

Safe and Sound (Wyre Forest)

July 2016

Sue Hanley, Chair of North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

This month I would like to give you an update on a new coordinated partnership called "Team Wyre Forest" which was launched in January this year. The Team aim to tackle crime and anti social behaviour and address environmental and other issues affecting people living, working and visiting Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport town centres.

The Team has found that some issues can be resolved quite quickly by working together and coming up with a plan of action; but other more complex issues take longer before an improvement is seen.

To date, issues that have received attention are varied, but include anti social behaviour which includes begging, street drinking and shop lifting, drug taking, littering, skateboarding and cars being driven in an anti social way on car parks.

To address the skateboarding issue in Kidderminster town centre, the Team approached Kidderminster District Youth Trust (KDYT) to talk to the young people and get their ideas on what could be provided as an attractive alternative to skating street spots and car parks. KDYT have now applied for funding to buy mobile skating equipment that can be set up on their car park and will support young people to design and use it. For more information visit <http://kdytyouth.wix.com/kdyt>

For complex issues such as street drinking and shop lifting, additional focus groups have been formed to look at all the issues involved and get to the root of why it's happening and what can be done to tackle the whole issue. This could mean supporting individuals to encourage them to change their habits and follow a different path and address housing and health needs through a range of partners.

Team Wyre Forest is undergoing a six month review, but early signs are encouraging and results are showing that this is an effective and efficient way to work; sharing knowledge, experience and resources to create solutions. By working closely with all parties who have a vested interest in making our town centres great places, without duplication of effort, we can be more efficient and responsive to our town centres' needs.

For more information about NWCSPP, please visit www.nwcsp.org Follow us on Twitter! @saferwyreforest and like our Facebook page SaferWyreForest (Community Organisation).