

Agenda No 5

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Committee 28th February, 2006

Report Title Single Issue Meeting on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire – Final report

Summary This report summarises the approach taken by the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the multi-agency approach taken to address Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire and outlines the subsequent outcomes.

For further information please contact:

Gereint Stoneman Corporate Review Officer Corporate Review Team Tel: 01926 412378 gereintstoneman@warwickshire.gov.uk	Tricia Morrison Corporate Review Manager Corporate Review Team Tel: 01926 736319 triciamorrison@warwickshire.gov.uk
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No

Background papers

County Council Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy – Progress Report, 25th October, 2005

County Council Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy – Progress Report on four of the seven priorities, 15th December, 2005

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, 10th January, 2006

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Member(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cabinet Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Hobbs
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Pollard
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Other Strategic Directors David Carter, William Brown
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police Mike Slater
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **No**

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS: Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee
28th February, 2006

**Single Issue Meeting on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire –
Final report**

**Report of the Chair of the Community Safety
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Endorse the Outcomes of the scrutiny event and Next Steps as set out in Section 4.0 of this report
- (ii) Identify which of the above should be referred to Cabinet

1.0 Background to the scrutiny exercise

- 1.1 On 25th October, 2005 the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee received Part 1 of a two part report on the County Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. The report concentrated on three of the seven thematic areas addressed by the Strategy:
- Fear of crime
 - High crime areas
 - Prolific and Priority offenders
- 1.2 The second part of the report was presented to the Committee's meeting of 15th December 2006 and concentrated on the remaining four priority areas, namely:
- Alcohol related violence
 - Young People as victims and offenders
 - Drug related crime
 - Liveability
- 1.3 Consideration of these reports generated strong feeling within the Committee and generated a debate on the value, appropriateness and effectiveness of the current approaches employed to tackle anti-social behaviour within the communities served by Members of the Committee and in Warwickshire generally.
- 1.4 Committee members recognised that the County Council has a key contribution to make to the work of multi agency partnerships working towards safer communities and further acknowledged the valuable contribution which can potentially be made through the proposed Local Area Agreements Framework.

- 1.5 With this in mind the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested that a full scrutiny exercise be conducted, involving all community safety and criminal justice agencies to provide an opportunity for Members to understand how they can improve Community Safety in Warwickshire by addressing the current levels of anti-social behaviour

2.0 Scrutiny event

- 2.1 On 10th January, 2006 the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Warwickshire was presented to Members of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee for comment and discussion. The member discussion held at this meeting subsequently informed the development of a set of Key Lines of Enquiry which were to be taken forward into the second stage of the scrutiny exercise and put to an expert panel
- 2.2 On 8th February, 2006 the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Community held a single issue meeting focusing on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire. John Hedge, Chair of the Thames Valley Partnership was invited as key note speaker to present on the benefits of delivering a 'balanced approach' to Anti-Social Behaviour. Informed by the agreed set of Key Lines of Enquiry Members were then given the opportunity to question a panel of expert representatives from the main agencies in Warwickshire dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour.
- 2.3 The Panel membership is outlined in the table below and its strength and breadth is testament to the positive relationships which exist between these agencies and the WCC Community Safety Team, who were responsible for the composition of the panel:

Panel member	Role/Agency
John Hedge	Chair of Thames Valley Partnership
Andrew Lawrence	Head Of Community Support (WCC)
Julie Sullivan	Corporate Community Safety Manager (WCC)
Paul Littler	County Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator
Mike Slater	Chief Inspector Warwickshire Police
Diane Johnson	Manager Youth Offending Team
Michael Maguire	Manager Positive About Young People (WCC)
Mark Lynn	Crown Prosecution Service
Mick Taylor	Chief Clerk to Magistrates Courts (Warwickshire)
Katherine Grasby	Senior Solicitor (WCC)
Spencer Payne	Community Safety Information Analyst (WCC)
Rachel Jackson	Regeneration Officer Nuneaton & Bedworth (CDRP officer)
Cheryl Bridges	CDRP Officer, North Warwickshire DC
Dave Gormal	Head Of Community Safety Rugby Borough (CDRP officer)
Pete Cutts	Community Safety Officer Warwick District (CDRP officer)
Steve Newman	Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator - Stratford District Council (CDRP officer)
Ruth Mountstephen	Observer - Head of Community Services - Stratford District Council
Robert Walsh	Observer - Community Safety Co-ordinator - Stratford District Council

