

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

LOCAL MULTI AGENCY PROBLEM SOLVING GROUPS (LMAPS) and ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 MARCH 2010

Strategic Priorities: Safe City

Corporate Improvement Objectives: CI01,CI04

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an overview to the Scrutiny Committee on the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS), including their contribution to resolving ASB issues

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Eight Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS) provide a specific locality and neighbourhood approach to addressing problems of ASB as well as other problems. Chaired by the Inspectors from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams the groups bring together local frontline agencies responsible for key safer communities services such as policing, environment, housing, youth offending and fire service. In addition an elected member representative attends to provide a community perspective. The LMAPS consider local problems ranging from individual cases of anti-social behaviour and offending through to resolving neighbourhood crime and disorder through environmental improvement and design. Meeting some 80 times across the year (10 each per LMAPS area), the LMAPS demonstrate a significant commitment to problem solving and neighbourhood policing. LMAPS areas are as follows: City Centre; Coalfield; East (Millfield/St Michaels); East (Hendon/Ryhope); North; South; Washington; West.

- 2.2 The purpose of LMAPS can be summarised as:

- To identify, analyse and effectively resolve crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse issues at a local/area level.
- To provide an accessible forum for local interests and residents to feed in relevant concerns
- To exchange information and practice with other LMAPS groups and the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) with the intention of focusing on the right local issues and helping to direct resources appropriately
- To improve public confidence in the SSP
- To improve public satisfaction in our services and
- To reduce demand on our services.

- 2.3 In order to qualify as an LMAPS issue, the matter must be a 'community safety' matter, be seen as an ongoing or repeat problem, require multi agency resolution and therefore not simply be a single event, which is resolvable by one agency.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 In 2008 the SSP Board agreed to adopt new strategic management arrangements for ASB. As a result of this an ASB Delivery Group was formed to act as an information sharing and consultation forum to maintain partners awareness of current policy and initiatives. It also provides a clear link to the eight LMAPS delivery groups.
- 3.2 Any ASB problem issues that cannot be resolved at the LMAPS level were previously escalated to the SSP Business Support Group (BSG) for action. Such issues are now considered by the ASB Delivery Group, which meets on a ten weekly cycle, to tie in with every alternate LMAPS cycle. The Delivery Group considers LMAPS trends across the City, primarily in respect of ASB issues, which comprise the bulk of LMAPS business.
- 3.3 The BSG is no longer required to consider ASB problems escalated from LMAPS, but instead receives a regular update report from the ASB Delivery Group. Issues other than ASB continue to be escalated to the BSG when required. A copy of the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) structure including the ASB and LMAPS structure is attached for information at Annex 1 of this report.

4.0 Analysis of LMAPS issues

- 4.1 LMAPS groups consider several themes including ASB, Domestic Violence (on an exception basis) , Hate Crime, Property Crime, and Drugs misuse. The ASB Strategy Manager introduced a unique reference number for LMAPS cases from October 2008 in order to enable each LMAPS issue to be identified. This enabled those LMAPS issues active on or after October 2008 to be entered into a pilot database. This was intended to identify common issues / blockages, within the LMAPS process and to improve the ability of the partnership to tackle ASB and other issues.
- 4.2 The pilot demonstrated that ASB accounts for over 80% of LMAPS cases. In order to enable the broad range of ASB issues to be labelled and quantified, for the purposes of data input, a range of sub-themes were discussed and agreed by the ASB Delivery Group to describe types of ASB. These are included at Annex 2 of this report.
- 4.3 The pilot database included the following data fields:
- Reference number
 - LMAPS area
 - Date to LMAPS
 - Number of days open
 - Repeat Incident
 - Feedback provided to complainant
 - Date closed
 - Total days open
 - Theme:
 - ASB
 - Domestic Violence
 - Drug Misuse
 - Hate Crime
 - Property Crime
 - Other
 - Type Action Taken

4.4 Based upon data contained within the LMAPS Database, covering the period October 2008 to June 2009: -

- 96 separate problems were considered
- 53 cases (55%), were closed, 3 of which were repeat incidents
- 43 (45%) remained open
- Over 80% of cases relate to ASB.
- Of cases that remained open, 36 (84%) related to ASB.

4.5 Following presentation of the report to the BSG, it was agreed that the database would be developed to include 'Victim', 'Offender', 'Location', fields to identify the problem, and that the solution would be based around 'Prevention', Early Intervention', 'Enforcement', and 'Support'.

4.6 The recent recruitment of a data analyst within the SCT will enable this to be developed in the near future. However as a result of this requirement, data input was limited to a 'pilot' period of October 2008 to June 2009.

5.0 Other Developments

5.1 LMAPS meetings have recently introduced a 'risk' section to enable each case to be assessed to identify those cases that might involve a vulnerable victim. This has been introduced in response to the findings of the 'Pilkington' case.

5.2 LMAPS partners are also being advised at each meeting, of those offenders deemed to be 'prolific' that are residing within the LMAPS area. This will enable wider partners to identify any additional problems caused by the named offenders thereby enabling criminal justice partners to take remedial action where appropriate.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note and comment upon this report.