

Meeting of the Council – 19th July, 2010.

Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services for 2009/10

Purpose of Report

1. To submit to the Council the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services for 2009/2010.

Background

2. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that Select Committees report annually to the full Council on the work carried out over the previous municipal year making both recommendations for key areas of future work and any amended working methods, if appropriate, for the forthcoming year.
3. As in previous years, the work programme for the year was rooted in the Council's overall objectives in terms of both the key issues but also identifying the timetable for reports back.
4. The Select Committee, in discharging its overview and scrutiny functions as they relate to crime and disorder functions of the Council under the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 and other relevant legislation, has a wide and far-reaching remit. It is therefore difficult to single out a number of key issues since Borough-wide community safety issues, social inclusion, community development, neighbourhood management and Dudley Council Plus all fall within the purview of the Select Committee.
5. The following matters were considered at meetings of the committee in 2009/10.
 - (a) Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009;
 - (b) Crime Reduction Performance Update for 2008/9;
 - (c) The Community Renewal Service and an update on the duty to involve local people and their representatives in activities concerned with changing or improving services and their delivery;
 - (d) Alcohol related anti-social behaviour with Police representatives attending to answer Members questions.
 - (e) The arrangements for the overview and scrutiny of the Safe and Sound Board;
 - (f) Dudley's Community Safety Partnership on the potential arrangements for the Committee's exercise of its oversight and scrutiny function;

- (g) Next Generation Local Area Agreement – Community Safety related targets and Initiatives Final agreed Action Plans;
 - (h) Development of Dudley’s New Alcohol Strategy;
 - (i) The Policing Pledge including its origins and content;
 - (j) The Social Responsibility Scheme including the background and summary of the scheme and on the benefits of the Scheme as part of a package of measures to reduce underage drinking, anti-social behaviour, increase reassurance and community safety and improve health and outcomes for young people.
 - (k) Operation Staysafe, including the development and implementation of the Operation within the Dudley Borough;
 - (l) Intergenerational Work within Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council;
 - (m) Community Renewal, giving a brief summary of community engagement in relation to Community Safety;
 - (n) Funding arrangements for Partnership working.
6. The Select Committee’s Work Programme for the 2009/10 municipal year also included the following standard reports:
- Quarterly Corporate Performance Reports;
 - Review of the Community Strategy, Update of the Council’s Capital Strategy and the Council’s Revenue Budget;
 - The Equality and Diversity Report of the Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources and the Report of the Head of Contingency and Disaster Management;

Arrangements for the Overview and Scrutiny of Safe and Sound, Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership.

7. The potential arrangements for the Committee’s exercise of its oversight and scrutiny function of the Safe and Sound Board was considered. Following consideration of these arrangements the Committee agreed that debate and discussion would be entered into at the end of each future meeting as to whether to request the attendance of any Safe and Sound Board Member or the provision of any information at the future meetings.

The Committee also agreed that the Chief Executive in his capacity as Chair of the Safe and Sound Partnership would be requested to attend the June meeting of the Committee in each municipal year.

The Policing Pledge

8. A report on the origins and contents of the Pledge and the commitments it made to the people who live and work in the Dudley Borough was considered.

Community Renewal

9. A report on the new duty to involve local persons and their representatives in the activities concerned with changing or improving services and their delivery and on how the Community Renewal Team in working with partners, was facilitating some of the work in communities and neighbours was considered and noted.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998

10. As part of the Committee's on-going monitoring and scrutiny of arrangements in Directorates to meet the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 a report in relation to the Directorate of Children's Services was circulated. A further Directorate will report in 2010/11 as part of the on-going review process.

Measures in respect of anti-social behaviour

11. The Committee at meetings throughout the year considered various aspects in relation to anti-social behaviour.
12. Detailed consideration, in particular, was given to the development of alternative measures to tackle such behaviour, the development of Dudley's new Alcohol Strategy, and on the initiatives being undertaken by the Council. These included the development and implementation of Operation Staysafe which had contributed towards alleviating anti social behaviour, the Social Responsibility Scheme pilot and roll out which included a package of measures to reduce underage drinking, reduce anti social behaviour, increase reassurances and community safety and improve health and outcomes for young people.

Outline of the Work Programme for 2010/11

13. A proposed work programme for 2010/11 was be considered by the Select Committee at its first meeting to be held in this municipal year and included the following matters:-
 - Work Programme for 2010/11;
 - Annual Report of the Safe and Sound Board;
 - Domestic Abuse Reporting;

- Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources – Equality and Diversity Annual Report;
- Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Reports;
- Dudley’s response to Anti Social Behaviour Minimum Standards;
- Annual Report of the Committee to Council;
- Overview of Partnership Responsibility Groups;
- Progress Report arising from the Area Committee Community Renewal Working Groups;
- Update on Council’s Capital Strategy;
- Annual Report of the Head of Contingency and Disaster Management;
- Proposed Revenue Budget 2011/12;
- Progress report on Operation Paragon;
- Corporate Review of Anti Social Behaviour;
- Outline Work Programme for 2011/12;
- Directorate Report on Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- Directorate of Corporate Resources – Equality and Diversity Action Plan;
- National Support Framework for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.
- Corporate Review of Domestic Abuse Service Provision.

14. At its first meeting held on 10th June, 2010 detailed consideration was given to the Work Programme. Arising from this, the Work Programme is likely to be updated in due course in view of Members’ comments.

Conclusion

15. Areas forming the bulk of the Committee’s work continue to reflect the expressions made by local people, namely, issues concerning community safety with particular emphasis on Domestic Abuse, Anti-Social Behaviour and measures to build safer and stronger communities through community-lead programmes to combat crime in the whole or parts of the Borough as well as the operations of Dudley Council Plus, the Council’s contact centre.

Finance

16. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

Law

- 17. The requirement for the Committee to submit an annual report to the Council is contained in Article 6 of the Constitution as read with Part II of the Local Government Act, 2000, together with Regulations, Orders and Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- 18. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, requires Local Authorities to consider the impact of community safety on each of its decisions.

Equality Impact

- 19. Reports that have been and might be submitted to the Committee during 2010/11 could have a direct bearing on children and young people who become involved in anti-social behaviour whilst issues such as social cohesion and community development will also have an impact on them.
- 20. Bodies representing children and young people will continue to be consulted on issues submitted for consideration by the Committee that might have a direct impact on children and young people. This report complies with the Council's equality and diversity policy.

Recommendation

- 21. That the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services for 2009/10, as set out above, be noted.



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Chairman of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services