

DID YOU KNOW THAT BIRMINGHAM IS ONE OF THE SAFEST CITIES IN THE UK?

Crime levels have fallen but the way crime is reported in the media can be intimidating. A handful of major crimes get very heavy coverage and this has the effect of making people feel more vulnerable. Local problems with anti-social behaviour such as vandalism and graffiti can also make people feel less safe.

Birmingham has the lowest overall crime rate of the eight major English cities, with a 27 percent reduction in all crime between 2005 - 2008. From October 2008 - September 2009, recorded crime fell by 10% meaning 10,000 fewer victims compared to 2007/08.

It's a fine achievement but the Safer Birmingham Partnership aims to do even more for the people of Birmingham.

Safer Birmingham Partnership is a joint partnership between West Midlands Police, Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Fire Service and many different agencies that work together to tackle difficult problems that affect communities. We listen to your concerns and do our best to respond to them.

By working together with other local agencies, we aim to make our neighbourhoods even safer and reduce the fear of crime.

We deal with a wide range of issues such as reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, effective drug treatment, support for people experiencing domestic violence or hate crime, protecting you from fire and burglary, or nuisance neighbours. **No matter what your problem, our partners will try to help you.**

The Safer Birmingham Partnership has three priorities which are the driving force behind our activity. It is our aim that Birmingham will:

- be a safe place in which to live, work & visit;
- feel a safe place in which to live, work & visit; and
- be a place where young people choose not to engage in criminal and anti-social behaviour.

To help us to meet these outcomes, Community Safety Co-ordinators are employed in each of the ten constituencies across the city. It is their responsibility to bring together representatives from key agencies in their local area to respond to issues of concern which local residents tell them about.

TELL US YOUR CONCERNS AND CHALLENGE US TO ACT ON THEM

Neighbourhood Tasking meetings provide a great opportunity to raise any concerns you have about crime and anti-social behaviour in your area. Meetings are held in every constituency and provide residents with the opportunity to tell police and council staff about issues of concern. To find out where your next local meeting is being held, simply log onto www.west-midlands.police.uk and enter your postcode, or contact the local Community Safety Co-ordinator for your area on the number listed on the back of this leaflet.

Since Neighbourhood Tasking began, lots of work has been done across the city to reduce crime and disorder. This ranges from tackling graffiti through monthly clean up programmes, issuing Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) to residents who cause nuisance, improving security to residents' properties and increasing police patrols and CCTV coverage in known crime hotspot areas.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

Over 434,000 hours of Community Payback are performed by offenders throughout the West Midlands every year. Now you can have a say on what projects would make your community a better place to live. There are a number of ways to nominate a project:

Call: **0121 248 2688** | visit: www.westmidlands-probation.gov.uk
Write to: **Community Payback, West Midlands Probation Area, King Edward House, 135a New Street, Birmingham B2 4QJ** | or speak to your Neighbourhood Policing Team on **0845 113 5000**.

The following pages will give you a brief idea as to what is being done to tackle crime and disorder in your area. If you would like to know more, contact your local Community Safety Coordinator (see back of leaflet).

STOCKLAND GREEN CLEANS UP ITS ACT

YOU SAID...
"The Highcroft area of Stockland Green is starting to become a real eye sore and we feel it's local youngsters who are causing the problems".

SO WE...
Engaged with the YMCA who has now started working with local youngsters in the area. The police have also come on board and set up communication days between residents and young people to try and improve matters. Highcroft HIP residents' group is supporting the activity being delivered by the police and the YMCA.

CUTTING CRIME IN SUTTON TOWN CENTRE

Sutton Coldfield's 'Stay Safe' Group carried out an intensive programme of activity over the summer months to combat excessive drinking in the town centre.

CLEANING UP THE STREETS OF HODGE HILL

A police and council initiative to encourage residents to talk to their local officers and take responsibility for the look and feel of their streets has proved to be a real success.

MEADWAY AND LEA ESTATE CLEAN UP PROGRAMME

Our multi-agency approach to reducing crime and disorder has led to a number of key improvements in the area. A graffiti clean up programme was commissioned, fencing has been repainted, alleyways were cleared of rubbish and debris and gardens and homes were tidied up. These environmental improvements made a significant difference to the area and contributed to a 'sense of pride' which local residents have reported feeling within their community.

'OPEN DOORS' TO THE PUBLIC

Neighbourhood police officers from Woodbridge Road and Sparkhill police stations are opening their front doors to members of the public.

Residents living in Sparkhill, Moseley, Selly Park and Cannon Hill will be able to visit the station's enquiries office and meet their local neighbourhood police team to talk about any issues of concern which may be affecting their quality of life.

