

## **In depth discussion – Providing Reassurance**

### **1. What do we know about the issue?**

Traditionally the British Crime Survey and locally MORI have been used to help us to identify how safe people feel. In 2008 a new element was introduced by government called the Place Survey which was linked to performance via national indicators. Police targets were also reviewed and a single national target was set to increase public confidence. Both of these have now been dropped by the new Coalition Government. Public confidence in how the police and council tackle anti social behaviour is not quite the same thing as providing reassurance and it is the latter that this partnership has focussed on.

Members will recall that we have considered a number of reports on this issue over the last year and that some in depth analysis was carried out in October 2009 and brought to our 3<sup>rd</sup> November meeting. To recap this analysis used both crime and anti social behaviour data and it highlighted a number of wards in the borough with low crime but higher levels of fear of crime. This analysis identified Roseworth followed by Village ward having the highest discrepancy between recorded crime and anti social behaviour against perceptions. The partnership decided to focus their efforts in the coming year on Roseworth and to use the lessons learned to expand the work into other areas at a later date.

### **2. How reliable/complete is our information base?**

Dealing with perceptions is not straightforward as they can vary depending on a range of variables, for example; an individual's own experience of crime/anti social behaviour or that of a friend or relative; how they learn about this issue for example through the media and what type of media they access. The numbers consulted in the Place Survey were also relatively small so it could be argued that our information base on this topic is not complete.

### **3. What are we doing about the gaps?**

We carried out face to face consultation in Roseworth during April and May and 268 residents completed the No Fear survey. Of those

- 179 were female
- 77 male
- 12 not willing to answer this question
- 241 described their ethnicity as white
- 1 mixed race,
- 1 black with 25 people not answering this question.
- 195 did not consider themselves disabled
- 56 people reported having a disability

- 3 had a disabled spouse
- 14 did not answer.

The majority of respondents (194) had lived in the area for over 10 years. 243 said they liked living in the area, most saying it is a nice area with nice people and it is quiet.

The net safe score for feeling safe during the day was 239 (83%) compared to the 2008 MORI net safe score of 85%. The net safe score for feeling safe after dark in Roseworth was 50 (17%) compared to 10% net score in MORI. People said they felt safe in Roseworth, because they knew their area and thought there were no problems.

The majority of those who said they felt unsafe did not go out at night, other reasons for feeling unsafe were reported as fear of youths/gangs and poor lighting/darkness. The area where they felt most unsafe was round the shops. Of those who said they had been a victim of a crime in the last year for the majority it was vehicle crime (14) followed by things thrown at windows (11) and theft/burglary (10).

#### **4. What more could we do about the gaps?**

169 (63%) said that they would like to receive information about crime and disorder by either a letter, leaflet or through Stockton News. 17 (6%) by e mail/internet, nine (3%) wanted information via the media six (2%) wanted information via a meeting with only one person wanting their information via Ringmaster or the Police.

#### **5. Who bears the economic costs and the savings?**

All of the work we have undertaken in Roseworth has been done in house by various partners. The survey was developed by the Council's Community Safety Team and consultation was carried out by this team with some assistance by the PCSOs from the ward. Similarly the operational activity has been done using existing resources such as accompanying THL and member walkabouts and using the THL newsletter. A small amount of funding was provided by GONE and this was used for survey and poster development and printing costs.

#### **6. What have we tried so far?**

A Steering Group has been established to oversee the work with a Working Group who meet more regularly. The working group have joined estate walkabouts; produced and had displayed You said...we did posters (see example at appendix 1); attended resident meetings and canvassed residents to set up a focus group (so far 44 have expressed an interest but only four have agreed to be involved); produced information in the THL newsletter and in Stockton News; attended a Bingo session to introduce themselves and encourage resident involvement. There were four schools in Roseworth, two primaries have now amalgamated and with Blakeston are using the ROACH campaign. St Gregorys are not but a letter has been sent to them asking them to take part.

During the first quarter seven AS 13s were issued in the area, two alcohol confiscations made and during the Police off road bike operation 12 bikes were seized in the wider area.

**7. How much has the intervention cost?**

Much of the work that has been carried out has been part of the normal duties of those doing the work so it is difficult to assess costs incurred. Printing and design costs were additional costing £1.500 in total.

**8. Do we think that we have been successful?**

Success will not be easy to measure however at the end of the year we will return to the respondents from the survey to assess their feelings of safety and a further report will be brought to SSP with these findings. Crime levels remain low on Roseworth with the only exception being vehicle crime. This could be due to the availability of garages on the estate, which means that cars are parked on the street or outside on drives?

**9. Have we been able to evaluate impact?**

An evaluation report will be brought to SSP in the summer of 2011.

**10. What else may be worth trying and how will we pay for any future intervention proposed?**

Members are invited to discuss this report and any further proposals that could be used to help to provide reassurance. Consideration should also be given to cost implications of any proposed interventions.

Community Safety Manager  
3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010