

Welcome to the November edition of the Safer Ashfield Bulletin

New strategy to lower youth crime in Mansfield and Ashfield

During 2009 in Mansfield and Ashfield, 599 of the 22,500 young people in the area committed a crime. Of those, 203 had committed an offence involving violence.

These statistics are available thanks to the new Youth Crime Strategy which was agreed by Nottinghamshire's Youth Offending Service. This is made up of representatives from the County and District Councils, and the Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation and Health services.

The plan aims to reduce the number of victims of crime committed by 10 to 17 year-olds, to cut the amount of violent offences committed by young people and to minimise the number of young people going to prisons or secure units.

To access a copy of the Youth Crime Strategy, visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/youthoffending

Respect for Ashfield says no to littering

Two more successful littering prosecutions reinforce the message that littering in Ashfield will not be accepted.

Amy Roberts from Hucknall was prosecuted for dropping litter onto the ground of Central Walk in Hucknall on the 8 February 2010. Richards Bohacz from Clifton in Nottingham was prosecuted for dropping litter onto the ground of Hucknall Market Place on 30 January 2010.

The cases were heard at Nottingham Magistrates Court on 6 September and they were each fined a total of £140.

Addressing anti-social behaviour (ASB) over Halloween and bonfire night

The Fire and Rescue Service, Police and Ashfield District Council's Community Protection Officers (CPOs) were out and about over Halloween and Bonfire night to spread the Respect for Ashfield message.

The Fire and Rescue Service spoke to B&Q customers and 350 secondary school children about fire work safety. Operation Animism was run by the Police over both weekends to respond to incidents of ASB. Where young people were found with alcohol, this was confiscated and they were taken home. The CPOs delivered over

1,500 “No Trick or Treat” posters to elderly and vulnerable residents, supplied over 300 “No Egg and Flour” posters to shops, regularly visited firework retailers to inspect their refusals books and offer reassurance so they would refuse underage sales and handed out firework safety leaflets at school gates across the District.

Huthwaite fly-tippers caught on camera

Since the closure of Huthwaite Recycling Centre on 1 August 2010, the risk of fly-tipping in the area surrounding the old site increased and working with Ashfield District Council Enforcement Officers, the Environment Agency installed CCTV cameras in the area. During the two week operation, cameras captured five separate incidences of fly-tipping. The evidence gathered was investigated by Ashfield’s Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers and legal action is now being pursued through the courts where appropriate.

Taking action on Nabbs lane

Nabbs lane in Hucknall has seen a reduction of nearly 50% in the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour thanks to tough action from Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire Police.

The area had been experiencing problems with anti-social behaviour (ASB) which was causing concern to local residents and businesses. As a result, a number of actions were put into place to improve community safety and reduce crime in the area. Contact with local residents has increased in order to identify problems and keep them aware of action being taken. Police and CPOs undertake regular patrols of the area — particularly at times which have been identified as a problem and advice and support is being offered to victims through Victim Support. Any perpetrators of ASB are dealt with promptly and appropriate action is taken against them including issuing Acceptable Behaviour Contracts where appropriate.

White Ribbon Day

The White Ribbon Campaign aims to reduce the level of domestic violence against women and this year, White Ribbon Day took place on 25 November. To raise the profile of the campaign, Nottinghamshire Women’s Aid ran a clothes line project which enabled women and children to transfer their thoughts and experiences of domestic abuse onto t-shirts. The clothes line project will be on display at Ashfield District Council from 22 November to 1 December and at Kings Mill Hospital from 2 December to 10 December. To show your support and take the pledge to never to commit, condone or remain silent about men’s violence against women, visit www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk

Younger fly-tippers pay the price

Two local youths from Hucknall were recently made to clear over a tonne of waste after being caught fly-tipping. The brothers, aged 15 and 17 were originally asked by their mother to take the waste to the Wigwam Lane Household Recycling Site, however decided to dump the rubbish on nearby land.

The waste was traced back to the boys after being discovered by the landowner who reported it to Ashfield District Council’s Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers.

After admitting that they had fly-tipped the rubbish, the Council gave them the task of clearing over a tonne of rubbish from the Wigwam Lane area with the Council's Neighbourhood Response Team. This included the waste that they had originally dumped themselves. The boys were also issued with a six month warning which requires them to stay out of any trouble with the Authority and the Police.

Sanctuary Scheme launched in Ashfield

On 21 October, Ashfield District Council launched the Sanctuary Scheme in partnership with the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, County Council, Ashfield Homes and the voluntary sector.

The Sanctuary Scheme provides security equipment to enable victims of domestic violence to remain in their own home where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice and where the perpetrator does not live in the same accommodation. This could include replacement front and back door locks, fitting of key operated window locks to ground floor windows, installation of a fire resistant letterbox or fitting smoke detectors and, where appropriate, an alarm.

Agencies can make referrals to the Sanctuary Scheme which will be co-ordinated by the Homelessness Prevention Officer at Ashfield District Council. Initially, only high risk referrals will be accepted – those that would be referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

If you require any additional information, please contact Ian Scholes (Homelessness Prevention Officer and scheme co-ordinator) on 01623 457532 or i.scholes@ashfield-dc.gov.uk.

The Safer Ashfield Bulletin forms part of a wider programme of communications activity under the Respect for Ashfield header. This is designed to encourage and promote respect for Ashfield by showing local people how organisations are working in partnership to tackle ASB across the district, and keeping them informed of current developments and achievements.

If you have any news which you would like to submit for a future issue of the Safer Ashfield Bulletin, please contact Emma Sowter (e.sowter@ashfield-dc.gov.uk) or telephone 07943 095 830.