

TEST VALLEY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Date: 26th April 2007

Title of paper : Plans for a County Strategic Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership		
Prepared by: Jamie O'Reilly		
Present at meeting: Yes		
Leading partner/s: All		
Summary of content and issues raised: The report sets out the background as well as the future implications of a countywide CDRP which is currently in development.		
Recommendations: i) That the Board acknowledges these developments and makes comment as necessary.		
Financial and HR Implications – None .		
Promotion of Equality & Diversity – None		
Purpose of paper (tick)	Decision	
	Discussion & comment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Information	

REPORT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY MANAGER

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTY WIDE CDRP

1 BACKGROUND

On 12th October 2006 Test Valley Community Safety Partnership produced a report which outlined the key findings of the Crime and Disorder Act Review. These included a move away from three year audits and strategies to an annual strategic assessment (reviewed at six months) and annual rolling, three year community safety plans. It also included the need for CDRP's to seek to split their strategic and operational functions and to follow a National Intelligence Model approach. It also required the reporting of CDRP activities to the community. Whilst there were a number of other findings, it is the split of strategic and operational activities which is the focus of this report.

2 OUR RESPONSE AT TEST VALLEY

At Test Valley CDRP we had pre-empted many of the findings as in August 2006 we changed our structure, with the Board meeting each quarter to consider strategic matters only and with the creation of two new groups, the Delivery group which was charged with commissioning and performance management of projects and the hot-spot tasking group which has a very operational focus and ensures a joined-up approach to monitoring and responding to emerging hot-spots and trends in crime and anti-social behaviour.

In addition to this split of functions within CDRP's, the review also suggested that there should be a county level co-ordinating structure for two tier authority areas (particularly where the Local Area Agreement was at a County level). This proposal has been confirmed in the recent local government white paper and it is therefore clear that such a structure will need to be in place and functioning in Hampshire by April 2008. This will coincide with the end of Public Service Agreement 1 and the targets which are associated with it and which we monitor here through iQuanta reports. It will also coincide with the end of the current system for the distribution of Safer and Stronger Communities funds which sees a county wide funds split between all of the member CDRP's for distribution at their discretion.

3 THE OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS

The development of a co-ordinating structure at a County level presents a number of opportunities for improving the delivery against community safety outcomes in Test Valley.

Firstly, it increases the opportunities for jointly commissioning and delivering projects beyond single Borough boundaries. The current custom and practise in Hampshire sees community safety projects being conceived in, developed and delivered separately in each CDRP area. This does not help with improving consistency across the County. It also militates against effective engagement with partners that operate on wider boundaries than Borough CDRP's and furthermore militates against the development and joint commissioning of joint projects. It encourages small, esoteric projects which are generally expensive and difficult to evaluate. Consequently this development presents an opportunity for efficiency savings as well as the implementation of projects based upon robustly evaluated models, which themselves can be evaluated upon implementation here.

The risks are also significant. The Local Government White Paper lays great emphasis on making public services more accountable to the public. Apart from anything else, the aim is to improve the performance of public services through more effective delivery and accountability systems. Community Safety sits at the heart of these developments. There is a risk that shifting a larger proportion of the key decisions and resources that affect community safety on the ground, from the Borough to the County level, will in fact work against this improved accountability.

In addition to this, the development of a County level CDRP requires a re-think on the part of Borough Council's as well as the County Council as to what their role is on community safety policy and delivery. In many Borough Council's the Council funds the Community Safety Manager's post and on occasions (as in Test Valley) the posts of Neighbourhood Wardens. On the other hand, posts such as administrative assistants, analysts, Partnership Chairs and Anti social Behaviour Co-ordinator posts have often been funded through the allocation of Safer and Stronger Communities funds. The development of a County level strategic CDRP could see some or all of these funds removed and leave local CDRP partners to consider if and how they might fund these posts. Some CDRP's are more exposed than others on this, depending on the proportion of their funds which they have tied up in posts.

