



**REPORT TO REGENERATION, ENVIRONMENT,
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**Agenda
Item No.**

15 September 2005

Community Safety Best Value Review Improvement Plan Update

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr M Pitt
Housing and Community Safety

Summary of report:

This report provides an update on progress made to implement the improvement plans as per the Best Value Review of Community Safety.

The updated Improvement Plan is attached as Appendix A.

Background papers:

Cabinet report September 2004 on CCTV service
Scrutiny Report to Regeneration, Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny & Performance Panel September 2004

Reason for scrutiny:

- To focus on the development of the Borough's Community Safety activities via the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership.
- To follow up the recommendations as per the Best Value Review of Community Safety identified from the September 2004 review.

Signed:

Executive Director: Jamie Morris

Date: 7 September 2005

Resource and legal considerations:

None at this stage but it should be noted that there is no impact to the Community Safety budget.

Citizen impact:

A key focus of the Improvement Plan is to ensure that through the proposed actions, the customer outcomes and safety of citizens are given high priority.

Environmental impact:

A number of the actions in the Improvement Plan will contribute to improving the quality of life for local people and help towards creating safer communities.

Performance management:

Updated systems have been developed and continue to be updated to reflect the changes to performance monitoring. Projects and performance management are measured against the new Crime, Disorder and Drug Misuse Reduction Strategy 2005-08 and all relevant local and national performance indicators.

Equality Implications:

Improved Community Safety services contribute to the building of confidence and safety of individuals and communities vulnerable to crime, harassment and anti-social behaviour.

Consultation:

The report has been prepared in close consultation with partner organisations, staff, GOWM and the Best Value Review Project Team.

Vision 2008:

- Ensure clean and green borough – by working with partners and our communities.
- Ensure all people are safe and secure – via the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership.
- Encourage everyone to feel proud of Walsall – strive to create safer communities
- Strengthen the Local Economy – by improving the image of the borough and working with the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- Listen to what people want – extensive local consultation was undertaken to produce the new Crime, Disorder and Drug Misuse Reduction Strategy 2005-08
- Transform Walsall into an excellent authority – via the new strategy and

to achieve all of our targets and to meet relevant Best Value Performance Indicators and local performance targets.

Contact Officer:

Nozmul Hussain
Director – Safer Walsall Borough Partnership
Tel: 01922 709189
E-mail: hussainn@walsall.gov.uk

1. **COMMUNITY SAFETY BEST VALUE REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

1.1 **IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS**

1.1.1 Members are asked to refer to the attached Appendix A and refer to the current status of the areas identified for improvement.

2. **SUMMARY**

2.1 The report identifies a number of key areas for improvement, Appendix A lists these areas and the current status :-

- To develop the SWBP in conjunction with the Council's Vision and the Home Office Strategy Plan.
- To develop the Communication Strategy.
- To develop appropriate mechanisms for coordinating decision making and performance monitoring.
- Development of a Partnership Business Plan.
- Pursue the options for developing a 24/7 CCTV monitoring service including personal property alarms.
- Development of the ASB Strategy.
- The development of a unified Warden Service.

REF	IMPROVEMENT ACTION	BY WHOM?	TARGET DATE	CURRENT STATUS @ 19/08/2004
1.1	Take Vision 2008 forward with SWBP, and develop it further to incorporate the key messages in the Home Office Strategy Plan for 2004-2008.	Director of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP)	March 06 (on-going)	The new Crime, Disorder & Drug Misuse Reduction Strategy 2005/08 published in April addresses these concerns. Delivery groups have been established to implement the key strategic priorities. This document will be reviewed and monitored throughout the year. Periodic progress reports will be presented to the SWBP Board.
1.2	Agree 'ground rules' for the Council's political and corporate engagement with SWBP, and continue to demonstrate the Council's commitment to the partnership	Director of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP)	August 05	Council's cabinet lead Portfolio Holder for Housing & Community Safety is a permanent member of the SWBP Board. Monthly meeting with Portfolio Holder being undertaken to discuss key issues. Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services is now member of the SWBP Board, to represent EMT.
1.3	Develop and deploy a Media and Communications Strategy to inform and persuade the public to manage their own risk of becoming victims of crime and disorder	Director of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP)	Jan 06	<p><i>Ongoing development linked to the launch of the SWBP Community Conference planned for 13 Oct 05.</i></p> <p>Publicity campaign with crime stoppers scheduled for Xmas.</p> <p><i>Communication Strategy to be developed for use by all partners of SWBP Community</i></p> <p><i>SWBP website to be established to provide information & advice on community safety as well as improve reporting.</i></p>

1.4	Ensure that the crime and disorder implications of key activities and decisions are routinely addressed through informed decision making, and better performance management and commissioning, across the Council and its partners (section 17)	Director of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP)	March 06	<p>Periodic meeting arranged with Chief Officers and Heads of Services across council dept and partner agencies to ensure crime and disorder considerations are taken on board during decision making.</p> <p>Initial Section 17 analysis across council undertaken last year.</p> <p>Links\partnerships with SWBP have been established with all relevant bodies operating in borough to ensure SWBP keeps and overview of programmes and policies related to the community safety agenda.</p> <p>New performance monitoring system introduced, incorporating all key targets across partner organisation that have bearing on community safety. Quarterly reports are presented to the SWBP Board.</p> <p>New single body to undertake, oversee and monitor commission of community safety programmes to third party is in the process of being established.</p>
1.5	Develop a partnership business plan for SWBP including organisational and management capacity, pooled and shared resources for partnership activities.	Director of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP)	March 06	<p>Business Plan has been developed and agreed by board. tPCT staff working on drugs and alcohol have been transferred over to the SWBP. Agreements being finalised with all partners agencies for staff secondment and pooling resources into single budget as part of LAA.</p>

1.6	CCTV: develop a Coventry style 24/7 monitoring service – including CCTV and personal property alarms through a new control room to be provided with a strategic partner	Director of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP)	May 05	Dedicated 24/7 CCTV control room established in Saddlers Shopping centre.
1.7	ASB: prepare a simple Strategy for tackling ASB, develop case referral procedures and establish a clear co-ordinating role for the ASB team. (which should remain in-house)		Mar 06	<p>Personal alarms acquired and distributed by wardens and police, in particular following incidents in London.</p> <p>Currently exploring option for expanding scope of unit to undertake single 24\7 reporting line for ASB and disorder issues.</p>
			Jan 06	<p>Initial ASB Strategy was produced by July 2004, now being reviewed/updated where appropriate following ongoing discussions with relevant partners to ensure clear guidelines on which agency takes responsibility for which cases, as well as when and what action should be taken.</p> <p>ASB unit currently in position to undertake punitive action against identified perpetrators e.g. ASBO\CRASBO and ABCs. Surveillance work to gather evidence also undertaken by unit.</p> <p>Gap identified around how the partnership collectively responds to low level ASB and nuisance- this is being followed through with partners.</p>

1.8	Wardens: develop a unified approach to deploying wardens from different schemes, maintaining funding levels for 2005 and market test the wardens service in 2006	Director of the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP)	Oct 05	<p>A review of the Walsall Wardens Scheme was completed June 2004.</p> <p>Additional NRF funding has been identified to maintain service delivery until 31/03/06.</p> <p>ODPM funding will also expire end of financial year.</p> <p>Discussions are currently underway to reassess work of wardens in the community and explore viable options to continue work around community reassurance. This will include looking at PCSO with the police, and community champions.</p>
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