2. Removal / protection of vulnerable equipment		ESFRS (Lead) Julie Gilbert-King EBC Police CRP	

Continued

14.9	Controlled Drugs Enforcement / Prevention	1. Safer schools partnership action plan. 2. Increase in supply / possession detections		1. Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield 2. Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield CRP
14.10	Reduce the number of 1. Street drinkers, 2. Homeless persons sleeping rough & 3. Pedlars in the town centre	1. Increased enforcement of street drinking ban 2. Improve clearing of associated rubbish, excrement etc 3. Monitoring of certificates & behaviour		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield EBC
14.11	Monitor empty buildings & the condition of other buildings in Devonshire	Reduce the potential for squatting & deliberate fire setting		EBC (Lead) Diane Bagley Police ESFRS
14.12	CCTV in Devonshire	Review any need for extension of CCTV coverage in Devonshire		CRP (Lead) Bob Gough
14.13	Increase coverage of Neighbourhood Watch in Devonshire by 33% of 2007/8 membership total	Co-ordinated plan for implementation		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield NHW - Jan Newens CRP - David Kemp

15 Communication and Engagement

15	Aim	To continue to develop and enhance communication and engagement with the Community across Devonshire	
	Action	Date Complete	Responsible Manager
15.1	To negotiate with the various Devonshire Groups, previously consulted, to participate in the two Neighbourhood Panels.		EAVS (Lead) Adam Chugg Police EBC CRP
15.2	To develop an e-mail list of Devonshire residents & businesses and to circulate quarterly updates on the action plan		CRP – David Kemp
15.3	To update the Devonshire Neighbourhood Action Group via the Neighbourhood Panel (when formed) and to obtain feedback & developments		EAVS (Lead) Adam Chugg CRP Police
15.4	To produce & develop appropriate media releases as & when required		CRP (Lead) David Kemp EBC EAVS
15.5	To hold quarterly steering group meetings to adjust the plan in light of performance & developments and to monitor actions against targets		CRP (Lead) David Kemp
15.6	Attend Resident & Community meetings		CRP (Lead) David Kemp EAVS
15.7	Produce information leaflets in other languages/formats		EAVS (Lead) Adam Chugg EBC ECCN

16 Key Measures to Success

16	Aim	To capture and report key measurements of Devonshire	
	Action	Date Complete	Responsible Manager
16.1	Survey of Devonshire residents & businesses, both online & physical 12 months after commencement of the Action Plan		EAVS (Lead) Adam Chugg CRP
16.2	Quarterly feedback to Neighbourhood Panels (when formed)		EAVS (Lead) Adam Chugg CRP Police
16.3	Environment Visual Audits before commencement of plan and thereafter 6 monthly		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield EBC
16.4	Crime and ASB measurement as recorded by the Police – 12 months from formal adoption of the Action Plan compared with the same period 12 months previously		Police (Lead) Tony Wakefield CRP

17 Conclusion

17.1 In liaison with service providers and the community of Devonshire Ward we have produced a Neighbourhood Action Plan which clearly sets out:

- Issues for action
- Quick wins
- Planned service delivery
- Milestones
- Targets

And have thereby identified quality of life improvements in Devonshire Ward linked to key Community Strategy Indicators.