

At a meeting of the COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Heron in the Chair

Councillors Ball, Paul Maddison, Scaplehorn and J. Walton.

Also in Attendance:-

Councillor Tate

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Copeland, Morrissey, O'Connor, D. Smith, Speding and Timmins.

Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 12th January, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 12th January, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Policy Review – Anti Social Behaviour – Evidence Gathering

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide further evidence as part of the Committee's study into the work being undertaken by the Safer Sunderland Partnership into tackling anti social behaviour in the City.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

As part of the evidence gathering process, Mr. Alan Scott, Operations Manager, Youth Offending Service provided a brief presentation on the Challenges and Support Project and other initiatives targeting diversionary activities for young people.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes).

The Chairman commented on the figures for the Service and noted that they appeared to be very cost effective.

Mr. Scott advised that they were in the process of calculating the cost per head and could provide this at a later date.

Councillor Paul Maddison enquired as to the actual number of participants in the Service.

Mr. Scott advised that the percentages in the presentation were based on around 15 participants and that there were 20 participants across the year.

Councillor Paul Maddison enquired as to the criteria set to target youths in need of the support programme.

Mr. Scott informed the Committee that there were a number of criteria such as a youth not being in education, their peer groups, neighbourhood, health issues/substance misuse or housing arrangements. All of these issues were identified through an ONSET Comprehensive Assessment which gave them the opportunity to tailor interventions to meet specific needs.

Canon Stephen Taylor commented that the Empire Theatre ran schemes in the summer and were currently looking for people/volunteers which the youths on the programme may benefit from.

Canon Taylor also commented that he hoped the youths would be able to benefit from the City being successful in winning the Microsoft training programme.

Mr. Scott agreed that there were a number of possibilities for the youths to engage in and he would investigate further.

The Chairman commented that he was a believer in prevention rather than a cure and enquired as to where the referrals came from.

Mr. Scott advised that many participants in the programme were found through liaising with the Police and the Community Teams, direct referrals from schools and also through siblings.

The Chairman commented that one family member can cause a major disruption to the whole family and informed the Committee of an instance where he could not enrol a youth onto a programme because he had not been arrested.

Mr. Scott advised that Wear Kids would work with youths up until their final warning, so nobody would be excluded.

In response to Councillor Scaplehorn's query, Mr. Scott advised that they had a good working relationship with social landlords such as Gentoo and did receive referrals.

Councillor Scaplehorn enquired if problems occurred with a particular family, would they be highlighted by the Police.

Mr. Scott advised that the Police would highlight such situations and that they were looking to produce clear lists which they could share with the Police on a monthly basis so that nobody was missed.

Also in attendance was Nicky Rowland, Local Environment Manager and Marion Dixon, Environmental Health Manager (Environment) to brief the Committee on the work of the Enforcement Team in dealing with anti social behaviour in the City.

Unfortunately, Ms. Norma Johnston had been due to attend, but had suffered a family bereavement and the Chairman wished to send the Committee's condolences to Ms. Johnston.

Having given a short powerpoint presentation, Ms. Rowland and Ms. Dixon were on hand to answer Members queries.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes).

Councillor Paul Maddison enquired if the Enforcement Team had sufficient numbers of noise recording equipment.

Ms. Dixon advised that they currently had five noise recorders and would like more, but would also require more staff, so for the number of staff there was, they had a sufficient number of recorders.

Councillor Scaplehorn enquired if a person under investigation had to be informed that they were to be monitored, and commented that this would defeat the purpose.

Ms. Dixon advised that the person under investigation would receive a letter, informing them of the complaint and that they were to be monitored, but the investigation could be taken over a number of months, so they would not be told when they would be monitored.

In relation to the figures provided on fixed penalties issued, Councillor J. Walton commented that the East area may need further information with regards to the requirement to present household waste disposal in prescribed manner, due to the high numbers of penalties.

Councillor J. Walton also asked for Officers to expand further on the figures for inappropriate disposal of household waste.

Ms. Rowland advised that notices were served to occupiers which outlined exactly what could be disposed of in the bins. Fixed penalties were then given out, for any inappropriate items still being placed in the bins afterwards.

In response to Councillor J. Walton's query, Ms. Rowland advised that the East area figures were so high as it was recognised that there were a number of issues in that area, therefore most of the resources were directed in that region to start with.

Councillor Ball wished to say well done and informed the Committee of an email received thanking Officers for their service in cleaning up glass and litter, etc.

Councillor Scaplehorn also wished to congratulate the Officers that dealt with dog fouling for the service that they provided.

The Chairman commented that the local offices provided valuable knowledge of the areas when dealing with queries and wished to thank the street cleaners, that also serviced the shopping centres, who provided a fantastic job during all weather conditions.

Claire Harrison, Assistant Scrutiny Officer advised Members of site visits arranged in relation to the study and asked if they could confirm their attendance.

