

Helping to create a safer Suffolk Coastal...



Autumn 2004

Have your say on tackling crime and disorder and drug misuse in the District.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 places a duty on specific agencies (Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Constabulary, the Primary Care Trust, and the Suffolk Fire Service) to work together and with other agencies in the community to tackle crime and disorder and the misuse of drugs. This body is known as the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership ('the Partnership').

Every three years the Partnership is required to carry out an audit to identify the extent of the problems in the district and develop a strategy to deal with them. The following document summarises the findings of the audit which has been carried out using data from 2001-2004.

It is now time to produce a new strategy for 2005-2008, and the Partnership would like to hear your views on crime and disorder within the district.

They would also like to hear your opinion on the incident types which have been short-listed for consideration for inclusion in the forthcoming strategy.

Are these issues important to you? Has the Partnership missed something equally as important?

The questionnaire on the back page of this leaflet is your opportunity to have your say. The information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used for the purpose of this exercise.

Suffolk Coastal enjoys relatively low crime rates in

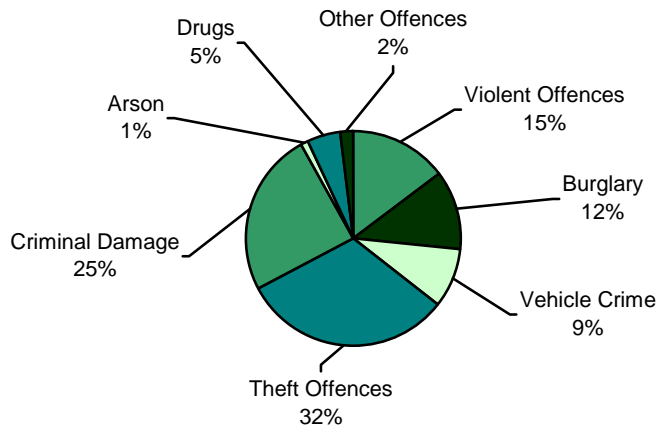
the county and a high quality of life, but the Partnership acknowledges that there is still work to be done to reduce crime and disorder and drug misuse and help local people feel very safe where they live.

To learn more about the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership please contact:

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What the audit tells us...

Breakdown of Recorded Crime in Suffolk Coastal 2003/04



OVERVIEW

In 2002 the population of the district was 114,983, which accounted for 17% of the total population of Suffolk.

The 2001 Census showed that 46% of the population of Suffolk Coastal were employed. In January 2004, there were 998 people registered as unemployed in Suffolk Coastal.

A postal survey carried out by Suffolk County Council in March 2004 showed that 42% of district residents felt 'fairly safe' in the area where they lived, and 54% felt 'very safe'.

The annual cost of crime in Suffolk Coastal for 2003/04 was estimated to be in the region of £13,451,972. These costs include lost or damaged property, time spent, emotional or physical impact, security, insurance premiums, and employer costs. Public sector costs account for about 30% of the overall total cost and include government crime prevention spending, criminal justice system costs, victim services and health services.

Overall, crime rates in the district remained well below the county average at 54.7 offences per 1000 population compared to 77.8 offences per 1000 population for Suffolk as a whole. Between April

2003 and March 2004, 6293 offences were recorded by Suffolk Constabulary in the Suffolk Coastal District Council area.

Patterns of offending across the district are fairly typical with incidents of violence and disorder occurring more frequently in urban areas and property offences such as vehicle crime and 'other burglary' occurring in more rural locations.

In the following sections numbers appearing in *italics* relate to the actual number of offences recorded.

BURGLARY (743)

Of Peoples Homes:

There were 227 dwelling burglaries in Suffolk Coastal during 2003/04. This was well below the county average of 3.6 offences per 1000 population, at 2.0. Four wards recorded rates above the county average. These were: Grundisburgh (4.8, 11), Felixstowe SE (4.5, 21), Felixstowe E (4.3, 17) and Leiston (3.7, 23).

Of Sheds, Garages and Other Buildings:

There were 516 'other' burglaries in the district last year. These included sheds, garages, outbuildings, and business premises. Whilst the overall rate was lower than the county average of 6.0 offences per 1000 population at 4.5, three wards recorded rates more than one and a

half times higher than the county average: Seckford (11.1, 20), Nacton (10.7, 45) and Otley (9.1, 20).

