

**Select Committee on Community Safety and
Community Services - 9th November 2006**

**Report of the Chairmen of the Working Groups
prepared by the Lead Officer**

Purpose of Report

1. To present the recommendations from the following meetings of the Working Groups.

280906 – Regulatory Controls Working Group

041006 – Partnership Developments Working Group

091006 – Customer Services and Public Information Working Group

Background

2. The Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services approved the setting up and membership of the Working Groups at the meeting held on 15th June 2006.

Finance

3. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

Law

4. Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972, enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

6. There are no special considerations to be made with regard to equality impact and there is no specific effect on children and young people in the submitting of this report.

Recommendation

7. That the Committee note and comment on the matters discussed by the Working Groups and reported on by the Chairmen of each Working Group; details below:

(i) **Regulatory Controls Working Group – Meeting held on 28th September 2006 – Councillor Burston (Chairman)**

Monitoring of the Impact of the Mediation Services – Verbal update from the Mediation Officer and North Dudley Area Housing Manager

The Working Group received a verbal update from the Mediation Officer and the North Dudley Area Housing Manager. The North Dudley Area Housing Manager informed the Working Group that mediation statistics would be available in the near future as a new IT system was being purchased to collate such information. She also informed the Working Group that presentations and meetings were taking place to increase awareness of the Mediation Service that consisted of two members at present. She commented that it might be possible in the future to provide mediation services to the private sector, provided capacity was increased, but that presently it was mainly geared up to deal with situations with regard to tenanted property.

The Mediation Officer reported on current and possible future projects, and the appropriate accommodation requirements to conduct mediation interviews.

Update on the Crime and Disorder Act Review

The Working Group had previously requested that they be updated at each meeting on the Crime and Disorder Act Review.

Progress of the Anti Social Behaviour Unit

It was reported that progress for the implementation of the Anti Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) was being considered, together with a future strategy for the Unit.

The Working Group resolved that a further report be submitted to the Working Group, as an ongoing matter.

(ii) **Working Group on Partnership Developments**
4th October, 2006 – Councillor Mrs Dunn (Chairman)

Progress in the Safer and Stronger Block

A report of the Commissioning Manager (Crime Reduction) was submitted on progress in respect of the 'Safer' section of the Safer and Stronger block of the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The Local Police Liaison Officer reported on the targets considered by the Dudley Community Partnership (DCP). He also reported that the joint police and local authority working groups planned to meet to develop the new approach.

Respect Agenda

The Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator updated the Working Group on progress under the RESPECT Agenda, stating that Dudley had become proactive with regard to family anti social behaviour. He informed the meeting that the concept of parenting provision and family intervention was a Government idea and pilot schemes had been held in Dundee, Sheffield and Rochdale. He advised that support and ideas were needed in order that a line of action could be formulated and that the Crime Reduction Implementation Group would have a part to play. An 'Action Day' was due to take place in December and Councillors would be invited to participate.

Crime and Disorder Act Review

A report of the Head of Community Safety was submitted on a review of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, and possible implications. Members were advised that the Cabinet Member for Community Safety was also a member of the Local Strategic Partnership and is able to consider such implications.

The Working Group resolved that the Head of Community Safety be asked to submit the outcomes of the joint police and local authority working group in respect of "activities" concerning the DCP Targets, the Respect Agenda, and the Crime and Disorder Act Review to the next meeting of the Working Group as an on-going issue.

(iii) **Working Group on Customer Services and Public Information**

Sure Start – Update on Recent Developments

The Head of Early Years and Childcare presented the 10-Year Childcare Strategy "Every Child and Young Person in Dudley Matters", and explained the provision for registered childcare under OFSTED Regulations.

The Head of Early Years and Childcare agreed to arrange visits to some of the establishments under the current initiative, and for Members to understand the importance of the service in the community.

Community Engagement and Inclusion

The Assistant Director for Partnerships and Children's Trusts informed the Working Group that the Community Engagement Strategy for young people was still in draft form but that the proposals concerned the various ways children and young people would become involved in the decision making process and in accordance with the "Hear by Right" standards.

It was suggested that the Working Group might be interested in receiving a presentation from DOSTI and to attend the Select Committee on Children's Services – Listening to Children and Young People Working Group on 17th October.

The Working Group resolved that

- 1) an invitation be extended for young people to attend the next meeting of the Working Group to discuss the views on the Community Engagement Strategy, particularly from a Community Safety/Public Information point of view, and ,
- 2) to note that members of the Working Group were invited to attend the Select Committee on Children's Services – Listening to Children and Young People Working Group, on 17th October 2006.



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