

## **Safe & Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership)**

### **Briefing Note For the Scrutiny Committee on Community Safety and Services Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**

The purpose of this briefing note is to update Members in respect of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 with particular reference to the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner. There will be a substantive item on the new work programme in respect of this

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill received Royal Assent on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The Act:-

- Transfers the control of police forces to elected police and crime commissioners

#### **Police and Crime Commissioners**

- Will be elected on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and take up office on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 (and each subsequent fourth year on the ordinary day of election in the year of election)
- Will be responsible for the issuing of a police and crime plan
- Will hold the Chief constable to account
- Will set the force budget
- Will appoint and where necessary remove the Chief Constable
- May make a crime and disorder reduction grant to any person
- Will have regard for victims

#### **Police and Crime Panels (Outside of London)**

- The functions of the police and crime panel for a police area must be exercised with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the functions of the police and crime commissioner for the area
- The Police and Crime Panel must review the draft police and crime plan, or draft variation, given to the panel by the relevant police and crime commissioner
- The Police and Crime Panel must arrange a public meeting of the panel to be held as soon as practicable after the panel is sent the Policing Area's annual report
- The Police and Crime Panel will be involved in the investigation of non-criminal complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioners

#### **Crime and Disorder Reduction (Chapter 8 of the Act)**

Clarifies that reference to crime and disorder reduction is reference to:

- Reduction of crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment)
- Combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances, and
- Reduction of reoffending

## **Changing the Partnership Landscape**

The exact relationship between Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) (safe & sound in respect of Dudley) and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is not yet known. However what is known is that:-

- There will be a reciprocal duty to cooperate i.e. PCCs and Community Safety Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships and PCCs
- There will be a duty to have regard to each others plans
- The PCC will have the power to call together CSPs
- The PCC will have the freedom to commission services from other bodies and agencies other than CSPs

## **Funding Streams**

There is a recommendation that there is a normal programme of work for 2012/13 and that Home Office Funding should be received via existing mechanisms. For the Community Safety Partnership this relates to the Community Safety Fund and the Drug Intervention Programme (Home Office Element). There will also be an impact in respect of the Early Intervention Grant however; clarification is required in respect of this.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 these sources of funding will go directly to the PCC

## **Way Forward - Regional**

“The West Midlands Transition Board has been established to oversee the implementation of the different objectives contained within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Board has a number of workstreams that are looking at the different objectives, one of them is looking at developing the local policing body’s crime role, to include work with crime and disorder reduction partnerships, the wider criminal justice system and all other agencies key to the delivery of the crime agenda”.

There are links into this Board via John Polychronakis, Chief Executive of Dudley MBC.

## **Way Forward - Local**

- Build on our current Strategic Assessment and other Needs Assessments to ensure that we can demonstrate Dudley’s needs and priorities
- Be able to demonstrate community priorities
- Develop an evidence base of what has worked in Dudley
- Dudley DMC have contributed to the West Midlands Police Authority’s response to the Home Office Consultation on the Draft Elected Policing Body (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations
- Safe and Sound Strategic Board are holding an extra meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 to consider the implications for the Community Safety Partnership to be able to plan and act accordingly.
- Attendance at regional and national events as appropriate

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February 2012