

Essex Local Area Agreement Safer Essex Thematic Partnership Annual Report 2008/09

Summary of overall progress

This has been the first full year of activity for Safer Essex. Some significant progress has been achieved during this period including the allocation of strategic funding to initiate activities to achieve key priorities and also a proactive approach to the allocation of Performance Reward Grant. In terms of areas of activity Safer Essex has responsibility for 7 of the 35 LAA indicators included within the overarching Priority 7: "Essex is a safe place to live". Overall crimes per 1000 head of population reduced from 71 to 67 during the year (from 2007/08 to 2008/09) which has made a positive progress towards making Essex safer for all residents.

Specific indicators are the following :

- NI 17 – Perceptions of anti-social behaviour :
 - *Target exceeded*
- NI 18 – Adult re-offending for those under probation supervision :
 - *Bridge Project launched (Lead Essex Probation Service)*
 - *Baseline and targets agreed*
- NI 20 – Assaults with less serious injury crime rate :
 - *Target exceeded*
- NI 39 - Rate of Hospital Admissions for Alcohol Related Harm
 - *Baseline and target agreed*
 - *Alcohol Strategy agreed*
- NI 115 – Substance misuse by young people :
 - *Baseline and targets agreed*
 - *New 3 year contract for provision of Tier 2 and 3 services for young people across Essex awarded.*
- Local Indicator 7.1 – Repeat Incidents of domestic violence :
 - *Target missed*
 - *New Strategic group established*
 - *Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACS) now established*
- Local Indicator 7.2 – Feeling Safe :
 - *Target exceeded*

In addition there are two strong links with the following indicators delivered by other partnerships.

- NI 111- First-time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 :
 - *Baseline and targets set*
- NI195-Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter and detritus)

Significant progress has been achieved within the Drug and Alcohol area of activity most notably with the finalisation of the Section 75/256 Consortium Agreement involving all 5 Primary Care Trusts, Essex County Council, Essex Police, Essex Probation Service, and HMP Chelmsford. This agreement sets out the financial and commissioning responsibilities of the partners in relation to the Adult Pooled Treatment Budget. This has provided a sound foundation for the other significant development in the selection of Essex as a Drug Systems Change Pilot area. Within the System Change Pilot there will be more Freedoms and Flexibilities to explore new innovative commissioning approaches that will inform national standards and guidelines from 2012 onwards.

NI 47 –People Killed or seriously injured in Road Traffic Accidents :
 Although this indicator is managed by the Essex Casualty Reduction Board (ECRB), for the purposes of the LAA, Safer Essex does have an overview.
 ERCB is a partnership body covering the whole of Essex including the two Unitary areas of Thurrock and Southend. The target for Essex not including the Unitaries was to reduce the number of Killed and seriously injured to 799 in 2008. Significant progress has been made in driving down casualties over the past 5 years :

| 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1170 | 1075 | 963 | 987 | 884 | 706 |

Partnership development

The Safer Essex membership is wide ranging and Terms of Reference were agreed and reviewed within the year. Key strategic objectives were identified through the Community Safety Agreement and Essex Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan. These bring together the joint priorities which have been set out within the performance management arrangements now in place.

A strategic funding allocation was set against agreed priorities in 2008/09 and this is also planned for 2009. In addition the partnership has allocated £610,000 of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) for 2009/10 against the agreed priorities of :

- Domestic Violence
- Violent Crime
- Adult re-offending

In addition £123,000 PRG has been allocated to the Essex Casualty Reduction Board to continue their work to drive down road deaths and serious injuries.

The next stages of development for the partnership are as follows :

- A Partnership review which will particularly help identify partners members concerns of what needs to be improved within the partnership as well as looking the good things that can be further developed
- Further integration of the Drug ,Alcohol and Crime and Disorder strategic aims and objectives
- Development of a more effective performance management framework
- Development of a Risk Register for the Partnership to help focus consideration of the work plan priorities

Impact of economic situation/revised priorities

It has been suggested that the economic downturn will cause a rise in crime, most notably burglary and domestic violence. There is no conclusive evidence that this is the case in Essex even though such increases have occurred. However, each Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership has a responsibility to review the situation in their local areas through the annual Strategic Assessments and put Partnership Plans in place to respond accordingly to identified problems. The Domestic Abuse

issue has been identified as needing a strategic response and resources have been allocated accordingly.

Delivery planning and cross-partner challenge

Safer Essex was established to meet a statutory requirement with a key function to develop a Community Safety Agreement which reflects the key priorities identified by each Crime and Disorder Partnership (CDRP) within their strategic assessments (SAs). To complete SAs each CDRP have undertaken an evaluation of available data and taken into account the results of consultation with their communities. In addition the results of the wider County consultation in developing the Essex Strategy have also been taken into account.

In addition Safer Essex has taken the role the Drug and Alcohol Partnership for Essex. This is identified as good practice and has brought with it the opportunity to consider the wider implications of drug and alcohol abuse on crime and anti-social behaviour whilst at the same time being able to consider the treatment and prevention issues that will have significant impact on the future level of such abuse.

With the development of the Local Agreement Safer Essex was identified as the key thematic partnership to respond to the community concerns around crime and disorder.

As part of the development of the LAA Safer Essex identified target leads and each target lead has developed action plans. These action plans are evolving and progress against them is monitored at the Safer Essex meetings. 2008 was the first year of this approach and will continue into 2009 subject to findings of the partnership review which may influence the future process.

