



the PNP

Worcester policing cluster



The people of the Worcester policing cluster have spoken – and raised their most serious concerns.

Here are some of the most urgent – which have been reported for action in the year ahead:

Professional Policing

- 1. Safety Concern:** Some police are corrupt. It leads to them not investigating allegations against suspects, not arresting suspects or releasing people from custody. It also contributes to lack of faith in the police, along with poor response times and not keeping victims updated on cases.
- 2. Safety Concern:** There is a lack of trust in the police and the criminal justice system. This is caused by SAPS officials failing to keep the names of complainants confidential. The courts are advising that any affidavit or sworn statement referred to in the search warrant should be attached to the warrant. This compromises the identity of informers who are therefore reluctant to come forward with information.

Partnerships

- 3. Safety concern:** High levels of substance abuse in the cluster is of grave concern. Request to identify hotspots, property used for drug trading; disrupt the supply chain; improve visible policing; increase roadblocks; increase informer /community networks; involve community and parents; develop a drug strategy to identify present gaps and challenges to culminate into successful prosecutions; involvement of all relevant stakeholders.
- 4. Safety Concern:** Need for awareness in the community and establish an effective victim support system. Need to develop a victim support strategy for the cluster, educate victims of abuse, train more victim support counsellors and establish safe houses.
- 5. Safety Concern:** Lack of community participation in safety organisations. Need to promote all volunteer structures of the through imbizos, street committees, sector forum meetings, stakeholder forum meetings (business sector,

religious sector, informal traders, education/schools, ward committees, NGO and CBO sectors) etc. Need to enhance leadership capacity in the community to address community issues better instead of destroying public resources (such as SAPS vehicles, etc.). Need to hold regular public meetings;

Safe Public Spaces:

- 6. Safety Concern:** Poor street lighting, making streets, parks and train stations more dangerous. The CPF is to identify the areas affected by poor street lighting. Ward committee to align their municipal budget (IDP) with needs identified by CPF. Council to consider and approve the budget.
- 7. Safety Concern:** Safety at government facilities outside office hours (clinics, ambulance stations) and at school bus stops, social grant pay points.
- 8. Safety Concern:** Roaming livestock on public roads, causing motor vehicle accidents. Need for CPF to identify areas where roaming livestock has been seen. SAPS to investigate theft of fences – community to report theft to the police.



Understanding Accredited NHWs:

These Questions & Answers will help everyone understand the new opportunity for NHWs to become official, and “Accredited”:

Question 1: Why is it necessary for the NHW to be accredited?

Answer: The Western Cape Community Safety Act, and supporting Regulations, offer NHWs the first ever “official” status, under law. This “Accredited NHW” status gives the Department of Community Safety, our Community Police Forums (CPF) and our partners in local government (Western Cape municipalities), the assurance that these NHWs are capable, accountable community safety structures, deserving of scarce resources.

The NHW can then broker important partnerships, with SAPS, CPFs, the local municipality, local businesses, schools, NGOs and all local partners who share the NHWs’ common purpose for a safer neighbourhood. The “Accredited NHW” status also includes a commitment by the NHW to abide by a strict “Code of Conduct”, which entrenches rights guaranteed by the Constitution, such as dignity, respect and non-violence.

Question 2: What does the accreditation process involve?

Answer: The accreditation process involves providing documentation demonstrating that the applicant, the NHW, is a well-organised, capable and accountable structure, operating in a clearly-demarcated area, which enjoys the active support of both its local SAPS police station, and the local CPF. If these relationships are not in good order, the NHW needs to explain why - in order that these can be addressed.

Through our constitutional mandate, the Department of Community Safety has the oversight responsibility to monitor police conduct.

Tell us what you need to feel safe.

SMS INFO to 35 395 to receive a menu of services.

Note: *Standard SMS rates apply



“Our new walk, as a Neighbourhood Watch. One step at a time”

Question 3: How long does the accreditation process take?

Answer: The accreditation process will take approximately 3 months from the time the application is submitted.

Question 4: What process needs to be followed before a NHW can receive training and equipment?

Answer: NHWs need to apply for formal Accreditation, under the Western Cape Community Safety Act, and supporting Regulations, in order to apply for training and equipment..

Question 5: How long after accreditation does the NHW receive training?

Answer: Once the NHW Structure is accredited they will have to complete the training request form DOCS 3 (Annexure C). Please note the Department intends to commence training for Accredited NHWs as from mid-October. Training takes many forms, however, and should include a NHW working closely with its local SAPS police station, as a form of training. Equally, Accredited NHWs are encouraged to enlist the membership of residents with specific skills - such as First Aid, medical, management, financial, communications, mentoring, etc. An Accredited NHW’s “training” should include harnessing all available skills and resources, in the area in which it operates.

Question 6: What are some of the aspects covered in the training?

Answer: Basic NHW training includes training NHWs to understand their immediate environment. Basic NHW training is often referred to as “Broken Windows” training, and includes:

Basic Training (DOCS & CCT): Combining “Broken Windows” & “Place-making”:

Mini-Module 1: Looking Differently at our Neighbourhood Community Mapping (Community Safety Audit):

- What do we see around us?
- Understanding “the process of decay” (why are issues important)?
- Understanding “physical disorder”

(not only social disorder).

- Understanding “root causes” (as an educational process).
- Imagining a safe neighbourhood:
- Becoming a Place-maker:

Further training includes patrolling, incident reporting and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for NHWs, when working with the various safety and security agencies.

Question 7: When will NHWs start becoming accredited?

Answer: The Community Safety Act Regulations became law at the beginning of October, and the first applications for NHW Accreditation will be considered thereafter.

Planning a safer future with healthy partnerships!

The new “Community Safety Plan” for the Worcester Cluster for 2016/2017 will soon be signed off by key partners – the SAPS Cluster Commander, the CPF Cluster Chairperson and Department of Community Safety.

DoCS will also enter into a “Memorandum of Understanding” with local Municipalities to make the plan happen.

To make sure your voices are heard, a Provincial PNP report will be submitted to the SAPS National and Provincial commissioners, as well as the National Minister of Police.

It will also be presented to the Standing Committee on Community Safety.

A detailed report of the PNP will be available online, at www.westerncape.gov.za/dept/community-safety



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY WATCH



To apply to become an Accredited Neighbourhood Watch, contact:

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