SMART SOFTWARE LEADS TO ARRESTS

The problem of burglars targeting newly arrived University students in Selly Oak, was addressed by installing software on student laptops, which resulted in the arrests of burglars and those who buy the stolen goods.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME

Residents told us that they wanted better support for victims of domestic abuse, so Guiding Light domestic abuse project, based in South Birmingham, held a Picnic in the Park event to provide reassurance and inform local people of the support available in their area.

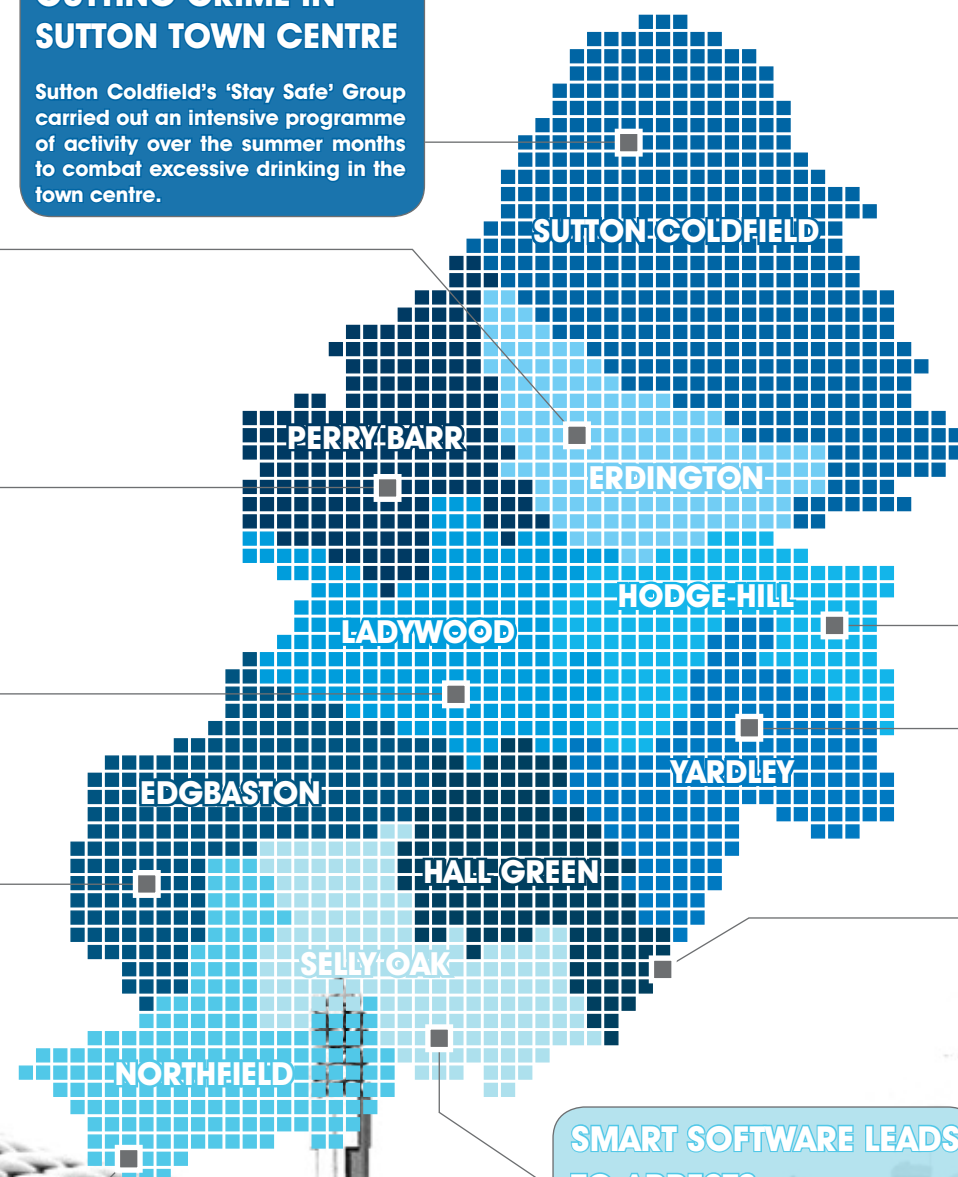
LOCAL ACTION TO ADDRESS KNIFE CRIME

Police officers in Birmingham have been using a metal detector arch as part of their activities aimed at addressing knife crime.

Officers from the Bordesley South neighbourhood team used the arch to scan all pupils and visitors entering the Al-Hijrah School and South Birmingham College, both in Bordesley Green.

