

COMMUNITY SAFETY - BEST VALUE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The aim of this report is to update Members on progress on the action plan agreed for the local Best Value review of Community Safety at this Committee on 15 April 2003 (199/03)

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In April 2002 a revised Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for period 2002 - 2005 was agreed by the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- 2.2 Between July 2001 and May 2002, Essex County Council, the twelve district authorities and Essex Police undertook a joint best value review of community safety focusing on alcohol and drug-related crime and disorder. Based upon this, a joint inspection by the Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary was completed in December 2002.
- 2.3 Given that both the production of the new Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and the County Best Value Review focused on the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, it was considered that the scope for the Council's own Best Value review would best be restricted to Rochford District Council Community Safety activity so that the Council could ensure that it remained focussed on seeing continuous improvements in this area.
- 2.4 Whilst taking a lead role within the overarching Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Rochford District Council Community Safety Team does have a number of specific and exclusive responsibilities. The team provides most of the administrative support for the Partnership. It also financially manages the Partnership funds as well as supporting bids for funds to support crime and disorder reduction projects. The team also oversees the Council's own Community Safety Fund which has financed a number of initiatives such as CCTV and issues in connection with domestic violence.
- 2.5 The Community Safety Team demonstrates cross team working within the authority. The team links in with other Rochford District Council plans as well as those from other agencies. For example, the Anti Social Behaviour Order protocol and domestic violence policy both have close links with Housing issues. In terms of youth diversionary projects, the role of Community Safety is important in relation to Leisure initiatives such as the summer sports activities, teen shelters and playspaces.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As well as highlighting areas for improvement to the service delivered by the team, the Best Value process showed a need for a Community Safety Action Plan separate to the Partnership Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and its implementation. This was to ensure that activities agreed by Rochford District Council are progressed in a timely way.
- 3.2 Appendix A provides the first six monthly update against the Action Plan agreed by this Committee in March 2003.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Committee consider the progress made on the Action Plan outlined in Appendix A and comment accordingly.

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