

CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY Community Safety Plan

The Cederberg Municipality Community Safety Plan was based on concerns arising out of audits of the Western Cape Department of Community Safety undertaken with the community and SAPS. Crime statistics of the SAPS were also used in this process.

Alcohol abuse, and drug abuse to some extent, is the main contributor of crime in the Cederberg area of jurisdiction. As such, interventions relating to this have to be developed in order to address the crime problem.

This safety plan does not intend to duplicate interventions or develop new interventions, if interventions exist that have been benefitting the communities in the West Coast district. Rather, this safety plan aims to create awareness of existing interventions.

CSF workshops identified the following interventions for the safety plan:

- Creation of sustainable local economic development
- Establish alcohol/drug committee
- Skills training and developing an exit strategy (e.g. awareness campaigns, workshops)
- Small, medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME)
- Computer literacy
- Bursaries
- Learnership programmes
- Role models
- Behaviour modification programmes
- Job creation
- Recreational centres
- Rehabilitation centres

- Awareness campaigns

The interventions it was proposed could be assisted by:

- Community participation
- Involvement of all sector departments (e.g. business, NGO's and the community)
- Dissemination of information
- Access to land and funding
- Transport
- Building of new schools e.g. in new areas
- Visibility of South African Police Services and Neighbourhood Watch
- NHW programmes

The interventions chosen for this community safety plan are based on the crimes identified in the whole area of the Municipality as most concerning. An important factor to note is that youth have been identified as perpetrators of crimes in all four sectors. Therefore, an intervention focusing on the youth is also provided.

Ideally, the department in which the plan is to be located should develop an action plan to identify relevant interventions and projects for the area from existing projects in Cederberg as well as community recommendations.

The interventions provided below are generic and should be used as a guide.

Family interventions

Given that domestic violence and assaults pose concerns for the Cederberg community, it is crucial to establish interventions targeting families.

Domestic violence awareness programmes

There is a need to introduce domestic violence programmes if none exists, or to strengthen others if they do exist. These programmes should address and aim to reduce levels of family violence by educating parents and caregivers about non-physical means of resolving conflict. This will also help young people to learn responsible ways of dealing with personal problems and interpersonal relationships.

Family interventions or couples counseling should be facilitated by professional social workers from the Department of Social Development, as well as private therapists on a voluntary basis. Safety committees and CPFs should assist in facilitating this process.

Parenting skills workshops

The community audit highlighted a request made by the community on workshops on parenting skills. This demonstrates a concern of poor parenting which must be addressed urgently. Programmes on parenting targeting young parents must be facilitated to develop best practices of parenting and responsible habits of parents to children.

Programmes targeting fathers and men within the community are important to help them understand the importance of family life and the value of women. Similarly, women and girls should also be provided with talks on the value of family. The importance of abstaining from alcohol and drugs must be iterated in these workshops as these have been identified as drivers of violence and crime and ultimately affect the quality of family life.

Alcohol and substance abuse

perhaps the greatest challenge in relation to alcohol abuse in the municipal area is the absence of alcohol by-laws. Areas around shebeens were identified as crime hotspots by the community.

Additionally, much of the assaults and domestic violence has been linked to the high consumption of alcohol and drugs. For this reason, it is imperative that shebeens be strictly regulated by a local liquor board. Interestingly, a liquor committee was previously operating, but for some unknown reason, the committee ceased to exist. Community members have made a request for the re-establishment of the committee.

Buy-in of shebeen owners should be sought by community based organizations, municipal officials and the police, by having regular meetings with them to educate them on their responsibility to the community and youth who frequent their shebeens. They can assist by refusing to sell alcohol to underage youth as well as drinkers who are becoming unruly. They should employ security staff to monitor the behaviour of drinkers and ensure they arrive home safely.

In addition regulations should take into account the time of the occurrence of crimes in and around the shebeens. The safety audit clearly stated Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as month-end, as times that alcohol related crimes occur. Additionally the routes to and from taverns were highlighted in the audit as crime hotspots. These must be factored into police operational plans. Shebeens must be also be made to close before drinking gets too heavy in order to minimize drinking. In this way, most assaults are prevented and drinkers are forced to return home earlier.

Shebeen owners who do not comply with the law should be fined and/or imprisoned if they continue to disregard liquor law regulations.

Illegal shebeen owners must face harsher measures if they do not legalise and do not comply with the law.

While the extent of drug abuse is not known, in terms of the drug related problems, anti-drug awareness campaigns and workshops targeting the youth at schools must be introduced. Additionally, community members should also be involved in this process. High drug areas must also be targeted. CPFs have a great role to play with the police in this regard.

