

Policing of Hadleigh

Hadleigh Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) responsible for policing Hadleigh
SNT covers Hadleigh and surrounding rural areas - 49 separate parishes
No PCSOs on Hadleigh policing area - Constables increased to 6
Work a three shift pattern - no more than 2 Constables on duty at any one time
Hadleigh SNT now more responsive and more Crime orientated
Prioritise patrols in areas with higher levels of offending
Hadleigh SNT recognise 'quality of life' issues take on a lower priority
SNT Inspector secured promise of additional Constable responsible for engagement and problem solving for Hadleigh rural area

Criminal Activity and Offending in Hadleigh

Hadleigh enjoys very low levels of criminal and offender behaviour
Neighbouring areas suffer a higher number of offences
Offences committed in Hadleigh are mainly low level
Anti-Social Behaviour also very low level - mainly more a nuisance or annoyance
Around 60% of Crimes are committed behind closed doors - e.g. Domestic Violence
Peak offender behaviour times from late afternoon onwards and weekends
Fear of Crime disproportionate to actual crimes committed

Parking

Parking always an emotive subject
Can affect a whole street, estate or community until feelings boil over
Parking enforcement failed to prevent continued illegal parking - e.g. High Street
Enforcement often moves the problem rather than solves it
Multi-agency problem solving required for High Street and Benton Street
Responsibility for enforcement currently with Suffolk Constabulary
Due to be de-criminalised - responsibility passing to Babergh District Council

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

PCSOs introduced to provide a visible presence within communities
Provide additional capacity to reduce crime, combat low level disorder and anti-social behaviour
Thus helping to reduce Fear of Crime
Uniformed but NOT warranted
Limited powers sufficient to deal with minor issues - insufficient to deal with crimes
A distinct role which avoids high risk activity - not substitutes for Police Constables
Pay range £20,115 - £22,275

Partnership Funding of PCSO

PCSO remains under formal direction and control of Chief Constable
Suffolk Constabulary provide training, equipment and support etc
A position is created that would not otherwise be present
Hadleigh Town Council can negotiate duties and patrols, within accepted parameters
Abstraction or redeployment only due to an unforeseen operational demand
No charge for abstractions or a prolonged absence due to illness
Enquiries show abstractions are very few and only for a major incident
Partnership Funding contract for two years
Costs £34,000 per year
Additional costs for any overtime incurred and additional £3,300 per year if car required and authorised

Work 37 hour week, 0800 - 1800, Monday to Sunday, on standard shift basis
Do not work on Bank Holidays or during the evenings
Not on duty at peak times of offender behaviour
Can negotiate evening and Bank Holiday working at additional charges

Suggested Factors for Hadleigh Town Council Consideration

What do Council expect from a PCSO?
Can a PCSO deliver these expectations?
Does the level of offender behaviour warrant funding a PCSO?
Will normal working hours cover periods PCSO is required?
Will 1 PCSO suffice?
Does Partnership Funding offer best value for money?
Are there alternative options, e.g. full or part funding of Traffic Warden?

Recommended Alternative: Hadleigh Porch Project - Funding of Youth Worker

Will increase Outreach options - currently limited
Will reduce incidents of offender and anti-social behaviour - success in Cornard
Will help reduce Fear of Crime and target some 'quality of life' issues
Will cover peak times of offender behaviour
Worker will concentrate in, or will release another resource for, Hadleigh
Costs around £20,000 a year for full time worker
Porch Project happy to discuss contracts options or offer a service to meet budget
Option for optimum results:
5 year contract - allows for outreach and subsequent work
Start with part time Youth Worker - allows project to build support programme
Incremental increase of working hours to full time
Lower initial costs to Council with corresponding incremental increases