

Patrols tackle vice trade problems

POLICE and residents have stepped up efforts to tackle the problems caused by Doncaster's vice trade.

Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team have been carrying out regular high visibility patrols in the town's red light district.

Sergeant Steve Butler, of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, said new legislation had given police the power to arrest kerb crawlers: "The vice trade is a massive problem in Doncaster and linked to drugs and criminal behaviour. We are working very closely with residents, who report persistent kerb crawlers, and with organisations like Street Reach, which supports the girls."

He added: "As part of the new Community First Safer Neighbourhood Teams, run in partnership between Doncaster Police and Doncaster Council, we will be working with Community First, wardens and volunteers. This will be part of

a long term commitment asking people what they want and how we can make the areas they live in better. A direct line telephone number will be going out in the next couple of weeks which will put you through to the team."

Last week five men appeared before Doncaster Magistrates Court charged with picking up prostitutes.

Admitted

The men were seen in Avenue Road, Auckland Road, St Mary's Road, Highfield Road and Thorne Road. They all admitted kerb crawling and received a one year conditional discharge.

Sergeant Butler, speaking after the court case, said: "We rely on residents to report problems to us. We promise that we will listen to their concerns and follow up all inquiries."