

**Meeting: Community Safety Forum**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**Report of: Head of Community Safety**

**Subject: Future role of the Community Safety Forum**

### **1.0 Introduction:**

1.1 A number of changes are coming together which are expected to change the role of the Community Safety Forum within 2008. These include the review of the Crime and Disorder Act, the Police and Justice Act 2006, Part 5 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Review of Policing (Sir Ronnie Flanagan Review).

1.2 The new arrangements require:

- An extended scrutiny role for local authorities including scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP)
- extending Section 17 mainstreaming requirements
- compliance with new Standards for partnership working with increased visibility and accountability to local people
- closer integration between neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management
- further integration of partnership working into mainstream policing

1.3 This report broadly summarises the measures which are likely to be introduced, particularly those which will impact the role of the Community Safety Forum.

### **2.0 Recommendations:**

2.1 That the Community Safety Forum consider its future role in the context of the new proposals which where possible, will be taken into account in planning for the new arrangements.

### **3.0 Information**

3.1 The Home Office is bringing together various community safety developments under the banner of the CDRP Reform Programme. The implementation of these reforms has been delayed in order that the reform proposals could take account of the findings of the

Review of Policing (Flanagan Review). That Review was published on 7<sup>th</sup> February. While new guidance for CDRP's based on all the proposals is awaited from the Home Office, some changes may take effect before the next meeting of the Community Safety Forum and this briefing gives some indication of the extent of those changes. A verbal update will also be given at the Forum meeting.

### **3.2 What has been repealed?**

3.3 In order that CDRP's can concentrate on delivery, the requirement to produce a three year Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and annual reports to the Secretary of State is repealed. Instead CDRP's are required to produce three year plans which are updated annually together with regular strategic intelligence assessments which identify local crime and disorder issues based on analysis of partnership and community information. Resources are expected to be targeted accordingly.

3.4 Response: A Strategic Assessment has been prepared and is submitted for the Forums consideration at this meeting. The Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 –2011 is in preparation and will be published in April 2008.

### **3.5 What new measures are being introduced?**

**3.6 Wider scope for mainstreaming:** The Police and Justice Act increases the scope of section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act (CDA) so that responsible authorities are required to mainstream not only Crime and Disorder, but also anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and behaviour that adversely affects the environment.

3.7 Response: this requirement will be reflected within the new Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy and the shared priorities and indicators within the Local Area Agreement for 2008 – 2010/11. Implementation of partnership initiatives, particularly those on cross cutting issues such as drugs and alcohol will assist in the new mainstreaming requirement. Where necessary the CDRP will deliver training where it is identified that increasing the skills and capacity of the workforce will make a real difference (e.g. domestic violence).

**3.8 A duty to share information:** Section 115 of the CDA gave responsible authorities and probation committees the right to share information for the purpose of reducing crime and disorder. Schedule 9(5) for the PJA will build on this by making it a duty for

those agencies to share depersonalised data and minimum data sets will be described.

3.9 Response: information sharing within the CDRP partnership has not been a barrier to successful multi-disciplinary working, either in relation to dealing with individual offenders or delivering partnership solutions to crime and safety problems. Protocols are in place and can be amended in line with any new requirements.

3.10 **National Standards and guidance:** The Home Secretary has introduced regulations in the framework of National Standards (or 'Hallmarks') which contain six core strands:

- Empowered and Effective Leadership: roles and responsibilities are defined, including a requirement to involve the cabinet member/portfolio holder in CDRP strategic planning. Effective performance management systems are also required to be in place and applied.
- Intelligence Led Business Processes: utilising the National Intelligence Model and enabling community intelligence to feed into local decision making
- Effective and Responsible Delivery Structures including strong links with neighbourhood policing
- Effective Community Engagement
- Visible & Constructive Accountability including Face the People events and an effective Scrutiny facility
- Appropriate Knowledge and Skills

3.11 Response: Involvement of the Community Safety portfolio holder in strategic planning is welcomed and the Chair of the Community Safety Forum is already a member of the RAP/DAAT. We already have strong performance management systems in place that monitor, analyse and report results on jointly agreed targets and those set out within the LAA and PSA processes and those of Brighton & Hove Police Division and of Sussex Police. Data sets are increasingly expanded to include information held by agencies (i.e. Accident & Emergency units) as well as that available from police recorded crime.

