
COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN REFRESH

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Dixon,
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Ada Burns Chief Executive

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consult and seek Members' endorsement of the Borough's refreshed Community Safety Plan 2008-11.

Summary

2. In March 2008 Members considered and endorsed the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) Community Safety Plan 2008-11.
3. The Delivery Plans attached to this plan continue to be implemented by the CDRP.
4. In line with legislative requirements the CDRP is required to refresh and update the three year plan on an annual basis. This is the first refresh of the plan endorsed by Members in March 2008.
5. The priorities identified within the original plan remain the same as those identified within the refresh. The progress against targets and activity has been updated and a summary of the main headline actions to be taken forward in the next year is provided in the refreshed plan.
6. From March 2009 the CDRP Delivery Plans will be updated and refreshed to ensure activity remains focussed upon priorities.
7. Actions within the refreshed CDRP Delivery Plans continue to mirror those included within the Borough's second Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Community Strategy, "One Darlington : Perfectly Placed".
8. The CDRP will ensure that it continues to monitor and put in place plans to respond to any emerging risks throughout the lifetime of the plan.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) Members endorse the refreshed Community Safety Plan;
 - (b) That the plan be agreed in line with the Council's Policy Framework.

Reasons

10. The recommendations are supported for the following reasons :-
 - (a) Community Safety remains a priority for the Borough.
 - (b) The strategy outlines how the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership will continue to make Darlington even safer.

Ada Burns
Chief Executive

Background Papers

Background papers are held by the Council's Safer Communities Unit.

Rob Jones: Extension 3221

S17 Crime and Disorder	The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. This plan sets out how the CDRP will make Darlington safer. It sets the community safety priorities for the Borough and identifies some of the key activities that partners will deliver over the next two years.
Health and Well Being	People's health and well being can be influenced significantly by their perceptions and experience of crime and anti-social behaviour. Improving people's feelings of safety should bring about improvements in health and well being. In addition, the correlation between substance misuse (drugs and alcohol), people's health and crime is well evidenced.
Sustainability	Tackling crime and particularly anti-social behaviour does have an impact on the environmental sustainability of the Borough.
Diversity	Crime and anti-social behaviour activity is intelligence led. Support is delivered to a wide range of communities as well as the general populace depending on need and intelligence. Through the Public Reassurance agenda the CDRP will work to ensure all communities feel safe.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected although it is recognised that some wards suffer higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and require more sustained interventions than others.
Groups Affected	There is no one group affected by the content of this report more than others, although some activity to address crime and anti-social behaviour is focussed on offenders and support to victims.
Budget and Policy Framework	The Community Safety Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework
Key Decision	This report does represent a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This report does not require any urgent decisions.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Crime and anti-social behaviour is a priority within the Safer Darlington theme of the Borough's Sustainable Community Strategy and is supported by this strategy.
Efficiency	This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

11. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002) formalised the way in which the Council must work in partnership with other agencies to tackle crime and disorder within the Borough. The Act required the Council, Police, Police Authority, Primary Care Trust and Fire and Rescue Service to work in partnership to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and the harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol. These agencies are known as the “Responsible Authorities”.
12. In line with the 1998 Act, the Responsible Authorities were required to form a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and every three years carry out an audit and produce a strategy to reduce crime and disorder.
13. The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced significant changes to the way in which the CDRP must operate. One of these changes included the requirement that the CDRP produce an annual Strategic Assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and the harm caused by drugs and alcohol within the Borough, this assessment being used to inform the development of a new three year Community Safety Plan, which must be refreshed annually.
14. This is the first refresh of Darlington’s Community Safety Plan 2008-11.
15. In refreshing the Community Safety Plan the CDRP is aware of the potential impact of the current economic recession on crime and anti-social behaviour. Research shows that during a recession property crime and violent crime increases and the impact of this can be felt for a number of years after the recession started. For example, the economic downturn in 1990 through to 1992 had a notable impact on crime with increases being recorded up to 3 years later.

Refreshing the Community Safety

16. In November 2008 the CDRP published its second Strategic Assessment. This was considered and agreed by the CDRP Executive Board in December 2008. The priorities identified within the Assessment remain the same as those identified in the initial assessment:
 - (a) Anti-Social Behaviour
 - (b) Reducing Offending
 - (c) Violent Crime and Disorder in the Night Time Economy
 - (d) Domestic Abuse
 - (e) Public Reassurance
17. Reducing the harm caused by illegal Drugs and Alcohol cuts across all priorities.
18. The priorities are aligned with those in the Sustainable Community Strategy and support Policing and Local Criminal Justice Board priorities.
19. The Community Safety Plan has been refreshed to include an update on performance, progress against activity delivered in 2008 and details of activity to be progressed from March 2009.

20. In line with the refresh of the Plan the CDRP will complete a refresh of each of its Delivery Plans ensuring they are outcome focussed to make Darlington safer.

Financial Implications

21. The delivery of the refreshed Community Safety Plan will be supported through existing mainstream partner resources and through Area Based Grant funding, Basic Command Unit funding and through funding received by the CDRP and Children's Trust to tackle youth crime. There will not be any additional cost to the Council.

Outcome of Consultation

22. The original community safety plan consultation was undertaken as part of the development of "One Darlington : Perfectly Placed".
23. The refresh of the Plan has been widely circulated to all CDRP partners for their input.
24. Residents' and partners' views have also been sought via the Town Crier and at the CDRP Safer Communities Forum which was held in January 2009.