

**Report to the Birmingham Strategic Partnership Board
Meeting – 30th March 2007**

The Community Strategy for Birmingham – A Safe City

Introduction

Making Birmingham a safer place remains a high priority for citizens and partners. Birmingham's overall position still remains sound, outperforming core cities on many measures and in relation to most crime types or other measures of performance, continuing on an improving trend. However, this has to be viewed in the light of a worsening national position and at best a currently flat-lining performance in the City after several years of very significant reduction.

Nationally crime is predicted to rise next year and this is of major significance as 2007/08 is the year on which we will out-turn on both PSA1 and LPSA stretch targets relating to Crime. The Community Safety Partnership remains as robust as ever and is chaired by the Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council, Stephen Hughes. The Partnership has reviewed its structures and adjusted itself to the evolving nature of crime and anti-social behaviour within the City. The Community Safety Partnership activity remains intelligence based and one of the Partnership's greatest strengths is the strength of its intelligence information which is critical strategically and tactically. The intelligence products now include both City-wide Strategic Assessments (copies tabled) and Constituency Strategic Assessments. The most significant changes in relation to the structure of the Partnership are the incorporation of the Respect Steering Group and the establishment of "Drugs and Alcohol" and "Pan-Birmingham Tasking and Co-ordination" Groups the latter is focused exclusively on PSA1 and LPSA crime.

Safer Stronger Block

The Community Safety Partnership, which has strong and valuable links with the Birmingham Environmental Partnership, plays a significant part in the Safer Stronger Communities Board. The nature of the Safer Stronger Communities Block, which is currently chaired by the Director of Community Safety and Environmental Services, is significantly different from other blocks as it is more disparate in nature, involving as it does safety, environment, sustainability, housing, culture, sport and community engagement empowerment and cohesion.

A major challenge for the Board is the promotion and delivery of neighbourhood solutions in relation to issues such as community safety, liveability, cohesion and so on. The neighbourhood element funding has to date been primarily directed to the establishment of neighbourhood element areas with a population of approximately 10,000 in areas of the highest deprivation, managed through the constituencies. The programme, spread over four years, will eventually impact on 15 neighbourhoods of this type, using neighbourhood element fund monies matched with spend generated within the relevant wards and constituencies. Progress in this regard has currently been uneven but the relevant staff are now appointed and it is hoped that the constituencies will now be able to begin delivering significant practical community safety advantages within the neighbourhoods for which they are responsible.

Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership, through its Strategic Assessments in 2006/07, identified 42 discrete areas which contributed disproportionately to the City's problems relating to community safety. A gap analysis of these areas indicated that they also represented the worst localities within the City for worklessness, low educational attainment, environmental standards and so on. Several of these areas are significantly larger in meaningful neighbourhood and it is estimated that broken down on a neighbourhood basis that they represent between 50-60 discrete neighbourhoods. Clearly the rate of action possible using the neighbourhood element money is inadequate to meet the challenges posed by this number of discrete locations. Accordingly, the Community Safety Partnership has funded, through the Safer Cleaner Neighbourhood Core Priority Group, a Neighbourhood Manager whose role is to find ways to build on existing good practice in Safer Estates and Safer

Neighbourhoods and act as a catalyst to engender partnership work and community engagement within neighbourhoods. This work will tackle issues relating to crime and the environment as these are known to be the most pressing and most likely to engender community engagement.

Challenges

The Community Safety Partnership has operated very successfully on a pooled budget basis for some time and has been universally acknowledged as one of the most successful partnerships in the City. Unfortunately its very success has resulted in it receiving less support than other areas seen to be failing and in the last financial year the thematic funds were frozen which is a reduction in real terms. This is in contrast to the additional funding allocated to other areas of activity. In spite of this, the Partnership has continued to be successful. The coming year sees a reduction of £2 million in Drug Action Team funding and the disappearance of the £1.8 million PSA reward grant. This would present a real challenge in any year but is particularly unfortunate coinciding, as it does, with the conclusion of the PSA and LPSA cycle.

SA6 Reducing Drug and Alcohol Misuse

Background

Birmingham DAT on behalf of BCSP is mandated to lead on the delivery of the National Drug Strategy priorities within the City. The DAT therefore:

- Commissions and coordinates drug prevention, drug treatment and harm reduction activity for young people and adults.
- Seeks to empower local communities to tackle problems caused by illegal drugs.
- Works with the police and enforcement agencies to reduce drug supply, and,
- Delivers the Drug Intervention Programme, a criminal justice system aimed at managing drug dependant offenders at all points in the criminal justice system to rehabilitation.