CRIMINAL DAMAGE (1588)

There were 1588 criminal damages offences recorded during 2003/04. The rate of criminal damage in Suffolk Coastal was generally lower than the Suffolk average (18.3 offences per 1000 population). However, there were some wards where the rate of offences was significantly higher. These wards were Seckford (54.4, 98), Felixstowe S (48.0, 211), Saxmundham (28.3, 113), Leiston (24.7, 153), Felixstowe SE (22.6, 106), Kesgrave W (21.4, 75), and Kyson (21.0, 42).

CYCLE CRIME (271)

The rate of cycle theft in Suffolk Coastal last year was slightly above the county average of 2.2 offences per 1000 population at 2.4. Five wards experienced rates more than twice the county average. These were: Felixstowe S (8.2, 36), Aldeburgh (8.0, 28), Nacton (6.9, 29), Felixstowe SE (6.2, 29), and Felixstowe N (4.9, 21).

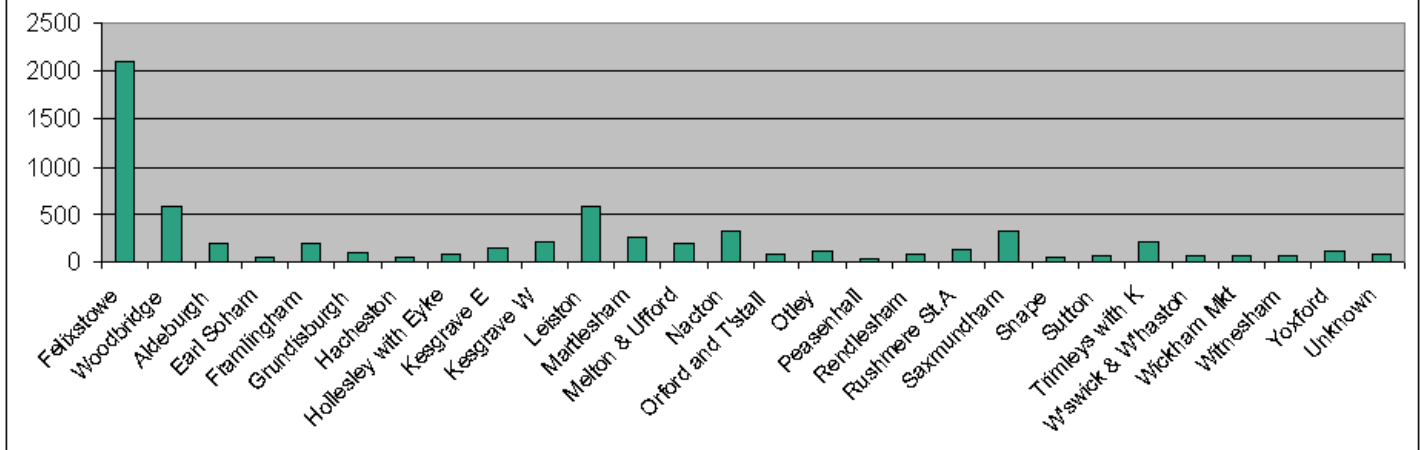
DISORDER (1914)

Public disorder events tend to peak in line with periods of activity associated with the nighttime economy (e.g. pub/nightclub closing times). Unsurprisingly, most events are recorded in urban areas, and more events are recorded during the evening and at weekends.

There were a total of 1914 disorder incidents recorded in the district during 2003/04.

Within the disorder category the most commonly recorded incident in Suffolk Coastal was 'Disturbance in a Public Place'. The district average for this type of incident was 10.7 offences per 1000 population. Wards with higher than average rates were Seckford (27.2, 49), Felixstowe S (25.0, 110), Kesgrave W (13.7, 48), Leiston (13.5, 84), and Saxmundham (13.0, 52).

Breakdown of recorded offences by ward 2003-04



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (432)

Of the total number of domestic violence incidents reported to Suffolk Police during 2003/2004, 9% were in Suffolk Coastal. This equated to 432 incidents.

Although the district appears to have a lower than average rate of victimisation it is important to remember that victims living in rural areas face additional barriers to reporting.

Domestic violence is a serious and complex crime whose victims are reluctant to come forward to report what has happened to them or seek support. Since the launch of the countywide 'Break the Pattern: STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE' campaign there has been an increase in the number of incidents reported to the police. Countywide the reporting rate doubled during 2003/2004.

DRUGS (298)

There were 298 drugs offences recorded in Suffolk Coastal by Suffolk Police during 2003/2004. Of these offences 29 were classed as 'serious drugs offences' and the remaining 269 offences were recorded as 'other drug offences'.

Of these offences 90 were recorded in Felixstowe, 38 in Woodbridge and 38 were recorded in Leiston.

