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OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

Purpose of Report

1. The following were the main areas of work under my Community and Public Protection Portfolio:-

Launch of the Landlord Forum and Accreditation Scheme

On 16 February 2006, I attended and officially launched the Private Landlord's Forum and 2. Accreditation Scheme. The half-day session held at Maidendale House, Firthmoor attracted approximately 200 private sector landlords, which is by far the largest number of landlords attending such an event. The event marked a new beginning of stronger partnership working between the Council and private landlords. Almost 100 landlords have already expressed an interest in being part of the Accreditation Scheme and 3 landlords received certificates on the day for becoming the first accredited landlords. Landlord accreditation will help to support and encourage landlords to offer good quality accommodation and effective housing management. It is also useful for the Council in helping to establish partners in the private sector who are willing to work with us in addressing housing issues. The Landlords Forum will provide a new way for the Council to work in partnership with private landlords, providing a Forum for discussion about new legislative changes in the sector and identifying how we can work together to address housing needs in the Borough. A pilot lease scheme with private landlords has already been developed to help provide accommodation for homeless households. By working together with those landlords who seek to offer good quality accommodation and management we can focus enforcement action on those who choose not to abide by the legislation and who are offering poor quality services.

Housing Related Support Service for People Recovering from Substance Misuse

3. The Supporting People team has successfully awarded a contract for the delivery of a housing related support service for people with substance misuse problems. The Council's Supporting People 5-year Strategy identified the priority need for a housing related support service for people with substance misuse problems. Although service users with these problems can access generic support services, no specialist drug and alcohol service currently operates within Darlington. A service specification was drafted, based on a model of service delivery prepared by the Darlington Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and included details of an accommodation-based support service and a floating support service. The Commissioning Body identified £118,000 per annum of Supporting People grant for the service.

- 4. The service is due to commence in 2006/07 and will enable up to 18 people at any one time to access support to help them maintain their tenancies. It has been widely evidenced and accepted that problematic substance misuse is often symptomatic of other social and economic problems including high levels of unemployment, deprivation and crime.
- 5. The provision of this new service will play a crucial role in combating problems associated with drug and alcohol nuisance through efforts to regenerate neighbourhoods, dealing with anti-social behaviour and supporting the provision of effective treatment outcomes for individual drug users.

Darlington Drug and Alcohol Action Team

6. Darlington DAAT has successfully maintained its green rated position following a presentation of work to date, which included: Adult Treatment Plan, Drugs Intervention Programme, housing and employment. The presentation was made to the Regional Performance Management Group for Drugs a joint panel of the Department of Health and Government Office for the North East. The panel commented on the impressive energy, understanding and commitment shown by the partnership and the excellent work being undertaken.

Best of Darlington Awards

7. The Best of Darlington Awards aims to reward unsung heroes across the Borough for their dedication to the Community. The Housing Warden at Rosemary Court Lascelles Park, Mrs Christine Dickinson has recently won the Public Servant of the Year Award. The Sheltered Housing Scheme at Rosemary Court is shortly to be extensively remodelled and refurbished into an Extra Care Scheme. Christine has helped support the residents of the scheme in moving to temporary or new homes whilst the refurbishment takes place, and continues to keep in regular contact. Using a temporary office and community area she has ambitious plans for a range of activities for residents during the refurbishment period. She is very actively involved in organising and providing Get Everyone Motivated (GEM) Classes which promote gentle exercise and healthy lifestyles for older people. In addition Christine is an active member of the Lascelles Park Residents' Association.

Anti-Social Behaviour Team

8. In November 2005 the Anti-Social Behaviour Team based in Community Services was established with the appointment of an Anti-Social Behaviour Manager and two Anti-Social Behaviour Officers. The team brings together the work of the Uniformed Warden and Environmental Wardens into one team to tackle the wider issues of anti-social behaviour across the Borough.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR)

9. ANPR is a system that allows Police to monitor the movements on known criminals through tracking their movements across the borough. The system picks up vehicle registrations that are of interest to the Police and can be used to track the movements of criminals and vehicles involved in crime in and out of Darlington. In addition, the system can be configured to pick up vehicles with no tax etc allowing Police to deploy the appropriate response to intercept the vehicle. A number of ANPR cameras have been installed on the main arterial routes in/out of the town and the system is expected to go fully live in the forthcoming weeks. The capital costs of the scheme have been met through grant funding from the Home Office and the Council have agreed to meet ongoing revenue costs.

