

Appendix A



Community Strategy 2008-2028

**Response to Consultation
Suffolk Constabulary / Suffolk Police Authority**

Step by Step Process

The organisation representative will be responsible for consulting with all relevant management groups, elected members and officers. Lead officers need to ensure the consultation response reflects the views, evidence and needs of your organisation. To do this the representative will need to undertake the following steps.

1. Identify the appropriate management groups and boards to be consulted and when they meet.
2. Identify meetings with elected members (if appropriate) which can be utilised for consultation purposes. (Please be aware that due to Local Elections consultation with elected members will be limited, however the duration of the consultation period should allow consultation to take place after the elections.)
3. Ensure that consultation on the community strategy is on the agenda for all relevant meetings and adequate time is allocated for discussion.
4. Attend each meeting to facilitate discussion around the key consultation questions (utilising the PowerPoint presentation if required) and make of notes of the outcomes from discussions on the template attached.*
5. Once all consultation meetings have been undertaken, collate the responses into one template to represent the consultation response for your organisation and return to the Partnerships Team by 21st July.
6. A copy of the overall organisational response should be circulated to all the groups/individuals involved in the consultation.

*Please contact the Partnerships Team if you would like us to facilitate/present/attend meetings and support you in this work.

The Partnerships Team will pull together the responses from each organisation, along with results from the theme and LSP consultation. This will then be fed into the development of the final strategy.

Template for ORGANISATION Consultation Responses

Complete one form for each consultation meeting.

Organisation: Suffolk Constabulary / Suffolk Police Authority
Officer leading consultation: Gulshan Kayembe / Paul Marshall
Meeting attended: _____
Date completed: _____

Questions

1) How do the emerging themes fit into your organisation's existing priorities / strategies / ambitions for the future?

Creating the best place to grow and learn

The Constabulary and Authority are fully committed to supporting the 'Every Child Matters' agenda for change and are represented on the Children's Trust Board and each of the 17 Schools Clusters. The Head of Crime Management is the portfolio holder for Children & Young People's issues and additionally the Head of Corporate Development Department is the County Lead under the C & YP Plan (Staying Safe 3 Priority Area) with regards to protecting CYP from crime, anti-social behaviour and bullying.

The Constabulary has dedicated 'Police Education Partnership' officers that deliver a range of inputs to schools on a variety of community safety issues linked to priorities identified with the Children and Young People's Plan.

Both the Constabulary and Authority remain committed to delivering the priorities outlined by the Children's Trust Partnership and detailed within the C & YP Plan for the foreseeable future.

In 2007 the Constabulary re-structured front line service delivery into 47 Safer Neighbourhood Teams, working closely with key partners. The purpose of this was to operate closer to local communities with designated police officers, community support officers and special constables all working within local neighbourhoods. One of the key aims of this national initiative is to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve environments where people live. Engaging with the local community to work on local priorities will be an important aspect and young people will become an essential part of the process. Developing community intelligence will also help to create safer neighbourhoods in which to grow by providing earlier warnings about potential criminality and anti-social behaviour. Safer Neighbourhoods are a fundamental plank of the Constabulary's service delivery policy and will remain so for a good time to come.

Creating prosperity for all

A safe county is a necessary precursor to achieving prosperity. People like to live and work in a safe and pleasant environment and low crime rates and high feelings of safety are important contributory factors. The Constabulary and Authority are of the view that ensuring the County remains a safe place to live, work and visit will significantly contribute to 'quality of life' issues within Suffolk. Our commitment to Safer Neighbourhood Policing (referred to above) demonstrates this.

The Constabulary continually reviews the deployment of resources to ensure that the development of new housing and business environments receives the best available support in terms of a policing presence, crime reduction advice and effective response to concerns. Designing out crime is a crucial element of this approach and through Crime Reduction Officers close links are forged with planners and developers (e.g. Snoasis Project). Understanding the changing needs of the County in terms of investment will bring challenges and the Constabulary will, for example, be committed to providing an effective service for new communities such as the student population resulting from University Campus Suffolk.

As part of the Safer Neighbourhood Project a considerable investment has been made into community profiling and this will include understanding economic growth and the challenges this brings. This will assist in attracting economic growth and employment together with associated skills and educational development that will enhance prosperity.

Work is continuing to strengthen the link with the business community to ensure that the policing service it receives is appropriate, relevant and promotes confidence in policing.

Creating the greenest county

The Constabulary's Environmental Strategy (endorsed by the Police Authority) has the following aims:-

- Reduce consumption of vital resources such as energy and water.
- Increase our energy efficiency.
- Reduce the level of harmful emissions into the atmosphere resulting from our activities.
- Reduce environmental impacts arising from our energy consumption as far as is practical, consistent with the operational needs of our activities.
- Promote recycling and the use of recycled materials, and thereby reduce consumption of raw materials.
- Minimise waste of all forms produced by and occurring within our activities.

