

April 2010

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IMPACT

For further information or to be involved in an event please contact:
Charlotte Foster,
Community Safety Officer, Suffolk County Council
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A total of seven IMPACT events were held across Suffolk during 2009, exceeding the target given by the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board of one event in each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area. Following a paper to the Board in November 2009 the same target has been set for 2010. IMPACT events are an effective means of addressing issues of concern within neighbourhoods and bring together a range of partners in a dynamic and co-ordinated way to ensure that neighbourhood problems affecting community safety are resolved. The events involve many different partnership agencies.

In order to progress a forward plan of events, a workshop was held on Monday 8 February to schedule events for the rest of the year.

Part of this workshop was also to explore how events can be more sustainable and to look at additional partners to be involved in the events. The

Research and Information team provided information on crime and anti-social behaviour data to support the knowledge of local



officers to ensure that the correct geographical locations were selected for the IMPACT events.

At the event CSPs were also presented with 'anti-graffiti kits' which were purchased by the Community Safety Team following their successful application to the Environment and Transport 'environment fund'.

Once again partners had a choice of two types of events: day events (tackling environmental crime) and evening events (issues associated with the night time economy). Events are to remain confidential from the public but during 2010 will be adapted to help build upon local consultation.

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Cannabis Campaign

For help and further information please call:

Crime stoppers on
0800 555111

Suffolk Police on
01473 613500

Suffolk Drugs
Helpline 01473
299640

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across Suffolk have launched a countywide campaign to highlight the dangers of cannabis.

The CSP members which include Suffolk Constabulary, NHS, the Probation Service, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk Drug and Alcohol Team and councils are encouraging the public to think about the short and long term effects that cannabis has, in particular the impact usage can have on mental health.

Cannabis is the most widely used illegal drug in Britain and more employers are now randomly testing staff members for cannabis. Long-term users can still have remnants in their system three months after smoking it.



The campaign also aims to draw attention to the increasing emergence of Cannabis Factories in the UK since 2004.

Police believe organised criminal gangs are responsible for the rise.

Many factories are booby-trapped to keep out the police and rival gangs. The temperature within a factory gets very hot and rooms

containing chemical fertilisers and pesticides can pose a potentially lethal fire risk to the building and neighbouring properties, especially as they are rarely occupied.

Signs that there is a factory in your locality could include:

- A strong, pungent smell coming from a property
- Powerful lights being left on overnight and an unexpected rise in your electricity bill
- Large numbers of bags of plant material being thrown away
- People visiting the property at odd times of the day or night

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Suffolk Hate Crime Service

Victims or witnesses of Hate Crime can report direct to Suffolk Police or to Suffolk Hate Crime Service on 01473 668966 or report@suffolkhatecrime.org.uk

A hate crime is any criminal offence that is motivated by hostility or prejudice based upon the victim's:

- Disability
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender
- Age

A steering group consisting of agencies including Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Gay and Lesbian Helpline, Optua, Suffolk Inter Faith Resource and Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality have been working together to develop a service that is much more responsive to the needs of all hate crime victims and their families across Suffolk.



There are currently four members of staff working within the service, three employed by Suffolk County Council and one by Suffolk Constabulary.

The co-located team is based at The Old Crown Court Annexe in Ipswich but the Hate Crime officers travel throughout Suffolk developing awareness and supporting victims.

The team are keen to hear from people who have been a victim of anti-social behaviour as well as more serious offences.

If offenders of anti-social behaviour are not challenged early this can often lead to further offending and on occasions more serious offending behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour can happen in the street, at work, in college or school and it is often as a result of a lack of awareness by the offender.

The team work closely with the anti-social behaviour team, Suffolk Constabulary, housing providers, schools and social services to provide awareness training for groups who may be at risk of being an offender or a victim.

Victims can receive counselling, increased security on their property, referrals to other agencies that can provide support and guidance for their needs or whatever is appropriate for them. It is important for people to report incidents to not only receive help but to enable a clearer picture of hate crime within Suffolk.