Local Area Agreement

10. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) has been heavily involved in the development of the Boroughs Local Area Agreement. The Safer Stronger Communities Block within the LAA will enable the CDRP to adopt an intelligence led approach to tackling crime, disorder and wider anti-social behaviour issues through the appointment of a Partnership Analyst and the development of a local mapping system to identify emerging problems through a wide range of data sources including Police, Uniformed Wardens, Housing and information from the community and local members.

In addition, the LAA will support the development of other initiatives to enhance our response to tackling anti-social behaviour, to improve the uptake of sport and recreation activates and to improve community involvement and volunteering. A summary of the Safer Stronger Communities Block is attached in **Appendix 1**

Councillor Bill Dixon
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Community
and Public Protection

LAA Block 2 – Safer and Stronger Communities

Outcomes

The outcomes we are seeking in this block are:

- to reduce crime, the harm caused by illegal drugs, and to reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- to empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services
- to have cleaner, greener and safer public places
- to improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery
- to increase numbers of children and young people who are positively engaged in their free time – achieving personal and social development.

Issues to be addressed

Discussions amongst partners and analysis of trends identified the following issues to be addressed by our LAA in order to achieve the outcomes listed above:

- lack of real time data and analysis despite a very mature community safety partnership which has been committed to sharing intelligence and engaging in joint tasking and co-ordinating, partners have been frustrated by the availability of real time data and analysis to support problem solving approaches. There is consensus that investment in good quality data and analysis is vital if the outcomes in relation to reduction of crime and fear of crime are to be met;
- limited resources at neighbourhood level. The council and CDRP have invested in community wardens and PCSOs who have been very effective, but in the absence of supplementary funding streams are restricted in terms of the opportunities for deployment.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and the perception that the biggest problem, according to resident surveys is caused by 'teenagers hanging around on the streets' and 'rubbish and litter'. This perception is exacerbated by the fact that current youth service provision is judged to need significant improvement.
- Community cohesion some of the concerns regarding ASB have their roots in a lack of tolerance between generations. There are also strong concerns amongst partners that Darlington currently lacks the infrastructure to support the voluntary sector, volunteering and a joined up approach to the consultation and engagement of young people. There is a clear linkage here between levels of inter-generational understanding and tolerance and the outcome relating to fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour.

• **Respect** – emerging details of the national Respect programme echo the overall drive and detail of our LAA.

Successes to be built on

The LAA will seek to learn from and build on emerging developments/strengths within Darlington.

A Beacon Community Safety Partnership

Darlington's CDRP received beacon status in 2004. The culture of partnership working is mature: there are co-located police, YOS, DAAT, and CDRP teams, examples of pooled budgets and a track record of success over many years. The foundations are therefore in place and the time is right to take partnership working to a new level through the development of an intelligence-led approach. Although there is catching up to do on the data and ICT side of community safety in relation to other areas, the partnership is confident of making rapid progress with the aid of the external funding that SSCF represents.

Street Scene

The authority has developed an innovative approach to the delivery of Street Scene services. This will entail generic working on an area basis. There are 5 geographical areas, coinciding with the 5 school clusters referred to in the previous block. Neighbourhood policing is also being developed to these boundaries. The main improvements that the new way of working will facilitate over the current methods are:

- more direct and sustainable linkages with communities on the things that matter in neighbourhoods;
- generic working to react flexibly to customer needs
- empowerment of teams to make decisions as close to the ground as possible to speed up response times and effective deployment of resources.

A strength of the LAA approach is that it will enable this neighbourhood based approach to be developed holistically so that extended school strategies, community safety, youth service provision and Street Scene can all be taken forward together. The LSP and the local authority can learn from this approach to benefit other services in the future. Experience of the Street Scene review also suggests that removal of duplication (in the case of the LAA between agencies) can release efficiencies which will contribute to the sustainability of the LAA beyond 3 years. In effect this represents partnership Gershon efficiencies.