Open spaces

Social grants pay points, dark places, open places, and dilapidated school buildings have been identified as crime hotspots. The municipality must undertake to clean and clear up the areas and provide lighting to aid in preventing crime. The police must step-up policing and the municipality must acquire private security if necessary in order to secure hotspot areas. The police and municipality working in a partnership can assist and speed up the concerns with environmental design.

The times during which Bambanani¹ volunteers change shifts have also been identified as problem times when crimes occur. While Bambanani's have been done away with, the shift system provided by volunteers must be re-examined. Shifts changes should be done in a manner that ensures volunteers are present at the allocated points all the time and that no gaps are allowed in the shifts.

Youth

Youth have been identified as the main perpetrators of many of the crimes in all of the sectors. Youth have also been identified as the targets of some crimes. It is therefore important that interventions focusing on the youth are put in place. Given that the school plays a large part of a youth's life, interventions targeting youth at schools should be a major focus. Future focused interventions must provide in-depth descriptions of dealing with the problem of youth involvement in crime. In this regard developing and implementing school safety plans in Cederberg is essential.

Role-modelling

Learners from the higher grades as well as alumni's who had graduated previously from the schools should be approached to provide role-modelling and inspiration to learners. In this way, the youth will be encouraged to attend school on a regular basis as well as be prevented from truancy. Frequent outdoor activities as well as class mentorship programmes should be introduced to encourage learners to stay in school.

Prisoner motivational talks

Youth or adults from the community who have been incarcerated for crimes committed within the community must be brought in to give motivational talks to learners in order to dissuade them from committing crimes, but also to inform them of the hardships faced in prison. This must be done in a responsible manner taking into account parents concerns and getting the Department of Correctional Service approval.

Awards and rewards

Learners should be provided with financial incentives if they perform well academically in order to be able to further their studies into higher education. This will encourage

them to study and work harder at school. Similarly, learners in lower grades should be awarded in the same way.

Youth who do not attend school but are located within the community, also need role modeling and peer education programmes. Support and advice must be provided in these programmes pertaining to abstinence from alcohol and substance abuse, refraining from associating with deviant youth.

Life skills training

Life skills programmes should focus on helping youths to improve their self esteem and image, interpersonal relationships, how to overcome difficulties, and how to prepare for the success of their future.

Sporting and recreational activities

Sporting and other activities within schools and in the community should be made a priority to provide youth with extra-mural activities in their spare time. In this regard, role models can once again become involved. Community leaders can also play a large role in supporting and encouraging these activities by ensuring that the proper structures are put in place and financial assistance is available.

Job creation

Unemployment has been identified as causes of crime in all sectors. Therefore, to promote job creation, the Department of Labour, local businesses, NGOs and CBOS must be called upon to assist the unemployed. This can be done by encouraging the unemployed adults and youth to come up with ideas for job creation. It can be done in a

form of a community competition where the 10 best ideas are rewarded with the implementation of their ideas. Relevant government departments and local businesses should be tasked to judge as well as fund, the competition. In this way people will be encouraged to participate in and be provided with an incentive. If the competition proves to be a success, then it can be made into a quarterly community initiative. In this way, many jobs will be created.

Small businesses such as *spaza* shops and street vendors should be assisted by local government to manage and expand their businesses so that they are able to provide employment opportunities for others.

In the same way, unemployed youth should be given a chance to attend workshops on entrepreneurial skills so that they can become business orientated and either seek employment with other businesses or become self-employed.

Intensified focused law enforcement

Certain contributors to crime such as illegal street trading, illegal dumping littering, illegal postage and signage, lack of parks patrol, illegal scrap metal dealers and non-compliance of inspections of liquor outlets, require intensified law enforcement by the police as well as other law enforcement agencies. The reporting of cases to the police must be encouraged so that effective policing is possible.

Awareness programmes

Awareness programmes in relation to road safety, social crime prevention, city by-laws, have to be carried out to NGOs, business, taxi industry, schools and churches.

Enhancement of community structures

Existing structures in the communities as well as new structures, such as CPFs, youth desks and CSFs should be enhanced so that active participation with community outreach programmes are possible. These should be established at ward level so that smaller scales projects can be implemented.

The CSF workshops provided tasks and activities that could enhance interventions. Some of these are listed below:³

- Ploughing/Small Business
- Farming
- Awareness programmes
- Trade training/schools
- Farming programme
- Red doors
- Family empowerment programmes
- sustainable projects
- Allocation of resources
- Workshops (skills development and training etc.)
- Timeframes

Role-players identified by the CSF workshops to be involved in the interventions include: government departments (provincial and national) such as Education, Justice, Social Development, and Correctional Services. Local Government, business Sector, South African Police Service, media institutions, other institutions as needed for particular
