

Meeting: Safer Communities Executive Board (SCEB)

Date: 16 March 2009

Report Title: Safer Communities Priority Actions 2009/10

Report of: Claire Kowalska, Community Safety Manager (on behalf of Jean Croot, Head of Service)

Purpose

To present the proposed priority actions for the Safer Communities Partnership for 2009-10 for information and comment by members of the Board.

Summary

The following report outlines high-level activity relating to the delivery of the Safer Communities objectives and targets. The priorities are drawn from the 3-year Partnership Plan priorities and the latest annual strategic and needs' assessments. Individual action plans for each priority area will be finalised by the partnership boards during March 2009.

Legal/Financial Implications

All intended actions have taken into account the available finances for 2009/10.

Recommendations

That Board members confirm the objectives and agree on the areas for closer joint working.

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1. Background

- 1.1 Partnership action plans for the delivery of Safer Communities priorities are prepared annually for individual areas of responsibility such as key crime types, drug treatment, alcohol harm reduction and anti-social behaviour.

These are being prepared by individual boards during March and April on the basis of evaluation, data and current knowledge. Final plans will be presented to the board in early May. They will be monitored quarterly by the responsible boards and progress will be reported to the SCEB twice a year.

- 1.2. With effect from April 2009, the Neighbourhood Management Team and Voluntary and Community Sector Team will join the existing teams to make an enhanced Safer and Stronger Communities Service.

2. Key objectives 2009-10

- 2.1 The high-level priorities and outcomes for the coming year which support our Local Area Agreement (LAA) are:

- To prevent and reduce serious priority crime (acquisitive crime, violent crime and domestic violence)
- To prevent and reduce persistent and serious anti-social behaviour (ASB) with a focus on young people, housing and the public realm
- To measurably improve perceptions of how the Council and Police deal with crime and ASB in the local area and increase confidence in the Partnership
- To reduce re-offending through co-ordination and resettlement services (esp. of non-statutory offenders)
- To reduce the number of children and young people involved in crime and disorder
- To support young people at risk of offending and invest in proven youth diversion programmes
- To reduce the harm caused through drug and alcohol misuse
- To support the local voluntary sector organisations that effectively engage with the Council and build the capacity of the Third Sector
- To build community engagement with the Council and its partners to improve the quality of life for local people
- To further develop programmes that offer support to victims and survivors of crime and ASB, especially the most vulnerable
- To ensure that the Borough is prepared for emergencies and has all necessary business continuity plans in place

- 2.2 This activity supports the current LAA improvement targets under the responsibility of this board which are:

- NI 15 – serious violent crime rate
- NI 16 – serious acquisitive crime rate
- NI 21 – perceptions of how police and local authority deal with crime and ASB locally
- NI 35 – preventing violent extremism
- NI 40 – drug users into effective treatment
- NI 111 – preventing entrants into the youth justice system

Each of these targets is owned by a specific, partnership board and progress is regularly measured.

3. Strategic overlaps

3.1 The following areas of focus are common across two or more teams within the Service and will be subject to intensified joint working in the year ahead:

- Targeted community engagement and involvement
- Specialised, strategic commissioning
- Project and performance management
- Strengthening data, intelligence and analysis to identify unmet priorities and need; and to target interventions more precisely
- Co-ordinating communications and marketing around priorities
- Strengthening area-based working and problem-solving
- Preventing and diverting young people from offending, disorder and substance misuse through proven projects and support
- Co-ordinating support to the 18-25 age group (currently falling through the provision gap)
- Increasing awareness and action to reduce re-offending