

Patcham Local Action Team

‘Patcham in Action’

Patcham Local Action Team (PLAT) engage with the community, and partners, with the aim of solving local problems.

The purpose of a Local Action Team (LAT) is to identify, plan and deliver activities to solve pressing local issues and to reduce crime and disorder at a very local level. The size of the area covered by a LAT will depend on factors such as the size of the community or the specific problems of the particular area.

LATs may take on long-term issues for an area or they may be set up on a short-term, single-issue basis. They should be problem solving focused, utilising established problem solving processes.

History of LATs

Local Action Teams were first launched in September 2003. Whilst some similar groups existed in certain parts of the county (perhaps not known as LATs) this was the first countywide initiative of its type. Where such a group already existed, successfully carrying out this function, it was not intended that the effort should be duplicated or that the group be renamed for the purposes of conformity, unless the members wished this to be done.

What type of people join LATs?

LATs are made up of a small group of local community champions who can identify crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour problems in their neighbourhood. ‘Local community champions’ refers to people with an intimate knowledge of the neighbourhood. For example, the head teacher of the local school, a member of the parish council or a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. Whatever their background they share a commitment to problem resolution at a local level.

LAT members aim to provide the basis for an effective local strategy - agreeing on priorities, generating ideas, appraising options and producing a balanced programme. The group then seek to ‘make it happen’ through the application of a simple action plan which commissions the work of other agencies, to resolve a problem.

LATs will also look to the police for guidance and direction, particularly at the start of an initiative but also in the form of member representation within the LAT. The roles of many representatives are often important but it does of course depend on the issues being discussed, not all of which will be relevant to any one representative. Although the police are often key partners in LATs, who are primarily community groups which can have representatives from the Sussex Police, various Tenants & Residents Associations, Schools, Environmental Representatives, Traders and Local Businesses. The relationship between LATs and these key agencies is also significant, either by them being represented within the team or through other mechanisms which help ensure the delivery of agreed **actions**.

How can I get involved?

If you have any questions or queries regarding the **PLAT** please feel welcome to come along to our meetings, which are held on every **4th Thursday** of every month at the **Patcham Community Centre in Ladies Mile Road Patcham, at 7pm**. We are a warm and supportive group, full of people committed to improving things that matter.