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REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	5 June 2003	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	STUART BATCHELOR EXT 5820	DOC:
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY SAFETY BEST VALUE REVIEW	REF: SB/LJW
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS07

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### 1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Members note the report and provide comments on the draft objectives which will be included in the Review Improvement Plan.

### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide Members with an update on the Best Value Review of Community Safety and gain their comments on the first draft of the Baseline Assessments.

### 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Community Safety Best Value Review Team started its work in February and have progressed the review through the scoping stage to the production of initial baseline assessments. This progress was reported to Council on 17 April 2003, when agreement was given for the Review to focus on Section 17 and Youth Related Anti Social Behaviour.
- 3.2 Following this report Officers have been working with colleagues from the University of Leicester to collate the information required to complete baseline assessments of the two issues. The initial assessments prepared by the University are attached as Annexe No.1
- 3.3 The principle observations that have been drawn from them are as follows:

#### Section 17

- From an analysis of each department's core functions, it has been possible to identify opportunities for mainstreaming community safety within each service area/ department

- Despite this, very few departments have made the link with community safety in an overt way in their plan, even those where links are well established or clear such as economic development and personnel and development.
- Added to this when quizzed in interview, there were generally low levels of awareness with regards to Section 17 and mainstreaming which is supported by the findings in the previous section.
- Few respondents during interview felt that they have received adequate information or training on Section 17.

The next steps towards mainstreaming could include:

- Build a community safety section into each department plan making it a key result area with 'smart' targets and performance indicators where possible
- Prioritise community safety in corporate plans and strategies e.g. Community Strategy/ Plan to demonstrate and make explicit each areas commitment to Section 17.
- Work with the Section 17 nominated lead officers to consider the findings of the departmental reviews and to further assess their service areas
- Consider how this information is relayed, where relevant, to staff within the department/ service. Use the lead officers to champion community safety within their department and raise awareness of the implications of Section 17 both positive and potentially negative
- Raise the profile of community safety in recruitment, induction, staff development and review processes by working with Policy and Personnel.

Youth Related Anti Social Behaviour

- Youth nuisance appears to be an increasing problem.
- The peak period for youth nuisance from the data set appears to be between April and June. This may be due to improved weather during this period.
- Common complaints focus on incidents with motorcycles, damage, nuisances involving business premises, and the other category which includes throwing stones and other objects, and making threats
- There is no pattern in relation to days of the week which has implications for service providers trying to respond to the problem
- Incidents appear to peak during the times 6pm to 9pm. This is to be expected as it is when young people are outside and other residents are home from work.
- The most common location is Beat 623, which contains Newhall and parts of Midway and Swadlincote, .
- According to Youth Offending Team data the common profile of a young offender is male, 15 years old, white, living in postal code DE11.

- Common offences are assault, criminal damage, harassment and theft.

The key issues relating to these findings are:

- lack of common recording between agencies
- Inability to analyse Police calls to service to anything lower than Beat detail
- No co-ordinated process for dealing with youth related anti social behaviour

3.4 The Review Team feels that although these draft assessments provide a significant summary of the issues they still require some further work including consultation with partners.

3.5 In terms of Section 17 less than 10% of staff returned questionnaires and this is to be revisited to ensure an increased return. Further work will be undertaken during Team Briefings to ascertain a more accurate picture of the staff understanding of Section 17 and the Councils obligations under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.

3.6 With regard Youth Related Anti Social Behaviour the baseline assessment will be circulated to key partners as well as the Anti Social Behaviour Action Team. Their responses will confirm whether the assessment is an accurate representation of the situation.

3.7 Once this further work is complete work will begin on the improvement plans for the two issues.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

5.1 The completion of the baseline assessments will be a significant milestone for the progress of the Review also providing valuable information for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

#### **6.0 Community Implications**

6.1 The baseline assessment of Youth Related Anti Social Behaviour confirms that the issue has a significant impact on the lives of local people and this Review will achieve improvements in Council and partnership services to reduce the problem. .

#### **7.0 Conclusions**

7.1 The work completed is compatible with the needs of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and is in line with the original timetable.