The ten year National Drug Strategy will conclude in March 2008. Central Government have not yet announced any plans around the future of the strategic priorities or drug related grants and commissioning structures.

The National Community Safety Plan priorities for 06/07 require that DATs merge with Community Safety Partnerships; there is however no definition or guidance as to what constitutes a 'merger'.

DAT budgets total over £25 million per annum. There has been no uplift, inflationary or otherwise, in funding allocations for 07/08 and a recalculation in the formula by which grants are distributed has meant that Birmingham will have a reduction in central funding for 07/08. As a consequence for 07/08 the DAT needs to secure £2 million worth of savings. .

Progress 06/07.

Progress during 06/07 has been significant. The following is a summary of key achievements delivered:

- We are on course to meet our key numbers in treatment target of 6,000, with an end of year forecast of 6,100. Of these we have secured a 77% retention rate in treatment services beyond 12 weeks.
- In pursuit of our BCC LPSA / LAA target we are retaining 60% of PPOs in treatment services beyond 12 weeks against a target of 55%.
- To date in partnership with West Midlands Police we have arrested over 108 drug dealers and have so far secured a 100% conviction rate. Our performance has been recognised nationally by the Home Office who have awarded WMP and Birmingham DAT with an award for achievement and best practice in tackling drug dealing.
- The DAT Young Peoples agenda has been assessed as robust and performing well by GOWM, and to date we have secured 521 young people under 18 in treatment services. This is recognised by GOWM as very positive progress on the situation two

years ago when they threatened to withhold the young people's drug grant on the basis of serious concerns around infrastructure and poor performance.

- The DAT are recognised as undertaking best practice nationally in producing full needs assessments to support the joint commissioning function within the adults and young peoples agendas.
- The Communities Against Drugs joint commissioning function, JCG2, has been fully merged with the BCSP Community Engagement and Empowerment Group.
- The Young Peoples Substance Misuse Joint Commissioning Group, JCG3, has been fully merged with the BCSP Young Peoples Core Priority Group.
- The Drug Intervention Programme Executive Group has been merged with the Offender Management Core Priority Group for joint delivery of PPO and other offender management functions and JCG1 for clinical issues.

The NTA have identified that our partnership commissioning arrangements around the joint commissioning of the Pooled Treatment Budget are not sufficiently robust either in terms of membership or in terms of the primacy of the Joint Commissioning function within the BCSP governance structure. We have taken positive action to address this by:

- Proposing the amendment of the current BCSP core priority group structure by splitting the current Offender Management and Drug Treatment Core Priority Group into two dedicated core priority groups, one focussing on drugs and alcohol and the other offender management.
- Reinvigorating and extending the membership of Joint Commissioning Group 1, to ensure that the forum is capable of undertaking proper joint commissioning on the back off meaningful mainstream investment by partners into the drug agenda. This process has commenced.

Way Forward 07/08

For 07/08 Birmingham's number in treatment target will increase by 1,000 to 7,000. In order to deliver this target whilst making the £2 million budget savings required as a consequent of reductions in treatment grants the DAT as well as requiring efficiency improvements from commissioned providers is currently reviewing the infrastructure of the treatment team and proposals are currently being considered by HOB PCT to change the team structure.

The future governance and line management of the DAT infrastructure is also being reviewed and a formal consultation process will begin shortly. Initial negotiations have identified potential opportunities to undertake the following:

- The full integration of the Young Peoples Substance Misuse Team within the Targeted Services and commissioning arrangements of the Children's Trust arrangements.
- The transfer of PCT HR responsibilities from HOB PCT to BEN PCT in line with financial hosting arrangements.
- The strengthening of West Midlands Police's mainstream drug enforcement capacity within Birmingham through via greater integration of the DAT resources within WMP.
- The strengthening of relationships between Local Delivery Groups, Constituency Strategic Partnerships and the DAT through the local establishment of Drug Strategy/Delivery Groups and the commissioning of drug and alcohol outreach treatment services from Ward based NRF and Neighbourhood Element Funding.

A Birmingham Local Authority Drug Strategy is being drafted in response to recommendations made by the CPA. It is intended that by March 08 Birmingham will have established a fully operational Joint Commissioning Arrangements to support the Alcohol agenda.

To deliver this the alcohol work programme for 2007/08 will focus on:

- The completion of an alcohol needs assessment that identifies key gaps, risks and opportunities within the alcohol agenda across Birmingham.