Youth Provision

Following an unsatisfactory inspection of the youth service, the authority invested an additional £350k per annum in the youth service, and delivery of its improvement action plan. This enables the service to provide capacity within each cluster area. In a similar approach to that outlined for other services, the direction is to provide greater outreach provision and a sustainable resource to multi-agency teams.

Westside Initiative

An example of the type of initiative that the LAA will enable us to build on is the success of the Westside initiative. In response to community need in Branksome, extremely popular discos were set up attracting 200-300 young people. Anecdotal evidence and perception tracking in Branksome is that the initiative has been successful in addressing antisocial behaviour. However, the data problems outlined above do not make it easy to track detailed impact. Despite its popularity, this type of initiative is difficult to make sustainable because of its reliance on services which have historically lacked capacity such as the youth service. All partners see the potential to make this type of initiative sustainable and to link them to the community needs arising from school based clusters and intelligence. More opportunities could be grasped with the client group attracted if agencies were assured that the initiative will continue. This is also a very practical example of where a sustainable pool of volunteers could help partners to deliver whilst at the same time building community cohesion.

Transport, Accessibility and Road Safety

Darlington is currently implementing a number of innovative transport initiatives under its Town on the Move and Cycling Demonstration Town status. The Council has also been shortlisted for Beacon status for Road Safety. The Second Local Transport Plan incorporates a Travel Safety Strategy, which highlights the importance of safety whilst walking, cycling and using public transport, including using innovative design approaches, technology such as CCTV and addressing perceptions of safety (traffic and personal). Darlington delivers high quality pedestrian and cycle training in schools and is a CTC Approved Instructor Training Centre. Through the travel planning process Safe Routes to School schemes are identified and implemented.

Countryside initiatives

A wildlife and fishing reserve project at Firthmoor has worked closely with children and young people to set up a scheme that addresses many youth issues. These include diversion from crime, social inclusion and awareness of the environment. Similarly a proposal to build a bike track at West Park has been led by young people from Branksome and addresses similar themes as the above helping provide a network of facilities within Darlington's open spaces tackling the 'nothing to do' complaint.

What the LAA will enable us to do differently

There are five main actions in our LAA to enable us to deliver the outcomes for safer and stronger communities. These are inter-linked and will focus most attention on the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Development of an intelligence-led approach to crime and anti-social behaviour

As explained above, there is a real opportunity in Darlington to equip a high performing partnership with the tools it needs to identify and plan joined up responses to crime and antisocial behaviour. As a consequence of the common objective of enhancing evidence based practice that runs throughout the LAA, there is the further benefit of ensuring that the tools, techniques and analysis developed will inform activity delivered under other blocks of the LAA e.g. Street Scene, school clusters etc.

The main areas of activity will be to:

- procure the relevant ICT systems for deployment to PCSOs, generic Street Scene staff, wardens etc. to enable real time case handling;
- link to and improve existing GIS overlays;
- commission project management expertise to ensure that we learn from the leaders in this field and implement quick wins;
- employ an analyst to feed the area based teams the information they require to respond appropriately, and which support area problem solving.

Enhancing our response to crime and ASB

Darlington has seen the benefits of a dedicated response to low level ASB which is of primary concern to residents. The move to area based working and overall responses will be enhanced by the additional deployment of wardens and PCSOs.

At the same time, the partnership is aware that it has a number of service gaps, in particular in respect of domestic violence and the ability to move quickly to respond to emerging crime "hot spots" through tailored campaigns e.g. target hardening for burglary etc. The LAA will therefore aim to plug these gaps, again enhancing our ability to meet the identified challenging high level outcomes.

Once the facility to adopt intelligence led planning is in place, it is obviously vital that there is sufficient capacity in place to respond appropriately. The partnership have invested in PCSOs and uniformed wardens over recent years, incrementally working to mainstream this investment. Throughout this LAA submission, greater area based working has been a consistent theme. The LSP is ensuring that school based clusters, Street Scene environment teams and neighbourhood policing are developing in unison. To do this effectively, it is recognised that there is a need to supplement current mainstreamed provision of PCSOs and wardens.

