

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 48

Brighton & Hove City Council

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|--------------------|
| Subject: | Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 – 2011 | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 26th January 2009 | | |
| Report of: | Director of Environment | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Linda Beanlands: Head of Community Safety | Tel: 291115 |
| | E-mail: | Linda.Beanlands@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Wards Affected: | All | All | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement that the local authority, on behalf of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, undertake regular audits and strategic assessments of crime and disorder, consult with local communities and communities of interest and prepare a three year Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy. The crime reduction and safety priorities within the 2008-2011 Strategy are based on evidence of the scale and nature of crime and disorder in the City, the findings of the strategic assessment and of consultation as well as reflecting national priorities and those of the divisional and force wide police.
- 1.2 This covering report introduces Brighton & Hove's Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy for 2008 –2011 (appended) and provides an opportunity for the ECSOSC to consider the work being carried out and receive further information if required.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the ECSOSC receive the report and following consideration, indicate if further information is required.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 In 2006, consultation with local residents ranked a low level of crime as their most important priority in selecting 'what makes a city a good place to live' and reduced crime levels as top of five issues that need improvement. Addressing

community safety issues are prioritised in neighbourhood action plans with anti-social behaviour, street condition, alcohol and drugs misuse being the crime/safety types that appear most frequently.

3.2 Nationally, the government acknowledges that since 1998 (Crime and Disorder Act), partnership working on crime and disorder has substantially contributed to a sustained fall in crime and that the landscape against which Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP's) are required to deliver has substantially changed. Other national key messages upon which our current Strategy is based include :

- New statutory requirements and recommended best practice about how the CDRP works, in the form of 'Hallmarks for Effective Partnership Working '
- The priority outcomes which were set out within the Comprehensive Spending Review and which are also reflected within the Local Area Agreement
- A need to achieve a stronger focus by CDRP's on the most serious crimes and those which have the greatest impact (includes building resilience to violent extremism tackling sexual and domestic violence and more serious violent crimes).

3.3 The Strategic Assessment for Brighton & Hove showed that total police recorded crime remained stable between 2004/05 and 2006/07 at 32,500 crimes per annum. However, recorded crime began to reduce from early in 2007 and has consistently decreased since then. By the end of November 2008 our performance monitoring reports show a 9% decrease compared with the same period in 2007. The Assessment also profiled the results of resident surveys on their perceptions of crime levels which found that only 7% of people thought that the level of crime had improved (50% thought it had got worse and 43% thought that it had stayed the same during the previous three years.) These findings clearly require us to significantly improve our communications and feedback to residents about the achievements of the CDRP.

3.4 The Strategic Assessment also analysis in detail, each crime and incident type and checks those findings with what we know is of greatest importance to those who live and work in the City. Consultation with local communities and communities of interest is integrated within our day to day CDRP and Partnership Community Safety Team delivery arrangements including feedback from Local Action Teams, the Racial Harassment and Domestic Violence Forums, the Community Safety Forum, the neighbourhood work of our Communities Against Drugs and Environment Improvement Teams and so on. We concluded then, that the priority crime areas which should be contained within our 2008 –2011 Strategy are:

- a) To build and maintain a crime resistant city and neighbourhood infrastructure, reduce criminal damage and improve feelings of safety (p14)

- b) To deliver a balanced programme of interventions to deal with anti-social behaviour and address community concerns: and: To work in partnership to assist in the prevention of first time entrants into the youth justice system(p.19)
- c) To protect children and young people from risk and increase their safety: and: To reduce youth disorder, anti-social behaviour and reduce offending (p26)
- d) To promote a safe, sensible and social drinking culture that reduces harm and violence and improves health: and: To reduce crimes and incidents of disorder where alcohol is a contributory factor (p.27)
- e) To reduce and where possible, prevent the harm to individuals, families and communities associated with the use of illicit drugs (p.28)
- f) To reduce acquisitive crime including burglaries, thefts of and from motor vehicles, cycle theft and business crime (p.32)
- g) To reduce crimes and incidents which are motivated by hatred and protect victims (p.37)
- h) To prevent and reduce racist and religiously motivated crimes and incidents : and: To increase trust and confidence and to build resilience to violent extremism (p.39)
- i) To reduce homophobic, biphobic and transphobic crimes and incidents: and: To improve trust and confidence of LGBT people in CDRP agencies and the work to develop community cohesion (p.46)
- j) To prevent and reduce domestic violence through an effective co-ordinated community response that reduces social tolerance of domestic violence, increases the safety of survivors, reduces the harm caused and brings offenders to justice (p.50)
- k) To prevent sexual violence and abuse, improve acute and ongoing victim care and criminal justice responses (p.58)
- l) To reduce the nature and volume of crimes committed by prolific and other priority offenders and to prevent those most at risk of becoming the prolific offenders of the future from doing so (p.64)

