

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Safer Lewisham Strategy 2008 - 2011	
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.6
Ward	All	
Contributors	Executive Directors for Community Services, Children and Young People, Regeneration, Resources, Customer Services	
Class	Open	Date: 25 June 2008

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Mayor for the proposed 3 year strategy which will form the overarching values and priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership.
- 1.2 To agree that the report to be presented at Council on the 16th July, 2008.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to agree the 3 year Strategy and 1 year Action Plan.

3. Background and context

- 3.1 In July 2007, the Government published '*Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-11*', which described a refreshed approach to tackling crime and increasing community safety. This sets the overarching strategic framework for crime and community safety for three years from 2008/09 to 2010/11. This was followed, in October 2007, by the publication of a new set of Public Service Agreements for 2008/09-2010/11. The Public Service Agreements (PSAs) set out the Government's high level objectives for public service delivery including a PSA entitled '*Make Communities Safer*'.

The strategy should be read in conjunction with a number of other strategic plans and strategies both locally and Nationally. The priorities identified follow the Home Office PSA targets, the Sustainable Communities Strategy priorities, and the Council's corporate priorities.

3.2 The Home Office Objectives

Public Service Agreements set out the Government's objectives for public service delivery and explain how success in delivering those objectives will be measured.

There is a single PSA for improving community safety: PSA 23 'Make Communities Safer'. It reflects the Government's vision that:

- continuing to build on the significant reductions in crime achieved over recent years, fewer people are victims of crime, especially the most serious crime – violent, drug and alcohol-related crime – and the public are protected from the most harmful offenders; and
- local agencies are accountable and responsive to the needs and priorities of the local community, leading to increased public confidence in those agencies.

There are also a number of other PSAs that contribute to delivering community safety, and together these support delivery of the Safer Lewisham Strategy:

- PSA 23, Priority Action 1: Reduce the most serious violence, including tackling serious sexual offences and domestic violence;
- PSA 23, Priority Action 2: Continue to make progress on serious acquisitive crime through a focus on the issues of greatest priority in each locality and the most harmful offenders – particularly drug-misusing offenders;
- PSA 23, Priority Action 3: Tackle the crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues of greatest importance in each locality, increasing public confidence in the local agencies involved in dealing with these issues;
- PSA 26: Reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism.

3.3 Sustainable Community objectives have been identified by the Local Strategic Partnership as measures for success.

- Ambitious and achieving
- Clean, green and liveable
- Empowered and responsible
- Healthy, active and enjoyable
- Safer
- Dynamic and prosperous.

3.4 Lewisham's Local Area Agreements (LAA)

This strategy and Action plan is closely aligned with the LAA. These are Partnership agreed priorities against which a greater emphasis will be placed upon delivery. The Council and its partners will be expected to continue to deliver across all of the national priorities monitored through the National Indicator Set. However, the Local Area Agreements (LAAs) set out 35 improvement targets on which there will be a high level focus.

The Home Office will not be setting improvement targets for partnerships outside the LAA process but will continue to monitor and support CDRPs as described above.

The LAA includes 10 specific targets that relate to crime reduction, with a number of others towards which this strategy will contribute to.

NI 15 - Serious violent crime rate
NI 16 - Serious Acquisitive crime
NI 19 - Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
NI 21 - Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
NI 32 - Repeat Incidents of domestic violence
NI 40 - Drug users in effective treatment
NI 44 - Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals
NI 117 - 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
NI 111 - First time entrants to Youth Justice System aged 10-17
NI 115 - Substance misuse by young people
NI 47 – People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents

There are a number of other targets that will be measured which cover all major key areas of crime.

3.5 APACS

Police and CDRP performance will be monitored through the Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS), the new performance assessment framework for the police working alone and in partnership.

3.6 Statutory obligations for the Strategy

Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by sections 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, requires Safer Communities Partnerships (in Lewisham this is the Safer Lewisham Partnership) to:

- Develop a three year Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy;
- Include a strategy for tackling anti-social behaviour;
- Ensure that the strategy takes account of the crime, drugs and alcohol audit and the views of the local community;
- Ensure that the strategy includes the priorities, aims and objectives against which success will be judged; and
- Set out the actions that partners will use to achieve the outcomes.

3.7 Developing the Lewisham Strategy

The Strategy has been developed by the Safer Lewisham Partnership and sets out:

- An explanation of the Safer Lewisham Partnership and how it works;
- A summary of the findings from the Strategic Assessment of Need;
- Details of the consultation exercise with the community and the key findings;
- National priorities for crime and substance misuse; and
- Local priorities to tackle crime and drugs and alcohol issues in Lewisham in 2008-2011. An action plan will be attached to show how these will be delivered and measured.

The strategy has the following aims:

- To set out a vision for services in relation to community safety over the next three years.
- To provide a high level framework which will form the basis for partners to deliver upon.
- To identify key priorities which will lead to a noticeable difference in safety for local residents.

3.8 In line with the review of the Crime and Disorder Act which was undertaken in 2007, this strategy will be reviewed annually. There will be a six monthly refresh of the strategic needs assessment, which will drive the setting of local priorities based on changing needs of Lewisham alongside delivery against national targets. New national standards regulations require that Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) produce a strategic assessment on an annual basis, with a six monthly refresh, so that partnerships can take an intelligence-led, problem solving and outcome orientated approach to community safety. Ultimately the purpose of the strategic assessment is to identify local crime, disorder and substance misuse priorities for the forthcoming year.