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SNTs Build Confidence

For more information about priorities that the SNTs are tackling visit:
www.safersuffolk.org.uk



Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) are playing an important role in helping to build public confidence in local communities.

In Suffolk there are 30 SNTs and every local community has its own dedicated SNT officer. Each team has its own website, which provides information on who is in the team, where they are based and how to contact them.

The teams are made up of sergeants, constables, police community support officers, special officers and some police staff volunteers. They work with local communities to identify issues that need to be addressed locally. They then tackle these issues through partnership involvement.

Sudbury and Great Cornard SNT is tackling the issue of youth related anti-social behaviour within the area of Uplands Crescent.

The SNT has increased high visibility patrols to identify and deal with specific individuals responsible. Officers are taking a zero tolerance approach towards all forms of anti-social behaviour and where appropriate seeking criminal and civil remedies such as tenancy intervention.

Work with partnership agencies such as Babergh District Council has been essential to finding long-term sustainable solutions and diversionary activities to stop further behaviour from occurring.

Officers are gathering evidence of anti-social behaviour with a view to seeking Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) before criminal or civil courts. This may involve Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs).

Leiston and Aldeburgh SNT is targeting anti-social behaviour in their town centres. Young people are consuming alcohol, which causes incidents of disorder during the evenings.

The SNT has increased high visibility patrols in the areas to identify and robustly deal with offenders. Suffolk Coastal District Council Licensing Team has been helping to prosecute any licensees that supply alcohol to those who are under age.

Officers will be using Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 to get an individual or group to leave a specific area and not return within a time limit, otherwise they are liable for arrest. They will also be issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for disorder.

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SVIAPP

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The consultation for the Suffolk Community Strategy and for Local Area Agreement 2 (LAA2) highlighted that violence within the Night Time Economy is an area of particular relevance for Suffolk and this has also been clearly recognised more recently in the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment.

As such, a target to "reduce the number of serious violent crimes committed in a public place where alcohol and substance misuse was a contributory factor" has been adopted for LAA2 and is referenced as Local Target 7 (LT7).

2007/08 was identified as the baseline year (1352 offences) and a reduction target of 7.1% was set across a three year period.

In order to inform the delivery of an action plan to achieve this

target a detailed analysis of serious violent crimes committed in a public place where alcohol and substance misuse was a contributory factor was carried out. This examined offending patterns across the county and compared identified trends with previous years' offending to establish the long term patterns in offences.

This analysis clearly identified three specific areas of concern which accounted for around 45% of offences in the county. These areas are: Ipswich, Lowestoft and Newmarket town centres.

In order to meet this target a strategic Task and Finish group was established in September 2009, chaired by Chief Supt Mark Cordell. Based on the recommendations within the Home Office document, 'Tactical Options For Dealing With Alcohol-Related Violence - identified through the Tackling Violent Crime Programme' the group brings together partners who can contribute to reducing serious violence.

This group has provided strategic leadership for three local action groups established within Ipswich, Newmarket and Lowestoft which are chaired by Senior Directors of the local district or borough council. During Quarter 3 these groups spent time developing an action plan based on the recommendations within the Home Office document, 'Tactical Options For Dealing With Alcohol-Related Violence - identified through the Tackling Violent Crime Programme', all three areas have now completed their action plans and are working towards progressing existing gaps during Quarter 4.

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SmartWater Launches in Lowestoft

For more information please contact Alan Osborne, Partnership Coordinator, Suffolk Constabulary.
Alan.Osborne@suffolk.pnn.police.uk



For more information on SmartWater in Lowestoft please visit www.suffolk.police.uk

SmartWater has arrived in Lowestoft following a rise in burglary figures. The idea was picked up by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and some initial research was done into the burglary hot spot areas in the town, how other partnerships around the country had deployed SmartWater and how much it cost.