Use of resources

Safer Essex has an overview of the £1.6 million capital and revenue funding which is distributed to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. In the role as the Essex Drug and Alcohol Partnership Safer Essex also has a responsibility for the £7,487,213 budget which includes the annual pooled treatment budget.

During 2008 an additional £113,000 was identified for Safer Essex to address countywide strategic projects and this was allocated against the key priorities identified :

- Target Lead studies : £10,000 (£5,000 spent)
- Domestic Violence : £40,000
- Violent Crime : £40,000
- Adult Re-offending : £25,000

A key purpose of the target lead study report into Domestic Violence in Essex, which was commissioned by Safer Essex, was to help the Partnership consider the governance, services and resources currently in place and then review how these could be more effectively arranged to deliver the desired outcomes.

As this was the first year of operation for Safer Essex it is expected that much of the expected outcomes from the resources allocated will come on line during 2009 to

particularly, for example, where funding has been used to develop new ways of partnership working in the districts.

Sharing and using information about performance

There is a statutory requirement for the sharing of information between Safer Essex partner agencies that enable the development of assessments and strategic plans. It has been recognised within Safer Essex that there is an opportunity for the development of an "Information Sharing Data warehouse" solution to help deliver this statutory requirement. Funding has been agreed to develop the proposal (£130,000 Performance Reward Grant), now known as Essex Neighbourhood Information Management System (ENIMS), and a project team has been established during the year to take this forward.

In addition to ENIMS the existing data sharing protocols have enabled a tiered approach to data sharing to take place, at strategic (non-personal data) and operational (personal data) levels within the partnership. From this Safer Essex has developed a number of performance management reports which track performance against the key performance indicators and financial budgets.

During 2008/09 some key baseline data was not available until the latter end of the year when it was included within the Local Area Agreement refresh negotiations with Government Office. Targets for all the key performance indicators are now developed and embedded within the reporting arrangements.

Where appropriate and necessary supplementary data sources have been identified to act as proxy measures due to lead in time for validated out-turn data sets such as NI 39 (Alcohol related admission to hospital) and NI115 (Substance misuse by Young People)

Improved outcomes

During the year it was not possible to determine performance against a number of the indicators due to problems at a national level with data and baselines. Performance was variable during the year as follows :

- Adult Re-offending NI 18:
 - In Essex the re-offending rate is comparatively low compared to the national average. The target reduction nationally for 2009/10 is 10% but the Essex agreed target is 2.5% (5.5% by 2010/11)
- Assaults causing less serious injury NI 20:
 - Against an agreed target of a 10% reduction by the end of the 3 year agreement Essex achieved 12% reduction in the first year, As a result Safer Essex agreed a revised end of Agreement target of 18% from the March 2008 baseline. Significant improvements have been achieved as a result of responding to Night Time Economy issues, most notably in Colchester, for example where reductions in violent crime have been achieved in the last 6 months of the year, together with reduced ambulance journeys to A&E.

- Domestic Abuse repeat Incidents : LI 7.1
 - We have not met the annual target set for particular indicator but there has been significant activity through the year to put in place the appropriate response that will turn performance around. A large proportion of the Performance Reward Grant has been allocated to this priority and a range of other activities are being put in place through the newly formed Essex Domestic Abuse Strategy Group. Performance returns towards the end of the year indicated that there was an improvement but this is still variable and remains as a significant challenge for the Partnership if we are to meet the final year target

- Alcohol admission rates NI 39 and Substance misuse by young people NI 115:
 - Targets have been agreed for these indicators with proxy performance measures identified to track progress. A significant step has been achieved in Essex becoming a System Change Pilot which will enable the development of more flexible programmes and activities to help meet the drug and alcohol targets. However issues of funding remain for alcohol services

- Feeling Safe LI 7.2 :
 - This is a perception target measured through the Place Survey. Although not formally released data from the survey indicates that significant progress has been made against this indicator

- Perceptions of Anti Social behaviour NI 17:
 - Again this is a perception target measured through the Place Survey. Although not formally released data from the survey indicates that significant progress has been made against this indicator with initial targets agreed within the Local Area Agreement being exceeded. New targets following the results of the Place Survey are now being agreed.

Key issues/risks to delivery

As part of the partnership review it is the intention to identify areas for improvement and development that if not addressed will constitute a risk to delivery of the Partnership Objectives. Key risks identified so far are :

LI 7.1 : Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse : This is a final year target and significant progress needs to be made during 2009 to make achieving the target a realistic proposition. During 2008 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) were rolled out across the County. These are important vehicles for assisting in the delivery of this particular target.

LI 7.2 : Feeling safe : This is a perception target and subject to a variety of external pressures outside the control of Safer Essex.

NI 17: Perceptions of Anti Social Behaviour : As with LI7.2 this is a perception target. In both of these target areas public reassurance messages and promotion of high profile activities that are included within the action plans for 2009

Next steps

A number of actions are identified by Safer Essex over the next 12 months. These include the following :

- Put in place the new Community safety Agreement for 2009
- Implement the key remaining actions arising from the review of Domestic Abuse including :
 - Finalisation of the future management arrangements for the existing and newly appointed Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs)
- Review the current substance misuse provision within Essex in relation to adult offenders and agree clear "Care Pathways and supporting protocols with PCT's, Essex DAAT and treatment providers
- Review the operation of the Partnership including :
 - Terms of Reference
 - Partners engagement
 - Risk management
 - Performance Management
- Agree funding for strategic priorities
- Oversee the roll out and development of the Systems Change Pilot
- Agree proposals for Essex Neighbourhood Information Management System
- Monitor performance against agreed Target Lead Action plans