

## **THE COMMUNITIES AGAINST DRUGS INITIATIVE**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Further to the report to Community Safety Sub-Committee on 13 September 2001 (min 195 / 2001), this report provides further details on the 'Communities against Drugs Initiative' and seeks Members views on proposals which could be put forward to the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for consultation.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Rochford District Council has been awarded £59,300 by the Home Office under the above initiative which is to be distributed through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) working with Drug Action Teams. The money is to be spent on targeted, locally determined measures designed to:-
- Disrupt drug markets,
  - Tackle drug related crime,
  - Strengthen communities to resist drugs.
- 2.2 The intention is not to be prescriptive from the centre but to back local people in action against drugs.
- 2.3 The Drug Reference Group (DRG) is currently considering its proposals for submission to the Partnership, but no formal suggestions have been put forward at the time of writing this report.

### **3 CAPITAL/REVENUE SPLIT**

- 3.1 The funding allocated to each partnership has to be divided between capital (32%) and revenue (68%) expenditure.
- 3.2 The allocation to each partnership will have to be divided accordingly. Partnerships have to spend their capital allocation on capital spending; revenue expenditure may be spent on capital items or on running cost expenditure. The funding support is over a three year time frame and hence more monies will be available in 2002 / 2003 and 2003 / 2004; the £59,300 representing this year's allocation. However, no details for future years allocations are as yet forthcoming.

#### **4 USES OF THE GRANT**

4.1 The Home Office have published suggestions on what the money could be spent on:-

- Ensuring that police officers maintain a visible presence in drug hot spots, for example by extending the investment in extra visibility which has already been achieved in five force areas through the Government's street robbery initiative;
- Mobile police stations to make the police more readily accessible to local communities;
- Neighbourhood wardens to provide a constant presence on housing estates and other public areas;
- Action to tackle drug related anti-social behaviour, for example through Anti-Social Behaviour Orders;
- Support for community, parents' and residents' groups;
- CCTV, better security lighting, and physical changes such as gates, and blocking off alleyways which can make a real difference to how safe some estates and public areas can feel;
- Extra housing managers;
- Support for youth inclusion schemes to divert young people from drugs and crime; and
- Targeted measures to tackle drug related crimes such as burglary, theft and robbery.

4.2 On the basis of these examples, suggestions Members might like to consider making to the Partnership include:-

- Embedding and developing drug education in schools within Castle Point and Rochford. This would be a joint initiative with Castle Point with an estimated total cost of £16,900 (to be shared between the two authorities).
- Design, print and distribute a hard-hitting leaflet aimed at families addressing drug misuse. (Estimated cost £1,500).

- Equipment for drug awareness displays to be used with the RDC mobile exhibition unit. This could include a video presenter, display boards, computer, interactive displays and computer games for young people. Again, this could be a joint initiative with Castle Point. It is estimated that the video presenter would cost £300, the display board £1000 and computer £800. The total estimated cost would therefore be £2,100.
- Provide drug awareness evenings at all schools and all young persons clubs, paying for a speaker if necessary. Possible joint initiative with the Police in both Rochford and Castle Point with costs to be determined.
- Add to existing CCTV locations in areas vulnerable to drug activity. The cost is approximately between £1,200 to £2,000 per camera per site.
- Provide CCTV and improved lighting to newly identified areas of drug activity. The cost is approximately £4,000 for each new camera site.
- Support the police to enable them to respond promptly to reports of drug dealing.
- Support the StAR partnership to strengthen the community partnership against drug dealing. The support worker post is due for renewal in April 2002 and Members might wish to consider whether they wish to continue with contributing to the cost of this post, should it be renewed.
- Drug testing equipment for the police.

4.3 Members suggestions as to any other proposals would be welcome.

## **5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 As detailed in this report

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 As mentioned in this report

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

to determine those proposals which it wishes to put forward for consideration by the Crime and Disorder Partnership. (CE)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Warren', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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