The strategic assessment that has informed the strategy, draws on data from all of the various agencies that make up the Safer Lewisham Partnership. It sets out the performance of the Partnership in contributing to published strategic objectives. It also establishes the emerging crime trends and analyses the results of surveys that seek the views of the community on levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse, as well as the issues that need to be prioritised by the partnership in the forthcoming year.

Detailed crime analysis was undertaken to include the benchmarking of Lewisham against London and against its 'family group', which consists of the 14 most similar Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to Lewisham from the rest of the country. Statistics are always useful in helping to quantify the scale of the problem in the borough. To complement the statistics each crime section contained information about what the broader issues are and possible causes of these problems. Each analytical section includes:

- Volume and rate analysis
- Trend analysis
- Hot spotting/location analysis
- Benchmarking and
- Victim and suspect profiling.

3.9 This strategy has been developed with the full involvement of the Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP) as a whole. A wide consultation across a range of statutory and non statutory agencies, young people, and residents has been undertaken. In addition, the strategy has been derived from a detailed analysis of a range of data sources, including community intelligence, and has shaped the vision, priorities and actions for the forthcoming 3 years.

3.10 This strategy is developed for all residents in the Borough and all partners who engage in the agenda around crime reduction and community safety and provides the basis for Lewisham's contribution to make communities safer".

There will be 2 public meetings per year to consult on future direction.

3.11 The proposed Partnership objectives include:

- Reducing crime in Lewisham;
- Reducing the level of Anti Social Behaviour in Lewisham;
- Improve interventions for those in the criminal justice system;
- Improve safety for residents of Lewisham;
- Increase reassurance about the criminal justice system through improved victim support, and community engagement.

In addition to the objectives, some principles / values including risk and needs led; restorative; inclusively; evidence based and personalised programming will follow throughout the delivery mechanisms.

3.12 A full copy of the strategy and action plan are attached, with the full strategic assessment available.

3.13 Performance

In 2005, the Borough was set a target of a 20% reduction in BCS (British Crime Survey) offences. The end of year figure showed a reduction of 7% in BCS, (Source IQana).

Despite not achieving the full 3 year target, performance in 2007/08 compared to 2006/07 has shown a significant reduction; robbery reduced by 39.4%, residential burglary reduced by 11.3%, theft of motor vehicle reduced by 8.4%, wounding reduced by 8.6%, theft increased by 6% however this was brought down from a 15% increased trend.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 This report seeks approval for the attached Safer Lewisham Strategy and the associated 1-year Action Plan

4.2 Section 11 of the Strategy describes the resources available to the Safer Lewisham Partnership. The various activities described in the Strategy and Action Plan will be carried out from within these existing resources.

4.3 Failure to reach effective drug treatment targets could result in future loss of funding. These targets will be carefully monitored by the Safer Lewisham Partnership in order to manage any risks in delivery.

5. Legal implications

5.1 Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by sections 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, require the Safer Communities Partnership to:

- Develop a three year Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy;
- Include a strategy for tackling anti-social behaviour;
- Ensure that the strategy takes account of the crime, drugs and alcohol audit and the views of the local community;
- Ensure that the strategy includes the priorities, aims and objectives against which success will be judged; and
- Set out the actions that partners will use to achieve the outcomes.

In 2006, a national review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police Reform Act 2002 led to a series of recommendations. The 1998 Act included the requirement to produce a detailed crime and disorder audit; consult with key agencies and the wider community; use the findings to identify strategic priorities and set targets and performance measures. The national review sought to strengthen and extend these requirements further based on the experience gained through partnership working. As a result, a new set of national minimum standards came into force in England in August 2007.

The key requirements that have been introduced as a result, to achieve improved partnership effectiveness, use the statutory requirements as a foundation.

Responsible authorities have a legal obligation to comply with the requirements, which include the placing of the duty on the strategy group to prepare a strategic assessment on behalf of the responsible authorities.

6. Crime and disorder implications

- 6.1 This strategy links directly to the delivery of S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. Section 17 of the Act recognises that there are key stakeholder groups who have responsibility for the provision of a wide and varied range of services to and within the community. In carrying out these functions, section 17 places a duty on partners to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area.
- 6.2 The purpose of section 17 is simple: the level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations. The responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area. Section 17 is aimed at giving the vital work of crime and disorder reduction a focus across the wide range of local services and putting it at the heart of local decision-making.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1 A key priority for the Partnership, identified through the strategic assessment is that of dealing with the disproportionate number of BME people in the criminal justice system.

7.2 The strategy has implications in relation to equalities in relation to this issue and how the partnership will strategically tackle this issue.

8. Environmental implications

8.1 The strategic assessment has identified a number of areas of environmental crime by ward. This will help to target appropriate services into the areas based on intelligence and need.

9. Conclusion

9.1 This Partnership strategy will form the overarching framework for delivery on community safety and crime reduction in Lewisham. The responsibility and accountability for delivering on the strategy will be through the Safer Lewisham Partnership.

9.2 It is requested that this strategy be approved alongside the 2008/09 action plan for delivery. The action plan will be revised and updated annually, alongside a 6 monthly refresh of the strategic assessment to ensure that delivery meets changing needs and intelligence.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

If you would like more information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam, Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People, Community Services on 020 8314 9569.