4 PROGRESSTODATEANDTHENEXTSTEPS

Hampshire County Council's Policy Unit have recently written to all CDRP's (letter attached at Appendix 1) inviting specified representatives to attend a County wide meeting on 25th May 2007 to discuss this development.

Whilst the Borough's have not yet made any proposals on this matter to date, some action is being taken. At a meeting of the Hampshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) Delivery Group for the Safer and Stronger Communities element of the LAA on the 8th February 2006, Test Valley Community Safety Manager called for Borough's to take a proactive approach to joined-up strategic planning this year, through the adoption of a Floor Target Action Planning methodology. The Group Chair, Assistant Constable Simon Cole agreed that this should be trialled as a pilot exercise and Government Office of the South East's Director of Community Safety Dick Oldfield agreed to resource it. Since then progress has been made and we are expecting to be able to confirm imminently, the appointment of a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor to facilitate work-shops with community safety practitioners across the County this summer.

APPENDIX 1

Dear All,

Please see attached further information regarding this event, please accept my apologies if you have already received this invitation.

National Standards for Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships – the way forward in Hampshire

As you may know, following the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police & Justice Act 2006, the Home Office has been developing guidance and national standards for Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships. A draft version of this is attached and the full version is expected in the summer 07.

The proposals (which will be contained in a statutory instrument likely to be published in April 07) include the requirement for a county community safety coordinating structure to be established and maintained in two tier local authority areas. Draft guidance suggests that this group should be comprised of:

- o Police – chief officer (possible Asst Chief Constable)
- o Local Authority – chief executive
- o Portfolio holder for all local authorities supported by community safety managers nominated by each CDRP

- Police Authority – county councillor or lay member
- Fire Authority – county commander
- PCT – to be agreed
- NOMS/Probation – regional offender manager

Although we are still waiting for the final guidance and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health (LGPIH) Bill is not expected to be enacted until later in 2007, we need to take this opportunity to agree a way forward to establish these structures in a way that suits Hampshire.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association have put in place arrangements to review the overall partnership processes in Hampshire in relation to the development of the Local Area Agreement and the response to the LGPIH Bill which proposes major changes to the funding, delivery and performance management arrangements in an area.

If the draft Home Office guidance timetable is adhered to, we are likely to need to have a county co-ordinating structure in place by April 2008. As there will need to be a lot of work done to establish something that will work locally, we are proposing that the first session bringing together the key partners be held in May.

I would therefore like to invite you to attend the first of these events on **25 May 2007** at the Maltings in Alton

The purpose of the morning will be to:

- Ensure that all partners are aware of the implications of the proposals
- Understand what the response needs to be for Hampshire
- Gain a consensus on links between the county and district level structures for crime & disorder
- Agree a way forward for a county level structure and identify the next steps

I hope that you will be able to attend. I believe it is essential that all of the organisations who are identified as having a duty to participate are able to contribute.

For further information on this event and to register please see this webpage and follow the link to the online registration form. <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/crime/cx-crime-event.htm>

Any queries, please contact Paddy Hillary or Rob Ormerod.

JasonLight
ActingPolicyOfficer(CommunityStrategy)
 PolicyUnit
 ChiefExecutive'sDepartment
 HampshireCountyCouncil
 TheCastle

WinchesterSO238UJ
Tel:01962845004HPSN2005004
Fax:01962867273
e-mail:Jason.Light@hants.gov.uk

Subject: Re: CDRP Meeting 25 May 07

Dear All,

As you are probably aware the Police and Justice Act 2006 included amendments to the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (to make Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships or CD RPs).
<http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/police-reform/PoliceandJusticeBill1/>

To initiate this process the County Council is hosting an event at The Maltings in Alton on the 25th May 9:00 till 13:00.

For further information on this event and to register please see this webpage and follow the link to the online registration form.
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/crime/cx-crime-event.htm>

Jason Light
Acting Policy Officer (Community Strategy)
Policy Unit
Chief Executive's Department
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester SO238UJ
Tel: 01962845004 HPSN2005004
Fax: 01962867273
e-mail: Jason.Light@hants.gov.uk