2. RESOLVED that Members note the evidence submitted as part of its study into anti social behaviour together with the proposed visits.

Local Area Agreement Delivery Plans

The Safer Sunderland Delivery Partnership submitted a report and powerpoint presentation (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with a Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan for those services delivered by partners who are members of the Safer Sunderland Delivery Partnership.

(For copy report and presentation – see original minutes).

Stuart Douglass, Safer Communities Manager presented the report along with Chief Inspector Parkes who advised that tackling Anti Social Behaviour was a key priority for the Police and that the statistics were being reduced but the public's perceptions and confidence needed to be addressed.

The Chairman commented on the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, where they appeared to be getting the message across of a Safer City and help the public's perceptions. The Chairman also commented that it would be interesting to see the statistics in the future to compare.

Chief Inspector Parkes advised that attendance at the PACT meetings by the public had been variable, with some well attended and others not so, but the Police were doing a lot of work on engagement at present.

Councillor Paul Maddison enquired as to Chief Inspector Parkes views on the costs incurred through alcohol related crime.

Chief Inspector Parkes commented that they were trying to clamp down on the off licences but there was still evidence of alcohol related crime. They wanted to address the issue of people drinking at home before they go to the pubs and are looking to deny access, if they are already drunk.

Mr. Douglass also advised that if there were irresponsible promotions being offered by pubs, Licensing Officers would tackle on a case by case basis.

In relation to the sale of alcohol, Councillor Scaplehorn expressed concern over the number of shops and off licences applying to extend late night licences.

Chief Inspector Parkes agreed that the issuing of licences was quite liberal and would like to see the process tightened up but it was a problem most city centres faced.

Councillor Scaplehorn enquired if this Committee and the Partnership could focus on the issue of the licences being granted.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the PCT were already investigating the costs of drink related crime and that the problems with the licensing laws as they stood were that evidence was needed before the granting of a licence could be denied, irrespective of how many establishments were already in the area. Parliament needed to review the laws as the Council could only make decisions based on the licensing laws in place.

Mr. Douglass commented that there was a concern that we could only deal with an issue when a problem arose, rather than looking at prevention and it may be worth further investigation.

In response to the Chairman's query on drug recovery and if there had been special targeting of drug farms, Chief Inspector Parkes advised that it depended on the intelligence they received, which they had received quite a lot of recently.

Mr. Douglass commented that the Board had highlighted the issue and a lot of the intelligence had come from the community. Also the cannabis farms found were being cropped in the North East but distributed and consumed in other areas of the country.

In response to the Chairman's query on Drug Rehabilitation schemes, Mr. Douglass advised that there were Drug Intervention programmes which looked at a person's housing situation and such like and that the findings from research suggested the programmes worked better when people were enrolled via the Police/Courts.

Mr. Douglass also advised that Sunderland was generally very good in comparison to other cities, with it being in the top 3 of 15 for statistics in dealing with drugs/policing. Sunderland had been below the national crime rate for the last two, going into three years.

The Chairman commented that he still did not think the statistics for the perception of crime was correct and raised concerns that the newspapers only ever printed negative stories, never the good, which lead to a frightened community.

Mr. Douglass commented that the Partnership was doing a lot of work in promoting the work being done with the community.

Canon Stephen Taylor commented that the Sunderland Echo had been recruited onto the Partnership and had started to see a subtle change with more of a pride in Wearside and a positive approach in promoting Sunderland. It was not always the case you could get the press on board as we had done.

Canon Taylor also advised that the Safer Sunderland Partnership was one of the strongest for Partnership working and had been regularly praised, nationally. With the addition of Scrutiny, it was giving a healthy challenge to improve and was having a positive benefit.

The Chairman conceded that the Sunderland Echo had been better over the last two years but there was still room for improvement.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee note the content of the Delivery Plan and where appropriate focus its attention on those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

Study into Anti Social Behaviour – ‘Not in my Neighbourhood – Week of Action’

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an overview to the Committee on the ‘Week of Action’ which was held in support of the Home Office ‘Not in my Neighbourhood’ Week of action held between Monday 2nd and Friday 6th November, 2009 in the Sunderland West Neighbourhood Police area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Alan Mitchell, Community Safety Co-ordinator presented the report and commented that the LMAP’s were proving very effective on the ground and had been described as a master class in problem solving.

In relation to the week of action, Mr. Mitchell advised that consideration needed to be given to hold the scheme on a more suitable week than the 5th November, as it took away most of Police resources and to stay in a particular area for more than one day to see a greater effect.

There had been a good response from Northumbria Police and the week had been carried out on a shoestring budget yet had a real positive effect.

Mr. Mitchell also commented that the Partnership was second to none and could not speak highly enough of the Police.

Councillor J. Walton commented that it was pleasing to see the resurgence in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes as people had started to lose interest due to the dilution of Police Officer attendance and support.

