

**Meeting: Community Safety Forum**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007**

**Report of: Head of Community Safety**

**Subject: The Crime & Disorder Reduction Programme Reform  
Programme 2007/08**

**Wards Affected: ALL**

### **1.0 Introduction:**

1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act review and the Police and Justice Act 2006 are changing the framework under which CDRP's operate. The new arrangements include a new role for local authorities to scrutinise CDRP's, extend the section 17 mainstreaming requirement, increase the duty to share information, introduce National Standards against which CDRP's are required to comply and also introduce the facility for 'Community Calls for Action'. Increasing the visibility and accountability of partnerships is an important objective of the reform programme and the role of cabinet members or portfolio holders and of ward councillors is a key element of this objective.

1.2 This report advises of what measures are being introduced and when and sets out some considerations for Brighton and Hove CDRP in considering the implications of the proposals and planning for the new roles.

### **2.0 Recommendations:**

2.1 That the Community Safety Forum consider the implications of the new proposals which will then be taken into account in planning for the new arrangements. The Forum is also asked to consider its future role in the context of the new proposals.

### **3.0 Information**

3.1 The Home Office is bringing together various community safety developments under the banner of the CDRP Reform Programme. The Police and Justice Act (PJA) 2006 introduces important changes some of which will be introduced in summer 2007.

### 3.2 What is being repealed?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to produce a three year Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and annual reports to the Secretary of State is repealed.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: While further guidance is awaited, we will get on with the task of producing a three year plan in accordance with the requirements of the Local Area Agreement and the next round of PSA agreements 2008 – 2010/11. Six monthly strategic assessments are already produced by the police; members of the Operational CDRP will consider the changes that are necessary to ensure these are Strategic Assessments incorporate information for the partnership as a whole.

### 3.5 What is being introduced and when?

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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 drafting of the new Local Area Agreement for 2008 – 2010/11 and within the processes of agreeing shared priorities. 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. However, new requirements in relation to dedicated officers in each service area are likely to be resource intensive.

3.10 **National Standards and guidance:** The Home Secretary will introduce regulations in the framework of National Standards which will contain six core strands:

- Empowered and Effective Leadership: roles and responsibilities will be defined, including a requirement to involve the cabinet member/portfolio holder in CDRP strategic planning. Effective performance management systems will also be 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
- Community Engagement
- Visible & Constructive Accountability including Face the People events, Community Calls for Action and Scrutiny facility
- Appropriate Knowledge and Skills

Guidance to CDRP's will accompany these legislative changes

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 welcome however, further clarity of the role and that of other elected members. 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 East, West and Central policing and 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 the appointment of a new post to further develop and manage those processes. The network of Local Action Teams (and local community safety action

groups or forums) is a very good basis for effective community engagement and for the productive involvement of people from neighbourhoods.

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**3.13 Community Call for Action:** This is to put in place an additional facility for members of the public to trigger a response on Community Safety issues of local concern and is one of the ways in which CDRP's are expected to increase their visibility and accountability. The facility is designed to complement, not replace, existing methods of complaint and ways in which an individual can receive a response to an issue. Ward Councillors are expected to be the first point of contact and expected to take up issues with CDRP partners and if not satisfied with the response, to refer to the appropriate CDRP or other scrutiny committee. These proposals aim to provide a formal and good practice framework for ward councillors within CDRP processes and to balance the voices of individuals with those of the wider community.

**3.14 Response:** We will continue to develop neighbourhood policing together with the network of local action teams which enable regular "round the table" monitoring of action plans, new problems to be articulated, solutions to be agreed and feedback to be given. These developments, together with 'Face the People' events are proving to be very productive in engaging local people and in achieving sustainable solutions to crime and disorder. Their popularity with local residents can perhaps be summed up in the comments of residents at a recent Face the People event – that they would 'give their last penny' to ensure that the successful and solution focused work of the Anti-social behaviour, Environment Improvement Team and neighbourhood police officers is able to continue. Other positive comments included that it was amazing that work between the police and the ASB Team seemed to be 'seamless'. This quality of partnership working if sustained will reduce the need for Community Calls for Action which is a good outcome. However,, we welcome a formalisation of ward councillors role in helping CDRP members to properly respond to local priorities and those of communities of interest.

**3.15 Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** Section 19-21 and schedule 8 of the PJA will introduce provisions for the establishment of Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Crime and Disorder matters (which extends those duties set out within the Local Government Act 2000). 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.

3.16 Response: a good practice model recently described by Home Office colleagues was based on the inclusion of 'lay members' in the scrutiny process. We may well consider that 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 the appropriate Forum to take on the new Scrutiny function of the CDRP Partnership.

**3.17 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. The framework is still being developed by the Home Office. APACS will commence on April 2008 with the first assessment published in 2009 – reporting on the 2008/09 year.

**3.18 New National Crime Strategy:** A new national crime strategy is to be produced which will cover the next Public Service Agreement period of 2008/09 – 2010/11

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