
REPORT TO:	Housing & Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM:	11
DATE OF MEETING:	28 August 2003	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Head of Community Services	OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Emma Julian (5961)	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	Neighbourhood Risk Assessments	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	CS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members note the success of the pilot scheme and agree the future mainstream use of community safety assessments within the work of the Councils services

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To outline to Members the outcome of the recent pilot Neighbourhood Risk Assessment project in residential areas in the wards of Newhall and Midway, and in council managed parks and sheltered accommodation across the district.
- 2.2 To provide recommendations on mainstreaming risk assessments in the work of Council Services

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The purpose of Neighbourhood Risk Assessment is to identify areas at risk of crime and disorder and the fear of crime as a result of poor environmental conditions. Improvements can then be identified and works undertaken to reduce this risk.
- 3.2 The pilot project was run in the residential areas and crime hot-spots of Newhall and Midway, council managed parks and sheltered housing complexes.
- **Residential crime hot-spots** - In 2002, the wards of Newhall and Midway were identified by the Crime and Disorder Partnership as hot-spots for domestic burglary and criminal damage. In order to assess areas in need of environmental improvement in these wards, residents living in key areas were asked to complete surveys and Beat Officers identified key problem areas using their local knowledge. 94 residents' surveys were received.
 - **Sheltered Housing** - Sheltered Housing complexes were chosen to form part of the pilot Risk Assessment project as these are areas which have a high concentration of vulnerable people at an increased risk of fear of crime. In order to assess areas in need of environmental improvement on the complexes, sheltered housing wardens completed checklists and Beat Officers identified

areas suffering higher than average levels of nuisance and disorder. 18 completed checklists were received.

- **Urban Parks** – Following analysis of crime and disorder data, two parks were selected to form part of the pilot project. These were Eureka Park and Newhall Park. Checklists were completed by the Friends of Newhall Park, the Friends of Eureka Park and the Leisure Facilities Officer.

3.3 Once all areas had been assessed, the Crime Reduction Officer visited identified sites and recommended a series of improvement works. These were then prioritised by the Crime and Disorder Support Team and key works were approved.

3.4 Almost £13000 worth of improvement works were approved:

£3622 – allocated to works in residential areas

£3300 – allocated to works in parks

£6010 – allocated to works in sheltered housing

3.5 Overall, evaluation of the project showed the pilot to be successful with the adoption of risk assessment audits across a range of every day Council services and community work. The complete evaluation of the pilot project is attached as Annexe No.1

3.6 This proposal is to mainstream the use of Neighbourhood Risk Assessments to Council services and the crime reduction work of other partners includes the following recommendations.

- Sheltered Housing and Technical Services Departments to adopt the use of Risk Assessments in their maintenance and facility development work.
- Training on Community Safety Risk Assessments to be provided to all relevant staff and partner agencies.
- Neighbourhood Risk Assessments to be available to local communities and to be delivered where possible, with the support of Beat Officers and Crime and Disorder Partnership Support staff.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The pilot project was delivered using funding from Derbyshire County Council, Crime and Disorder Partnership, the Home Office and the Council.

4.2 The delivery of the above recommendations would be funded through a budget which consists of £10,000 capital from the Council and £10,000 from the Crime and Disorder Partnership. This would be initially allocated with half of the funding being used on council facilities and the remainder for neighbourhood works including street lighting, landscaping etc.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The mainstreaming of Risk Assessments will help the Council achieve its obligations to Section 17 as well as providing residents and communities with a safer environment. The proposal will also contribute positively to the Best Value Review of Community Safety and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The use of Risk Assessments to improve environments and design out crime are important elements in the reduction in feelings of fear of crime within South Derbyshire communities.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The Neighbourhood Risk Assessment pilot project has been evaluated and the value of extending the scheme across the district is recognised.
- 7.2 By conducting Neighbourhood Risk Assessments across the district, the Partnership will be contributing to activity to improve services in relation to maintaining 'Clean, Green, Safe and Active Public Spaces' as well as ensuring links to partnership working are built into the Council's day to day work.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Crime and Disorder Files. CD.