Mr. Mitchell and Chief Inspector Parkes advised that Police Officers had needed to gain ground operationally during a period of high crime but were now in a more healthy position and could focus on public confidence with every Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to have an Officer to support it.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented that there had been a massive decline in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes over the past 3 years. There had been expressions of interest but no Co-ordinators to arrange the meetings and that this was to be addressed by Inspector Paul Barrett in the Washington area.

Chief Inspector Parkes advised that the Police were keen to get the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes increased and were looking to recruit a number of special constables along with current staff to help support.

Councillor Scaplehorn informed the Committee that he knew of three Neighbourhood Watch Schemes that had been trying to get established in Washington for over 12 months.

Chief Inspector Parkes commented that they could look into the matter further and try to help support the schemes.

Mr. Mitchell commented that there had been a massive investment in the past, which may not be possible to provide with the current constraints but could look to help support.

Mr. Douglass advised that a future report on the Policing Pledge was due to come before the Committee and suggested the Neighbourhood Watch/PACT mechanism figures be included with the report.

Chief Inspector Parkes advised that she would pass Councillor Scaplehorn's comments on, in that he was most encouraged by Inspector Paul Barrett and his ideas for reinvigorating the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

4. RESOLVED that the report and Members comments be noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1 February 2010 – 31 May 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update Members on the position with regard to the Executive's Forward Plan for the period of 1 February 2010 to 31 May 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman commented that it may be worth reminding Members at the beginning of the municipal year that the remit of this Committee also covers themes such as Licensing, Policy and Regulation, Community Associations and Registrars.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Work Programme 2009-10

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing for Members information, the current Work Programme for the Committee's work during the 2009/10 Council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the information contained in the Work Programme be noted.

(Signed) R. HERON,
Chairman.

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

POLICY REVIEW - ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR- EVIDENCE GATHERING

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 MARCH 2010

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To receive further evidence as part of the Committee's study into the work being taken by the Safer Sunderland Partnership into tackling anti social behaviour in the city.
- 1.2 To provide feedback to the Committee on recent visits undertaken by the Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15 June 2009, the Committee agreed to pursue a review of the measures being taken to tackle anti social behaviour in the city.
- 2.2 It was suggested that the following areas be included within the study:-
 - (a) To gain an understanding of approaches of Council and its partners in tackling anti social behaviour and ensure that strategic approach is being taken;
 - (b) To map service provision to identify hotspots or any gaps in provision
 - (c) To examine the issue of underage drinking (note - Childrens Services Review Committee scrutinised Alcohol and Young People in 2008/09)
 - (d) Strengthen the environmental services connection with LMAPS
 - (e) To consider the balance between preventative and enforcement action
 - (f) Developing activities and interventions for young people and families that helps meet their needs
 - (g) Look at perceptions of anti social behaviour (Local Area Agreement)
 - (h) Progress of Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups

3 Current Position

- 3.1 As part of the evidence gathering process, the Committee will receive evidence from Gillian Thirlwell, Victim Support Sunderland.
- 3.2 Victim Support Sunderland work to help support the victims of antisocial behaviour and other crimes. In doing so, they work closely with key partners such as the Council, housing providers and Northumbria Police.

- 3.3 As well as providing practical and emotional support to victims, they also help access better security measures, deal with insurance markets, liaise with the police and other agencies, help in applying for criminal insurance compensation and provide support throughout the court or criminal justice process.
- 3.4 Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of Ms Thirlwell on the work of Victim Support Sunderland.

4 Committee Visits

- 4.1 During the last month, members of the Committee have been involved in a number of visits. Members are invited to discuss feedback from the visits.

Winter Weekend XL Village

- 4.2 On the evening of Friday 12 February 2010, Councillor Bob Heron, Councillor Ellen Ball and Councillor Rosalind Copeland visited the Winter Weekend XL Village Event held at the Red House Academy, Sunderland. The purpose of the visit was to discuss and view the innovative work going on to engage young people in positive activities and help reduce the incidence of anti social behaviour.
- 4.3 Members commented on the valuable and innovative approach being taken at the event which included outdoor and indoor sport and leisure activities. The event attracted around 80 youngsters. The event made full use of the facilities available at the school which had been provided by the school free of charge. Members commented on the potential of extending the Village concept to other areas and other schools in the city. It was noted that the holding of such events had led to a significant fall in incidence of anti social behaviour on the evening the events were held. Members commented on the commitment of all of the staff involved and the potential to extend such events to other areas.

