

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Thursday, 11th June, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor C. Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor Cotterill (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Attwood, Burston, Caunt, A. Finch, Foster, Mrs. D. Harley,
J. Martin, Miller and Ryder

OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Finance (Revenues, Benefits and Management Support) (Lead Officer to the Committee), Interim Director of Law and Property, Principal Solicitor, Divisional Support Services Manager (Human Resources/Citizenship) (all Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources), Head of Community Renewal (Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Head of Community Safety, Alistair Cook and Peter Burford (Community Safety) (all Chief Executive's Directorate) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources)

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member made a declaration in accordance with Members' Code of Conduct in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.

2 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 12th March, 2009, be approved as a correct record and signed.

3 **PUBLIC FORUM**

No matters were raised under this Agenda Item.

4 **DIRECTORATE OF LAW, PROPERTY AND HUMAN RESOURCES -
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008/09**

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on the Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2008/09. A copy of the annual report was attached as
SCSCS/1

an Appendix to the report submitted.

During his presentation of the content of the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted, the Interim Director of Law and Property referred to a decision made at the last meeting of the Committee, when the Equality and Diversity Action Plan for 2009/10 was considered, in respect of the possible introduction of a graduate development programme and reported that it had been ascertained that whilst such programmes had been identified in certain Directorates of the Council, there was a need to develop a corporate approach. In view of this, further consideration would be given to this matter and a report would subsequently be submitted to the Council's Corporate Board and to this Committee in due course.

Arising from consideration of the information contained in paragraph 17 of the annual report, regarding consultation with a group of lady taxi drivers from ethnic minority groups, the Interim Director of Law and Property undertook to inform the Chairman and Councillor Foster of the number of such drivers and of their ethnicity.

Arising from further questions and comments made and responses given, it was

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on the Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2008/09, be noted.

2008/09 CRIME REDUCTION PERFORMANCE UPDATE

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on Crime Reduction performance for 2008/09. Attached at Appendix A to the report submitted were Year 2 - Local Area Agreement Performance Stretch Targets and IQuanta charts showing Dudley's placing in terms of the Council's Most Similar Family Groups in relation to national indicators and total recorded crime. Within the West Midlands Police Force area, Dudley remained the lowest Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area for crime rate per 1,000 population.

In her presentation of the report, the Head of Community Safety referred, in particular, to the mixed results in terms of domestic abuse an issue commented upon by members with particular reference to the performance indicators in Appendix A relating to below target performance in five areas in respect of domestic abuse. The reasons for such performance were set out in the report submitted and expanded upon by the Head of Community Safety.

During the consideration of this matter, reference was made to the fact that there were financial implications if such stretch targets were not met, which would have implications for the Council and the area as a whole.

In response to further questions, the Head of Community Safety then referred to the various initiatives and activities that were in place to support victims of domestic abuse which included an independent Domestic Violence Adviser and the Public Protection Unit based at Brierley Hill, who, whilst not a reactive unit, did investigate complaints with the aim of submitting evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service on which that service could act. Reference was also made to the home security initiative and the Sanctuary Scheme.

The Head of Community Safety also referred to certain overall statistics whereby one in four women and one in six men were likely to be victims of domestic abuse. The work being undertaken was in respect of the needs and wants of victims and was in support of those victims. It was also stated that on average a person was likely to have been a victim of abuse on 35 occasions before a report was made.

The work of the Police with regard to domestic abuse was also elaborated on and it was considered that the response of the Police to such incidents was positive. Evidence of this was cited by the introduction of the Visual Evidence Scheme.

In response to questions asked as to whether there was information available on the gender split as regards abuse and whether such information extended to same sex relationships, it was reported that the Police did hold such data and that increasingly such data was focused and targeted and was becoming more sophisticated so that target areas could be dealt with. One other aspect of this related to incidents of domestic abuse in the BME communities.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted, and as reported at the meeting, in respect of Crime Reduction performance for 2008/09, be noted.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR 2008/09

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2008/09.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2008/09 be received and noted and referred to the Council.

