



**Performance and Finance
Select Committee**

9th December 2009

**Report from the Director of
Policy & Regeneration**

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

**In-Depth Review of Local Area Agreement Priorities:
Priority 1 Crime Prevention 18-28 Age Group
Priority 3 Violent Crime**

1. Background

1.1 Community Safety Units were set up to deliver the Crime and Disorder Reduction Act 1998. This act made statutory what many authorities were already doing, namely working in partnership to increase community confidence by cutting crime and by curbing Antisocial Behaviour.

1.2 Research had shown that where the Local Authority, Police, Probation and other public and voluntary sector organisations worked together, much better results were obtained. These studies highlighted that all the agencies were working with predominantly the same people in the same geographical areas.

2. Departments Involved

2.1 What also became apparent was that all Council departments and various departments in other public bodies had a role to play in delivering safer communities; Section 17 of the act highlighted this:

Duty to consider crime and disorder implications

(1) Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

(2) This section applies to a local authority, a joint authority, a police authority, a National Park authority and the Broads Authority.

(3) *In this section—*

“local authority” means a local authority within the meaning given by section 270(1) of the [1972 c. 70.] Local Government Act 1972 or the Common Council of the City of London;

“joint authority” has the same meaning as in the [1985 c. 51.] Local Government Act 1985;

“National Park authority” means an authority established under section 63 of the [1995 c. 25.] Environment Act 1995

2.2 This cross organisational /agency work is exemplified by how Community Safety professionals look at community safety:

- Location, taking in planning, cleanliness and repair
- Victim , looking at home security, vulnerability because of age, or other factors linking into where people live and their lifestyle
- Perpetrator, criminals and those who commit antisocial behaviour in the main, come from fractured families and have poor educational achievement.

3. Setting Priorities

3.1 Priorities are determined by a combination of national targets and local priorities. Inevitably, when funding opportunities arise, these too have an impact. Over the last 12 months the Community Safety Unit has successfully bid for over a million pounds to deliver work itself or to work in partnership with other statutory or voluntary agencies.

3.2 As national policy looks towards “Total Place” it is hoped that the reliance on targets will reduce and there will be a strong focus on outcomes and community impact.

4. Testing Effectiveness

4.1 All projects have agreed outcomes with the targets monitoring the stepping stones of progress. A robust system of project management has been introduced within the Community Safety Unity that tailors and merges PRINCE2, LEANSIGMA and Systems Thinking to provide a paradigm to ensure effectiveness, value for money on ongoing learning and improvement.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 When reviewing the financial implications of crime to the Council in Brent it would be far too narrow to review the cost of the community safety unit alone.

5.2 As a hybrid team it:

- develops the multiagency strategy
- writes, coordinates, monitors, evaluates and helps deliver the strategy via the action plan

- acts as an enabling and advising agency to other agencies and all council departments
- bids for funding overwhelmingly in partnership with others

5.3 The Budget for the Community Safety Team is detailed below.

Budget	Amount	Source
Total Budget	£2,030,040.68	LBB and Grants
Grant Funding	£586,392.00	Home Office, Government Office for London, PCT, Transport for London, Borough Command Unit (Police) LAA, Metropolitan Police Authority
London Borough of Brent Core Budget	£1,153,392.00	LBB
Overall salary Budget	£785,479	LBB and Grants
Grant funded salaries	£477,133	Various agencies
Overall Project Budget	£1,244,561.68	LBB and Grants
Grant Funded Project Work	£109,259.00	Various agencies

5.4 For the last two years the Council have funded an additional 17 Police Community Support Officers, the cost of these is £330,000 per annum. Their work and effectiveness is tested via quarterly meetings between the Head of Community Safety and the Chief Inspector who leads the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

5.5 The very broad brush estimate of other financial inputs from the London Borough of Brent to community safety is £8 million. This initial estimate was done in response to a Councillor's question and is made up of costs for:

- Remedial education
- Youth Work
- Youth Offending Team
- Licensing
- Planning
- Trading Standards

5.6 Further work, as to the costs and inputs around building safer and stronger communities is being carried out as part of the background to the "Total Place" initiative, and a report will be offered to the Committee as soon as possible.

6. Recommendations

That the committee note the report and receive the more detailed report in due course.

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