Area Policing Teams

- 4.4 On Wednesday 17 February 2010, Councillors Bob Heron, Ellen Ball, Rosalind Copeland, Paul Maddison, Bernard Scaplehorn and Jack Walton visited Gillbridge Police Station to speak to officers from the City Centre and East Area Police Teams. The purpose of the visit was to discuss with the Police their approach to dealing with anti social behaviour within the city. Inspector Neal Craig and Inspector Mark Ord were in attendance.
- 4.5 It was noted that the White Paper Protecting the Public emphasised the importance of tackling anti social behaviour and perceptions of anti social behaviour and highlighted the importance of neighbourhood policing and joint working between partners. Closer engagement between the police and local communities and better joint working between partners was seen as vital to improving the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. It was felt that the police were now much more involved in neighbourhood work and were more visible in local communities. It was important that recent falls in the level

of crime and anti social behaviour was matched by changes in the perception of local people and a reduction in the fear of crime

- 4.6 The role of CSO's was discussed and in particular their importance in engaging with the public. There was some discussion as to whether increasing their powers could lead to a dilution of this role. Operation Griffin had proved a great success with CSO's playing an important role in liaising with the Anti Social Behaviour Team and schools in dealing with young people found in possession of alcohol. It was however, felt that partners needed to press for firmer action to control the number of licences granted permitting the sale of alcohol. Reference was also made to the effect of alcohol abuse on A&E Departments and the city centre.
- 4.7 LMPAS were felt to be operating particularly well across the city and were an important forum for tackling local anti social behaviour problems.
- 4.8 It was recognised that more needed to be done to improve PACT attendance levels in some areas but they were seen as an important means of partnership working and community engagement.
- 4.9 The importance of partnership working was exemplified in both the private and social housing sectors. The proactive approach of housing providers such as gentoo was applauded but it was noted that more needed to be done in relation to the actions of many private rented landlords.
- 4.10 Members also had the opportunity to view the operation of the CCTV surveillance facility based at the Civic Centre, Sunderland and a number of "hotspots" in the city. Members were most impressed by the operation of the CCTV facility and the contribution it made to tackling crime and fear of crime in the city. It was also a very good example of successful joint working between the Council and its partners.

G4S Visit – Electronic Tagging

- 4.11 On Monday 1 March 2010, members are scheduled to visit Washington in order to view the operation of the G4S electronic tagging system and to discuss its operation with staff. Members will be provided with a verbal report on the key issues raised during the visit.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are requested to consider the evidence submitted as part of its study into anti social behaviour together with the proposed visits.

6. Background Papers

Safer Sunderland Strategy

Anti Social Behaviour Strategy (draft 2009)

Contact Officer: - Jim Diamond, Review Coordinator
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COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME & JUSTICE PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9th March 2010

Strategic Priorities: Safe City

Corporate Improvement Objectives: CI01,CI04

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an overview to the Scrutiny Committee on key delivery areas of The Home Office Neighbourhood Crime & Justice Programme to improve public confidence in the criminal justice system.
- 1.2 To promote discussion, encourage support and provide opportunities for members to become involved in the next phase of the programme.

2. Background

- 2.1 In October 2008 Sunderland was one of 60 areas across England and Wales awarded Pioneer Status by the Home Office to deliver a Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme. The aims of the programme are to drive improvements in the service the public get from the criminal justice system and through this improve public confidence.
- 2.2 The programme is influenced by the review “Engaging Communities in the Fight Against Crime”, 2008 undertaken by Louise Casey (Director General, Crime & Justice Group) which revealed that there is a significant gap between what the public want on crime and justice and what they think they get. Key facts and findings highlighted:
 - 33% of the public are not confident that the Criminal Justice System meets the needs of victims
 - 79% feel the Criminal Justice System respects the rights of offenders
 - 90% don’t feel they are told enough about what happens to individuals who have committed a crime
 - 75% of the public are prepared to play an active role in tackling crime
- 2.3 The Crime and Justice Programme sets out to redress this balance by putting law abiding citizens at the heart of policing and justice. The programme recognises the vital role the public have to play and without their action, support and confidence the Police, the Safer Sunderland Partnership and other Criminal Justice Agencies cannot make communities safer.

3. Key Delivery Areas

3.1 Each element of the crime and justice programme (set out below) is designed to demonstrate to the public that the criminal justice system in their area listens to their priorities, acts upon them and is on their side in tackling crime and conveys that there are tough consequences for criminals.

3.2 Delivery Areas;

- The Policing Pledge (including PACT meetings)
- Highly visible Community Payback (Justice Seen, Justice Done Campaign)
- Community Crime Fighters Scheme
- Minimum Standards of Service (ASB, Witness Charter)
- Victims Champion

4. The Policing Pledge

“91% of the public agree that the standards of the police service should be the same wherever you live across the country” (Casey review, 2008)

4.1 The Policing Pledge informs communities of the minimum standards of service they can expect from Northumbria Police. The pledge has been adopted by all 43 police forces in England and Wales and reflects public desire for a consistently high level of service across the country. The standards reflect what the public say they most value – a visible, accessible and responsive service. Northumbria Police has adopted 10 local priorities based on the national standards, including how to contact and meet Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

4.2 During the months of April and March 2009 every Sunderland household received a pledge booklet and an invite to attend nine locality based road shows delivered by Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Sunderland Magistrates Court and the Safer Sunderland Partnership. From the 14th to the 24th of April over 150 residents met their local policing team, raised concerns and asked questions about the pledge. In addition a short DVD (using local officers) was produced and broadcast on media vans across the city.