The intelligence led approach, combined with more effective multi-agency teams means that we would anticipate stronger linkages with specialist services and programmes e.g. to reduce re-offending and the harm caused by illegal drugs.

Active citizenship - enhancing the engagement of children and young people

The overall vision of our LAA recognises the need to broaden horizons for young people and increase the range of opportunities that there are to build confidence and self esteem e.g. through sport and art. This clearly overlaps considerably with the cluster model introduced in block 1. In a small authority, it is essential that we do not duplicate effort and therefore we intend to develop a joined up approach to consultation and engagement of children and young people through the restructured youth service. Recognition of this within the LAA will raise the profile of this work amongst all partners and improve its long term sustainability. We also see the potential of community engagement to reduce fear of crime.

The survey data we have proves that community involvement in the development of youth activities will be a major contributing factor to community cohesion in the borough. For example, the top priority for improvement in the borough in the eyes of residents was to improve activities for teenagers. At the same time, it is recognised that consultation with young people over recent years has not been effective. This aspect of the LAA will help us improve that position. Key actions are:

- to ensure that investment in the youth service is supported by and supports cluster development, intelligence-led problem-solving and Street Scene activities;
- to build on the success of the Westside initiative by making sustainable resource available to respond to community consultation priorities. It is envisaged that these will focus primarily on the most deprived areas;
- to develop a framework for consultation and involvement which builds community intelligence on need, provision and outcomes. It is envisaged that this will have 3 strands:
 - service specific: that individual services, agencies, and providers sign up to a model of young people's active involvement to ensure that this involvement permeates all aspects of that service;
 - borough wide: the creation of mechanisms and a body which means that the voice of young people is able to be articulated and that it is present at the key over-arching decision-making bodies within the borough;
 - inter-agency support: this would entail representatives from key delivery agencies across the borough coming together to sign up to the model of youth participation as outlined and to develop a youth participation strategy to facilitate this
- to pump prime the development of a play strategy, enabling the partnership to secure Big Lottery funding e.g. for play-workers. Development of the strategy will also seek to establish private sector sponsorship of play-workers.

- to develop youth leisure activities. There is currently a Community Sports and Physical Activity Network Officer in place and through the LAA we would seek to develop a sports and leisure youth offer which takes into account current provision by all sectors and suggest how this could be improved. In particular it is felt that there is significant mileage to be secured from enhanced partnerships with the wealth of private sports clubs within the borough, especially in enhancing opportunities to participate in a range of sports for young people in more disadvantaged areas.
- To develop active travel as a leisure activity and as a means of improving access to other leisure services. To establish a Youth Cycle Forum to ensure that the ideas and views of children and young people are included in the development of the cycle network, as part of Darlington's role as a national Cycling Demonstration Town.

Increasing community capacity through volunteering

There are two reasons why the development of volunteering offers significant opportunities to the delivery of the LAA. Firstly because of the contribution that it can make to developing active citizenship amongst young people, and in building community cohesion. Secondly, because for a borough like Darlington that fails to qualify for most of the deprivation linked Government funding programmes, there is an increased need to maximise financially sustainable strategies to deliver neighbourhood renewal.

At present, the potential for volunteering to provide a sustainable resource, for example, to 'Westside' and countryside type initiatives, or projects developed through the cluster model e.g. mentors, homework clubs etc. is largely untapped.

At its simplest we need a framework for identifying and developing volunteering 'vacancies' and a 'recruitment' mechanism to match volunteers to these opportunities. The potential and range of initiatives is unlimited from friends of parks to school governors. A key part of this scheme would be the active participation of major employers in the town – across all sectors. Linkage of volunteering experience to individual development needs could be a major win-win opportunity.

A second strand of the scheme would be to work to target the use of volunteers in those areas that are particularly disadvantaged and lack therefore capacity to support young people and families.

