

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 1 JULY 2010

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide members with an update on key issues relating to strategic partnerships.

1. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 1.1 A General Election took place on Thursday, 6 May 2010 and the resulting Coalition Government published 'Our Programme for Government' later in May 2010. The document briefly describes the agreement between the two coalition parties and how individual policies have been brought together to produce a programme for Government. In section 4 'Communities and Local Government', the Coalition say they will cut local government inspection and abolish the Comprehensive Area Assessment. They also say they will consider the case for abolishing the remaining Government Offices and stopping both the restructuring of councils (eg the creation of single tier councils in Exeter and Norwich) and regionalisation of the Fire Service. The document, however, makes few if any references to partnership working.
- 1.2 On 24 May 2010, the Chancellor and Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced the first steps to tackle the budget deficit by setting out details relating to savings of over £60 billion in the current financial year. As well as budget cuts to all police forces as part of the £367 million savings for the Home Office, other departments are required to make savings, in particular the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (£780 million) which could lead to cuts in funds available for partnership working. In the emergency budget on 22 June 2010, the Chancellor announced that there will be an average 25% reduction in all budgets other than the NHS and International Development over the next four years.
- 1.3 In March the DCLG published strategic guidance for partnerships at the local level in England on pooling and aligning budgets. This follows a commitment in the White Paper 'Putting the frontline first: Smarter Government' (2009). The guidance will be of interest to local partnerships such as the Children's Trusts, Community Safety Partnerships and Local Strategic Partnerships or any body that wants to consider the possibility of joint financing with other partners.
- 1.4 An updated overview of a framework intended to build community cohesion has been released by the DCLG (Cohesion Delivery Framework 2010) and supersedes that issued in 2008. It is aimed at local authorities and other agencies and identifies planning through local partnership as important in building cohesion.

- 1.5 The 'Equality Standard for the Police Service' was published in December 2009 and Unit 18 of the document refers to the setting of equality, diversity and human rights priorities and objectives with partners. The Community Engagement Department is leading on the Equality Standard which will be inspected by HMIC as part of 'Working for the Public' productivity framework. The productivity framework is constructed around three main themes, the first of these being 'Leading' which includes partnership delivery i.e. the Force working purposefully with delivery partners to enable the achievement of policing priorities.
- 1.6 Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset were, together, one of 13 pilot areas for the Government's Total Place programme. Total Place aims to bring together elements of central government and local agencies within one place to improve the experience of local residents, deliver efficiencies and develop best practice in effective cross agency working. The theme for Total Place for Dorset is access to services for older people and a programme of work is underway.
- 1.7 A partnership Programme Board and Project Team have submitted recommendations and there has been limited formal feedback. The election of a new Government has caused some uncertainty although there is an early indication that the Total Place initiative will progress. Unfortunately, it appears that the Dorset proposals will not be supported into the next phase of Government sponsored development. This is likely to be because of reservations from some partners. The Force remains committed to the Total Place concept however and it remains an item for consideration by the Public Service Forum.

2. PARTNERSHIP REVIEWS

- 2.1 Through 2009/10 a process of updating the list of Force partnerships and risk assessing each of those has taken place.
- 2.2 This process has been undertaken by the Corporate Development Department contacting each division or department to get the list of partnerships updated and assessments completed. The existing list of partnerships (March 2008) was used as a starting point and the risk assessment form developed as part of the continuous improvement review of partnerships (and since adopted by the partnership risk group which the Head of Audit, Risk and Insurance is a member) used to drive, inform and record the process of risk assessment.
- 2.3 Once risk assessed, the partnerships have been listed on the partnership database hosted on the Corporate Development Share Point site and in each case the risk assessment form attached.
- 2.4 Subsequently, from the information available on the risk assessment, an initial assessment has been made of the benefits and risks posed to Dorset Police by each partnership. Those identified as high risk are marked as such on the database and thus identified for further audit scrutiny.
- 2.5 Sixty six existing partnerships have been identified, excluding individual Partners and Communities Together (PACT). Of these, 57 have been risk assessed and are included on the database and the Strategic Planning Manager is awaiting completed risk assessment forms for the remaining nine.
- 2.6 As part of the One Team continuous improvement programme, a Partnership stream has been working as part of the Safer Neighbourhood strand. Any further

partnerships identified or suggested changes for the partnership policy and risk assessment will be fed back to the Corporate Development Department.

3. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

- 3.1 Strategic partnerships include the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP), Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)¹, Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and the Local Resilience Forums (LRF). Other strategic partnerships include the Public Service Forum (PSF) which is an informal partnership group comprising chief officers and chief executives and Children's Trusts.

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

- 3.2 Not all the Local Strategic Partnerships have met again since their last meetings in February/March 2010. All the partnerships are in the final stages of revising and consulting on their Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) and have completed their Local Area Agreement (LAA) refreshes. The partnerships have been informed in writing by the Audit Commission² that all work on updating the area assessment and organisational assessment within the CAA will cease with immediate effect.
- 3.3 The Dorset Strategic Partnership (DSP) met on 27 May 2010. The agenda covered the Sustainable Community Strategy, allocation of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) and the new Dorset-wide CSP. Councillor Nottage was invited to become the new CSP chairman and has also been proposed to be the non-police Prevent lead, an action outstanding from previous DSP meetings.
- 3.4 The Divisional Commander sits on the funding sub-group and this group had previously been allocating the PRG. However, because of the change in Government, the funding sub group is no longer sanctioning those grants previously agreed and this includes £79,000 to subsidise Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). Another meeting will be held shortly to decide the way ahead on PRG allocations. The DSP has adopted NI21, the Government's single top down target for policing, as a supporting indicator for its Community Safety Plan.
- 3.5 The Poole Strategic Partnership (PSP) last met on 17 June 2010. The new formation of the groups ie the Poole Partnership Vision Group (PPVG) and Poole Partnership Management Board (PPMB) has been agreed and specifications are being designed for those two Boards. The Poole Vision Group is currently working on the Sustainable Community Strategy and consultation events have been scheduled. A new vision statement was agreed and NI21 has been included as a local indicator in the LAA refresh. A manager has also been appointed for the Bourne Valley Neighbourhood Management project and will be starting imminently.
- 3.6 The Bournemouth 2026 Vision Board last met on 8 June 2010. The Change Board reported to the last meeting, having considered the Bournemouth LSP structure and opportunities for collaboration with Poole, and through this it was agreed to investigate a future joint vision for the two groups. The work of the Change Board is now complete. The Bournemouth updated Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2014 has been produced and will be launched on 30 June 2010, the main purpose of the launch being to showcase successes and learning from LAA1. Bournemouth 2026 has included NI21 in their 2010 LAA refresh, with a target set in June with the anti-social behaviour strategy group.

¹ Previously known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP)

² Letter from Gareth Davies, Audit Commission to all LSPs dated 28 May 2010

- 3.7 Continued funding for Bournemouth 2026 office and staff was agreed as well as the provision of two desks for 2026 staff in the Bournemouth Divisional Police HQ as required.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

- 3.8 Locally, Eastern and Western CSPs merged to form one Dorset CSP on 1 May 2010.
- 3.9 Members may recall from the previous report to the Committee in April that a Government funded Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) consultant was working with the conurbation CSPs with a view to considering structures, accountabilities and opportunities for collaboration within and between Bournemouth and Poole CSPs. The report has since been delivered to a local steering group representing all the partners and the recommendations have all been accepted and agreed.
- 3.10 Should funding be available, the consultant will return later in the year to do some training with CSP members.

