
Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services- 14th June 2007

Report of the Chief Executive

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Reform

Purpose of Report

1. To inform select committee of the CDRP Reform programme following the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDAR)

Background

2. The Government announced a review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA) in 2004 White Paper 'Building Communities, Beating Crime'. The review was undertaken with comprehensive stakeholder engagement between November 2004 and January 2005.
3. The Home Office published the findings of the review in January 2006 and introduced measures to implement the recommendations in the Police and Justice Bill. The review findings were published in January 2006 and are available online at: www.crimereduction.gov.uk/regions00.htm.
4. The findings of the Crime and Disorder Act Review proposed that a number of changes to partnership working be made to improve the effectiveness of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and improve lines of accountability, specifically to communities.
5. Home Office sought to bring various developments under the banner of the CDRP Reform Programme to ensure that a coherent approach to initiatives is achieved. Some of the legislative changes will take effect quite shortly.

Key Changes

6. There are eight key areas of activity that will be addressed within the reform programme, these are detailed below.

What will be repealed by the new provisions?

- The duty to produce three yearly audits and strategies – the 2005/08 will be the last audit and strategy in the current format
- The duty to report annually to the Secretary of State England or Wales on partnership's work and progress.

However the need to consult and communicate decisions to the public is reflected in the requirements for annual strategic assessments and annual three year rolling plans.

What new provisions are being introduced for CDRPs?

The Police and Justice Act includes some new duties on CDRPs that will support the increased effectiveness of partnerships as partners work together to tackle the problems of crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

Increasing the scope of CDRPs

Schedule 9(4) of the Police and Justice Act 2006 increases the scope of section 17 of the 1998 Act (the 'mainstreaming' crime reduction requirement) to include anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and behaviour that adversely affects the environment.

Information sharing

Schedule 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act gave partners (the responsible authorities and probation committees) the power to share information for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder. The Police and Justice Act strengthens this by introducing a **new** duty on the same agencies to share depersonalised data. This will be known as Section 17A

National Standards

These will be in the form of a framework of National Standards

The CDRP Reform Steering Group has agreed to frame these national standards around six core strands of business which can determine CDRP effectiveness. These are:

- Empowered and Effective Leadership
- Intelligence Led Business Processes
- Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures
- Community Engagement
- Visible and Constructive Accountability
- Appropriate Knowledge and Skills

Overview and Scrutiny

The provisions extend the remit of overview and scrutiny committees to include the ability to scrutinise CDRP activity in community safety and should support the increased accountability of the CDRP for decisions and outcomes. The finalised regulations **may** include statutory requirements regarding the membership of O & S Committees (for instance it may require members of the public to be members)

The regulations will introduce the Community Call for Action (CCA), the tool by which members of the community can trigger a response by community safety partners on issues of community safety and local concern.

Appendix 1 Flow Chart for CCA

Assessments of Policing And Community Safety (APACS)

The Home Office and its delivery partners have pledged to deliver a simpler performance framework for crime, drugs and policing. Over the coming year, the development of this framework, operating under the name Assessments of Policing And Community Safety (APACS) will be progressed in partnership with key stakeholders. It is likely such assessments will be based on a combination of the partnerships compliance with the six national standards and it's performance in relation to crime and asb reduction. The intention is to commence APACS in April 2008, with the first assessments published in 2009.

New Crime Strategy / New PSAs

A new crime strategy is being developed, which will cover the next PSA period from 2008/09 to 2010/11.

The crime strategy will outline a differentiated approach to Anti-Social Behaviour and volume crime, serious violent crime, and organised crime and terrorism. This focus will be reflected in the new suite of PSAs.

Appendix 2 Time frame for implementation of all above

Finance

7. There is no direct financial implication arising from consideration of this report.

Law

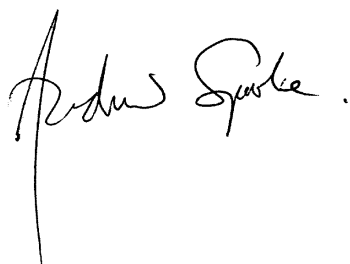
8. The relevant statutory provisions referred to in this Report are contained within Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police and Justice Act 2006

Equality Impact

9. This report complies with the Council's policy on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that members of the Select Committee consider the contents of this report
11. That a further detailed report regarding implications for overview and scrutiny and CCA be brought to select committee when further guidance is received. Currently the Government intend to issue the final guidance at end of July



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Chief Executive

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List of Background Papers

Home Office Crime and Disorder review Implementation in England 23.03.07
White Paper :Building Communities, Beating Crime