3.0 Key issues raised

3.1 The list below highlights the main issues which were discussed between Elected Members and Expert Panelists:

- How do we address the need for both a strategic approach to ASB and a solution to ASB as it occurs 'in your face'?
- Do we need to find more resources for mediation and can we make our mediation services more effective?
- Does the balanced approach to ASB give enough emphasis to punishment?
- Are we using ASBOs correctly and is the support available to enforce orders effectively available?
- How can we involve the Voluntary and Community Sector more effectively in reducing ASB?
- What is the role of parents and parental responsibility in reducing ASB?
- How do we address the importance of early intervention with families and young children?
- How much and how effective are the current levels of publicity relating to positive outcomes in reducing ASB?
- How can we effectively communicate within the community around ASB issues?
- What is the role of CDRPs and the relationship with the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee?
- How do we address the need to recognise the relationship between Drugs, Alcohol and ASB?
- How does the Magistrates Court address the perceived, public perception around sentencing and ASB?

3.2 The issues raised within this forum will be taken forward by the Community Safety Team and their partner agencies to ensure that the positive approach taken by the Committee will continue.

NB. The detailed minutes provide a full record of the questions asked by Members and answered by the panelists.

4.0 Outcomes and Next steps

4.1 Following the successful completion of the scrutiny event Members of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee now understand:

- What is currently recognised/defined as 'Anti-Social Behaviour'
- The County Council's remit and role in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour
- The contribution made by partner agencies in reducing Anti Social Behaviour.
- The current infrastructure within Warwickshire for addressing Anti-Social Behaviour

4.2 To ensure Members of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny are confident that Anti-Social Behaviour is being positively addressed in Warwickshire the following actions will be taken to address issues raised by the scrutiny event:

- (a) Mike Slater, Chief Inspector of Warwickshire Police has agreed to review the involvement of Elected Members in the ASBO process and subsequent publication and awareness raising of successful prosecutions.
- (b) Mark Lynn, Chief Crown Prosecutor from the Crown Prosecution Service has agreed to report Members' concerns raised at the scrutiny event back to his team of Prosecutors.
- (c) Mick Taylor, Chief Clerk to Magistrates Courts (Warwickshire) has agreed to report Members' concerns relating to sentencing raised at the scrutiny event back to Magistrates in Warwickshire.
- (d) Cllr Hobbs, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, has agreed to progress the issues raised over elected Members representation on CDRPs and investigate the effectiveness of test purchases in light of shopkeepers only selling alcohol to known young people.
- (e) Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety from 1st April, 2006 will bring a report back to a future meeting of the Committee on the impact of the Crime and Disorder Act, The Respect Agenda and Local Area Agreements on the role and remit of the Committee.

Furthermore the following general points are recognised by the Committee:

- (f) There is a need to engage with the local Criminal Justice Board in developing strategies to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour.
- (g) Poor parenting is a common theme underlying ASB and there is need for early intervention systems within the county.
- (h) Mediation Services can play an important role in supporting community resilience and dealing with the issues around ASB and the need to establish and fund robust services can probably only be addressed at county level.
- (i) There is a need to establish more robust communication systems within communities to highlight both specific incidents of ASB and the good work which is being undertaken to address these.

4.3 Anti-Social Behaviour is a very broad topic area, which will continue to form a major part of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee's remit. The Committee sincerely thanks all the panel members for their support and participation and encourages the collaborative approach taken for this event to be adopted in future work which the Committee undertakes in addressing Community Safety within Warwickshire.

4.4 This report along with the minutes of the meeting of 8th February 2006 will be made available to all panel Members for circulation within the agencies that they represent.

Cllr John Haynes
Chair of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

February, 2006