It is difficult to determine an accurate level of drug misuse in an area, relying heavily on police intelligence and proactive police operations.

Whilst, there is no evidence to suggest that there is a major drugs problem in Suffolk Coastal, it is important to make treatment services available to drug misusers, and to continue to make available educational material to the community; especially young people.

RACIAL HARASSMENT (45)

There were 45 racist incidents recorded in Suffolk Coastal during 2003/04. This equated to approximately 9% of all racist incidents countywide.

The 2001 Census showed that the proportion of people from black and minority ethnic groups living in the district was below the county rate (2.8%) at 1.9%.

A county breakdown of racist incidents for 2003/04 showed that 32% were harassment, 26% abuse, 22% assault, 10% criminal damage and 10% were other types of offences.

The incident rate in Suffolk Coastal has risen from 16.5 offences per 100, 000 population in 1998/99 to 39.1 offences per 100,000 population in 2003/04.

The Suffolk Racial Harassment Initiative (RHI) encourages the reporting of incidents which may account for the significant increase in incidents over recent years.

VEHICLE CRIME (581)

Theft of Motor Vehicle

Last year in Suffolk Coastal 138 vehicles were stolen. The district had the joint lowest rate of thefts in the county. However, some wards had rates higher than the county average of 2.3 thefts per 1000 population. These were: Seckford (3.9, 7), Felixstowe W (3.1, 21) and Holesley with Eyke (3.0, 7).

Theft from Motor Vehicle

During 2003/2004 there were 443 thefts from motor vehicles in the district. The average rate for 'thefts from motor vehicle' across Suffolk was 6.5 offences per 1000 population. The wards in Suffolk Coastal which exceeded this rate were: Otley (16.8, 37), Nacton (11.9, 50) and Orford & Tunstall (10.0, 19).

VIOLENT CRIME (932)

There were 932 violent offences in the district last year. These included 29 robberies and 53 sexual offences.

The violent crime rate in Suffolk Coastal was well below the Suffolk average (14.0 offences per 1000 population) at 8.2. However, there were four wards with rates higher than the Suffolk average. These were Felixstowe S (33.4, 147), Leiston (20.3, 126), Seckford (16.7, 30) and Saxmundham (14.8, 59).

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT.
PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONNAIRE

1. The following crime and disorder types have been identified as possible issues in Suffolk Coastal. Please prioritise them in order of importance to you, between 1 and 11, with 1 being the MOST IMPORTANT and 11 being the LEAST IMPORTANT.

- BURGLARY OF PEOPLES HOMES
- BURGLARY OF OTHER BUILDINGS
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE
- CYCLE CRIME
- PUBLIC DISORDER / NUISANCE (non-criminal)
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- DRUG OFFENCES
- RACIAL HARASSMENT
- THEFT
- VEHICLE CRIME
- VIOLENT OFFENCES

2. How safe or unsafe do you feel in the area where you live? (Please tick the most appropriate answer)

- Very safe**
- Fairly safe**
- A bit safe**
- Very unsafe**
- Not stated**

3. How safe or unsafe do you feel in an area where there are CCTV cameras? (Please tick the most appropriate answer.)

- Very safe**
- Fairly safe**
- A bit safe**
- Very unsafe**
- Not stated**

4. Overall, how safe do you think Suffolk Coastal is as a whole? (Please tick the most appropriate answer)

- Very safe**
- Fairly safe**
- A bit safe**
- Very unsafe**
- Not stated**

5. Please list two types of behaviour that you consider to be anti-social:

6. Have you ever been a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour in the past 12 months? (Please tick.)

YES **NO**

If you have answered YES to question 6, what type of incident was it? (E.g. criminal damage, burglary.)

7. Did you report this incident to the police? (Please tick.)

YES **NO**

ABOUT YOU

Please note that the following personal questions are optional and you don't have to provide this information if you don't want to. However, by answering the following questions it helps the Partnership to ensure that it collects views from as wide a selection of the population as possible.

Thank you.

Postcode of home address:

Gender **Male** **Female**

Age Group

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 46-55 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 56-65 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 66-75 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 36-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Over 75 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Ethnicity (Please circle one of the following.)

White: British Irish Any other white background

Mixed: White & Black Caribbean White & Black African White & Asian Any other mixed background

Asian or Asian British: Indian Pakistani Bangladeshi Any other Asian background

Black or Black British: Caribbean African Any other black background

Chinese **Refugee**

Traveller **Asylum Seeker**

Other (please specify)

Please return completed questionnaires to:

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Or email guy.richardson@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk