

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Tenants Advisory Group</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> April 2002</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Community Street Wardens</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Tenant Services Manager</b>
<b>Ward(s):</b>	All
<b>Purpose:</b>	To update members on the progress to date of the Community Street Warden Scheme.
<b>Contact:</b>	Adrian Channon, Tenant Services Manager Telephone 01323 415325 or internally on extension 5325.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	That Members note the report.

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Introduction</u></b>
1.1	As part of the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership, a joint bid was made last year to the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit for funding under the "Street Warden Scheme".
1.2	Despite fierce competition, the Partnership was successful in obtaining over £500,000 of funding towards the total cost of the scheme.
1.3	The Government has granted £279,200 towards the scheme with additional funding being made available through contributions from Eastbourne Borough Council, local Housing Associations and the "Communities Against Drugs Initiative".
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Eastbourne Community Street Warden Scheme</u></b>

2.1	<p>The two-year scheme will operate with a combined team of 10 people in the Old Town, Langney, Hampden Park and Willingdon Trees areas. It is anticipated that three 'patch' teams will be formed covering these areas.</p> <p>The Scheme will make a real difference to the quality of life in these local communities.</p>
2.2	<b>SCHEME OBJECTIVES</b>
2.2.1	Sussex Police are very supportive of the scheme, though the Warden's work will be very different to that of the Police. The overall aim of the scheme is to proactively engage with the local community to ensure the delivery of services aimed at deterring Anti-Social Behaviour; reducing crime and the fear of crime, fostering social inclusion and encouraging a sense of well being in the community.
2.3	<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE STREET WARDEN SCHEME</b>
2.3.1	It is anticipated that the scheme will assist significantly in the delivery of Eastbourne's local crime and disorder and community strategies. The scheme is intended to complement existing services and to proactively engage with the local community.
2.3.2	It is intended that the Street Warden's will work out of office hours and shifts will run into evening periods, as well as over the weekends. There will be 8 Street Wardens and 1 Street Warden Manager, together with a Deputy Street Warden Manager.
2.4	<b>FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF WARDENS</b>

2.4.1	<p><b>CARING FOR THE STREET ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>To care for the physical appearance of the streets and communal areas and facilities including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>à Responding to incidents of graffiti, dog fouling, litter and noise pollution and reporting of these environmental problems to relevant authorities where appropriate.</li> <li>à Assist the LA in the development and delivery of its Environmental Improvements Programmes.</li> <li>à Monitor playground and other community facilities for evidence of disrepair and vandalism.</li> <li>à Checking empty commercial or residential properties</li> </ul>
2.4.2	<p><b>DETECTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</b></p> <p>à To actively respond to and prevent minor incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour. Including:- successfully mediating and negotiating with relevant parties to achieve acceptable solution to disputes.</p> <p>à Liaise with young people and youth service to seek diversionary activities to prevent Anti-Social Behaviour.</p> <p>à To provide an information source for the Police, Local Authority and Housing Association partners:-</p> <p>à By reporting appropriate incidents and assisting in the delivery of solutions through the Anti-Social Behaviour Problem Solving Group.</p> <p>à Assisting in the implementation of the 'Behaviour Contract' Pilot Scheme.</p>
2.4.3	<p><b>REDUCING CRIME AND FEAR OF CRIME</b></p> <p>To visit vulnerable members of the community and victims of crime:-</p> <p>à To accept referrals from Retirement Housing Providers, Victim Support,</p> <p>the Independent Living Scheme and other agencies, with the challenge to eradicate the fear of crime.</p> <p>à To offer crime prevention advice and to facilitate the implementation of the safer homes schemes</p>

2.4.4	<p><b>FOSTERING SOCIAL INCLUSION</b></p> <p>àTo work in conjunction with other agencies and organisations to enable and build the capacity of the community.</p> <p>àTo liase and develop opportunities to work with residents to ensure the successful delivery of the scheme.</p>
2.5	<p><b>MANAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS</b></p>
2.5.1	<p>Eastbourne Borough Council and the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership will be responsible for the overall management of the scheme. The posts will be employees of Eastbourne Borough Council and a multi agency steering group will oversee the operation of the scheme.</p>
2.5.2	<p>The Street Warden Manager will directly report to the Tenant Services Manager in the Council's Housing Management Division.</p>
2.6	<p><b>OPERATIONAL ISSUES</b></p>
2.6.1	<p>The Wardens will have a distinct uniform. It will be designed around the colours of blue and red, and incorporate logo'd sweatshirts/fleeces, t-shirts, trousers and waterproof over jackets. Each warden will use mobile phones to communicate with other wardens and agencies when out working in the community. It is also anticipated that they will have office accommodation available to them in the three separate areas.</p>
2.6.2	<p>Wardens will be provided with torches, personal audible alarms, small 'backpacks' and first aid equipment. Vans will be available, when required for clearing and carrying purposes. It is anticipated that free bus travel will be made available in and between the three areas. Garages will also be available, if required, for additional storage.</p>