- Promote environmentally sensitive procurement arrangements within our activities.
- Promote and develop environmentally sensitive ground management and encourage wildlife.

Both the Constabulary and the Authority are keen to work with the LSP in developing the vision of Suffolk becoming the Greenest County .

Creating the safest county

This is core business for the Suffolk Constabulary. However, tackling crime, and the causes of crime, requires more than police action alone. Partnership working at all levels is vital if community safety is to be significantly enhanced. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are the key front-line forums for driving this agenda forward.

Suffolk First For You was launched in the spring of 2005 with the aim of becoming the best police force in England, by offering the highest quality of service as well as the safest communities. In essence Suffolk First For You means:

- Giving people a reliable, responsive local service that is visible and accessible.
- Working with communities and partners to identify local concerns, solve problems and bring offenders to Justice.
- Making sure that each person who has contact with us feels we have listened, responded appropriately and kept them informed of our actions.
- Keeping the public safe and reassured by providing the highest quality policing service.

The Police Authority have a statutory duty to set policing priorities having consulted with the Community and the Chief Constable and publish these together with targets in the Annual Policing Plan. The current Policing Plan for 2007/8 has identified priorities around:

- Increasing satisfaction of victims of domestic burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime& road traffic collisions and racist incidents with respect to overall service provided,
- Increasing the percentage of people who think their local police do a good job,
- Reducing total recorded crime,
- Improving the overall sanction detection rate,
- Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions,
- Reducing the percentage of people worried about burglary, violent crime and car crime,
- Reducing the percentage of people who perceive a high level of anti-social behaviour,

- Reducing the percentage of people who perceive that people using or dealing drugs are a problem locally
- Increasing the percentage of police officer time spent on frontline duties.
- Reducing the percentage of available hours lost due to sickness of police officers / staff.

The Constabulary is developing its ability to respond to essential operational elements of policing service. These elements, known nationally as protective services, are designed to provide minimum standards of quality of service in key areas, such as the management of major crime, tackling organised crime, protecting vulnerable people and providing specialist resources such as firearms. Coupled with the Constabulary's approach to Safer Neighbourhood Policing (outlined above) providing well-resourced, efficient protective services is a major investment for the Constabulary in the coming years.

Creating a cohesive county

Recognising the increasing diversity of the county the Suffolk Constabulary, in partnership with the County Council, were responsible for the development of early work on Community Cohesion which has seen it's inclusion within the draft Community Strategy as a key theme. The Head of Corporate Development and the Diversity Manager represent the Constabulary on the County Community Cohesion Steering group, which is developing a Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan for Suffolk.

The new Diversity Unit within the Constabulary is taking a clear lead in ensuring that policing services are delivered equitably and that full consideration is given to the requirements of every community in the County. The Police Authority has been instrumental in appointing an Independent Advisory Group, which will advise the Constabulary on key issues such as managing critical incidents and training although it is not yet fully functional.

The Police Authority has recognised the importance of Community Cohesion and are represented on the 'Race and Faith' sub group of the County Steering Group.

The Constabulary has developed a Community Cohesion Action Plan with the aim of 'better understanding the needs of the counties differing communities and to improve trust and confidence in policing.

Creating the healthiest county

The Constabulary views it's main commitment to this theme as being to increase life expectancy and quality of life through a reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions through a range of educational and enforcement activities. The

Constabulary is committed to the County 'Roadsafe' initiative working in partnership with the County Council, Fire Service, Highways Agency, NHS Ambulance Trust, Suffolk Safety Camera Partnership and community safety services.

In addition to this the Constabulary is determined to tackle those offences, which bring threats to people's health. In particular, focussing performance activity on street violence (particularly the use of knives), distraction burglaries, which can be devastating to the elderly, and most fundamentally tackling the supply of drugs into our communities. Addressing these issues depends entirely on an intelligence led approach but reducing the number of such crimes will have a significant impact on the general health of the county.

Valuing people

We are a 'people business' where we deal with people as individuals seeking to meet their needs often at a time of personal crisis. We treat groups of individuals as communities where appropriate and seek to understand their issues and work with partners to address them.

Valuing people is at the heart of Constabulary policy. The Constabulary conducts considerable consultation through surveys and other means to establish the precise concerns for the public and this helps both the Authority and the Constabulary shape its Annual Policing Plan.

The Constabulary has conducted a comprehensive training package to all staff based around the Suffolk First For You initiative and this has been widely praised by HMIC. All staff have specific objectives set within their own PDRs relating to Suffolk First For You and these are closely monitored.