3.5 Clear delivery arrangements for each priority crime area are established. Targets and performance indicators are set and action plans describe outcomes sought and the specific actions which aim to achieve those. Members of multi- agency task or 'expert' groups take responsibility for delivery of individual actions with lead officers keeping a check on performance supported by the Partnership Community Safety Team (PCST) who maintain an overview across all crime areas. Quarterly reports on crime levels overall

and on each crime and incident type contribute to assessments of effectiveness of delivery, identification of trends and new problems to be identified and actions are adjusted accordingly. Brighton & Hove Police routinely assess, identify and analysis crime within the City according to the police National Intelligence Model. That information is shared with teams within Public Safety and increasingly facilitates partnership working throughout the CDRP, working in 'fast time' or alongside the police in special Operations to deal with crime and safety problems.

- 3.6 The Partnership Community Safety Team, Environment Improvement Team, Drug and Alcohol and Communities Against Drugs Teams, directly deliver services for some priority crime area. Examples are: the prevention, diversion and enforcement interventions to deal with anti-social behaviour in both adults and young people; Family Intervention Projects to meet the needs of those families who are most in need; casework to victims and community work with BME and LGBT community to deal with hate crimes, improve trust and confidence and prevent extremism; improvements to the physical environment particularly in neighbourhoods and working closely with local people and neighbourhood work to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol.
- 3.7 For other priority crime areas, effective delivery is achieved by commissioning work from other service providers. Examples are RISE (Women's Refuge Project), the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (Retail Crime Initiatives), Crime Reduction Partnership (street outreach workers dealing with street drinking and begging, priority and prolific offenders and partnership drugs operations). The PCST also supports in kind, co-locating and providing accommodation within its offices Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (RISE) and Victim Support.
- 3.8 Targeted initiatives and developing multi-disciplinary teams are proving very successful. Since the start of the new Strategy, there has been particular progress in integrating the work of the PCST with that of the Children and Young Peoples Trust and the area based Targeted Youth Support Service which incorporates youth crime prevention and enforcement; new care pathways for those young people drinking to excess and family support is one example.
- 3.9 While delivering the priority crime areas within the current Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy, the CDRP and PCST need to retain a capacity to be able to respond to new concerns or emerging crime problems within the city and its localities and to new central government directives. For example, we are making good progress in developing work to deal with sexual violence in the City but are now expecting that central government are to require us to extend that work and that of domestic violence to address the wider issues of violence against women.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation with local communities and communities of interest are integrated into the day to day work of the Partnership Community Safety Team and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The findings of consultation are reflected within the priority crime areas within the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 –2011. New community concerns are responded to while continuing to deliver the planned work set out in the Strategy.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership receives funding from the Area Based Grant City Council, Sussex Police, the Home Office and DCSF and other funding streams which fund the planned partnership work set out in the Strategy. Clearly statutory services such as the Probation and Police services also seek to reduce crime and improve safety through their day to day services.

Finance Officer Consulted: Jill Spedding. Date: 14th January 2009.

5.2 Legal Implications:

The powers contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent guidance are those which set out the statutory duties for the local authority and for the CDRP. The Police and Justice Act is to further introduce new and additional powers and guidance including the introduction of a 'Call to Action' and extending the scrutiny role within local authorities. These new powers are to be the subject of a further report.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon. Date: 14th January 2009

5.3 Equalities Implications:

The priorities within the Strategy specifically seek to address discrimination and inequality particularly for women, those young people and adults who are most at risk of becoming offenders or victims of crime, the Black and minority ethnic communities and the LGBT communities.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

Consideration is always given to interventions and operations which will address underlying causes and achieve long term change and improvement of peoples quality of life.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Contained within the Report

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The risks to the City of failing to reduce crime and improve safety are constantly assessed and interventions identified and delivered to reduce that risk.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy is a city wide Strategy and requires a corporate commitment to its objectives and priorities.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendix:

The Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 –2011.