

Contents Click on the hyperlink to go straight to an article:

[Community Safety Unit research team - new resource, easier decision-making](#)

[Bad girl star launches Babergh Safety Booklet](#)

[Leiston feels the IMPACT of Operation Heptagon](#)

[Well done Marianne!](#)

[Ashtray giveaway to tackle littering](#)

[DAAT Service User Involvement Strategy](#)

[Court cases show that local people hold the key to enforcement.](#)

Community Safety Unit research team - new resource, easier decision-making

The Suffolk County Council Community Safety Unit Research Team have developed a 'partnerships information portal' that uses monthly recorded crime figures to generate helpful tables, graphs and charts. The resource has been designed to be as user friendly as possible and the features and functions of the resource are simple to use. We hope this will help decision making and enable efficient use of resources.

Zoom in, zoom out

The resource has been developed to look at crime in Suffolk and breaks down the data in three ways; location, offence type and point in time.

- Location - the location breakdown is available at a Suffolk wide, CSP (Community Safety Partnership), district, SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Teams) and ward level.
- Offence - the 15 offence types are generated from the Home Office classifications and are constant throughout the resource.
- Time - the point in time is broken down in several ways but because it can create comparisons with the same period the year before it gives an element of performance.

There is also a section in the resource that tracks the level of recorded crime over a three year period so the user can see trends or emerging issues.

Apart from the three main attributes in the crime section there are also other useful tools, many of which present the information as graphs or visual images.

The future

Although the resource has been initially developed using crime data, future versions will include information relating to anti-social behaviour, ambulance callouts, hospital admissions and calls to the fire service. It is intended for use by the Suffolk Community Safety Partnerships to aid their decision making and to drive problem solving. The resource will also be used (in conjunction with other sources of data) to inform performance monitoring and help in the production of the Suffolk CSPs Strategic Assessment.

The partnerships information portal is currently available electronically via the SCC CSU or online at <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/crimestatistics>. The resource is based in Microsoft Excel 2000 and therefore is best viewed in the same version. It uses macros so you must enable these to get full use of the resource.

Help us Out!

As you may have noticed throughout this article we keep calling this great new tool a “resource” and “partnership information portal”. Can you think of a better name? We need something snappy and memorable that will do the new resource justice, clever acronyms are acceptable and the best name will be awarded a prize.

To enter please email charlotte.foster@csu.suffolkcc.gov.uk with your entry. The closing date for the competition is 1st September. (1st prize is: microsoft Wireless Notebook Optical Mouse+USB 2.0 Flash Drive. 2 further runner up prizes will receive a USB 2.0 Flash Drive)

Bad girl star launches Babergh Safety Booklet



One of the stars of ITV1's 'Bad Girls' steered clear of the long arm of the law for long enough last month to launch a new community safety booklet.

Alicia Eyo, best known for her character Denny Blood in the prison-based drama, lent her support to Babergh Be Safer, a leaflet produced by the Babergh Community Safety Partnership (CSP).



The booklet is just one of the Partnership's latest tools to be used to help the district improve on its already excellent track record of low crime rates. Babergh is one of the safest districts to live in with a crime rate half the national average. With the publication of this booklet the CSP hopes to improve those figures even further. Ann Scott, Babergh's Community Safety Officer, said:

"Some of the security tips may seem like common sense but it is easy to become complacent when we live in such a safe district. This is a gentle reminder to remain vigilant, even though the chance of becoming a victim of crime in Babergh is very low."



The booklet has information, advice and helpline numbers on a variety of topics and many partners have contributed to the initiative including Babergh District Council, Connexions, Suffolk Police, Babergh Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum, the Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council.

Leiston feels the **IMPACT** of Operation Heptagon

Teams from the county and district councils, fire service, police, trading standards, the Vehicle and Operator Service Agency (VOSA) and educational welfare arrived together in Leiston to create a high profile and immediate improvement to the safety, well being and security of the people of Leiston.

Jackie Abbott, Leiston police community support officer (PCSO), said it was important to show residents a great deal of positive happening in their area.

Amongst the issues dealt with:



Cars

- 5 vehicles had Immediate Prohibitions – owners were instructed to remove their vehicle from the road until repairs had been made
- 5 fixed penalty notices were issued for various motoring offences
- 1 mismatched number plate is under further investigation
- 1 illegal parking advice notice given
- 1 tax disc not clearly displayed - advice given

Environment

- Fly tipping of industrial waste was spotted and followed up
- 1 fixed penalty notice for litter dropping
- 11 areas of litter and dog fouling cleansed
- 8 footpaths cleared overgrown hedges etc
- 2 issues of fly tipping cleared
- 27 items of graffiti removed
- 11 bulky household waste items removed

Protecting children

- 10 young people were found working without permits
- 1 young person found and returned to a place of safety
- 4 young people were found to be on study leave

Fire

- Contact was made with 71 residents
- Appointments were made to revisit 4 bed and breakfast establishments
- 1 Homeshield referral

Police

- 1 arrest for disorderly conduct - fixed penalty notice issued

Follow up

Our presence in Leiston encouraged residents to come and talk to us and we have over 60 further issues to deal with.

Well done Marianne!

Marianne Fellowes, has received an MBE for her services to domestic violence in Suffolk since 2002. Marianne is the County Domestic Violence and Abuse Projects Manager. As part of the Council's Community Safety Unit, Marianne leads a civilian team based with Suffolk police. She has helped to raise the awareness of the needs of men as victims and through her work launched the specialist domestic violence court in Ipswich last year.



