



Safer Ashfield Bulletin

Ref: No 04/2010

Date: July 2010

Welcome to the July edition of the Safer Ashfield Bulletin

The Safer Ashfield Bulletin is the new name for the ASB Bulletin. Following the success of the ASB Bulletin, the decision was made to expand and include updates and activities across all of the strategic priorities. The bulletin will now include news from anti-social behavior, domestic violence, violent crime, serious acquisitive crime and reducing re-offending.

Respect for Ashfield Roadshows

Four roadshows are being held across the Ashfield district during August and early September. The aim of these events is to promote the work that is being done by all partner agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour. The roadshows will provide the opportunity for residents to talk to partners about their concerns and find out what is being done to address them. There will be lots of information available to encourage residents to get involved in tackling anti-social behaviour.

A range of activities will also be on offer to children and young people, including a climbing wall, children's entertainers and nameplate graffiti.

The roadshows are taking place on the following dates from 10am to 3pm:

- 14 August — Ashfield District Council Offices Car Park, Kirkby in Ashfield
- 20 August — Tesco superstore car park, Hucknall Town Centre
- 28 August — Portland Square, Sutton Town Centre
- 4 September — Somerfield car park, Selston

For more information, please contact Richard Cropley on 07792 772 508.

Warnings issued to boy racers

Officers from Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Police are sending out warnings to car cruisers who use the area around junction 27 of the M1 as a racing circuit.

Notices are being handed out to boy racers who congregate in the area on a Sunday night to warn them that they could face action.



The posters and leaflets warn that cameras are being installed in the area this summer and the police will be carrying out regular patrols to tackle irresponsible car cruisers.

Community Payback

Community Payback is a punishment for offenders which involves tough, physical work on projects that benefit the community. It gives local people the opportunity to have their say on the type of tasks carried out. In 2009/10 offenders completed approximately 44,000 hours in the Mansfield and Ashfield area – making the community a safer and more attractive place to be.

The scheme is run by Nottinghamshire Probation Trust who often work in partnership with other agencies. It brings huge benefits to many by restoring derelict land back to use, transforming 'grot spots', painting and decorating public buildings, clearing rubbish, graffiti removal and more. Offenders undertaking this work are required to wear distinctive orange jackets, making it clear that justice is being done in the community.

Work that has been done in the Ashfield District includes:

- working with Ashfield District Council to tidy up and cut back planted areas and hedgerows in Brierley Park, Sutton-in-Ashfield
- painting two Community Shops in Hucknall for Ashfield Homes, and
- carrying out seasonal grass cutting at Annesley Church — making this part of the Byron tourist trail more pleasant for locals and visitors.

As well as punishing offenders for their crimes, Community Payback also helps prevent the likelihood of re-offending by providing a chance to gain qualifications in practical subjects such as gardening, painting or decorating. This increases their future employment prospects. Research shows that if offenders can gain stable employment they are 30% less likely to re-offend.

For more information, contact the Nottinghamshire Probation Trust's Community Payback team on 0115 8455123 or visit their website www.nottinghamshire-probation.co.uk

Successful prosecution

The owner of a tattoo studio in Sutton-in-Ashfield has been fined a total of £890. Rory Langham of Fantasy Finline Tattoo Studios appeared in Court on 30 June charged with two offences. The first being that on or around 8 June 2009, he failed to take reasonable steps to secure that the transfer of commercial waste from his business premises, was to an authorised person. The second being that on 4 August 2009, he failed to comply with a notice served on him by Ashfield District Council which required him to give information relevant to a fly-tipping incident which had occurred

on Homewood Drive, Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Langham was convicted of both offences and was fined £425 plus costs, making a total of £890.

Dragons Den launched

An exciting new project based at the Skegby Scout Hut and Quarrydale School is encouraging young people to engage in diversionary activities rather than hang about in their communities and perhaps get involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The Dragons Den Project involved local secondary schools in Ashfield who were asked to come up with a plan to reduce ASB in their area. Excellent ideas were produced by the young people but it was a proposal from Quarrydale School for the development of diversionary activities linked to outreach work amongst young people which won.

The winning project proposed two locations to develop extra activities — at Skegby Scout Hut and Quarrydale Youth Centre at Quarrydale School. Skegby has had problems with ASB and the project will be delivered in one of the district's hot-spot areas.

Funding was provided by Ashfield Partnership Against Crime to buy equipment for the project and to ensure that it is available as frequently as possible — particularly on Fridays and at weekends.

It is hoped that the Dragons Den Project will be run with Ashfield schools again in the autumn with a proposed theme of Building Bridges across the Generations. For more information about the project, contact Adrian Dudley on 07880 500 572.

Domestic abuse outreach services

Nottinghamshire Women's Aid offers outreach services to women in the Ashfield District who have experienced or are currently experiencing domestic abuse. They currently run a regular weekly drop-in at Ashfield Voluntary Action (formerly Ashfield Links Forum), Fox Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield on Mondays from 10am to 12 pm. The drop-in allows any woman affected by domestic abuse the opportunity to access one to one information, practical and emotional support, referral or signposting to relevant services.

The 12 week Freedom Programme has been delivered in Sutton-in-Ashfield at the Zion Centre in partnership with Summerhouse Children's Centre. This programme aims to raise women's awareness and increase knowledge of abuser and perpetrator behaviours, tactics and beliefs. It also assists women with recognising potential future abusers and illustrates the effects of domestic abuse on children.

A housing related support service is also available which provides the support element of the Sanctuary Scheme. To make a referral or find out more about the local services, please contact Kate or Sharon on 01623 555551.

From October 2010 the provision will change to include a Domestic Abuse Support Group at Summerhouse Children's Centre. Drop-in sessions will continue to be available at Ashfield Voluntary Action and Summerhouse Children's Centre.

Parenting support programmes

In July, 12 families in Hucknall and Kirkby-in-Ashfield successfully completed parenting and family programmes. As a result, they are communicating better with one another, the young people who were not attending school have had meetings in school to look at how they are going to start back, relationships between parents and their children have improved and parents' mental health has improved. Parents have stayed in touch and are continuing to support one another to use the strategies they have learnt with their families and local communities.

A Strengthening Families Programme has started at the 'Bunker' youth centre which is attached to Sutton Centre College and we are enjoying meeting one another and sharing lunch together. The group runs from 10am to 1pm every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays and then from 3.30pm to 6.30pm when the schools are back. This is due to finish on 29 September 2010.

New Communications Officer

As of 5 July, Emma Sowter joined the team as Communications Officer for Ashfield Partnership Against Crime and Mansfield Partnership Against Crime. Emma will be based in Ashfield on Thursdays and Fridays and in Mansfield from Monday to Wednesday. Please contact Emma with any future articles or updates on 07943 095 830 or email e.sowter@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.