4.3 As a pioneer area a key expectation of the programme is also to improve the effectiveness of public engagement, communication and feedback to communities on local action taken by the police. Around 60% of the public want to be kept informed about action being taken to tackle local problems so effective communication is vital. In Sunderland Police and Communities Together meetings otherwise known as PACT take place in each of the 7 neighbourhood policing areas across the city and provide a dialogue on local

crime, anti-social behaviour and policing issues. These meetings provide an opportunity for residents to get together to raise any crime and disorder concerns and listen to action taken by the police to tackle crime priorities in there area.

5. Highly Visible Community Payback

- 5.1 The Casey review highlighted that the public do not think they are told enough about what happens to those who have been convicted of a crime. The national community payback scheme sets out to raise public awareness and increase confidence in community sentences. Community Payback forms part of the national Home Office Campaign, Justice Seen, Justice Done to ensure that criminals face tough consequences for their actions.
- 5.2 In Sunderland Community Payback is managed by Northumbria Probation Service where offenders recognised by orange high visibility jackets complete tasks such as graffiti removal, clearing litter and gardening as part of their probation order. In the past year 31,000 hours of community payback has been carried out in Sunderland with more than 450 offenders each month taking part in four projects nominated by the public. Sunderland residents now have the opportunity to suggest new areas for community payback through the Northumbria Probation website.

6. Community Crime Fighters Scheme

- 6.1 The Community Crime Fighters Scheme (CCF) provides members of the public who are already active in their communities with training, information and support to work with neighbourhood policing teams and local authorities to help make communities safer. The scheme does not confer any additional status, formal role or authority upon those who participate. However it does recognise those who are committed to play an active role in tackling crime deserve encouragement and support to be successful in advocating on behalf of their communities.
- 6.2 In Sunderland there are currently 17 community crime fighters actively engaged in the programme. Across the county the Home office has achieved the target of 3,600 members of the public involved in the scheme. Those currently involved find the role an extension of work they are already involved in for example; neighbourhood watch, resident groups, tenants associations, and volunteer groups. To date community crime fighters have had the opportunity to:
- Bid for small grants to facilitate community events
 - Completed a variety of free training
 - Participated in consultation events
 - Worked with neighbourhood policing teams

- Nominated projects for community payback
- Met with Home Office crime and justice representatives

7. Minimum Standards of Service

- 7.1 A key driver of the crime and justice programme is to ensure the public are aware of the support available and their individual rights when accessing criminal justice services. To date minimum standards have been applied to the level of service you can expect as a witness from the Police, the Courts, the Crown Prosecution Service and through the Policing Pledge.
- 7.2 The next phase of standards will focus on anti-social behaviour to ensure local action focuses on tackling and not tolerating ASB. The standards will include a commitment to reduce perceptions of ASB year on year, provide regular up-dates on what is being done to tackle the issue, and improve links between neighbourhood policing and other local partners. The months of March and April 2010 will be dedicated to raising awareness of the standards and services on offer to the public. To co-incide with this activity Home Secretary, Alan Johnson is improving the measures available to tackle the harmful impact of disorder and harassment by the introduction of Victims Champions.

8. Victims Champion (ASB)

- 8.1 A total of 60 Victim's Champion's have been appointed across England and Wales to promote the needs of anti-social behaviour victims. The Government has committed almost 2.8 million over the next two years to develop a network of champions in priority areas to stand alongside victims, delivering practical help to those taking a stand.
- 8.2 In response The Safer Sunderland Partnership has recruited a champion to co-ordinate local services across the city to ensure victims receive the support and information they want and need. The role will ensure the views of victims are at the heart of relevant strategies and action planning processes. Duties will include;
- Raising awareness of the support services on offer
 - Representing the needs of victims
 - Adding value to existing services by ensuring a more joined up approach to meeting the needs of victims
 - Promoting the ASB tools and powers available to the Local Authority, Police and Courts

- Co-ordinating ASB training

9. Impact

9.1 The Crime and Justice Programme is intended to support delivery of PSA 23 (make communities safer) and PSA 24 (deliver a more effective transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public). These PSA's are also reflected in the single public confidence target for the police (NI 21).

9.2 The programme will also be a valuable contribution to improving public confidence and supports a number of Safer Sunderland Strategy outcomes including:

- Creating active citizens
- Creating cohesive communities
- Being and feeling safe and secure

10. Conclusion and Next Steps

10.1 The Crime and Justice Programme will continue to focus on improving public confidence throughout 2010 into summer 2011 with a strong emphasis on championing the needs of victims and witnesses.

11. Recommendations

11.1 Members are asked to raise awareness of the key elements of the crime and justice programme in their localities and support the next phase of the programme.