There are two types of SmartWater. The first is the one that is most often displayed on advertising because of its high profile impact. This is the SmartWater spray systems that are located in vulnerable premises and when activated spray the intruder in an invisible dye which is only detectable under UV light. Once sprayed onto the skin it will remain detectable for up to six weeks. Once on clothing it can not be removed.

The other type of SmartWater is the property marking system. This consists of a clear liquid that contains a chemical DNA unique to each sample of SmartWater. This means that once a householder has marked their property with SmartWater and registered their details, if property were to be stolen it can be traced back to that household.

Clearly, however, the main reason for implementing a campaign around SmartWater was the deterrent value of using it. So any deployment had to be backed up by a good advertising campaign to highlight its use.

The proposal was made to the Responsible Authorities Group about a SmartWater campaign in Lowestoft who agreed to £20,000 of CSP funding for the project. In addition a bid was also made to the Waveney Local Strategic Partnership who agreed to fund £20,000. The police BCU fund contributed a further £5,000.

The CSP then engaged with the Lowestoft District Commander, CID and SNT to plan the logistics of the campaign. It was agreed that the Kirkley ward in Lowestoft would be the first area to be targeted. This would be done by members of the SNT putting leaflets through every door in Kirkley inviting householders to have their property marked free of charge. Seven appointment times a day, seven days a week, were set aside so that firm appointment times could be made to meet expectations. Once an appointment was made the householder would be visited by a PC/PCSO who would mark their property for them. It was also agreed that any victim of burglary in Waveney would also be offered the same service.

Whilst property marking was the main emphasis of the campaign the agreement with SmartWater also included access to spray arches which could be deployed when the need arose. Some of the funding was therefore used to equip Lowestoft custody with a SmartWater detection arch. As a result all suspects being taken into custody are taken through the UV detection arch. It was also necessary to provide officers and patrol vehicles with UV torches to use when carrying out searches.

The campaign launched on 4 December 2009 and to back up the high profile newspaper advertising, fourteen buses displayed

banners about SmartWater and the local radio station, Beach Radio, ran an advert eight times a day for four weeks. In addition, householders who had their homes visited were encouraged to put SmartWater stickers in their windows and lamp posts were used throughout the area to display signs that SmartWater was being used.

As of the end of February 2010 over 400 homes in Waveney have had SmartWater property marking carried out. Feedback from the officers who having been carrying out the property marking has been very positive. In many cases this was the first occasion that householders had had an interaction with the police and this has therefore increased confidence.

The campaign has now moved on to other wards within Lowestoft as dictated by burglary hot spots and at the time of writing no household that has had SmartWater property marking carried out has been a victim of burglary.

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Extra Funding for Supported Housing Scheme

For further information please contact;
Stuart Hudson,
Suffolk Prolific and
Other Priority
Offender (PPO) Co-ordinator
Stuart.Hudson@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) scheme are pleased to announce that they have been successful in securing £28,000 in funding for a supported housing scheme in West Suffolk for PPO's in conjunction with St Matthews Housing.

Funding has come from two sources. The West Suffolk Community Safety partnership has provided £22,000 and the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership has provided a further £6,000. Currently the supported housing scheme in West Suffolk has a part time St Matthews worker who supports six PPOs in specifically allocated accommodation. This new money will now be used to fund a full time PPO support worker who will continue to support offenders in the six units of accommodation, alongside providing support in the community for six other PPOs in a floating support role.

Stuart Hudson the Suffolk PPO coordinator stated "Due to their chaotic life styles and issues with drugs and alcohol, Prolific offenders have real difficulty in obtaining and maintaining accommodation. This new funding to continue with the dedicated PPO housing and in addition provide floating support to six other PPOs in the community will enable us to reduce crime in west Suffolk and engage with this offender group. In addition the support worker is able to help these offenders gain life skills and sign post them to other support services to help them to deal with their issues and enable them to sustain a normal life. It has been

demonstrated that if we can maintain an offender in stable accommodation for a period of time then the chance of them re-offending is greatly reduced and this provides them with a solid foundation to re-build their lives.”

