

Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services
10th September 2009

Report of the Chief Executive

Next Generation Local Area Agreement (NGLAA) Community Safety Related Targets and Initiatives - Final Agreed Action Plans

Purpose of Report

1. The report outlines the focal points of each of the Delivery Plans that relate to the various NGLAA national indicators that have been adopted locally in respect to community safety. The process leading to these plans is briefly mapped within this report.

Appendices detailing each of these delivery plans are attached to this report.

Background

2. The NGLAA is scheduled to run from 2009- 2011. It is intended to be a flexible means by which national objectives can be realised through local partnerships negotiating specific targets on national indicators with their regional Government Office. Local partnerships are encouraged to develop their own specific suite of actions based on local circumstances to achieve this.

Dudley has chosen to submit specific plans for 27 National Indicators out of a total of 198. Of these, four are directly and explicitly linked to the theme of community safety. These are:

- NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate (per 1,000 people)*
- NI 17 Perceptions of antisocial behaviour*
- NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate*
- NI 115 Substance misuse by young people*

The Delivery Plans for these four are attached as Appendices. Another two have a relevant if implicit connection to community safety. These are:

NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

NI 39 Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates

Both of these are work in progress.

2.1 The NI 16 Plan (Serious acquisitive crime rate) looks to further capitalise

upon the progress made over the last decade. It aims to reduce the total recorded offences from 4968 (16.33 per 1,000 pop) to 4578 (15.0 per 1,000 pop) by 2010/11. Looking at figures for 2007/ 2008, it depicts a breakdown of offences by percentage as Burglary Dwelling 34% - Vehicle Crime 56% - Robbery 10%. The plan details a variety of actions and approaches from target hardening, diversionary activity, and early intervention, to intensive offender management. Work programmes have been identified within town centres and also securing car parks across the borough. The mapping and gap analysis gives a clear overview of the scale of the work already underway locally, and the plan seeks to continue and build upon much of this. A variety of partner agencies are involved both within the local authority and within the statutory, commercial and voluntary sectors.

2.2 The NI 17 Plan (Perceptions of antisocial behaviour) is a relatively new venture for the partnership, since it relies on polling data from the Place Survey for evidence. There has however been very considerable improvement since 2003, with the percentage of residents seeing anti-social behaviour as being a problem in their local area falling from 44% in 2003 to 22.4% in 2008. The figure fell from 27% in 2006 to 22.4% The new target is for this to reduce further to 19% in 2011. The key elements to the plan are:

- The use of combined perception data and incident data to enable hot-spot areas to be identified by the Joint Activities Group
- The local management of action plans by local problem –solving groups. This will be a function essentially “bolted on” to the newly developed Neighbourhood Services Groups, managed by the Community Renewal Team
- The involvement of the local community, particularly Elected Members, is central to the success of the whole initiative
- Community and neighbourhood cohesion are key pointers to action where “teenagers hanging around on the streets” are concerns, with particular efforts to involve young people as part of the solution to any identified problem.
- A pooling of contributions from all partner agencies so as to guarantee a small fund to support quick response action to immediate priorities as indicated within the Matrix Model.
- **An effective communication strategy must underpin the whole approach.** This is a critical element. The plan highlights pitfalls to be avoided, and the adoption of a “before and after” approach, demonstrating the impact of initiatives and actions.

For 2009, four ward areas have been identified.

- Cradley / Foxcote
- St. Thomas'
- Brierley Hill
- Gornal

CDRP analysts have undertaken further research, and this is now about to be used by the local groups being convened to address key issues.

Though a need for additional staffing resources was identified, the Youth Service's offering of in-kind contributions involving assignment of staff time - where there is an overlap of coverage and priorities - has now covered much of this. As with NI 16, the plan features extensive contributions from a wide variety of

partners.

2.3 The NI 20 Plan (Assault with injury crime rate) again seeks to sustain an encouraging downward trend in reported incidents. The aim is to reduce the annual total of incidents from 2655 (8.7 per 1,000 pop) in 2007/2008 to 2349 (7.7 per 1,000 pop) in 2010 /2011.