POLICE FUNDING PROVIDES SAFE HAVEN FOR YOUNGSTERS

Thanks to funding from the West Midlands Police team based at Bournville Lane, additional 'Just 4 Kids' youth groups sessions are now being held at Long Nuke Tenants Hall in Bartley Green.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- **Serious violent crime reduced by 9% during the April - September 2009 period**
- **Violence against the person reduced by 6% between 2008-09**
- **15% reduction in acquisitive crime (burglary, vehicle crime and robbery) between 2008-09**
- **79% of the public believe that West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council are dealing with crime, anti-social behaviour and local issues that matter to them**

SAFETY TIPS

Some of our crime reduction successes have been due to us all being more cautious by reducing the opportunities for crime to occur.

You should always be conscious about the security of your property and your own safety. Now we want to encourage everyone to take crime prevention seriously – share these simple tips with your families, friends and neighbours and make sure you use them yourself.

- **AFTER A NIGHT OUT, USE A TAXI OR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE. CARRY THEIR TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH YOU OR BOOK ONE IN ADVANCE.**
- **LOOK CONFIDENT, KNOW YOUR ROUTE AND AVOID BADLY-LIT STREETS.**
- **WHEN YOU USE A CASH POINT, TRY TO DO SO DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS AND WHERE POSSIBLE, USE CASH POINTS LOCATED INSIDE BANKS.**
- **DON'T BE FLASH WITH YOUR VALUABLES. BE DISCREET.**
- **LOCK YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS, PARTICULARLY AT NIGHT DURING**
- **WARM WEATHER AND AT CHRISTMAS. BEWARE OF BOGUS CALLERS. DON'T LET ANYONE INTO YOUR HOUSE IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE OR WHERE THEY ARE FROM.**
- **ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR. USE IMMOBILISERS AND GET AN ALARM FITTED.**
- **ALWAYS KEEP YOUR VALUABLES OUT OF VIEW INCLUDING SAT NAVS. REMOVE THEM AND WIPE AWAY SUCKER MARKS.**
- **PARK SAFELY. WHEN PARKING AT HOME, USE YOUR GARAGE OR PARK IN A WELL-LIT AREA.**

BIRMINGHAM ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT (BASBU)

Birmingham Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (BASBU) is a part of SBP. The team coordinate and deliver activity across the city aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour. Facing up to anti-social behaviour can be difficult but there are a number of ways we can help you. Below is an example of some of the support services available.

There are two main legal processes, or court orders, for dealing with people who behave anti-socially. **Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)** and **Injunctions**.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour Orders**
Anti-Social Behaviour Orders are issued by the Courts and can be served on anybody over the age of ten. They are designed to stop people from behaving in a way that causes distress to others. Breaking the terms of an ASBO can lead to a prison sentence.

- **Injunctions**
Injunctions are civil orders issued by the court and provide a specific instruction to an individual to change their actions or behaviour. For example, an injunction might forbid an individual from accessing a neighbour's property. In serious cases, if an injunction is broken then the offender can be arrested.

Before an ASBO or injunction can be issued, the court will need to consider the evidence against the offender(s). The BASBU team can offer information and advice on the best way to gather evidence to support anti-social behaviour cases.

In addition to ASBOs and injunctions, there are a range of other measures and actions which can be taken to put a stop to anti-social behaviour. They get to the root of the problem and identify ways in which we can help individuals to change their behaviour through supported projects and interventions.

Contact the Birmingham Anti-Social Behaviour helpline number on 0121 303 1111 for more information.

SPECIALIST ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICES

Whilst there are a number of actions which can be taken to help put a stop to anti-social behaviour, supporting the victim is one of our key concerns. We offer two services which provide specific support to those who are suffering the effects of anti-social behaviour.

- 1 **MEDIATION**
Mediation offers all Birmingham residents the opportunity to deal with conflict themselves through the facilitation of an independent, impartial third party. This service has been running since 1996 and is fully funded and supported by the City Council. Currently, 94% of all referred cases have had a positive outcome.

- 2 **THE WITNESS SUPPORT PROJECT**
The Witness Support Project is an independent, free and confidential service where trained support workers provide information and advice to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour. Referrals can be made by Birmingham City Council's Housing and Constituencies Directorate or through BASBU. Telephone: 0121 236 3959 or e-mail: birminghamASB@victimsupport.org.uk

There are further actions which can be taken against ASB perpetrators.