This project started on 1 April 2010 and is a continuation of the current contract with St. Matthews housing. It will conclude on 31 March 2011.

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White Ribbon Campaign

The international White Ribbon Campaign runs from 25 November – 10 December annually. The campaign is linked to 16 days of action focused on raising awareness of domestic abuse. It ends on December 10 which is International Human Rights day.

For many years Suffolk has supported the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states:

‘ recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the family is foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world’.

Through the multi-agency County Domestic Abuse Forum and local Forums it is promoted that:

‘everyone has the right to live free from violence and abuse – within their home, workplace, their intimate and family relationships and community’.

White Ribbon Events in 2009 in Suffolk highlighted domestic abuse in Suffolk with the theme *‘Wear a ribbon to show your support against domestic abuse’*. The campaign provides the opportunity for organisations in Suffolk to raise awareness of domestic abuse and how their organisation contributes to support victims and address domestic abuse in Suffolk.

A full programme of events was arranged by the Domestic Abuse Forum and Women’s Aid and was widely published and received media attention. Information stands and displays aimed to raise awareness with the public and staff were in place at the district and borough councils and Suffolk County Council offices throughout the campaign.

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DVD Helps Combat Domestic Abuse

A new DVD aimed at young people which tackles the subject of healthy relationships has been launched. The West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership commissioned Catch 22 to produce the DVD called 'Tainted Love'; young people from West Suffolk College were also involved in the production.

While some progress has been made in changing young peoples' attitudes a minority of young people still condone violence against women and girls and in some circumstances feel it is 'cool' and acceptable to hit their girlfriend.

A survey by the NSPCC in 2009 showed that exploitation, cohesion and violence in teen relationships was more common than previously thought.

The DVD is focused on educating young people about domestic abuse and equipping them with the skills they will need to form relationships based on respect, shared power and a commitment to non-violence. Teenage boys are encouraged not to use violence, abuse or controlling behaviour against girls and teenage girls, and to understand that they do not have to tolerate any form of violence, abuse or controlling behaviour in a relationship.

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Suffolk County Council Shares Best Practice

Suffolk County Council has become a partner in an EU best practice exchange with Romania called Tranzit which is between Suffolk and the Local Authority and the North University in Baia Mare, Romania. The aim of the initiative, which will take place over two years, is to support victims of domestic violence and promote social inclusion.

Suffolk County Council's participation involves Children and Young People's Services – Safeguarding Children, and Public Protection, Social Inclusion and Diversity – Domestic Abuse.

The first stage of our participation was hosted by our partners in Romania when the Domestic Abuse section of the Community Safety Unit facilitated training seminars for professionals and managers from the Local Authority and social work students from the University in Baia Mare.

Suffolk County Council hosted a further exchange visit aimed to share best practice and information about services developed in Suffolk. During the week long visit the party were able to observe

a Freedom Programme session and meet with Waveney Domestic Abuse Forum and Ipswich Women's Aid. Other visits included Ipswich Domestic Violence Court and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), meetings with Children and Young People's Services and Social Inclusion and Diversity.

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Homeshield Plus Launched

To book a home visit call 0845 603 4715 or email homeshieldplus@suffolk.gov.uk



Vulnerable people from across Suffolk can now get help direct to their doorstep.

Homeshield Plus is an exciting new project launched by Councillor Joanna Spicer, Chairman of Suffolk County Council on the 28 January 2010.



Suffolk Community Safety Unit has commissioned Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to deliver this project. Homeshield Plus has eight visiting officers and a project coordinator, all wearing the

uniform of the community fire safety team.

The team received a full induction course during the first two weeks of January which involved training being delivered from many of Home Shield partners plus a two day health visit course, ensuring they were provided with a wide understanding of the services on offer within the county.

