



Delivery of priority services and outcomes

To have a high quality, clean and sustainable environment

To help all residents to achieve a healthy weight by encouraging an active life style, in communities where everyone feels welcome and safe

Background – Why?

Engagement in the community is a core function of the Partnership. Without understanding the needs of the local community priorities would be lost and the focus would not be directed. The Partnership does not undertake this function in isolation it embraces the structures that exist already to engage with communities including those that are hard to reach; for example young people, the elderly, gap, lesbian and bisexual groups and those from minority ethnic backgrounds.

The Partnership develop and enhance approaches that will allow communities to identify their priorities and have a voice to ensure issues affecting their lives are dealt with and where appropriate, agencies, officers and elected members are held to account.

What was done?

A variety of approaches were used to engage with communities including our website, media opportunities, CAP (Community & Police) meetings, Parish Plans, Parish Liaison Forum, Neighbourhood Watch Groups, the Place Survey, Voluntary Sector Forums, Police Public Attitude Surveys, Citizen's Panel, Youth Councils and bi-annual street surveys in all four of Ryedale's Market Towns. The Partnership also attend special events for such as concerts, shows and large sporting events.

We are fortunate in Ryedale to have an excellent relationship with our community. 66% of people in Ryedale feel well informed about crime and policing issues in their area and 24% people (the highest in the sub region) have attended a local meeting where the police were involved. (Public Attitude Survey December 2009)

A variety of approaches will be used to engage with communities, both face to face and through consultation exercises. These include:

- Website www.ryesafe.org
- Media opportunities – we have a target of 12 press releases per annum, which we exceed.
- A 'media diary of events' has been drawn up to highlight the community based events for the Partnership throughout the year.
- CAP (Community & Police) meetings.
- Parish Liaison Forum.
- Voluntary Sector Forums.
- Bi-annual street surveys in all four of Ryedale's Market Towns.
- The new 'Rural Voice' project, co-ordinated by Ryedale Voluntary Action, will also contribute to the involvement of the voluntary sector in Safer Ryedale's processes.
- We have an effective and valued network of Watch Groups.

We have identified a 'gap' in our consultations – feedback from young people across the District is not routinely undertaken, although the street surveys are carried out in youth centres. This will be an area to address in 2010/11 through working more closely with the '4 Youth' service, 'Crucial Crew' project and investigating the potential for a 'Youth Neighbourhood Watch' scheme.

We will review the various consultations that partners undertake such as the Place Survey (Local Authority), Public Attitude Survey (North Yorkshire Police) and North Yorkshire Police Authority consultations. Many of Ryedale's parishes have undertaken a parish plan and these have been collated to extract issues pertaining to community safety. The Partnership will also be involved in the sub regional Sustainable Community Strategy, which will be refreshed in 2010, by the NYSP.

Who was involved and how?

Gail Snowden, Community Link Officer, Sandi Clark, Crime and Disorder Officer and Sgt Pearse all carried out street surveys with the help of Councillors, PCSO's, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue staff. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators also completed questionnaires with residents in their areas. Youth workers carried out questionnaires at Brooklyn and Atmosphere youth centres.

What was achieved?

The results of the March 2010 survey are not yet available but the results from September 2009 survey, carried out in the market towns of Pickering, Malton, Norton, Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside where nearly 300 people completed a specially prepared questionnaire about issues, which concern them in their neighbourhoods. These comments made by members of the communities will play a big part in the preparation of the Partnership's Year 2 of the Partnership Plan. Highlights of the survey findings are as follows:-

- 91% felt the level of crime in Ryedale was either low or very low
- 97% said Ryedale was a safe place to live during the day
- 91% of people interviewed felt safe at night

The main complaints in the survey were speeding motorists, which 21% of people said was an issue, followed closely by dog mess and the amount of litter. But overall, it revealed that "fear of crime" had fallen compared with previous surveys.

Who benefited and how do we know?

The results of the surveys go on to form part of the Partnership Plan for the following year, thereby contributing to Safer Ryedale's priorities and allocation of resources to projects in Ryedale.

Resources and value for money

During 2009/10 the Partnership set aside resources (funding of approximately £1,000) to allow community engagement activity. We link closely with work being done by other partners to avoid duplication – this will particularly be the case in 2010/11 following the merger of the Ryedale Strategic Partnership and the Safer Ryedale Partnership.

Next Steps / Further Action

A press release showing the results of the March 2010 will be issued shortly. During 2010/11 the Partnership will commit resources for community engagement activities. We are committed to raising awareness, promoting safer communities and offering preventative advice on a variety of issues affecting our communities.

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Background documents/Links:

Ryedale Mercury October 09

www.ryesafe.org