

Brighton & Hove City Council

Meeting: Community Safety Forum

Date: 5th January 2004

Report of: Community Safety Manager

Subject: Self-Assessment Framework to be applied to the CDRP and DAAT

Wards: All

1.0 Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1** The Home Office requires that a self-assessment framework is applied to all CDRP's and DAAT's and that an Improvement Plan is submitted by March 2004. The self-assessment provides an opportunity to support the development of improved partnership working and this report makes some recommendations about how we can implement the framework and draw up an improvement plan.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1** That the Community Safety Forum note the process that is to be followed in order to carry out the self-assessment of the CDRP and to prepare a partnership Improvement Plan. A draft response to the prescribed questionnaire and a draft Improvement Plan will be circulated to Forum members with a request for their comment and responses.

3.0 Information

- 3.1** The background to the national 'roll out' of the self assessment framework is the findings of the Audit Commission in 2002 which concluded that - "local partnerships have not made an obvious impact on Community Safety between 1999 and 2002. The government and regulators need to work with the partner agencies to help them maximise their impact." The Home Office identified the need therefore for improved partnership assessment, improvement and performance monitoring.

- 3.2** The Home Office is therefore expecting that the application of the self-assessment framework will provide an opportunity:

- For the CDRP/DAAT to assess itself against a core set of accepted standards of performance.
- To identify links between partnership working and results and achievements.
- To identify strengths and weaknesses and areas of improvement.
- To examine evidence which will back strengths.

- To benchmark with the other CDRP's and DAAT's.
- To generate improvement through inclusive discussion and improved partnership discussion.
- To develop an Improvement Plan.
- To measure ongoing progress and development

4.0 How is the self-assessment framework intended to work?

4.1 Guidance has been received from the Home Office and some training provided. The framework sets out that the assessment is applied against 'partnership standards' which include:

- Leadership
- Structures and processes: are they adequate for the delivery of the agreed aims and targets?
- Accountability at strategic level, in partnership development and for delivery.
- Audits and strategies.
- People, partners and groups.
- Partnership processes including consultation arrangements and the implementation of Section 17 arrangements

4.2 The assessment rating is:

- Gap identified
- Working towards
- Some successes
- Doing well

It is required that evidence of the findings and rating is provided and that improvement goals are identified.

4.3 Improvement Plan

It is required that the Improvement Plan sets out –

- Key priority areas for development and degree of urgency
- Clear allocation of responsibilities and accountabilities
- Assesses the impact on the Partnership and on benefits for the community – if improvement is – or is not- carried through
- The resources required
- The extent to which improvement is achievable and what can be realistically expected

5.0 Proposed implementation for Brighton & Hove

- 5.1** A copy of a draft questionnaire (proposed by the Home Office) is appended. The Responsible Authorities Partnership and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team considered the framework and the questionnaire at its meeting on 12th December 2003. The RAP/DAAT are of the view that the merger between the two strategic partnerships is well developed and effective and during the past year, there has been no indication from the Home Office (Government Office for the South East) that the performance of the CDRP in any way needs to improve its partnership processes.
- 5.2 The RAP/ DAAT therefore wish to pursue an approach to implementing the framework and questionnaire which is resource efficient. However, the Community Safety Forum, its elected membership and co-opted partners are a vital part of the CDRP therefore their input into the self-assessment and the improvement plan is critical. It is proposed therefore, that draft responses to the questionnaire and a draft Improvement Plan are circulated to Forum members for their comment and input.

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