In terms of meeting some of the tolerance issues identified above, it is important that the opportunity to develop inter-generational initiatives is grasped. As part of the LAA, it is also intended to ensure that CVS capacity is enhanced to deliver future initiatives.

A Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor has worked with the CVS to identify quick win actions to be taken forward under capacity building.

Increasing community capacity through Street Scene

Timing of the implementation of Street Scene area based working and the LAA offers the opportunity to ensure that work to improve the 'cleaner, greener, safer' elements of the LAA actually builds community capacity. We intend to do this through the following actions:

- empowering communities to take pride in their streets through developing street champions;
- building on the youth volunteering project to develop 'young caretakers'.

 Groundwork, which is about to work in Darlington for the first time is an appropriate delivery vehicle for this work. This could include monitoring the cycle network.
- Street Scene is based on more frequent and effective dialogue with local residents. SSCF funding will enable us to develop incentives for people to get involved in service improvement. As Street Scene rolls out, we would expect such engagement to become sustained.
- Darlington has a wealth of parks, nature reserves and open spaces, many of which unfortunately suffer from anti social behaviour, or from fear of crime. There have been good examples e.g. South Park and Northgate Park where strong community involvement combined with physical improvements has led to greater usage and increased feelings of safety. We would seek to extend this approach into other areas through the LAA.
- Street Scene will benefit from the intelligence led approach e.g. in the identification and response to 'hot spots' of enviro-crime. It is anticipated that GIS overlays are created for frontline services. Ultimately it is the aim to map need, service provision and performance.
- This is fully in line with the Respect approach where the identification of 'hot spots' can trigger the intervention of specialist services.

Resources

The funding requirements of the LAA actions are presented in the table below. Indication is also given as to from which funding stream these resources are expected to be provided.

LAA Action	Cost (£'000)				Aligned Funding Streams*	
	06/07	07/08	08/09	Total		
Development of intelligence-						
led approach to crime and ASB						
 Partnership analyst 	40	40	40	120	120 SSCF*	
• GIS	50			50	350 SSCF	
• ICT	100	25	25	150		
 Development 	150			150		
Sub Total	340	65	65	470	470	
Enhancing our response to crime						
and ASB						
 Wardens 	50	50	50	150	100 BCU	
 PCSOs 	200	200	200	600	400 Home Office ¹	
 Campaigns 	30	30	30	90	50 LPSA	
 Domestic Violence 	100	50	50	200	150 DBC/PCT	
					340 SSCF*	
Sub Total	380	330	330	1040	1040	
Increasing uptake of sport and						
recreation						
 Outreach youth workers 	350	350	350	1050	1050 Youth Service	
 Sustainable 'Westside' 					250 Big Lottery	
 Joined up consultation 	50	50	50	150	90 Sport England	
and engagement	30	30	30	90	160 SSCF*	
 Play-strategy and 		40.5			130 DBC	
workers	25	125	125	275	30 Town on the	
 Developing youth leisure 		2.0	20	115	Move	
activities	55	30	30	115		
 Cycle events 	10	10	10	30		
Sub Total	520	595	595	1710	1710	
Increasing community capacity through volunteering						
CVS capacity building	25	25	25	75	200 SSCF *	
Pilot volunteering	50	50	50	150	25 DBC	
opportunities	30	50	30	150	23 DDC	
Sub Total	75	75	75	225	225	

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¹ The CDRP have been made aware of a Home Office fund that can be used to fund PCSOs from 2007/08. This action anticipates access to that fund.

LAA Action	Cost (£'000)			Funding Stream	
	06/07	07/08	08/09	Total	
Increasing community capacity through Street Scene					
Pride in your Street/Street champions	100	100	100	300	110 DBC 90 SSCF*
Young caretakers	150	150	150	450	1750 SSCF
Area based community engagement	300	300		600	
• Parks for all	200	200	200	600	
Sub Total	750	750	450	1950	1950
TOTAL	2065	1815	1515	5395	5395

^{*} SSCF – Neighbourhood Element Funding Non-asterixed SSCF refers to cleaner, safer, greener funding.