- The merging of the three current strategy development groups into a single Joint Commissioning Group with clear terms of reference
- The securing of mainstream funding support from partner agencies and where possible Central Government to fund
- The creation and strengthening of joint cross cutting interventions and linkages to address the following alcohol influenced BSP LAA indicators:
 - Teenage pregnancy
 - Young people as victims of crime and offenders.
 - Employment access for hard to reach groups.
 - Hate crime.
 - Healthy Schools
 - Safeguarding vulnerable children.
 - Reducing alcohol related public place wounding.
- The integration of alcohol interventions in Neighbourhood Element Areas to complement local neighbourhood management interventions.
- Sharing and development of best practice alcohol intervention tactics pan Birmingham to manage the night time and day time economy around alcohol.

Stay Safe: SA4 Safeguarding Children and SA5 Work with Young People

Overview

The Joint Area Review published in February 2007, concluded that the work of all local services in keeping children and young people safe is adequate and improving. The inspection process reflects the findings of the partners' self-assessment completed in September 2006.

Children and young people live in, and are active members of, safer communities.

The Joint Area Review found that most children live in safe environments. However, there are insufficient in house foster placements to meet local need, with a quarter of looked after children placed out of council provision. It was also considered that services to safeguard children with learning difficulties or disabilities are underdeveloped. Both areas will be specifically addressed in the 2007 review of the Children and Young People's Plan.

There is a national target to reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in traffic accidents by 50% by 2010. The number of child casualties in the latest 12-month period for which data is available (01/12/2005 to 30/11/2006) is 84, a reduction on the 1994 to 1998 average of 44%. The 'Streets Ahead on Safety' programme is targeted at continuing to improve performance in this area.

Overall crime has fallen, as has the number of young people who are victims, down by 7.5% during the last 12 months when compared with the LAA Target of 2003/4. There are significant differences across the city in how constituencies are performing. The current rolling trend is above the reduction target. Closer links are being forged between the Community Safety Partnership, the Children and Young People's Board and the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board to ensure effective co-ordination in those neighbourhoods where children are over-represented.

The Joint Area Review commented positively that children and young people and their carers are informed about the risks to them through a variety of means and the quality of publications by the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board is good. Specific reference was made to the work being undertaken in schools and residential children's homes to combat bullying. The appointment of an anti-bullying coordinator was seen as good practice. The aim was to ensure that all schools have in place effective bullying policy; the performance target

has been fulfilled. However, there is a need to develop a robust system to establish the level of bullying in schools to enable resources to be more effectively targeted.

Children and young people are better safeguarded

Performance has improved and targets achieved in reducing the number of children on the child protection register who have previously been registered and the length of time that children remain on the register.

There has been a 32% increase in demand for initial assessments and a 26% increase in the number of core assessments this year; the significant growth in demand has impacted on performance. However, improvements to the early transfer arrangements for child protection cases has enabled the core assessment target to be achieved in the last quarter releasing additional capacity to focus on improving the completion of initial assessments within the 7 day target. It is expected that the improvements in performance can be sustained.

Looked after children and young people have greater security and stability

This year the number of Looked After Children has grown to 2090, (82.6 per 10,000 population aged under 18 years). There is a correlation between the increase in domestic violence referrals and the increase in the number of Looked After Children. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences have improved the agency intervention to protect and support children living in violent households.

There has been a significant improvement in the number of children allocated to a social worker in recent months - 90.9% although performance falls just short of the target range of 92-95%. Improvements have been made to the allocation process, but the increase in the Looked After Children population has had an adverse effect on performance in this area.

Hear by Right

All agencies within the Children's Trust arrangements have signed up to Hear by Right (HbR) Standards and a number of HbR action plans are being developed.

Training in HbR has been delivered to extended school clusters, learning mentors, Lead Behaviour Professionals and Elected Members. Hear by Right has also been promoted with young people particularly in some constituencies and a training pack specifically for under 8s is being developed by Birmingham Children's Fund

Reduce offending, re-offending and anti-social behaviour

The level of offending behaviour is declining. The number of first time offenders has reduced by an encouraging 3% although work remains to reach the target of 5%. Work to tackle offending behaviour is effective, including preventative work through YISPs and YIPs (Youth Inclusion Support Panels and Youth Inclusion Projects), but we need to improve guidance and support for looked after children. There is also a need to engage more young people in restorative justice processes. Agencies are working more holistically to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour through earlier targeted interventions such as support programmes attached to acceptable behaviour contracts and parenting work. This will continue to develop as more staff within agencies receive parenting training.

The custody rate for young people in the city remains high against national levels. In particular black Caribbean young men are over-represented in the secure estate and more analysis is being undertaken to ensure we are addressing the issues that are impacting on this. One of these issues is the number of young people who have a need for stable housing accommodation, without which the risk of their offending is significantly increased. To reduce that risk, an agreement has been reached (March 2007) between the Youth Offending Service and Birmingham Housing services to increase the range of accommodation available for young people who are at risk of offending and have housing needs. Young people will be consulted on this agreement.

