

Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services.
2nd September 2010

Report of the Chief Executive

safe & sound, Dudley's community safety partnership: The role of the responsible authorities

Purpose of Report

1. To further appraise the Committee of the roles the statutory partners play within safe & sound, Dudley's community safety partnership as distinct from their individual agency roles.

Background

2. The six statutory partners involved in every community safety partnership are the Council, the Police, the Fire and Rescue service, the Police Authority, the Primary Care Trusts and the Probation service.
3. Other than the attendance of a senior officer from each organisation at strategic board level and the duties of that group, the nature of their participation at other levels of the partnership is not prescribed.
With regard to the Council only, in addition to the attendance of the Chief Executive (a recommendation only, it can be a deputy Chief Executive), where an elected member is responsible for community safety within a council structure, they must also be on the strategic board.
All of the partner representatives must, in law, have sufficient seniority to be able to "commit resources to joint projects and make decisions". This group of people is legally responsible for preparing and implementing a strategic assessment and a partnership plan. Finally, again in law, this group can decide the frequency of their meetings, and their chairing arrangements and must formally consider if the partnership has the requisite skills and knowledge to meet its statutory requirements at least once a year.
4. Within the safe & sound structure, representatives of the six statutory partners sit on the strategic board as required, and, according to the legal advice given their level of seniority is sufficient for the legislative requirement.
This paper sets out the additional roles played by five of those organisations at other levels of the partnership, the exception being the Police Authority who only participate at board level.

5.

- The Council:

The Council has a unique role in the partnership, in that as well as attending at all levels as a statutory and participating partner, we also act as hosts for the community safety team. This multi-agency team has a dual function in supporting the partnership and also working directly for the Council. The team is funded both internally and externally, and includes non-Council staff including police officers. The partnership has currently decided that the Council Chief Executive chairs the strategic board, the Council chairs the substance misuse implementation group, be the vice chair of the crime reduction implementation group, and chair the Joint Activity Group.

This Council attendance at all levels ensures their full participation in project delivery as appropriate. Council representatives therefore participate fully in all aspects of partnership activity including planning, delivery and evaluation. For example, Council representatives participate in all of the key partnership projects including the Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) scheme, drug treatment services etc., and include members from Housing, Trading Standards, the Youth Service, the Youth Offending Service, street cleansing, town centre management and community renewal as well as the members of the community safety team.

The Council's marketing department provide an officer to direct and assist with partnership marketing.

In accordance with the legislation, the Council facilitates the sharing of certain data sets on a quarterly basis with three of the statutory partners, namely the Police, the Fire and Rescue service and the Primary Care Trust

- The Police:

The partnership has currently decided that the Police provides the chair of the crime reduction implementation group, the vice-chair of the substance misuse implementation group and the vice-chair of the Joint Activity Group.

Similarly to the Council, the Police play a major role in the planning and implementation of nearly all partnership projects including the alcohol arrest referral scheme, beat sweep operations, the PPO scheme, the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and community tension monitoring.

The police currently provide three members of the community safety team, an analyst, an anti-social behaviour officer and a partnership liaison Inspector, the partnership funding the analyst post, whilst the Police fund the other two.

The Police also share certain data sets quarterly with the three named partners, as required by statute

- The Primary Care Trust (P.C.T.):

The partnership has currently decided that the Primary Care Trust provides the vice-chair of the strategic board.

The Primary Care Trust is heavily involved in the planning and delivery of drug treatment services by the partnership. Representatives of the P.C.T sit on all levels of the partnerships substance misuse groups and play a key role in ensuring the all relevant services are properly provided for and co-ordinated.

The P.C.T. also share certain data sets quarterly with the three named partners, as required by statute

- The Fire and Rescue service:

The Fire and Rescue service have representation at most levels of the crime reduction groups, including the implementation group and the Joint Activity Group. They play an appropriate part in partnership projects such as beat sweeps and anti-social behaviour projects, as well as educational projects of their own such as 'dying to drive'. Their role has changed significantly over the last few years, broadening their remit from responding to fires to prevention and community based education.

The Fire and Rescue service also share certain data sets quarterly with the three named partners, as required by statute

▪ The Probation service:

The Probation service was only made a statutory partner in September of 2009. The head of probation for Dudley local delivery unit works for the Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust, and sits on the strategic board.

Representatives of the service play a key role in the P.P.O. scheme and also participate in the crime reduction implementation group and the Joint Activity Group, where one of their key actions has been to commit unpaid work groups to the Joint Activity Group's directives.

Finance

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

Law

7. All references to legislation in this paper refer to the provisions of the Police and Justice Act of 2006.

Equality Impact

8. This report is in accordance with the council's equality and diversity policy.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Committee note the information contained in this report.



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List of Background Papers

Delivering Safer Communities:
A Guide to effective partnership working -

Guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction
Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships

(Published by the Home Office, September 2007).