How progress is to be measured

Ref	Performance Indicators or measures	Baseline (2004/05) Unless indicated otherwise	Targets to be achieved (by 2009)
2.1.1 [LPSA]	Percentage of people who say they feel safe walking outside in their area alone in the dark (QoL15a)	48.3%	Without Stretch: 55% With Stretch 61%
2.1.2	Percentage of people who say they feel safe walking outside in their area alone during the day (QoL15b)	93.3%	95%
2.1.3	British Crime Survey – Reductions in comparator crime between 2004/05 and 2008/09	2004/05 = 100%	21.4% reduction
2.1.4	Overall provision and effectiveness of local authority services that help victims of domestic violence and prevent further domestic violence (BV225)	New PI	Full compliance against checklist
2.1.5	Reduction in the percentage of repeat victims of domestic violence (CS177)	35%	30%
2.1.6	Number of awareness training sessions delivered on domestic violence in schools a) for teachers per year and b) for pupils per year	Nil for a & b (New PI)	a) 1 b) 3

2.1.7	Number of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) involving young people reported to police	3,325 incidents in 2003/04	2,993 incidents, a 10% reduction
2.1.8 [LPSA]	Number of first time entrants into the Youth Justice System	311 in 2004/05	Without Stretch: 290 With Stretch: 275
2.2.1	Proportion of residents who feel able to influence decisions affecting the local area (Local PI)	33.1%	37%
2.2.2	Proportion of residents who feel that by working together people can influence decisions that affect their neighbourhood (Local PI)	54.5%	65%
2.2.3	Proportion of residents who say that people form different backgrounds get on well in their area (Local PI)	63.8%	70%
2.3.1a [LPSA]	Residents satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces (BV119e)	65.9% 2003 BVPI Survey	Without Stretch: 72% With Stretch: 76%
2.3.1b [LPSA]	Percentage of relevant land which has significant or heavy deposits of litter or detritus (categories below B under BV199a)	19%	Without Stretch: 15% With Stretch: 10%
2.3.2	Percentage of people satisfied with cleanliness standards (BV89)	57.9% (2003/04)	75%
2.3.3	Percentage of household waste a) recycled; b) composted; c) used to recover heat, power and other energy resources and d) landfilled (BV82)	a) 14.1% b) 3.4% c) 0.0% d) 82.5%	a) 18% b) 6% c) 0% d) 76%
2.3.4	Number of kilograms of household waste collected per head (BV84)	547.6	613
2.4.1	Proportion of residents satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live	76.7%	80%
2.4.2	Proportion of residents who feel their neighbourhood has got better in the last two years	9.8%	14%
2.4.3	The percentage of residents who think that for their local area, over the past three years, community activities have got better or stayed the same. (QoL3)	85.58% (2003/04)	90%
2.4.4a	Road Safety: Number of children killed/seriously injured (BV99bi)	5	6
2.4.4b	Road Safety: Percentage change over 1994-1998 average of number of children killed/seriously injured (BV99biii)	-50%	-40%

2.4.5	Local bus services (passengers per year)	9,591,418	10.7 million
2.4.6	The number of a) pedestrian and b) cyclist road accident casualties per 100,000 population (QoL8)	a) 67.4 b) 32.7 (2003/04)	a) To be set b) To be set
2.4.7	Mode share of journeys to school (percentage of journeys by car)	31.7%	28%
2.5.1a [LPSA]	Percentage of school children (5 –16 year olds) who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum	65%	Without Stretch: 85% With Stretch: 88%
2.5.1b [LPSA]	Increase the uptake of MMR vaccination year on year	83.5%	Without Stretch: 87% With Stretch: 90%
2.5.1c [LPSA]	Increase the uptake of pre-school booster year on year	82%	Without Stretch: 85% With Stretch: 88%
2.5.2	Percentage of residents very or fairly satisfied with Children's play areas (CS26)	35%	53%
2.5.3	Numbers of children participating in activities at Eastbourne Sports Complex (CS17aii)	3,769	10,500
2.5.4	Numbers of juniors participating in swimming at the Dolphin Centre (CS17cii)	96,980	100,000