Ashtray giveaway to tackle littering

Personal portable ashtrays will be given away to smokers after complaints from some residents over the littering of cigarette butts around pubs and clubs following the smoking ban.

The Suffolk Coastal Nightsafe Partnership – made up of local councils, police, licensees, other agencies and local residents – agreed to take steps towards reducing the problem and contact was made with a firm called Butts & Gum Ltd who make Boodi portable eco-ashtrays.

Environmentally friendly

The recycled, recyclable, biodegradable and compostable ashtrays are now being supplied to local pubs and clubs to give away to smokers.

Each ashtray has a clay liner and can be carried in a pocket or bag and used to extinguish and dispose of cigarettes.

The ashtrays have been generously funded by Suffolk Coastal Services, who provide environmental services in the district, and the giveaway will be supported by a poster campaign called 'No ifs...No butts!'.

NO BUTTS!



It's Litter!

The initial awareness raising will be followed by an enforcement campaign. Littering is enforceable by both police and local councils and you could face a fixed penalty fine of £80 for dropping litter.

Inspector Steve Gallant of Felixstowe Police said the campaign would be one way of trying to get the anti-littering message across.

“Dropping cigarette butts may not seem like a huge problem but littering doesn't help the image of the town and can be an annoyance for residents living near licensed venues.

“Through our Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the local Nightsafe Partnership a lot of work is being done to enhance the area. This is a small measure and we are delighted Suffolk Coastal Services have agreed to fund a solution to the problem. We hope that smokers will take advantage of the scheme and support it.”

Litter Fritters money

There is, of course, a cost to everyone when dropped litter has to be picked up. Cleaning up litter from Suffolk Coastal area costs the council taxpayer more than £600,000 every year.

The campaign is also being supported by Suffolk Health through their continuing drive to encourage smokers to give up the habit. Leaflets giving advice and tips to help you quit will also be available at venues.

“This is an excellent opportunity for smokers to play their part in stubbing out litter in our district and I am pleased that Suffolk Coastal Services are funding the initiative. I would still initially encourage any smokers to try the free advice services that are on offer to help them kick the habit. But for those who are still addicted, having their own portable ashtray does make it so much easier for them to stub out their cigarette ends tidily for those times when a bin is not close to hand,” said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Coastal Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

DAAT Service User Involvement Strategy

The DAAT Service User Involvement Strategy for Substance Misuse was officially launched at an event held on the 17th June at the St Nicholas Centre in Ipswich.

Speakers included: Simon Aalders, DAAT Coordinator; Emma Pawson, Eastern Deputy Regional Manager for the National Treatment Agency (NTA); Jimi Grieves, National User Network (NUN); and Jon Maddox, Suffolk Substance Misuse User Group (SPACE). They gave presentations from their perspectives, on the effective and meaningful involvement of service users in the development, improvement and commissioning of drug and alcohol treatment services in Suffolk.

A total of fifty three current, ex and potential service users and drug and alcohol treatment agency staff attended.

One work area within the strategy, is the task of setting up an "independent, user-led advocacy service". This work will include the identification of individual advocates, training, advertisement, support and funding.

Other areas that were identified for improvement during consultation events around Suffolk included:

- easier and better advertised access into treatment
- a more structured aftercare service, including cooking and general life skills training

The 08/09 Adult Treatment Plan (ATP) now contains specific objectives around access and aftercare provision. Consultations have taken place in different localities, to identify the exact wants and needs of Suffolk's service user community.

Service users have spoken and we have listened. As a DAAT, we believe that the involvement of those using our local services can contribute to the long term success of drug and alcohol treatment in our partnership area.



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Suffolk Mental Health **NHS**
Partnership NHS Trust



Court cases show that local people hold the key to enforcement.

Two trading standards court cases this month following complaints from the public have both been fast tracked to court. Both cases saw traders peddling fake DVDs to local shoppers stopped, arrested and brought before magistrates within 24 hours. Among the stash of fake DVDs were current box office hits, Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, Iron Man, The Chronicles of Narnia - Prince Caspian, Sex and the city and Superhero Movie.

The cases, which both lead to custodial sentences, were brought to court following complaints from the public.

Assistant County Trading Standards Officer, Reg Ruffles highlighted the importance of the cases saying:

"The public has a vital role to play here. These cases came to us after members of the public reported the sellers to the police. However, that is just one part of the story, we can each play a part in wiping out the trade in fake goods and DVDs by not simply not buying them. If there is no market for fakes in Suffolk then criminals will not be able to profit at the expense of local firms. If nobody bought counterfeit goods, we could make Suffolk a fake free zone"

Reg Ruffles



Trading Standards plan to raise the stakes in the battle against fake goods later this summer with the launch of the Fake Free Suffolk campaign.

MJ Awards Effective Top Team Leadership Achievement of the Year

Following the tragic deaths of five women in December 2006, a special task force was formed, with the aim of removing street prostitution from Ipswich. Representatives from Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police, Suffolk Primary Care Trust, Suffolk Probation Service, Suffolk Mental Partnership and voluntary agencies joined forces to develop a robust and responsive approach to this sensitive issue.

This swift response by partners working together across organisational boundaries had an immediate and direct impact on street prostitution in Ipswich.

The effectiveness of this team has led to a comprehensive plan of action to tackle street prostitution.

On the 26th June a number of people from these agencies attended the award ceremony at the Park Hilton Hotel along with Joanna Spicer and Jeremy Pembroke. The Top Team Award had eight local authorities who had been recommended for the award, and the team were delighted to learn that they had won. The trophy was presented by Jon Snow.