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT - IMPLEMENTATION

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 MARCH 2010

Strategic Priorities: Safe City

Corporate Improvement Objectives: CI01,CI04

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an overview to the Scrutiny Committee on the implementation of integrated offender management in Sunderland.

2. Introduction

In June 2009 the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office launched a joint policy statement on Integrated Offender Management supporting the development of local IOM approaches. The IOM definition included in the policy statement said that;

“IOM is the strategic umbrella or overarching framework that brings together agencies across government to prioritise intervention with offenders who cause crime in their locality.”

Alongside these are the impending statutory changes to CDRPs. From April 2010 Probation will become a responsible authority and the remit of CDRPs will extend to include reducing re-offending.

IOM builds on and expands the current offender focused programmes such as Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPO) Multi Agency Public Protection Panel Arrangements (MAPPA) and Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) recognising that an offender of concern to everyone may end up being no-ones responsibility. It manages a locally defined cohort of offenders who are in the community regardless of whether they are under statutory supervision or not. In targeting those offenders of most concern, IOM aims to manage them consistently, using pooled local resources to turn them away from crime, punishing and reforming them as appropriate.

IOM is a recognition that different partners are involved in the lives of offenders at different points and for different purposes, for example the police will want to know when a prisoner is about to be released because they will want to know his or her whereabouts; health services will want to continue an offenders health, alcohol or substance misuse treatment, and accommodation providers may be asked to help provide housing.

3. Background

In 2006 the government introduced a target to reduce the number of proven offences committed by young and adult re-offenders by 10% between 2005 and 2011.

IOM supports the Governments partnership programme on reducing re-offending, to cut the cost of crime to communities and the Criminal Justice System in the future and tackle social Exclusion. PSA 23 making Safer Communities and PSA 25 harm caused by drugs and alcohol are supported by the following National Indicators:

- NI 18 adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision
- NI 30 reducing re-offending rates for PPO'S
- NI 38 drug related offending

4. Strategic Progress in Sunderland

A reducing re-offending manager was employed by the Safer Sunderland Partnership and commenced employment in October 2009. The following have been achieved:

- The Reducing Re-offending has Delivery Group been set up. The focus is on performance management, the implementation of IOM and community re-integration. It is attended by representatives from the police, Safer Sunderland Partnership, Durham Prison, Probation, Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Primary Care Trust (PCT), Accommodation, Employment, Training and Education (ETE), Youth Offending Service (YOS) and Government Office North East (GONE). Terms of reference have been agreed.
- There is now a link into the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving meetings (LMAPs) and IOM is a standing item on the agenda.
- A Prison link has been established to capture the high crime causes and there has been a regional meeting at GONE to establish how prison links can be improved, for example by arranging specialist prison visits.
- Work is underway to agree a transition protocol with the Youth Offending Service.
- The Reducing re-offending strategic manager attends the Tasking and Co-ordinating Group Tasking and co-ordinating group (TCG0 and Local Delivery Group (LDG.)
- Funding has been secured for a probation officer to work with the non statutory high crime causing offenders.

5. Operational Progress

- IOM aims to deepen and extend the joint identification and assessment, offender management and information sharing frameworks for those in the community at high risk of re-offending. Therefore the operational has been set up and terms of reference have been agreed. This will ensure a swift deterrent and enforcement for those who do not comply. Partners attending the group are police, probation, YOS, Turning point manager, DISC manager and Counted 4 manager.
- The focus of the group has been to refresh the PPO scheme as per the June 2009 guidance, ensure that the cohort on PPO remains fluid and feed in to the strategic group. There are now 46 offenders on the scheme. In the first 6 months the NI 30 target was exceeded. The target was a 17% reduction in re-offending in 2009/2010. This equates to no more than 127 convictions. There were 52 convictions in the first 6 months. The PPO caseload also has a geographical breakdown.
- The top 200 high crime causers have been identified using the PPO matrix and police data on arrests. Information about the NI 38 caseload, those on DRR and non statutory high crime causers has been established.
- The operational group has also linked in to the treatment plan and is looking at those offenders who have not been retained in treatment to identify which non statutory offenders should be the focus for IOM.
- Co-location is underway and it is expected to go live by the end of March. An away day is to take place on 9th March to establish roles and responsibilities within the co-located unit.
- The reducing re-offending strategic manager has made links with Durham prison and reached an agreement for a prison officer to attend the practitioners meetings.
- Oasys data has been provided for the PPO and Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) offenders to identify criminogenic need.

6. Conclusion and Next Steps

6.1 The IOM unit will be fully operational by the end of March. A Manager has been identified to manage both the statutory and non statutory cases. It is anticipated that the police will provide resources to link in with the non statutory cases.

6.2 During the next quarter a reducing re-offending delivery plan will be produced. The focus will be on re-offending performance. There will also be a

focus on community re-integration, developing pathways out of offending, for example employment and accommodation.

