
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: //
DATE OF MEETING:	12 JULY 2001	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	STUART BATCHELOR (5820)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	CRIME AND DISORDER ACT (1998)	REF: c&dreport
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the programme for delivering Section 17 training across the Council and the process for ensuring that the policy and practice of the Council is Section 17 compliant.
- 1.2 To note the Crime and Disorder Partnerships 2002/2002 Milestone Document and support the new Action Groups where appropriate.
- 1.3 To ask Members to consider and suggest appropriate Member input to the Action Groups

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform Members of the Councils statutory responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and gain their approval for the proposed process for meeting those duties. Also to seek Members support for the Crime and Disorder Partnerships 2001/2002 Milestone Document and the establishment of crime specific action groups which will include Member representation.

3.0 Detail

Section 17

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) placed a number of new duties on local authorities one of which is Section 17. The Act says that Section 17 :-

“Without prejudice to any other obligations imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it can reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder”

- 3.2 In terms of local authorities who are covered by the duty, it includes County and Parish Councils as well as District.
- 3.3 In essence this means that the crime and disorder implications of whatever the Council does in terms of practise or policy must be considered and taken into account. The aim of this process is that Crime and Disorder becomes a mainstream part of Council work in the same way that equal opportunities or Best Value underpins service and policy delivery.
- 3.4 A further requirement of Section 17 is that the Council must develop a corporate strategy for Crime and Disorder that identifies responsible officers in each department and has an action plan for reducing crime. This requirement is also now a Best Value Performance Indicator
- 3.5 To ensure that the Council can become Section 17 compliant a programme of training and strategy development is proposed which will involve all members, officers and staff of the Council. In terms of training this will start on 7 August with a session for Members followed by Divisional Officers training in September. A process of awareness training will then be cascaded down to other staff within the organisation.
- 3.6 Linked to this training an officer group will be formed and the process of reviewing practices and policies will be included in the development of a corporate strategy to be completed during 2002.
- 3.7 Although the duty of Section 17 appears to be very onerous it is likely that there is considerable good practice already taking place across Council. For example the liaison with the Police over the replacement of windows in areas of high domestic burglary rates, the liaison between the Council, police and Wetherspools over the reopening of the Sir Nigel Gresley so that all parties worked together to prevent disorder and violent crime.
- 3.8 The Crime and Disorder Partnerships new Community Safety Officer will work closely with existing staff to carry out the work that is required to achieve Section 17 compliance to ensure that the appropriate time and thought is given to producing a strategy that actually makes a positive impact on the Council and community.

Crime and Disorder Partnership 2001/2002 Milestone Document

- 3.9 The South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Strategy is now in its third year of operation and a revised approach has been undertaken to tackle the key crime and disorder problems in the District. This approach involves the setting up of several action groups who will be made up of representatives from agencies who have a key interest in that issue. Each action group will be under the stewardship of a Chief Officer/member from the Crime and Disorder Strategic Group and will include elected members to bring community representation to the issue.

- 3.10 The Action Groups are as follows:

Domestic Burglary	Car Crime	Substance Misuse
Domestic Violence	Violent Crime	Youth, Nuisance & Disorder

- 3.11 It is hoped that these action groups will be able to concentrate effort on their specific problem area and by co-ordinating effort and using resources in a targeted manner

will achieve reductions in that crime. As the groups develop it is envisaged that they will have their own dedicated budgets to direct at the problems. Already the Domestic Burglary Group have £10 000 capital to use for burglary prevention in domestic houses and the Substance Misuse Group is set to receive at least £216 000 over the next 2½ years from the 'Communities Against Drugs Initiative' for reducing the supply and use of drugs in South Derbyshire.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Clearly considerable time and effort is going to be required to implement Section 17 but it is hoped that the financial implications can be kept to a minimum. The costs of bringing in external trainers and resources for Section 17 training is being met by partnership support funding from the Regional Office of the Home Office and other costs can be funded from the Crime and Disorder Partnerships Support Team budget which is held by the Community and Development Manager.
- 4.2 In terms of the work that is to be undertaken by the Action Teams, this again will be supported from either external sources such as the 'Communities Against Drugs Initiative' the Public Service Agreement that contributed to the appointment of the Community Safety Officer or the Crime and Disorder Partnerships Support Team budget which includes £2000 of District Council funds and £12 000 from the Derbyshire Police.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) set a broad framework for tackling the problems of crime in communities and the duty established by Section 17 puts community safety at the core of local authority work.
- 5.2 Approached in a positive way the mainstreaming of Section 17 will in the long term reduce the cost of crime to the Council but will also contribute to the Councils role in achieving safer and healthier community for local people.

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1 File Reference CD1

