
REPORT TO:	Housing & Community Services	AGENDA ITEM:	11
DATE OF MEETING:	13 March 2003	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Head of Community Services	OPEN:	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Stuart Batchelor Ext. 5820 Mark Aiflat Ext. 5716 Dawn Dawson Ext. 5797	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	Home Security Project	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	CS07

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 Approve the establishment of a partnership between the Council and South Derbyshire CVS to develop a Home Security Project, which incorporates the lock replacement, burglary reduction and Home 2000 programmes.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To outline to Members a prospective partnership between the Council and South Derbyshire CVS to develop a home security project, which will deliver council, community and crime reduction priorities in an effective and successful way.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 A number of community safety projects have been running in recent years, which have been delivering important services to the local community. These have included:
- *Home 2000* – An SRB2, Health Authority and CVS project, which aims to make homes safer by fitting smoke alarms and stair gates etc. The funding for the operation of this project has now ended, but a large amount of equipment still requires installation.
 - *Burglary Reduction Project* – Operated by South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder Partnership with the CVS and Housing Department, this involves the installation of burglar alarms in victims' homes and security works in sheltered housing residences.
 - *Lock Replacement Scheme* – The Housing Division contracts external companies to replace locks in council houses, although problems in finding contractors have hampered this work.
- 3.2 The proposal is to bring each of these elements into one Home Safety Project under the management of the CVS. The work would be delivered by a carpenter/handyman employed directly on the project and equipped with a van to undertake works across the District.

3.3 This worker would complete an audit of the person's home and then undertake the appropriate works required to secure the building from burglary, or reduce the chance of injury to family members.

3.4 The project would be operated as a pilot project for at least a year, and ideally for 18 months.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of the scheme is anticipated to be in excess of £100,000, which will include the recruitment and employment of the carpenter, lease/purchase of van, the purchase of locks, alarms etc.

4.2 The Council's contribution will be made from existing budgets, £25,000 capital in the form of the Burglary Prevention Scheme, £40,000 Lock Replacement Programme and £5,000 Environmental Health Safety Scheme. The Police have contributed £10,000 and applications to SRB6 and the County Council Community Safety Programme will be made to cover the shortfall and to add further capacity to the scheme.

4.3 There will be no cost to the Council outside of the budgetary provision outlined above and the project will deliver a significant increase in output than would have been the case if schemes were provided separately.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 This proposed partnership will contribute to the Community Safety Best Value Review by illustrating how Council Services can combine to promote community safety and improve the quality of life of local people.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The Home Security Project will deliver improvements to the community by reducing the number of burglaries and consequently the fear of crime for vulnerable people, in addition to reducing the number of home accidents involving children and elderly people.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The development of a partnership between the Housing Department, the Environmental Health Department, the Crime & Disorder Partnership and the CVS represents a unique opportunity to pool resources and achieve added value and effectiveness in the area of home safety and security.

7.2 The proposal is particularly beneficial to the Council as it will allow existing resources to be added to from external sources whilst reducing the administrative and managerial time of delivering the services in isolation.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 Crime & Disorder Files