7. Recommendations

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

Contact Officer

Louise Hill
Reducing Re-Offending Manager

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

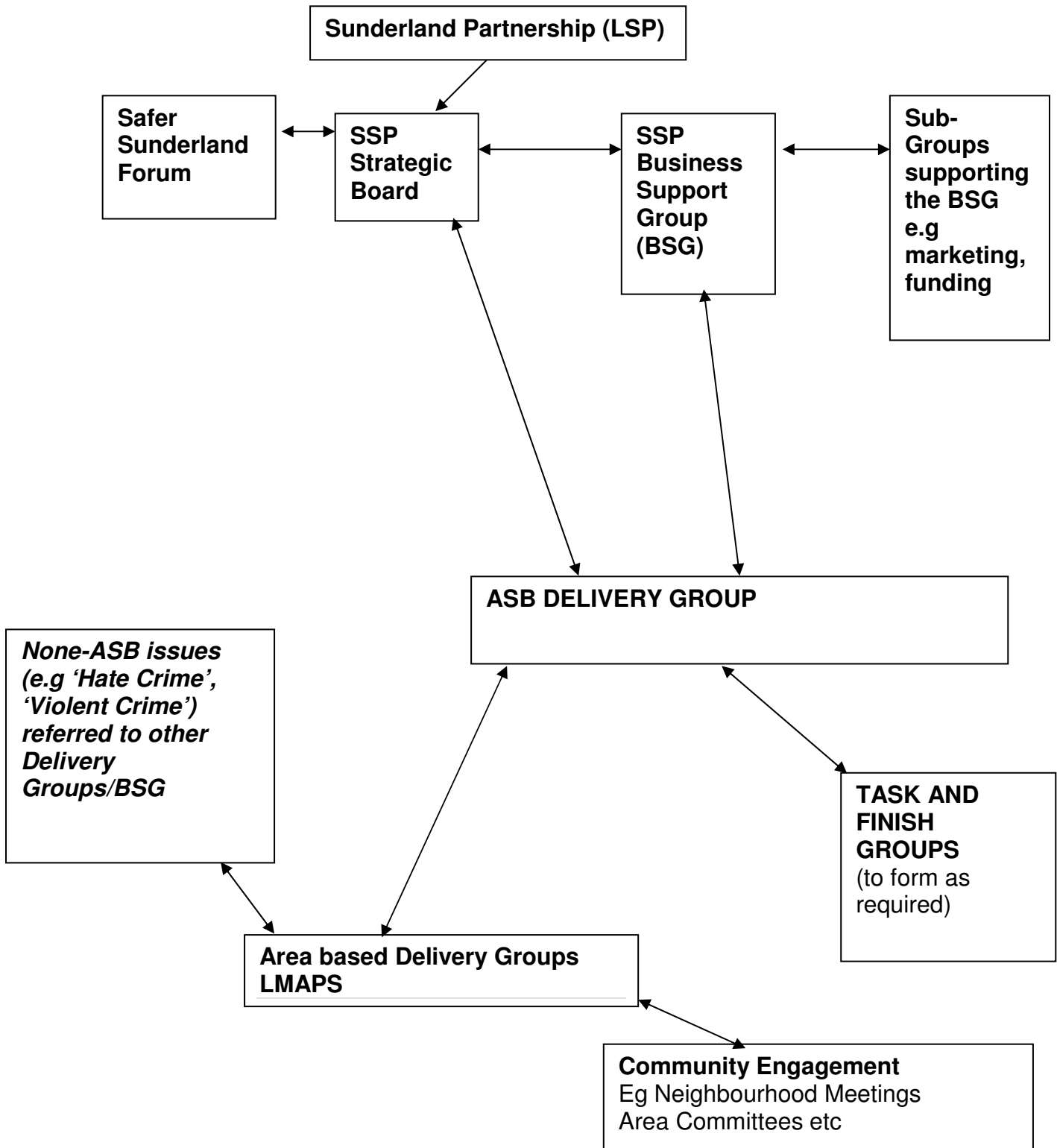
5.1 LMAPS meetings have recently introduced a 'risk' section to enable each case to be assessed to identify those cases that might involve a vulnerable victim. This has been introduced in response to the findings of the 'Pilkington' case.

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.

Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) structure including ASB and LMAPS structure