The commitment of the Authority and Constabulary towards valuing people is emphasised through the introduction of initiatives such as Victim & Witness Care Centres, which deal with vulnerable victims and those attending court respectively. A review is currently underway to ensure that a consistently high standard of service is being provided to vulnerable victims.

The Constabulary is promoting accessibility to services through various methods such as the internet, through regular publication of policing plans and Suffolk First For You updates and also by making material accessible in all languages.

Part of the process to introduce 47 Safer Neighbourhood Teams across Suffolk is to provide a policing style which is accessible and responsive to the needs of communities. The public will have a greater say in the way in which services are delivered and will be encouraged to work in partnership to solve local problems.

Culture and sport

Police Education Partnership officers are involved in assisting to run a range of sporting and cultural events during school holiday periods as diversionary activities for Children and Young people e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

The Constabulary also polices a number of large sporting / cultural events throughout the year such as Ipswich Town football matches and music events thereby creating a safe environment for people to enjoy and participate in art, culture and sport.

2) Are there any additional key issues that your organisation has identified within its strategies and policies that you feel should be addressed within the individual themes or should be considered as an additional theme? What evidence do you have to support this?

The current draft of the Community Strategy does not appear to recognise the importance that a partnership approach to reducing public place violence, domestic violence and tackling the misuse of drugs can make in enhancing people's feelings of safety.

In 2006/7 there were over 7000 violent crimes recorded in a public place in the county. Although this figure stabilised during the last financial year the numbers of incidents have been steadily increasing over a number of years. Last year around 50% of these offences were linked to alcohol, drugs or other substance misuse. Just under 4000 offences were classed as 'more serious violence' which had a serious impact on an individuals feelings of safety.

Thanks to strong partnership arrangements that now exist in the county, domestic violence incidents decreased by 9.4% in 2006/7 to 4314. The Constabulary also increased the number of arrests for domestic violence related incidents. Whilst the reduction in incidents is pleasing there is a need to continue to treat this area of criminality as a priority across all agencies to make it socially unacceptable behaviour.

The number of serious drug offences (produce/supply & possession with intent to supply) recorded by Suffolk Police has remained fairly constant at around 350 offences per year for the last three years. This level of offending is slightly above the average figure for counties similar to Suffolk and also reflects the attention this type of criminality receives from the Constabulary. The LAA target to increase the number of adult drug users entering in to treatment (1934) is unlikely to be met during 2007/8 (1207 in 2006/7).

The Authority and Constabulary would like to make the following general points about the Community Strategy (these are developed in our covering letter):

- It is important that the strategy reflects the longer term vision and focuses on 'what' the county should look like in the year 2028 rather than 'how' this will be achieved in the intervening period (the 'how' will be developed over the medium term via the LAA2)
- The Community Strategy needs to focus on high level outcomes
- The Community Strategy needs to have an overarching vision which can be signed up to by all partners; a vision which marginalises any theme risks losing the commitment of some organisations.
- We would prefer to postpone defining an overarching vision until we have a clear understanding of the results of this consultation exercise.
- Given the range of consultation data supporting the fact that 'community safety' is a priority for the people of Suffolk, the Constabulary and Authority would have difficulty supporting an overarching vision where 'safety' was not implicit or clearly identified.

3) Are there any themes/ key issues within the individual themes that you consider to be particular priorities for your organisation? What evidence do you have to support this?

Themes in order of priority for your organisation:

1. Creating the safest county
2. Creating a cohesive county
3. Creating the best place to grow and learn

Whilst we feel the 3 themes above are particular priorities for policing, we consider that the 5 themes listed below are of less direct importance to policing, but are equally important for inclusion within the Community Strategy.

- Creating the greenest county
- Valuing people
- Creating the healthiest county
- Creating prosperity for all
- Culture and sport

Priorities within each theme for your organisation:

Best place for children and young people to grow and learn

1. Staying Safe (road safety, PEP Programme, DV education, Suffolk Schools Partnership, Management information on offenders and victims, child abuse investigation, race and hate crime investigation, schools consultation).

2. Positive Contribution (Final warning scheme, Officers seconded to Y.O.S., ASB Partnership Network, Respect Agenda, drugs advice)
3. Enjoy & Achieve (Truancy sweeps and impact days)

Economic prosperity for all

1. Engagement & Consultation – Business Community
2. Low crime levels – Perceptions of safety

Greenest county

1. Environmental Strategy (Covers vehicle fleet, waste reduction and recycling, all utilities and water consumption monitoring and reduction, environmentally sensitive procurement and reduction in CO2 emissions.