Local Resilience Forum (LRF)

- 3.11 The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) continues to maximise effort in respect of ensuring Integrated Emergency Management is effective across all Category 1 and Category 2 responder organisations within the County and in ensuring that this coordination is extended across the South West Region.
- 3.12 Planning and preparedness for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic sailing events continues to be a focus of activity, with resilience planning assumptions having been prepared and the first steps taken towards identifying a capability / capacity gap analysis. This gap analysis will be taken forward in discussions initially with the Civil Contingencies Secretariat of the Cabinet Office, who is overseeing the 2012 UK resilience and 'consequence management' programme. The LRF continues to work and liaise closely with partner LRFs in London (via the London Resilience Team), Essex, Thames Valley and Hertfordshire. Latterly, there has been a closer linkage with the Dorset County Council 'Team Dorset' Games Delivery structure to ensure a comprehensive approach to gap analysis and avoidance of the potential for the duplication of effort.
- 3.13 Using the Olympic planning processes, the LRF has undertaken similar resilience preparedness and gap analysis in respect of the forthcoming Bournemouth Air Festival and intends to undertake similar methods of approach towards planning for the Great Dorset Steam Fair.

Dorset Criminal Justice Board (DCJB)

- 3.14 The Dorset Criminal Justice Board (DCJB) has published a series of dates at which it will be attending various events throughout the County with information and representatives of partner agencies. As part of the Board's performance monitoring, a court observation review has been completed using Dorset Police volunteers who analysed 106 cases in January and February. The DCJB awards are currently in progress with the deadline for nominations being 30 June 2010. Last year the overall award was won by HMP The Verne. DCJB now publish a newsletter identifying latest initiatives, 'community cash back' beneficiaries and other news of interest.

- 3.15 The DCJB oversees performance towards achieving its aims of Increasing Public Confidence, Improving Victim and Witness Satisfaction, Preventing / Reducing Offending and Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System. It does this through its sub-groups - the Confidence and Community Engagement Group, the Victim and Witness Issues Group, the Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group and the Justice Delivery Group. These are attended by senior managers from across the Criminal Justice System, together with Health, Community Safety Partnership and voluntary sector representation. The Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group is the most recent sub-group, formed from the Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) Strategy Group to work with the three Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) across Dorset to create a meaningful pan-Dorset Reducing Reoffending Strategy.

Public Service Forum (PSF)

- 3.16 The Public Service Forum (PSF) last met on 1 April 2010. The meeting received an update from the task group charged with identifying strategic and tactical recommendations relevant to securing confidence in public services, as well as an update on Total Place, the Pan Dorset reoffending strategy and discussions around possible expansion of the Public Service Forum. A key area identified by the PSF around securing public confidence in public services was the need for joint strategic communications and this will be raised at the next LRF meeting.

Children and Young People

- 3.17 Children's Trusts work in partnership to improve the outcomes for children and young people. The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) Children's Plan sets out the need for Children's Trusts across the country to improve the lives and futures of children and young people as part of the Children Act 2004. Legislation in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 built on the 2004 Act and strengthened Children's Trusts by extending the number of statutory relevant partners to include academic institutions and Job Centre Plus and placed the Children's Trust Board on a statutory footing from 1 April 2010. It made the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) a joint strategy which sets out how the Children's Trust partners will co-operate to improve children's well being in the local area and said that every local area must publish a plan on or before 1 April 2011 and transferred responsibility for its preparation to the Trust Board.
- 3.18 In Dorset, three Children's Trusts operate in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole. The Boards meet regularly and all three trusts already have a Children and Young People's Plan and have already or are in the process of updating it for 2010/11.
- 3.19 The Safe Schools and Communities Team (SSCT) is a partnership between Dorset Police, Dorset County Council, Borough of Poole and Bournemouth Borough Council. The SSCT works closely with schools, youth centres, Further Education / Higher Education centres, safer neighbourhood teams, community safety officers, parents/carers and local authority / voluntary sector partners with the aim of preventing/reducing anti social behaviour, crime and wrong-doing and safeguarding young people in a digital world.
- 3.20 The SSCT provide specialist advice and interventions to tackle youth related issues such as anti social behaviour, cyber-bullying, low level offending, internet safety and alcohol / drug education

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Members are asked to note this report.

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