

**Select Committee for Community Safety and Services**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**RESPECT Agenda**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Select Committee on the RESPECT Agenda.

**Background**

2. The RESPECT Action Plan was launched by the Government on 10 January 2006. It was presented by the Prime Minister as a flagship policy of the Government in its third term. The RESPECT Action Plan is a policy document that is explicitly intended to be cross-cutting over several policy agendas and service areas. There is a wide recognition that the RESPECT Action Plan - in its attempt to emphasise the importance of early preventative intervention- goes significantly beyond addressing the immediate manifestations and consequences of anti-social behaviour.

There is considerable interest in adopting the themes of the RESPECT Action Plan, and in developing a local RESPECT model of practice

**2.1 Leadership**

Safe and Sound Strategic Board discussed the issue of how the RESPECT Action Plan should be progressed on 30 October. Two parallel themes were discussed. The first was that of the leadership of a local RESPECT drive. The second was that of the necessity (or otherwise) of a strategic group overseeing its implementation.

These issues were later discussed at DMBC Corporate Board and it was agreed that there should be a local RESPECT Action Plan, delivered in a coherent and co-ordinated way, through an identifiable structure, spearheaded at a senior level within DMBC. Owing to the cross-cutting nature of the RESPECT Action Plan, it was agreed that the championing of the RESPECT agenda be co-led by Linda Sanders (Director, DMBC Adult, Community and Housing Services Directorate) and John Freeman (Director, DMBC Children's Services Directorate).

**2.2 Structure**

It was agreed at a RESPECT planning meeting on 1 December 2006, that the development and implementation of a local RESPECT plan be conducted through two key mechanisms.

- Firstly, a RESPECT Steering Group which would comprise of senior Directors and strategic managers. This would agree the principal performance indicators and measures, and which would monitor and review progress. This typically is at DMBC Director and West Midlands Police Chief Superintendent Level.
- Secondly, a RESPECT Delivery Group, which would comprise senior operational managers and would ensure the development and implementation of a plan that, would address key local performance indicators. Dudley MBC, West Midlands Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Voluntary sector, registered social landlords, and Dudley Community Partnership are represented on this group.

Both groups have met once, and have agreed key terms of reference. The key activity presently is conducting an audit of activity relating to the main themes of the national RESPECT Action Plan. A further analysis of gaps will be undertaken from this. Both groups will meet in mid- March to look at the findings. This will form a firm evidential basis for the drafting of a Dudley RESPECT Plan.

### **2.3 Local Area Agreement (LAA)**

Building RESPECT in communities is a key outcome area of the “Safer and Stronger” block of Dudley Community Partnership’s proposed LAA. There are four mandatory RESPECT indicators, essential for any successful Local Area Agreement:

**Table 1**

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| <p>i) <i>Increase % of people informed re activities by the Council to tackle ASB.</i></p> <p>ii) <i>Increase % of local people feeling parents are taking responsibility for their children.</i></p> <p>iii) <i>Increase % of local people feeling treated with respect &amp; consideration.</i></p> <p>iv) <i>Reduce people’s perception of ASB based on 7 indicators from the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey (LGUSS).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vandalism graffiti and other deliberate damage to property</li><li>• Teenagers hanging around on the streets</li><li>• Rubbish or litter</li><li>• Drug use and dealing</li><li>• Drunk or rowdy behaviour</li><li>• Noisy neighbours</li><li>• Abandoned or burnt out cars vehicles</li></ul> |
|--|

DMBC Research and Intelligence Team have already analysed returns from the 2006 LGUS Survey, and key baseline data has been produced. An Action Plan is being developed. The wording of the indicators however, along with their associated targets, is currently the subject of negotiations between Dudley Community Partnership, Government Office for West Midlands, and the Home Office.

## **2.4 RESPECT Action Day**

Dudley held its own RESPECT Action Day on 30 January 2007, at Himley Hall. Its principal aim was to raise awareness of the ethos and elements of the national RESPECT Agenda, and to engender a level of enthusiasm for adopting these locally. This in turn generated discussion as to how these can be incorporated into corporate and service business plans. The main target audience was senior managers in key areas of service delivery.

The event was very well attended up to the venue's capacity (with over 110 people present) and demand was substantially in excess of capacity. Representatives from the Home Office delivered both keynote speeches and also ran workshops on the themes of Dealing with Neighbourhood Nuisance, Family Intervention Projects, and Youth Development Programmes. Presentations and speeches from the Lead Member for Community Safety and from Linda Sanders affirmed Dudley's commitment to the principles of RESPECT, and to developing a local plan.

Feedback from attendees, both formally and informally, has been overwhelmingly positive, and it would appear that it has succeeded in both raising the profile of the RESPECT Agenda in Dudley, and in exciting a new level of enthusiasm for the implementation of a local model.

A follow-on RESPECT Action Day has been requested and this will be explored. The RESPECT Agenda may feature as an item at other forthcoming conferences e.g. the ASB Conference in May 2007, and a Community Safety Conference in December 2007.

## **2.5 Activities**

Dudley has been successful in applying for the funding of a Senior Parenting Practitioner. This post will be for a year, and the expectation is that the work will then be integrated into mainstream work. The person will undertake intensive interventions with families referred through the ASB Case Conference and by the ASB Team. The post holder will have links with Youth Offending Service activity, and with the work within children's centres and extended schools. Recruitment processes have begun, and it is hoped that the post holder will be able to start by May.

Discussions are also in progress to seek funding from the Home Office for some short-term projects to address sustained anti-social behaviour in key "hot-spot" areas.

## **3. Finance**

There are currently no immediate financial implications for this report. As the local RESPECT Action Plan develops, along with more clarity and detail, an indication of financial consequences will be presented to Committee.

## **4. Law**

The Council has a range of powers that may be applicable to this report, particularly under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. However, under Section 2 of the Local Government Act of 2000, the Council may do anything that it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

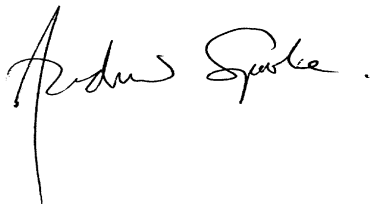
## 5. Equality Impact

Any local RESPECT plan will be required to comply full with equalities legislation. Community Cohesion is one of the identified themes within the audit.

## 6. Recommendation

It is recommended that:-

- The content of this report is noted



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**Chief Executive**

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