
Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services
11th September 2008

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 updated position following the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 (CDAR).

Background

2. Following the submission of the paper on CDRP reform to the select committee on the 12th June, the government response to the published Flanagan report, combined with its response to the report on stronger communities by Louise Casey has been published in a green paper entitled 'From the neighbourhood to the National: Policing our communities together.'
3. The proposals in the green paper are summarised below, and include some key points of interest for the select committee.
4. The green paper can be found at www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/police-reform/policegp/

Proposals

[N.B. The proposals have been summarised, but the page number on the green paper has been included should members wish to see the full context of the proposal]. Where the proposal appears in bold they represent new practises or processes which the partnership do not currently have or comply with.

- That the people of Dudley will become able to **directly elect the individuals that will both Chair safe and sound**, Dudley's Community Safety Partnership, and, taken regionally, **form the majority on their Police Authority**.
(P.13)
- There will be **core principles for Police Community Support Officers**, and moves to greater standardisation in areas such as uniform, powers and training. An **evaluation will take place of the standard and discretionary list of powers** of P.C.S.O.'s, which will be concluded by the end of 2008. **Responses to this green paper will be a critical part** of that evaluation.
(P. 17)

- **Neighbourhood policing must be integrated with wider neighbourhood management.** The Home Office are developing a set of **core principles** for effective integration. These are still being scoped, but will include:-
 1. Strong local leadership at strategic level to drive integration.
 2. Clearly defined and agreed neighbourhoods.
 3. **Shared and publicly negotiated local community safety priorities.**
 4. Shared information, feedback and communication processes.
 5. **Teams consisting of police, local authority and other relevant organisations.** Co-ordinated working to tackle problems effectively. If possible, **teams should work out of the same office.**
 6. Evidence based deployment of resources.
 7. **Nominated officers in police forces and local authorities** to act as contact points on joint action and drive integration of engagement and service delivery.
 8. **A neighbourhood lead** (e.g. a neighbourhood manager or co-ordinator).
 9. **Strong joined up community engagement** with local authority involvement at neighbourhood policing public meetings and vice-versa (building on success of PACT meetings. (P. 19)

- To further assist the process of integration, the Home office and CLG will work with a few volunteer police forces and police authorities to **pilot Community Safety Participatory Budgets with a view to a wider roll out in 2009.** The communities will then have a voice in the use of resources, strengthening community engagement and involvement. The Home Office is also considering whether **participatory budget principles** could be applied by some forces to the **assets recovered from criminals.** (P. 20)

- The newly created Home Office Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Advisor will take forward both the **Community Crime Fighter Programme**, and the “**Crime Watch**” **style information packs** being developed by the Home Office. (P. 21)

- The Government wish to ensure that the police and partners work together effectively in dealing with offenders on their return from prison. To encourage and formalise this work, two changes to that would affect the safe and sound partnership are proposed: Firstly, that **Probation** would cease to be a ‘co-operating body’, and **become a ‘responsible authority’.** Secondly, that the **statutory duties of the partnership** would be expanded to **include reducing re-offending.** (P. 21)

- Police and partners need to consider how they engage with **young people**, and involve them in the solutions for tackling crime. (P.21).

- The Government propose that **every school that wants to be part of a Safer Schools Partnership (SSP) should be able to do so, subject to local resources. Parents and schools will be able to trigger a review** as to whether an SSP would be appropriate for their school, a named police officer from their neighbourhood team being the first point of contact. (P. 22)

