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## DELIVERING SAFER, CLEANER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES IN SANDWELL

### TOWN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD TASKING


APSE – Community Safety and Security Advisory  
Group 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006.  
Kevin Dennis, Head of Community Safety



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## Why - Local


- Significant progress in reducing recorded crime
  - down by 21.4% from 03/04 to 04/05
  - further reduction of 5.4% from 04/05 to 05/06
- Fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, litter, activities for young people are top concerns for Sandwell residents (Viewpoint – September 2005)



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## Why-National

- RESPECT ACTION PLAN (Jan 06) – Focuses on people, property and the wider environment
- People need to be safe and feel safe
- Address problems through the eyes of citizens and address crime, incidents or events that concern them



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## RESPECT Action Plan – Strengthening Communities

- “We want to make changes to the way that public services are organised so that they respond to the problems that communities face today”



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## Delivery

**Boroughwide  
Tasking**


**Town Tasking**

**Neighbourhood  
Tasking**

**Superintendent**  
Trading Standards Manager  
ASB/Warden Manager  
Groundcare Ops Manager

**Sector Inspector**  
Housing Area Manager  
Town Team Co-ordinator  
Education Welfare Officer


**Neighbourhood Manager**  
Housing Manager  
Neighbourhood Sergeant  
Groundcare Supervisor



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## Sources of Information

- National Intelligence model (NIM)
- Monthly tactical assessment
- Visual Audits-Sept across the borough
- ASB line
- Community Intelligence / Citizen priorities



## What's been done so far

- 31 'neighbourhood clusters' identified
- Public survey completed
- Signal crime and community priorities identified
- Guidance produced and staff trained
- Feed back systems being developed
- Already reporting success



## 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 TACTICAL ASSESSMENT – West Bromwich

Hamblett's North, Hamblett's South



## 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 TACTICAL ASSESSMENT – West Bromwich

- 46 incidents of ASB reported in the 4 week period up to the 3 March including:
  - Throwing stones at cars and properties
  - Arson on playing fields and in derelict properties
  - Breaking into derelict houses on Claypit Lane
  - Vehicles been damaged (tyres slashed, wing mirrors broken)
  - Youths gathering in gangs
- 13 Criminal Damage offences recorded in this period
- Key places: Bailey Street, Claypit Lane, Young Street



## 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006 West Bromwich Town Tasking Group

- WM Fire Service tasked to provide fire prevention talk to local primary school
- Sandwell Homes tasked to meet with tenants about nuisance and rowdy behaviour
- WM Police tasked to carry out extra patrols in the area and to identify young people suitable to be issued with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts
- WM Police reported Domehawk camera installed in Turner Street for potential evidence gathering
- Sandwell Homes reported positioning of Domehawk camera in Bailey Street
- Joint application for Section 30 Dispersal order



## 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 TACTICAL ASSESSMENT Results

- 17 reports of ASB, **down** from 46
- 5 incidents of Criminal Damage recorded, **down** from 13
  - 9 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts issued, a further 8 are pending
  - Problem Orientated Policing (POP) plan has been put into place
  - By 19 April Tasking Group, Domehawk camera removed from Bailey Street as site no longer designated as a priority problem area
  - Security guard tasked to look after residents remaining in clearance area on Claypit Lane
  - Application for Section 30 Dispersal Area still going through.



## Community Comment

"There's been a big improvement. It's nice to visibly see more police not only driving around the area but also walking the streets showing their presence. We expected that there would be problems from the evacuation of the houses, however both myself and residents have noticed a difference in the last few weeks, it has made a huge difference as people are more aware and less scared now. It was nice to see various service providers involved and attending the residents meetings and wanting to get actively involved."

Janet Sayce, Greets Green Community Representative for Hamblett's North



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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006  
**TACTICAL ASSESSMENT – Wednesbury**  
 Friar Park, Mesty Croft & Woods

Sandwell  
Metropolitan Borough Council

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3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006  
**TACTICAL ASSESSMENT – Wednesbury**

- 48 reports of ASB in 4 week period including:
  - 12 incidents of outdoor arson
  - nuisance behaviour
  - throwing stones at cars and properties
  - damaging fencing and walls
  - harassment of a resident in Booth Road

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**Wednesbury Town Tasking Group – Response**

- 10 young people apprehended by police
- Police in liaison with Sandwell Homes sent letters to parents/ guardians
- 2 case conferences attended by police, ASB Team, Schools, social workers, statutory and voluntary organisations, family and specific interventions identified
- Fire service visit local schools to promote fire safety

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**Wednesbury Town Tasking Group – Response**

- All 10 young people referred to Positive Futures Programme
- Social workers and family support in place for 2 young people
- suspended action on ABCs or ASBOs – under review
- younger children in the 2 families on at risk register
- video cameras installed on Wednesbury fire engines
- Incidents of nuisance fires down to **3 per month**

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**Community Comment**

"The town tasking process has been very successful in tackling the fires being set on the open space area of Johnson Road. Without the right agencies around the table the issue would not have received such wide spread attention and such a swift resolution. The tasking process has enabled organisations, service providers and the community to conduct a dialogue which is enabling us to have safer and stronger and empowered communities".

*Wenda Leslie, Tipton Town Team Co-ordinator*

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