

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Chair's Report of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel meeting, 10th
April 2013.

Members present included Pattie Hill and Roger Hill. Apologies were received from Councillors Joe Baker and Brandon Clayton.

We welcomed Ken Hazeldene back to the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership. Officers James Cooper and Judith Willis were in attendance to present the reports and answer any questions we had.

After the minutes from the previous meeting on 31st January 2013 had been approved, we moved onto considering the performance tables for the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Framework for Redditch. The data referred to year totals between January 2012 and January 2013. For this we were required to move into confidential session owing to the content's sensitive nature.

Members were particularly pleased to see that incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) had fallen significantly during that period. We felt that perception was often all important in terms of ASB, and that young people who were innocently congregating together were too often seen as a potential threat. We were therefore glad to hear of work that was being undertaken in Redditch to improve the general perception on young people through projects financed by positive activities funding. It was agreed that more information on this work would be provided at a future meeting.

We also discussed the issue of shoplifting, having been informed that reported incidents had increased slightly during 2012. The Panel heard that this slight increase could most likely be attributed to one or two prolific offenders.

However, we received reassurance that shoplifting is taken very seriously in Redditch and was regarded as a form of theft, and heard that the local Prolific Offender Management Group regularly examined the characteristics of prolific and other priority offenders to help minimise their impact on the community. It was expected that this would include persons committing theft from shops. We suggested 'shoplifting' should perhaps be amended to 'theft in shops' to help make this reference to theft absolutely clear.

Elsewhere, we heard that the creation of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership had improved the sharing of information and general partnership working between the individual districts to help tackle crime.

We thanked both Officers and Ken for their attendance at the final Panel meeting of 2012/13. As Members, we expressed our gratitude to Officers for

their hard work in servicing the meetings throughout the year, which we found to be very informative and helpful.

Cllr Andrew Brazier
Chair, Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel
May 2013