2.7	<b>TRAINING</b>
2.7.1	<p>A full training programme has been developed, which all Wardens will be required to undertake, before they commence their work within the communities. This will incorporate a variety of activities covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Negotiation and mediation skills</li> <li>· Communication and reporting skills</li> <li>· Health and safety issues</li> <li>· Information and evidence gathering</li> <li>· Legal and legislative matters</li> <li>· The local area</li> </ul>
2.7.2	The Manager will also be required to attend a residential course, specifically being run for personnel working on these new Street Warden Schemes.
2.7.3	Eastbourne Borough Council, the Eastbourne Mediation Service, Sussex Police, locally based Housing Associations and a range of other groups and organisations, will offer the training provided locally.
2.8	<b>RECRUITMENT</b>
2.8.1	A very successful recruitment exercise was carried out in February/March this year involving open days at Community centres as well as interviews of shortlisted candidates. As a result, all 10 posts could be filled.
2.8.2	New wardens will commence their induction training from April 15 <sup>th</sup> . This will last for approximately 5 weeks. Wardens are likely to start in their areas towards the end of May.
3.0	<b><u>Consultations</u></b>
3.1	There has been full consultation with all agencies involved in the Crime Reduction Partnership.

3.2	There has been consultation with resident representatives and also all tenants via the Tenants Newsletter.
3.3	There will be continued consultation with residents as the scheme progresses as well as reports to Tenants Advisory Group.
<b>4.0</b>	<b><u>Implications</u></b>
4.1	<b>HUMAN RESOURCE</b>
4.1.1	The posts will be employees of Eastbourne Borough Council for the purposes of payroll and conditions of service. The Tenant Services Manager will provide line management to the Scheme Manager.
4.1.2	However, The wardens will not be part of any one Council Department. They will be responsible to the Crime Reduction Partnership via Janet Canny, Head of Housing Management, who is the designated Lead Officer for the Partnership regarding Anti Social behaviour.
4.2	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>
4.2.1	Wardens will be responsible for identifying potential environmental improvements. They will also be actively involved in the removal of graffiti, abandoned vehicles and other environmental eyesores.
4.3	<b>FINANCIAL</b>
4.3.1	The full running costs of the scheme are being met from the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit grant, Communities against Drugs initiatives, Housing association contributions and part of the Council's enforcement budget.
4.3.2	Separate budget heads have been created to account for all expenditure associated with the scheme. Monitoring reports will be made to the Home Office on a quarterly basis.

4.4	<b>YOUTH</b>
4.4.1	Wardens are likely to make a significant contribution towards services for young people. They will seek to engage with young people in their areas and help facilitate meaningful activities for them in conjunction with other agencies.
4.5	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>
4.5.1	It is anticipated that wardens will make a significant contribution to Community Safety. They will work closely with all agencies in the Crime Reduction Partnership.
4.5.2	By being a visible presence in certain parts of the town, they will hopefully help to reduce people's fear of crime.
4.6	<b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b>
4.6.1	Wardens will receive training in the implications of the Human Rights Act.
4.7	<b>ANTI-POVERTY</b>
4.7.1	Wardens will be able to signpost people to services where they can receive help with Welfare Benefit Advice and Debt Counselling.
<b>5.0</b>	<b><u>Conclusion</u></b>
5.1	It is anticipated that the scheme will make a major contribution towards improving community safety and other community initiatives.
	<b>Adrian Channon</b>  <b>Tenant Services Manager</b>

	<p><b>Background Papers:</b></p> <p>The Background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:</p> <p><b>Eastbourne Community Street Warden Implementation Plan</b></p> <p>To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.</p>
document/jc.NAF/TAG/150402 – Street Wardens (AEC)	