Though most ABH crime is committed between strangers, (only 22% of the ABH crime reports indicate that the victim is known to the offender), attention is also given to tackling domestic violence and also to ABH offences committed by secondary school pupils are against children in the same age group. Key elements to the plan are measures to improve management of the nighttime economy (e.g. taxi marshalling) and preventative work within schools. Achieving progress regarding domestic violence and abuse is a very difficult task- as reported in last Select Committee report- and the plan outlines some specific measures (e.g. Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) to tackle this. Uncertainty as to the continuation of the Alcohol Arrest referral Scheme is acknowledged as a recognised risk factor.

2.4 The NI 115 Plan (Substance misuse by young people) relies on survey data provided by OFSTED (Tell Us Survey) to inform its measure of progress. Unlike the other three indicators, it is new and therefore a direction of travel cannot be reported prior to the start. What is being measured from this survey of pupils is the percentage of young people who admit to using drugs and / or alcohol twice or more within the last four weeks. The starting point (baseline figure) is that of 20% of young people surveyed admitting to using drugs and / or alcohol twice or more within the last four weeks. Since the production of the plan, there have since been further negotiations with Government Office West Midlands. The new targets are now:

- 2008 /2009 12.8%
- 2009/ 2010 11.6%
- 2010 /2011 10.4%

The plan represents a multi-faceted effort from agencies across the statutory and voluntary sector. There are some innovative elements, particularly in the use of peer education, and also raising the awareness of parents so as to enable them to deliver key messages. Work with vulnerable parents is also a key plank of the plan. The plan presents approaches that can take place within schools and colleges, as well as within communities and various workforces.

Complementing the education based preventative work are the efforts to tackle the issue of the availability of alcohol to young people. The Social Responsibility Scheme will be extended, following an initial positive evaluation of its impact. The issue of “proxy sales” will be tackled, since Test Purchasing initiatives have led to a decline in under age sales. There is sufficient police intelligence and anecdotal evidence to suggest that purchase of alcohol for young people by adults is a problem needing to be tackled. As with NI 17, communication strategies are seen as integral to the success of the plan.

2.5 Regarding NI 39 (Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates), a template delivery plan has been produced. It is however undergoing a “refresh” in order to make it considerably more fit for purpose. Work is still being undertaken to tackle the issue. Diane McNulty from the Primary Care Trust regularly updates the

Substance Misuse Implementation (SMIG) Commissioning Group on progress.

2.6 Work on NI 1 (% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area) has only just commenced, owing to a Community Cohesion Manager only recently taking up post.

A multi-agency Task and Finish group for NI 1 was convened in May 09 and has met on a regular monthly basis since then. The group is identifying local priorities and gaps in service provision in order to produce detailed action plans. For example, one key area will be to establish the key messages on Community Cohesion for Dudley.

As with NI 17, this indicator is measured by the Place Survey. Results for 2008/09 were 73% and targets for 2009/10 and 2010/11 are 75.2% and 77.4% respectively. Regionally, this figure has decreased, though Dudley has managed to keep the same high score.

2.7 It will be apparent that many of these plans have close links and cannot be viewed in isolation. This is part of the rationale for Local Area Agreements, and indeed elements of each of these will have an impact on plans relating to other disciplines not recognised as explicitly belonging to the realm of community safety. It is the supportive pooling of efforts and concerted approaches to key themes that are intended to deliver more sustainable positive outcomes.

Finance

3. Details of the financial implications of each delivery plan are included within the Appendices. Pooling of resources between partners is an integral part of the LAA process.

Law

4. The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act places a statutory duty on the local authority to work with partner agencies, and to do all it reasonably can to reduce crime and disorder within its jurisdiction. The 2006 Police and Justice Act amended this to also include the reduction of anti-social behaviour as a statutory responsibility.

Equality Impact

5. All of these plans have been through a rigorous equality impact assessment. Young people and women are particular groups on which focus is placed. They are all referenced within the Delivery Plans. NI 1 includes a specific focus on ethnic minorities.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that the committee note and consider the information contained in this report, and its appendices.

John P... ..

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List of Background Papers

<i>NI 16 Delivery Plan</i>	<i>Serious acquisitive crime rate (per 1,000 people)</i>
<i>NI 17 Delivery Plan</i>	<i>Perceptions of antisocial behaviour</i>
<i>NI 20 Delivery Plan</i>	<i>Assault with injury crime rate</i>
<i>NI 115 Delivery Plan</i>	<i>Substance misuse by young people</i>