3.12 The PCST, Communities Against Drugs and Environment Improvement Teams already work within the National Intelligence Model to identify problems and develop solutions. The model which has been rolled out during the past year has (as far as boundaries will allow) aligned neighbourhood policing teams with those of the CYPT districts and Local Action Teams. Ensuring that community intelligence informs strategic and operational planning is being increasingly facilitated through new IT systems in the PCST and elsewhere. The network of Local Action Teams (& local community safety action groups or forums), now represented on the Community Safety Forum is a good basis for effective community engagement and the productive involvement of people from neighbourhoods. Engagement with Communities of Interest is also a high priority and is facilitated for example with Partnership work with Spectrum and the Racial Harassment Forum.

**3.13 Overview and Scrutiny :** Section 19-21 and schedule 8 of the Police and Justice Act, require the Council to establish a Crime and Disorder Committee which has an overview and scrutiny function. The aim is to ensure that minimum standards of partnership working are applied and that the new scrutiny process 'adds value' to current CDRP arrangements. We will be expected to provide schedules of outcomes, a 'rolling record' of what actions have followed, evidence of what has changed as a result of scrutiny for annual reports, CPA and other inspections and evidence of priorities linking with those of wider partnership such as the Local Strategic Partnership.

3.14 Response: a good practice model recently described by Home Office colleagues was based on the inclusion of 'lay members' in the scrutiny process. The Community Safety Forum which is a Forum made up of elected members, independent co-opted organisations who have a key role in delivering crime and safety initiatives in the City and senior CDRP officers is currently being considered as a possible appropriate Forum to assist in the implementation of the new Scrutiny function of the CDRP Partnership.

**3.15 Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS):** The aim is to provide a single performance framework for crime, drugs and policing. It is planned to help standardise the way in which local delivery bodies operate, and make sure that work carried out at a local and national level is more synchronised with the objective of further facilitating improved performance.

3.16 Response: while this framework together with the national and local indicators that are being selected by the CDRP for inclusion within the

**3.17 Sir Ronnie Flanagan Review of Policing:** the review contains 33 Recommendations many of which aim to improve the management and deployment of resources and strengthen the structures and systems that support policing. Other recommendations aim to 'achieve the dual goal of increased public trust and confidence in crime statistics by ensuring all incidents and crimes are recorded and proportionately responded to'. The recommendations to achieve this include the introduction of new streamlined recording processes (reducing the amount of information routinely recorded for minor crimes while retaining detailed recording for serious crimes) as well as creating a 'community focused performance regime for local crime'.

- 3.18** The anticipated guidelines from central government which combine these recommendations with those from the review of the Crime and Disorder Act will we assume, suggest how a community focused performance regime can combine with performance information from the CDRP.
- 3.19** In addition, we anticipate the guidelines will also include information about those recommendations in the Flanagan Review which are essentially about integrating the partnership between police, local and central government into mainstream policing and ensuring that the police are fully equipped to work effectively in partnership. Specifically:
- A new Action Plan will promote the closer integration of Neighbourhood Policing with a neighbourhood management approach. It is expected that these arrangements will be in place by autumn 2008 (Rec 26)
  - Building the capacity of the police to deliver shared community safety outcomes through joint training and development for both leaders and practitioners (Rec' 27)
  - Sharing the learning with partners from the good results of the Single Non- Emergency Number programme and potential for mainstreaming the approach with partner operations (Rec.28)
  - Chief Constable and senior community safety partners to ensure that effective leadership, tasking and direction of neighbourhood resources are vested in the most appropriate individual irrespective of the organisation for which the individual works (Rec' 29)
  - Identifying the potential for funding in future years to continue to support Forces to embed neighbourhood policing, to develop a broad set of principles for minimising abstraction from neighbourhood policing teams and new guidance for Police Authorities on how they can promote and sustain neighbourhood policing (Rec 30 & 32)
  - The Communities and Local Government Delivery Framework is to provide support and guidance to local partners on the key role Neighbourhood Policing Teams can play in improving cohesion and how that role can be developed further

3.19 Response: Brighton & Hove's Crime CDRP has prioritised the development of Neighbourhood Policing with integrated partnership working wherever that has been possible. The Local Action

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