



**NHS**  
*East Sussex Downs and Weald*



## EASTBOURNE CRIME REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP



*“Making Eastbourne Even Safer”*

### **Co-ordinated Week of Action in Eastbourne Town Centre**

In a week of activity, Eastbourne town centre saw a number of agencies working together to improve many aspects of the town under the banner name of Operation Synergy. This is the latest of a series of co-ordinated operations which form part of the three year crime reduction strategy for the town and aims to improve the community by not only enforcing the law but providing education, and assistance to residents as well as improving the town visibly. The Operation ran from Monday to Saturday inclusive and included high visibility Police patrols, anti-truancy sweeps, test purchasing at licensed premises, removal of graffiti, untaxed cars and helping homeless people.

The Crime Reduction Partnership provided funding to support the multi-agency approach involving Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Eastbourne Borough Council, Trading Standards, TV Licensing and the DVLA who provided resources in order to work together to make Eastbourne a safer place to live, work and visit.

Crime in Eastbourne has reduced by 20% from 2003/4 figures and this week of action will support the continuing fall in levels of crime whilst improving the quality of life in the town centre.

High visibility police patrols took to the streets of the town centre during the week providing public reassurance whilst teams of uniformed and plain clothed officers, all from the Eastbourne Neighbourhood Policing Team, targeted crime hotspots in the centre of the town.

Throughout the week Police and Police Community Support Officers conducted 352 hours of high visibility patrols and actively searched for wanted persons or crimes being committed in the area. A total of forty three arrests were made during the course of the operation. Nine arrests were for theft and shoplifting offences, six for house burglary, five for criminal damage, eight for violent crime offences, six for public disorder, four for bail act offences and three were arrested for being wanted on warrant.

For four of the six days a plain clothes officer together with a drugs sniffer dog walked through the town's streets mingling with pedestrians looking for persons carrying or misusing drugs in Eastbourne. Over the four days six persons were stopped and admitted that they had been in possession of drugs earlier in the day. Accompanying officers searched all persons and made one arrest for possession of illegal drugs.

Each day officers from the Roads policing Unit using their automatic number plate recognition cameras conducted traffic stops in the area and dealt with thirty offences which included reporting drivers for no insurance, persons not wearing seat belts and driving whilst using a mobile phone. One vehicle was seized as the driver had no insurance.

Police Officers together with council officials, health care representatives, and members of voluntary organisations conducted night time and early morning sweeps across the town looking for homeless persons sleeping rough, only two were found who were assessed for housing and healthcare needs.

The DVLA Enforcement Unit targeted untaxed vehicles and clamped 15 vehicles. The Council removes vehicles considered to have been abandoned as they are unsightly and are frequently the target of arson attacks. Removing them helps to improve the environment as well as reducing the opportunity for crime.



Community Enforcement Officers from the Borough Council were involved in removing graffiti and arranged for the collection and disposal of unsightly rubbish.



Trading Standards Officers from ESSC worked alongside Police Officers from the East Sussex Licensing Team conducted four days of test purchasing operations using Police Cadets in licensed premises across the town where they entered pubs and off licences and attempted to purchase alcohol. Nine pubs were tested, four of these illegally sold alcohol. Twelve off licences were tested, two of these illegally sold alcohol. £80 fixed penalty notices were issued to the person selling the alcohol and follow up visits will be conducted to the license holder. These premises will be visited and tested again before Christmas, and where necessary they may have their license to sell alcohol reviewed by the Licensing justices.

On one morning council education enforcement officers together with Police schools intervention officers conducted a truancy sweep across the town centre and thirteen young persons were stopped and dealt with.

In preparation for the operation Council enforcement officers and Police community support officers patrolled every street, alleyway and public place within the area of the operation looking for environmental issues such as graffiti, rubbish, fly tipping, broken street furniture, broken windows and vegetation overhanging the footpaths. In total eighty eight actions were logged and during the week of operation the councils rubbish clearance contactor SITA and graffiti removal contractor Aquarius solutions were employed to deal with the issues. Seventy seven issues were resolved with the remaining few being subject to an ongoing action to resolve.

Cllr Margaret Bannister, Lead Member for Community, "Operation Synergy has once again been a great success. Working with other agencies in partnership provides the chance for real improvements in the town environment. These operations are an invaluable resource for the town and the Council looks forward to being involved in future ventures."

Sgt Julian Williams who planned and coordinated the weeks operation said, "Prior to the operation we identified the priorities relevant to the town centre from residents groups, neighbourhood watch groups, and other community organisations and tried to focus our activities on those areas. The week of action is just part of the ongoing activities that are being progressed on a daily basis to minimise crime and antisocial behaviour. There is also an ongoing project involving the council and alcohol licensees to deal with persistent street drinkers who flout the town centres designated no drinking zone. This will be mixture of prevention and enforcement."

Inspector Tony Wakefield said, "The first Operation Synergy took place exactly one year ago with the idea coming from Chief Inspector Coates. Due to its success we are now on the third operation of this type to take place in Eastbourne. I will continue to run these operations in the future to address community problems at all levels improving the quality of life for the people living and visiting our town. It's a pleasure to see what can be achieved when partner agencies combine their efforts in working towards a safer and friendlier environment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their efforts, without them this would not have been possible."

Eastbourne District Commander Chief Inspector Dick Coates said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partner agencies for their continued support, without whom, this would not have been possible. It is my hope that through partnerships working together, as demonstrated throughout this week, we will continue our drive to further reduce crime in Eastbourne.

We will continue to target areas to ensure fewer people in Eastbourne become the victims of crime. Those engaged in criminal activity will quickly understand that we are tough on crime.

We will also continue to promote sensible crime prevention advice and will work with our crime reduction partners across the District in the drive to reduce crime."