An enhanced referral form has also been developed following consultation with all partners which means that over 80 questions

are now addressed during the visit. The referral form is held electronically on a “tablet” computer so that the information can be downloaded on returning to base.

6,000 home visits across Suffolk is the target set for the project over the next 12 months. To enable visiting officers to achieve that figure each has been provided with a van, displaying the Homeshield Plus, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and Suffolk County Council logos.

Homeshield Plus is aimed at some of the most vulnerable people in Suffolk and the team are busy gathering information from a range of databases. People can also contact the team direct to arrange a home visit.

All visits are pre booked, so no visiting officer will arrive on a doorstep un-announced. Every visit will include a full home fire safety and security survey, with the visiting officers having the ability to provide and install smoke alarms and security equipment whilst at the home.

Funding has been provided from NHS Suffolk so there are a number of new questions included in the referral form around health issues from healthy eating to smoking.

The aims of Homeshield Plus remain the same as those of Homeshield; to improve the quality of life, security, safety, finances, health and well-being of people allowing them to remain within their home environment for a longer period of time.

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Making Tracks

For further information please contact:
Lily Taylor,
Community Safety
Project Officer,
Ipswich Borough
Council
lily.taylor@ipswich.gov.uk

A new art project looking at what young people are worried or concerned about in their community is currently under way at the four Making Tracks youth drop-in-centres in Ipswich.

Using laminated maps as a guide, the young people used happy and sad faced stickers to show feelings associated with their community, before developing spider diagrams to identify why they have these likes, dislikes or fears for a particular area.

They then took part in an art competition, designing posters to raise awareness of the anti social behaviour reporting line. This gave them the chance to express their views on the issues, discussing

what 'anti social behaviour' is and who it affects. The Community Safety team will select a winning poster from each centre.

All the information gathered from this project will help the Community Safety team to understand the key issues from a young person's perspective, helping them to focus their efforts more effectively.

A feedback session was planned for late March, which included a discussion on the key themes that emerged from the project, as well as an explanation from the Community Safety team and a Community Support Officer of what is being done to make the area a safer place. During the feedback session the winner of the poster competition received prizes from a selection including, a family bowling ticket, theatre tickets and high street vouchers. In addition, all participants received a 'goodie bag' for taking part.

The sessions were supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, with Community Support Officers joining in throughout the project. This visibility seemed to have a beneficial impact on the confidence of the young people, helping them engage positively with the police.

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Positive Futures National Award

For more information please contact;
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Positive Futures
Manager .
paul.knight@suffolkcc.gov.uk

The Positive Futures Teenage Kicks project, funded by the Western Area Community Safety Partnership, has won a National Justice Award for their commitment to engaging communities.

It was the team's work with young people in the Stowmarket area that saw them beat off stiff competition from almost 900 nominations across England and Wales.

Positive Futures is a national sport and leisure activities based social inclusion programme, managed by Catch-22, on behalf of the Home Office. The programme aims to use sport as a catalyst to encourage participants to make decisions for themselves, and to take self-determined steps towards a positive future. Steering young people towards educational and employment opportunities are at the heart of the programme's agenda.

In January 2008 concerns were raised over the levels of anti-social behaviour in Stowmarket, and the lack of constructive activities for young people in the town. Positive Futures organised an 18-week programme of football and street dance, held on Thursday nights which were a key time for anti-social behaviour. During the initial term 206 individual young people attended the sessions, with over

1,100 attendances in total and partners including the Suffolk Youth Offending Service, Stowmarket Safer Neighbourhood Team and Mid Suffolk District Council got involved.



As a result of this success, additional funding was secured which enabled Positive Futures to offer indoor winter activities including boxing and fitness. The feedback from young people was extremely positive and attendance was high throughout. Rowdy and

inconsiderate behaviour in Stowmarket has fallen by 25%, and criminal damage has also been reduced by 8%.

