

Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services
13th September 2007

Report of the Chief Executive

Local Area Agreement Safer Block

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Community Safety and Community Services select committee of the LAA (Local Area Agreement) Safer block.

Background

2. LAAs (Local Area Agreements) are a new approach to managing and accounting for public money spent in providing services to local areas. They are agreements between central Government and local areas about how Government money will be used. In particular, LAA will describe how different funding streams are joined up to produce better services for local people. The aim is to give people more power and flexibility to decide how public money is spent.
3. Local Area Agreements mark a radical change in the relationship between central Government and local authority areas. It is an Agreement between Central Government departments and Local Strategic Partnerships that focus on a core set of outcomes for the local area. An LAA simplifies the number of funding streams received by local areas from central government and give local areas much greater freedom to spend on local priorities.
4. There are 4 blocks to an LAA:
 - Children and Young People
 - Healthier Communities and Older People
 - Safer and Stronger Communities
 - Economic Development and Enterprise

In 2005/06, Local Area Agreements were piloted in 20 areas of the Country, including the following areas in the West Midlands:

- Wolverhampton
- Stoke
- Coventry

In April 2006 a second round of 66 areas commence, with the following areas in the West Midlands included:

- Birmingham
- Herefordshire
- Shropshire
- Walsall
- Worcestershire

5. The remaining 63 areas were eligible to have LAAs in place by April 2007, including Dudley and Sandwell boroughs in the Black Country.

6. Currently the safer block has six mandatory outcomes

- Reduce Crime
- Reduce overall crime in line with local CDRP targets and narrow the gap between the worst performing wards/neighbourhoods and other areas across the district
- Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime
- Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs
- To build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Increase domestic fire safety and reduce arson

Within each mandatory indicator there are a series of sub indicators included, please see www.dudleyisp.org for further information and Dudley's LAA.

7. The terms of reference and delivery structure of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership have been realigned to meet the requirements of the LAA with JAG being the delivery arm for the stretch targets including:

- Reduce violent crime
- Reduce criminal damage
- Reduce repeat incident rates of domestic violence
- Reduce recorded crime incidents for theft of motor vehicle

8. Partnership leads have been identified within the Community Safety Team and the Police and there is joint representation on the performance management group that reports to Dudley Community Partnership.

Finance

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

Law

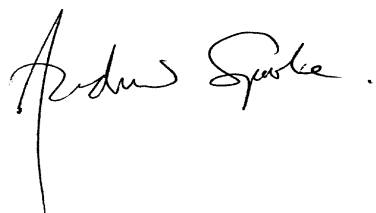
13. The Council powers and duties in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour are principally contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. However, a range of other powers and duties such as those contained in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are relevant to crime prevention measures. So far as the LAA is concerned, the Council has power to enter into this under S111 of the Local Government Act 1972 being incidental to its statutory functions.

Equality Impact

14. This report is in accordance with the council's equality and diversity policy.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that the committee note the information contained in this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Sparke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end.

Andrew Sparke
Chief Executive

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