The number of young people post-16 years in the criminal justice system who are in full time training and employment is improving but remains a key focus.

The Young People's Partnership Group, working to the Community Safety Partnership and C&YP Board is overseeing the commissioning of all preventative activity to reduce offending and victims, including the Drug and Solvent Misuse Strategy and the Positive Activities for Young People Plan (PAYP).

Help Children and Young People to develop socially and emotionally

There is a robust anti-bullying strategy in place and citizenship is promoted in schools. In secondary schools, pupils' spiritual, social and cultural development is promoted through student councils and the Young People's Parliament.

Children and young people in Birmingham are increasingly well supported in developing socially and emotionally. Examples include the work of learning mentors and Connexions personal advisers. The Youth Service offers a wide range of programmes throughout the year including holiday periods, incorporating a range of performing arts, outdoor activities and sport activities. The young people are involved in planning and developing these programmes. They also offer a range of projects that focus on issues of mental health, bullying, parenting skills, confidence building and self-esteem. The five information and advice shops work with over 5,000 young people a year in offering information, advice and support. Youth Leadership programmes are delivered locally to young people who are then provided with opportunities to work on, organise and run events, activities, forums and take responsibility in centres.

Way Forward 07/08:

This analysis, and the findings of the JAR, suggest a set of issues to which we need to pay particular attention:

- Children and young people who are victims of crime.
- Social care initial and core assessments.
- Quality assurance arrangements in children's social care.
- Young offenders supervised by the Youth Offending Service who are in full-time education, training or employment by end of intervention.
- Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- A shift from high intervention towards prevention and early intervention.

Key Actions	Key Achievements 2006/7	Planned Activities 2007/8
SA 1 Neighbourhood Assurance A Local Delivery	Birmingham Community Safety Assessment for the City and for each of the 11 Districts produced to inform the development of local control strategies by all LDGs LPSA stretch targets to reduce personal robbery and burglary were achieved and the reduction trajectory remains on course, but the public place wounding reduction target not achieved The PSA1 crime reduction target for the year was achieved with a reduction of 18.7% against the 2003-4 baseline. 2007-8, target is to achieve a 20% reduction.	Targeted work to tackle robbery and wounding in public places to achieve LPSA targets. Co-ordination and tasking work to achieve all LPSA and PSA1 crime reduction targets
SA 1 Neighbourhood Assurance	Vehicle arson has seen a reduction in excess of 20% in 2006/7 compared to 2005/6.	The multi agency Vehicle Arson Task Group will continue to develop a range of interventions

B ASB and Environmental Crime	ASB Strategy prepared and consultation commenced	to drive down vehicle arson. Completion and Launch of ASB strategy
SA 2 Reduce Re-offending	See report above	
SA 3 Cutting Violent Crime	BRGV maintained activity and supported community based interventions to tackle gang related violence. Gun crime in Birmingham reduced at time of increased tend nationally?? Pan Birmingham Domestic Violence Strategy was launched, Birmingham Women's Safety Unit, opened in May 2006. Beacon Status awarded to City in 2007 for Increasing Voluntary and Community Sector Service Delivery – example of BWSU. Hate Crime Strategy drafted and consultation commenced	Public Place Wounding LPSA has a steering group closely linked to the Alcohol Steering Groups. Detailed menu of tactical interventions aligned to priority areas and entertainment zones being actively delivered and the Pan Birmingham Tasking Group oversees this process Hate Crime Strategy to be concluded and launched LPSA target to reduce public place wounding to be pursued.
SA 4 Safeguarding Children	See report above	
SA 5 Work With Young People	The BCSP has commissioned West Midlands Fire Service to deliver the FIRE (Fire Intervention Reparation & Education) Project to young people excluded from school.	This activity will continue in 2007/8 and opportunities to work with the fire service in this field will be further developed.
SA 6 Reducing drug and alcohol misuse	See detail above	Alcohol working groups established and will now focus on associated crime issues and health issues
SA 7 Accident prevention	The fire service has carried out over 8000 Home Fire Safety Checks in 2006/7 & fitted over 7000 smoke alarms. BCC Road Safety Team has continued with targeted interventions to reduce pedestrian injuries. The numbers of people killed or seriously injured on the City's roads is reducing.	This work will continue and be focused on those most at risk from fire: deprived communities, the elderly, BME groups and new communities. The City has been accredited with Bikeability status which is intended to lead to safer cycling and increased use of cycling as a means of transport. A multi agency partnership is being developed to provide a strategic approach road safety.