- The **local business community** has an important part to play as a partner. The National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) are working with the business community to develop **guidance** to help policing teams to better **meet their needs**, and for the **business community to both help themselves and their community**. (P. 23)
- With regard to ‘**visible justice**’, the Justice Secretary has already agreed that offenders “**unpaid work**” will in future be known as “**Community Payback**”. There will be an increased role for neighbourhood policing teams in **sharing information about the outcome of court cases and what has happened to criminals convicted of local crimes** with their communities. (P. 23)
- Police Forces, Local Authorities and their partners play a key part in developing a **jointly owned action plan to prevent violent extremism**, delivering the **Government’s PREVENT strategy**. Forces will receive **extra resources to improve community engagement and counter-terrorism intelligence**. The safe and sound partnership and the LSP have a critical role in co-ordinating this multi-agency work. (P. 24)
- In response to the “top ten policing approaches” identified in the Louise Casey review, the Home Office propose **12 National Standards** for accessible and responsive local policing, and these form the **policing pledge** for the communities, making more visible and accountable what the public can expect. (P. 29)
- New provisions provide a **new power** enabling local people to raise issues of concern on **local Government and Crime and Disorder matters**. The **Councillor Calls For Action** would allow **Councillors to raise local concerns** with the relevant member(s) of the safe and sound partnership. In **extreme cases**, it would allow the local Councillor to **refer a concern to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee** for further action. (P 31)
- As trailed in the first proposal in this report, people in Dudley borough will **directly elect** individuals to be known as **Crime and Policing Representatives (CPR’s)**. The **majority on each Police Authority will no longer be formed from local councillors**, and instead, the electorate will be represented, in the main, by their CPR’s. The Authorities will still retain some **independent members** and representation from the **magistrates**, or ‘lay justice’. **Each CPR will be elected on the basis of current partnership boundaries** (but, to mirror constituency sizes, they may be combined and cover more than one CDRP in areas where CDRP represent districts and counties, whilst large Metropolitan areas such as Birmingham will have more than one CPR). **It is likely, then, that Dudley borough will be represented by one CPR who would Chair safe and sound, and sit on the police authority**. In recognising the crucial role of the local authority in tackling crime and disorder, the Government propose **that a number of councillors from some or all of the upper tier councils in an area should be invited to sit on the police authority**. It is thought likely that some **councillors will stand as CPR’s**, and that many of these will be successful, bringing additional understanding of local government to the police authority. (P. 33)

- The Home Office propose the creation of a **Community Safety Fund**. **This would be available to the CPR** to enable them to address locally identified priorities. This fund would be **created from the existing Basic Command Unit (BCU) fund**. The CPR would be required to **consult the safe and sound partnership and local people** (perhaps through participatory budgeting) on how best to spend the Community Safety Fund. **It could be spent at partnership level, or it could be devolved to neighbourhood level**. For instance, it could be spent on **extra police patrols**, or it could be spent on **extra youth provision**. The fund would be **held by the police authority**, and would be subject to the usual audit and accounting arrangements. (P. 33)

- The Home Office will add to its commitment that **police forces will provide local crime information via websites by July 2008**, by introducing a more dynamic and interactive way to access the information by the use of **crime maps**, a visual representation of the crime in local areas. **These will be in place by December 2008**.

(P. 34)

- The Home Office will oversee the shift of the overall system for **managing performance of police forces to Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary (HMIC)**, which will be strengthened to perform this task. **HMIC** will have a strengthened, refocused role as a **fierce advocate and more explicit guarantor of the public interest**.

(P. 81)

- The Home Office will **drop all 'top down' performance targets** for police forces with **one important exception**. That will be **public confidence**, and the indicator will be the PSA indicator from the British Crime Survey that asks whether people think **"that the police and their partners are dealing with the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter locally."**

(P. 84)

- The Government will publish **further plans to implement these changes** in the autumn, including progress towards a **Policing and Crime Reduction Bill** planned for the **next session of Parliament**.

(P. 85)

The proposals were listed above for your consideration in the order in which they appear in the green paper. Responses should be made using the consultation response forms, which can be found at:

<http://police.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/police-reform/policegp/> and should arrive **no later than Friday 10th October 2008**.

Completed responses should be sent electronically to:-

policinggreenpaper@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or by post to:- Policing Green Paper Consultation Responses, Police Reform Unit, 6th Floor, Fry Building, 2, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

Finance

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

Law

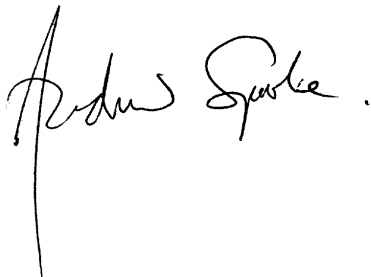
7. The contents of this report are a statutory requirement of the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as of 1st August 2007.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the committee note the information contained in this report.
10. That a further report be brought before the committee following the development event detailing safe and sounds position in meeting the requirements.
11. If Committee members wish to participate in the consultation and identify agreed responses they are content to submit as the view of the whole committee then those comments should be forwarded to Dawn Hewitt no later than 7th October 2008
12. Individual responses should be submitted via the channel outlined at the end of section 5 of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Sparke'.

Andrew Sparke
Chief Executive

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