LMAPS ASB problems active on or since October 2008 to June 2009 ALL AREAS

Theme	Issue	Total Cases	Open	Closed	Total Cases %	Open %	Closed %
Public Facility	Parks	2	1	1	8	29	71
	Allotments	1	0	1			
	Sports/Play areas	1	0	1			
	Tourist Sites	1	0	1			
	Schools	1	1	0			
	Health	0	0	0			
	Transport Stops	1	0	1			
	Other	0	0	0			
	Total Public Facility	7	2	5			
Street Disorder	General	8	4	4	29	50	50
	Youth	5	5	0			
	Alcohol Related	9	2	7			
	Territorial	2	1	1			
	Other	0	0	0			
	Total Street Disorder	24	12	12			
Environmental	Fly Tipping	2	1	1	2	75	25
	Abandoned Vehicles	0	0	0			
	Drug/Alcohol Dens	2	2	0			
	Graffiti	0	0	0			
	Other	0	0	0			
	Total Environmental	4	3	1			
Business Premises	Takeaways/Shops	1	0	1	8	29	71
	Pubs/Off licences	3	0	3			
	Disused	1	0	1			
	Other	2	2	0			
	Total Business Premises	7	2	5			
Residential	Family	9	1	8	33	39	61
	Individual	14	8	6			
	Neighbour Dispute	3	1	2			
	Other	2	1	1			
	Total Residential	28	11	17			
Highways	Car	0	0	0	11	44	56
	Motorcycle	2	0	2			
	Parking Issues	2	2	0			
	Rights of Way	4	1	3			
	Disorder	0	0	0			
	Horse Riding	0	0	0			
	Unauthorised Encampments	0	0	0			
	Other	1	1	0			
	Total Highways	9	4	5			
	Fire	Safety	2	2			
Property		2	0	2			
Vehicle		1	0	1			
Other		0	0	0			
Total Fire		5	2	3			
TOTAL CASES		84	36	48	100	43	57

Figures may not sum due to roundings

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH 2010 – 30 JUNE 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 MARCH 2010

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members on the position with regard to the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 March 2010 – 30 June 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.

- 2.2 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.

- 2.3 Members requested that only those items which are under the remit of the Committee be reported to this Committee. The remit of the Committee covers the following themes:-

Safer Sunderland Strategy, Social Inclusion, Community Safety; Anti Social Behaviour; Domestic Violence; Community Cohesion; Equalities; Licensing Policy and Regulation, Community Associations, Registrars.

- 2.4 Members are asked to note that there are no items in the current Forward Plan relating to the remit of this Committee.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Committee note the report.

4. Background Papers

None

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COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 March 2010

WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priority : CIO1, CI04

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2009-10 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priorities of Safer An City, support delivery of the related themes of the Local Area Agreement, and, through monitoring the performance of the Council's services, help the Council achieve its Corporate Improvement Objectives CIO1 (delivering customer focussed services) and C104 (improving partnership working to deliver 'One City').

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year. The work programme allows Members and Officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the Scrutiny Workshop and at the meeting of the Committee on 15 June 2009. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2009-10.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme and consider the inclusion of proposals for the Committee into the work programme.

6. Glossary

n/a

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	JUNE 15.6.09	JULY 7.7.09	SEPTEMBER 15.9.09	OCTOBER 13.10.09	NOVEMBER 10.11.09	DECEMBER 8.12.09	JANUARY 12.1.10	FEBRUARY 9.2.10	MARCH 9.3.10	APRIL 20.4.10
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (Jim Diamond)	Scope of review – Anti Social Behaviour and Alcohol (Jim Diamond/Stuart Douglass)	Approach to review (JD) Impact of Deprivation – Visit)	Evidence Gathering	Evidence Gathering – Anti Social Behaviour and Housing (Stuart Douglass) Feedback from Conference (Members) Arrangements for Safer Sunderland Forum (J Diamond)	Evidence Gathering Tackling Deliberate Fires (John Allison) Neighbourhood Helpline (Liz St Louis) Safer Sunderland Forum – Feedback (Jim Diamond)	Evidence Gathering Nexus (Ken Wilson) Home Office Advice on Tackling Anti Social Behaviour (Bill Blackett) Environmental Enforcement Teams (Norma Johnson)	Evidence Gathering Not in my Neighbourhood Week – Feedback (Bill Blackett) Visit to City Police Teams (Jim Diamond) Visit to Youth Village (Andy Neal)	Evidence Gathering Tagging Visit (Claire Harrison) Victim Support (Gillian Thirlwell) LMAPS (Bill Blackett) Community Engagement and Progress on the Policing Pledge (Stuart Douglass)	Anti Social Behaviour - Final Report
Scrutiny		Polycarbonate Drinking Vessels – City Centre Pilot (Stuart Douglass)		National Drug Strategy (Stuart Douglass) Poverty of Place – Visit (Sal Buckler)		Violent Crime – Delivery Plan 2009/10 (Stuart Douglass)			Reducing Reoffending (Stuart Douglass)	Magistrates Court (Lisa Shotton) Powers of CSO's
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance Q1 (Mike Lowe)				CAA Report and Performance (Gillian Robinson) Strategic Planning Process (John Beaney)	Annual Delivery Plan (Sal Buckler)		Performance Framework Q3 (Mike Lowe) Fear of Crime – Update report (Stuart Douglass)
Ref Cabinet				Gambling Act – Amendments to Statement of Principles (Norma Johnston)						
Committee Business	Work Programme 2008/09 (JD)			Request to Attend Conference (J Diamond)			Review of Councillor Call for Action (Jim Diamond)			

CCFA/Members items/Petitions										
Information										