Safest county

1. Responding to calls for assistance (emergency and non-emergency)
2. Reducing Crime & Disorder at all levels i.e. local (Anti Social Behaviour) to countywide/cross border/national (Serious & Organised crime).
3. Investigating Crime (improving the sanction detection rate and bringing offenders to justice)
4. Promoting Public Safety (KSI reduction, reducing fear of crime in relation to burglary, violent crime, car crime, anti-social behaviour and drug dealing)
5. Increase the satisfaction of victims of domestic burglary, violent crime, vehicle crime, road traffic collisions and racist incidents.

Cohesive county

1. Suffolk Constabulary Community Cohesion Action Plan 2007/8 including strategic commitment, neighbourhood profiling, community engagement and community intelligence. Delivery of responsive local policing through Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
2. Police Authority development of a suite of actions to promote community cohesion as part of their Engaging Communities Action Plan 2007/10

Healthiest county

1. Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions through a range of educational and enforcement activities
2. Tackling Drug and Alcohol misuse.

Valuing People

1. Diversity Programme Board and Diversity Action Plan ensuring diversity is embedded into the culture of the Constabulary / Police Authority
2. Continued development of Safer Neighbourhood Teams and promotion of Pathway Problem solving with community involvement.

4) Does your organisation have/collect any data/information that can help develop and inform the actions identified in the individual themes?

Grow and Learn

Road safety data pertaining to C&YP
Consultation data – Schools Survey Programme
Data of C&YP as victims of crime broken down by age, offence type and location
Data regarding C&YP as perpetrators of crime including racist incidents
Data on C&YP ordinarily present at domestic violence incidents
Data on child abuse investigations

Greenest County

Annual energy and consumption figures for police premises (Electricity, gas, oil and water) year on year comparisons.
CO2 emissions resulting from the above.
Road and air transport annual fuel consumption (vehicle fleet and helicopter).
CO2 emissions resulting from the above.
Mileage in KM travelled.
Total waste generated by quantity and % recycled.

Safest County

The Constabulary routinely collects a range of data to satisfy the Home Secretary's Annual Data Requirement. Details are available on request. Information is available at County, BCU, District and SNT levels.

Both the Authority and Constabulary are of the view that the product of countywide statistically valid public surveys should be used to inform the Community Strategy or any overarching vision statement that accompanies it. Two examples are provided below:

In July 2005 a Suffolk Speaks (MORI) survey reported that 'reducing crime and the fear of crime' was the most important area within which they felt public service providers could work to improve their quality of life (62%). These findings were consistent across all districts and sub-groups of residents. By way of comparison, the second most important area was providing good quality health services (47%). The same survey indicated that 64% of respondents would like to see Suffolk as a 'safe area with low levels of crime and disorder' compared with their second priority of 'an area with good health services' at 35%.

More recently in the Suffolk Speaks Survey 2006, when asked 'If your District/Borough Council were able to improve or increase some services what do you think would be the most important for increased expenditure', 60% of householders indicated 'community safety and crime prevention' as their top priority.

Voting tubes were used to consult with people attending the Indian Mela in Christchurch Park on 8th July. Of the 237 people that took part in the consultation, 29.5% (70) indicated that their priority was 'feeling safe, including from harassment and discrimination. The second highest priority indicated (18.6%) was 'respecting each other's values and beliefs'.

Cohesive Society

Recruitment and retention data

Stop Search and Encounters data

Community Intelligence

Consultation – product of public survey programme

Neighbourhood profiles

5) How will the aims of the community strategy be factored into your organisations future policies or delivery plans?

Although to a large extent policing is driven by a range of Home Office guidance, account will be taken of the Community Strategy (once adopted) in the:

1. Review and amendment of the Police Authority / Constabulary Joint Strategic Development Plan 2003/10.
2. Review and amendment of the Suffolk Police Authority Strategy Plan 2005/08
3. Police Authority Three Year Policing Plan.
4. Determination of policing priorities under the National Intelligence Model (Control Strategy)
5. Development of the Suffolk First For You Strategic Vision for the Constabulary

The above documents form the strategic framework within which constabulary policy, procedures and delivery plans are developed thus ensuring that the Community Strategy is factored into the vision and business of the Police Authority / Constabulary.

The Authority and Constabulary will also contribute directly to the delivery of LAA2 via interaction with LSPs, CDRPs and Block Boards. It is however imperative that there is synergy between the Community Strategy themes and the Block Boards to ensure that the Authority, Constabulary and all partners can support effective delivery.

Please return the completed template to: Jenny Foster; Partnerships Team; Policy, Improvement and Partnerships Unit; Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX or Jenny.Foster@policy.suffolkcc.gov.uk by Friday 21 July 2007.