

# Rural Councils

## PSS

Public Sector Strategies has been facilitating and producing conferences for the public sector since 1994, often in partnership with local government and central government agencies and departments. For a list of forthcoming events please visit [www.PSSstrategies.co.uk](http://www.PSSstrategies.co.uk)

## Conference Objectives

- To focus on the challenges to rural authorities in reducing crime and disorder in the countryside.
- To share best practice in tackling rural crime and disorder.
- To examine central government initiatives that impact on rural authorities including the proposals for merged police forces, the neighbourhood policing programme, the reassurance agenda and the Crime and Disorder Act Review.
- To focus on key concerns of rural authorities such as anti-social behaviour due to seasonal influx and tourism and wildlife crime
- To provide a forum for district and county councils to separately examine rural crime and disorder issues and share best practice relevant to their authority.

## Further Information

For further information on this, or other Public Sector Strategy (PSS) conferences, please telephone PSS on **0118 933 2636** or email [info@PSSstrategies.co.uk](mailto:info@PSSstrategies.co.uk)

For booking queries please contact Benedict Business Resources on 01483 203536.

## REDUCING CRIME AND DISORDER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE:

# THE ROLE OF RURAL COUNCILS

**Friday 9th March 2007**

**The Think Tank, Central Birmingham**

Chaired by Tony Kehoe, Community Safety Manager, Stoke on Trent Council, National Community Safety Network (NCSN), Board Member

This one-day conference focuses specifically on the challenges to rural authorities in reducing crime and disorder in the countryside and examines the issues from both district and county council perspectives.

The conference comes at a time of debate over policing levels – highlighted by the recent police force merger proposals and will examine central government initiatives that impact on rural authorities. These include the rollout and challenges of the neighbourhood policing programme, the use of Police Community Support Officers in rural areas, the reassurance agenda, the Crime and Disorder Act Review and the challenges of partnership working within geographically dispersed agencies.

The conference will look at additional concerns of rural authorities such as anti-social behaviour due to seasonal influx, the challenges of tourism and the spread of resources and co-ordination of agencies.

In recognition of the different priorities of district and county councils the conference provides specific forums through parallel streaming for delegates from district and county councils to separately examine rural crime and disorder issues and share best practice.

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### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

- Community Safety Managers
- CDRP members
- Elected members responsible for Crime and Disorder
- Police representatives from rural areas
- YOT Members
- DAT Members

### **REGISTRATION**

To register for a place at this conference please complete the enclosed booking form and fax, email or post it to the address shown on the form.

Further booking forms are available from the conference administration team on 01483 203536 or by emailing [benedictbr@btinternet.com](mailto:benedictbr@btinternet.com)

## **REDUCING CRIME AND DISORDER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE: THE ROLE OF RURAL COUNCILS**

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### **SPEAKERS INCLUDE**

- Tony Kehoe, Community Safety Manager, Stoke on Trent Council, National Community Safety Network (NCSN), Board Member
- Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Representative
- Simon Hart, Chief Executive, The Countryside Alliance
- Carol Larkin, the Crime Strategy Unit, the Home Office
- Dave George, Community Safety Manager, Restormel Borough Council
- Inspector Jim Pearce, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
- Chris Kerr, Head of The National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)

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### MORNING PROGRAMME

- 10.00 **Registration and Refreshments**
- 10.30 **Chair's introduction and welcome**  
Tony Kehoe, Community Safety Manager, Stoke on Trent Council National Community Safety Network (NCSN), Board Member
- 10.35 **Keynote Address: Crime and Disorder in Rural Areas**  
Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Representative  
This address will provide a background to the crime and disorder challenges facing rural areas including the rollout and challenges of the neighbourhood policing programme, the use of Police Community Support Officers in rural areas, the reassurance agenda and the challenges of maintaining low levels of crime in partnership with local CDRPs that might be geographically dispersed.
- 11.00 **The Countryside Alliance – Proposed Action on Rural Crime**  
Simon Hart, Chief Executive, The Countryside Alliance  
In response to continued public concern over rural crime and debate over policing levels highlighted in the recent police force merger proposals the cross-party pressure group, the Countryside Alliance, has issued proposals to assist rural authorities fight crime and disorder. This presentation will provide the view of the Countryside Alliance on rural crime and highlight their policy proposals to assist agencies charged with crime and disorder reduction in rural areas.
- 11.30 **Refreshment break**

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### MORNING PROGRAMME

- 11.45 **Rural Crime within the Government's Safer Communities Agenda**  
Carol Larkin, Crime Strategy Unit, the Home Office  
This address will provide an insight into the Government's view of rural crime, its place in central government's crime reduction programme and the opportunities arising from the Crime and Disorder Act Review.
- 12.15 **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour within the Countryside**  
Dave George, Community Safety Manager, Restormel Borough Council  
Inspector Jim Pearce, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary  
This presentation looks at anti-social behaviour within rural areas, often caused by seasonal influx of young people. The presentation will focus on one authority's response to the problems of seasonal influx of anti-social behaviour and in particular the use of dispersal orders under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act in response to the problem.
- 12.45 **Questions to the Morning Panel**
- 1.00 **Lunch**

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### AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

- 2.00 **Wildlife Crime**  
Chris Kerr, Head of The National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)  
DEFRA have recently launched a new National Wildlife Crime Unit in response to the threat to wildlife in rural areas. This address will provide an overview of the unit including partnership work with local authorities and will highlight measures authorities can use to tackle wildlife crime including poaching, theft of wildlife and anti-social behaviour that threatens the habitat of local wildlife.
- 2.30 **Questions**
- 2.40 **Conference Streams: The Challenges to Rural CDRPs**  
*The conference will divide into parallel streams. Delegates may select which stream to attend. Both streams will focus on the challenges to crime reduction in rural areas. The streams will provide a forum for sharing good practice and the discussion of the key issues.*
- Stream A:**  
**The Role of the District Council in Tackling Rural Crime and Disorder**  
This stream will concentrate on the crime and disorder issues facing rural district councils including alcohol and drug-related crime, the effects of tourism and seasonal population changes, the problems caused by resources spread over a sparsely populated area and the issues caused by resource requirements of neighbouring urban areas.

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- Stream B:**  
**The Role of the County Council in Tackling Rural Crime & Disorder**  
This stream will focus on the crime and disorder issues affecting county councils covering rural areas. It will focus on the resource implications and the balancing of urban and rural requirements as well as the co-ordination across rural districts. Key issues include the co-ordination of drug services, youth services and YOTs as well as the challenges faced by drug and alcohol related crime, domestic violence and crime diversion.
- 3.40 **The Rural Crime Debate**  
An important forum for the panel of speakers and delegates to discuss the current rural crime policies and practices as well as the way forward to reduce crime and disorder in rural locations. This will provide a useful forum for delegates to inform national policy decision-makers.
- 4.10 **Chairs closing remarks**  
Tony Kehoe, Community Safety Manager, Stoke on Trent Council National Community Safety Network (NCSN), Board Member
- 4.15 **Conference close**