Mid Suffolk Neighbourhood Inspector Gary Duncan says: “The Western Area Community Safety Partnership identified that there was a lack of activities for teenagers and places for them to go. It meant they had been hanging around the streets, which led to concerns about anti-social behaviour in some areas, and made the young people more vulnerable in terms of becoming involved in crime or indeed victims of crime. The young people themselves were asked what courses they would be interested in. The sessions give them something positive to do in the evenings which enhances their confidence, teamwork skills and gives them a goal to work for – all in a safe environment.

“The reduction in anti-social behaviour and associated criminality is proof that by working with partners in the community, Suffolk can be made even safer. My officers have spoken to local people who have commented that they have noticed far fewer problems on the recreation ground and in the town in general, and it’s great that families are starting to use the Rec again”.

Commenting on the honour of being recognised at the awards ceremony attended by senior government ministers including the Home Secretary, Justice Secretary and Attorney General, Paul Knight, Suffolk Positive Futures Manager from young person’s charity Catch-22 said: “The team is delighted that the Positive Futures Programme has been recognised on a national level for its success in devising a programme of football and dance sessions to deviate young people away from anti-social behaviour. Working directly with 206 individual young people with records from April to November 2008 showing significant reductions in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage compared to the same period the previous year, we are all very proud of the programme’s success”.

The Justice Awards recognise exceptional achievement among staff and volunteers working in criminal justice. The awards are now in their sixth year, and have succeeded in becoming a highly regarded national scheme which promotes excellence and best practice.

The awards aim to:

- recognise outstanding achievement in a variety of fields and boost the confidence of front line staff and volunteers
- spread the word about the many stories of dedication and courage found in the modern Criminal Justice System
- improve the system as a whole by sharing information and ideas on what works best

The Stowmarket Teenage Kicks Project is supported by the Western Area Community Safety Partnership, Suffolk Constabulary, Mid Suffo District Council, Stowmarket Town Council, Suffolk Youth Offending Service, Childer Road Youth Club and Time 2 Change.

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Safer Summer



'Safer Summer' is an annual project supported by the Ipswich Community Safety Partnership. The project promotes safety messages to the community during the summer months at various public events, from Music Day in the Park to the Mela. This year, in addition, we hope to attend the Pink concert at Portman Road as well as various World Cup screenings.

The project also promotes the work that the Community Safety Partnership is doing in Ipswich. Officers from the Community Safety team, as well as other agencies, will be available to answer any safety questions or concerns that members of the local community may have.

This year we are keen to find out people's views on Ipswich and where they live and we will be conducting a short questionnaire. We will also be giving out lots of free safety advice along with fun 'give aways' for people of all ages.

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Crucial Crew

For more information please contact;
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Lorraine.Arthur@Ipswich.gov.uk



Crucial Crew is a national scheme that is delivered to 10 and 11 year olds in Ipswich. It runs for a fortnight in June and a fortnight in September every year. Almost all schools in Ipswich, both state and private, attend and each year around 2000 pupils experience Crucial Crew in

Ipswich.

Crucial Crew is run by Ipswich Borough Council's Community Safety Team, with support from volunteers and partners, including Suffolk Police, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Suffolk County Council's Road Safety Team, EDF Energy and Ipswich Building Society.

There are nine different scenarios at Crucial Crew covering the following aspects of safety:

- Water safety
- Finance/Identity security
- Road safety
- Electrical safety
- Fire safety
- Drug/Alcohol awareness
- Personal safety
- Internet safety
- Railway safety

This year we are pleased to be celebrating our fifteenth year of running Crucial Crew in Ipswich.

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Your Future Link On

Link On is currently produced as an e-newsletter so that we do not have design and print costs and save on postage. In addition, it's also more environmentally friendly.

We are very interested in hearing your views to help plan future editions so please feel free to send suggested news items to

bim.webb@suffolk.gov.uk

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