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR CONTRACTS (ABCs) AND PARENTING CONTRACTS

ABCs and Parenting Contracts are agreed with people who have carried out anti-social behaviour and detail the kind of behaviour expected of them in the future. They aren't legal contracts, but can help to stop bad behaviour without the need for involving the courts. They can also be used to support any further legal action.

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

Community Agreements are settlements reached between the residents of a community to resolve disputes. The details are put in writing and each household or individual has a copy. The agreement, which is aimed at tackling the issues that affect people's quality of life, is based on the wishes of the majority and clearly states how those involved would like to be treated within their community.

Additional support services include:

THE STEP PROJECT

An intensive support project that aims to help families, single people and couples

to address their anti-social behaviour. The BASBU team provide support to individuals and will bring other agencies on board to help bring about positive changes in behaviour to reduce an individual's risk of eviction and homelessness.

CHANGING BEHAVIOUR

The BASBU team work with individuals and their project worker to draw up a contract which sets out their expected behaviour and the support available.

THE BUILDING LIVES INTENSIVE INTERVENTION PROJECT (BLIIP)

BLIIP focuses on young people who are identified as being at risk of entering urban street gangs. The project works with young people aged 10-19 in 'outreach' settings and provides a mix of one-to-one support and group activities.

The project provides support to up to 50 young people per year. At the heart of the project is a personal development programme that aims to support young people in their education and learning. For more information telephone **0121 515 4992**.

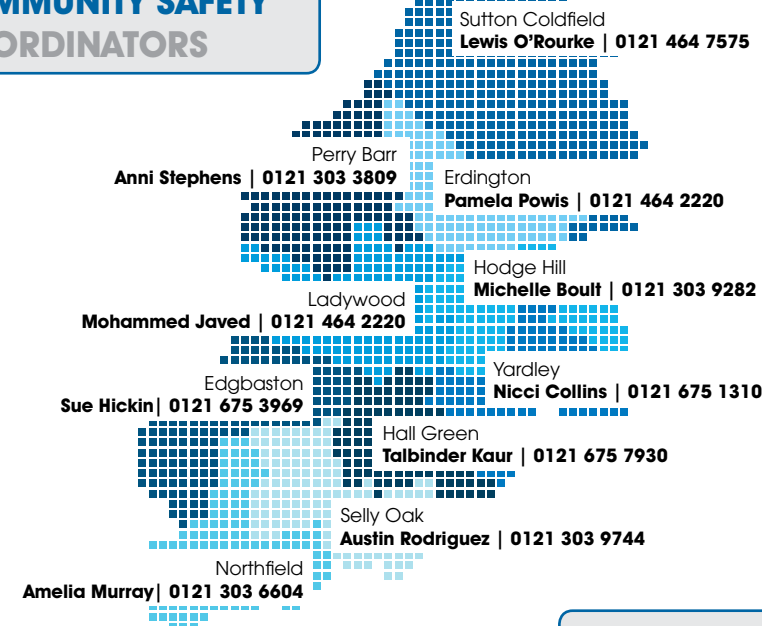
BIRMINGHAM DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM (BDAAT)

BDAAT is also part of the SBP structure. It is responsible for ensuring that efficient and effective drug and alcohol treatment services are in place across the city. It currently manages over thirty treatment agencies.

If you, or someone you care about, is experiencing problems with their drug or alcohol use, contact the free phone help line number on **0800 073 0817** to find out more about the treatment and support services available in your area.

USEFUL CONTACTS

COMMUNITY SAFETY COORDINATORS



USEFUL NUMBERS

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR HELPLINE | 0121 303 1111

Birmingham Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (BASBU) 24 hour help line – to report anti-social behaviour problems.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE | 0845 113 5000

Switchboard for all **non-emergency** calls to West Midlands Police. It will put you through to your local station and neighbourhood police team.

CRIMESTOPPERS | 0800 555 1111

Crimestoppers is a registered charity (not the Police). You can report information about crime and disorder **anonymously** with confidence.

ENVIRONMENTAL

REPORTING LINE | 0121 303 1112

To report graffiti, fly-tipping and environmental issues.

SAFER TRAVEL | (text only) 07624 818 332

You can TEXT problems you see while travelling on the bus anonymously. Text this number to report your problems safely.

FREE HOME FIRE

SAFETY CHECKS | 0800 389 5525

To fill out a Home Fire Safety Check online, visit: **www.wmfs.net/Stay+Safe/Free_Home_Fire_Safety_Check**

Safer Birmingham Partnership
Working together for a safer city

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WON'T BE TOLERATED IN BIRMINGHAM

THAT'S WHY WE'RE ONE OF THE SAFEST CITIES IN THE UK

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