7

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2009/10

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the proposed work programme of the Committee for 2009/10 municipal year.

Arising from the presentation of the content of the report submitted, members commented, in particular, on proposed additions to the work programme. Given that the items proposed, relating to speed cameras and parking enforcement, were likely to fall within the terms of reference of another Select Committee, consideration as to the inclusion of these items would be given following further investigation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the work programme of the Committee for 2009/10 be approved as follows:-

Date of Meeting	Item
11/06/09	Inter-generational work projects Work Programme for 2009/10 Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Crime and Disorder Matters Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources - Equality and Diversity Annual Report Duty to Involve Annual Report of the Committee to Council 2008/09 Crime Reduction Performance Update
10/09/09	Overview and Scrutiny Committees Invitation to Police Superintendents to discuss anti-social drinking issues The Social Responsibility Scheme Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report NGLAA Community Safety Related Targets and Initiatives - Final Agreed Action Plans Policing Pledge and its impact on the work of the Council Community Engagement with Community Safety

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| 05/11/09 | <p>Development of Dudley's Alcohol Strategy</p> <p>Issues/priorities arising from Area Committee Community Renewal working groups</p> <p>Update on the Council's Capital Strategy</p> <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Annual Report of the Head of Contingency and Disaster Management for 2008/09</p> |
| 21/01/10 | <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Proposed Revenue Budget 2009/10</p> <p>National Support Framework for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships</p> |
| 18/03/10 | <p>Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report</p> <p>Directorate Reporting on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 – Directorate of Children's Services</p> <p>Outline Work Programme for 2010/11</p> <p>Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources - Equality and Diversity Action Plan</p> |
- (2) That no formal working groups be appointed in 2009/10 but should it be considered that a specific issue requires the appointment of a working group, then an ad hoc working group be appointed, on a time limited basis, to consider the specific issue and report back to the Committee.

Alistair Cook in his presentation of the content of the report and an Addendum to that report, circulated separately, arising from the recent receipt of the new regulations, which became law on the 30th April, 2009, referred to the key points of the legislation.

These related to possible co-option of persons to the committee; attendance and the frequency of meetings at which the overview and scrutiny must scrutinise the decisions or actions of the board with regard to the discharge of its crime and disorder functions and in this respect he reported that this must be done at least once, and not twice as indicated in the report submitted, a year. Details were also given in respect of requests for information from any agency represented on the board.

Regarding the Addendum to the report submitted, this referred specifically to the new guidance that had only recently become available and would be the subject of a further report to be submitted to the September meeting of the Committee. Details were also given in respect of a proposal regarding the co-option of persons to the Committee from existing board members of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Arising from the presentation given, members considered whether they wished to co-opt persons to the Committee and considered that no action should be taken on this matter.

It was also reported that one area requiring clarification was whether the Council's two representatives on the Police Authority, who were also members of this Committee, were eligible to be members, given that they could find themselves in a position of scrutinising decisions of which they may have been a party to. This aspect would also be considered in the report to be submitted to the September meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Addendum to the report, submitted on new regulations with regard to Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Committees, be noted and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on this matter.
- (2) That, arising from the consideration given to the possible appointment of co-opted members to the Committee from the board of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, no action be taken with regard to such co-option.

A report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services was submitted on the new “Duty to Involve” local persons and their representatives in the activities concerned with changing or improving services and their delivery and on how the Community Renewal Team in working with partners, was facilitating some of this work in communities and neighbourhoods.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on the new “Duty to Involve” local persons and their representatives in the activities concerned with changing or improving services and their delivery and on how the Community Renewal Team in working with partners was facilitating some of this work in communities and neighbourhoods, be noted.

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INTERGENERATIONAL WORK WITHIN DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on intergenerational activity taking place within Dudley Borough, arising from a request made at the previous meeting of this Committee.

Arising from the presentation of the report submitted by the Head of Community Safety, she was asked to confirm to the Chairman details of the venue and numbers attending the Older People’s Conference held in October, 2008, referred to in paragraph 7 of the report submitted.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, on intergenerational activity taking place within Dudley Borough, be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN