

Crime and disorder Reduction partnerships overview

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are statutory bodies in which “responsible authorities” have a duty to work with other local agencies to tackle crime and disorder. “Responsible authorities” are the police; police authorities; local authorities; fire and rescue authorities; and Primary Care Trusts. There is a provision in the current Policing and Crime Bill to add probation authorities to this list.

CDRPs in the enactment of their duties are mandated to cooperate with a number of other bodies including but not limited to social housing providers and schools. Where relevant and applicable CDRPs will also invite representatives from a very wide range of prescribed organisations to participate in the exercise of their functions including but not limited to, the crown prosecution service, the VCFS sector and the environment agency.

What do CDRPs do?

Fundamentally, CDRPs are there to work together to formulate and implement strategies in order to reduce crime and disorder in their areas.

Statutory functions

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended, requires responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies for:

- The reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- Combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area.

There have been changes to the statutory functions of CDRPs as a result of a 2004-05 review. Under the original legislation, CDRPs had to conduct three yearly audits of crime and disorder in the area, and to make reports as required (annually) to the Secretary of State on their work. The Police and Justice Act 2006 repealed these requirements, but regulations under the Act introduced statutory minimum requirements for partnership working, based on what the Government refers to as “six hallmarks of effective practice”. These are:

- Empowered and Effective Leadership;
- Visible and Constructive Accountability;
- Intelligence-led Business Processes;
- Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures;
- Engaged Communities; and
- Appropriate Skills and Knowledge²⁰

The regulations came into force on 1 August 2007 in England and 19 November 2007 in Wales. They set out a number of obligations on the responsible authorities in CDRPs.

- To convene a strategy group comprising all responsible authorities in the CDRP/CSP and others as they choose;
- To prepare a strategic assessment (document identifying the crime and community safety priorities in the area through analysis of information provided by partner agencies and the community);

- To produce a partnership plan (which lays out their approach for addressing those priorities);
- To meet minimum standards of community consultation and engagement on issues of crime and disorder and substance misuse;
- To ensure that each CDRP/CSP has an information sharing protocol in place and that each responsible authority has a designated information sharing liaison officer to promote and facilitate information sharing.

Funding

In addition to the monies responsible authorities commit to the delivery of the crime and disorder agenda Chorley and South Ribble Pilot merged CDRP benefit from several grant-funding pots. Grant monies include area based grant funding which are allocated via Lancashire county council, Basic command unit monies from Lancashire Police and a small grant contribution from Lancashire Police authority.

Scrutiny

The Police and Justice Act 2006 require every local authority to have a Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), again with the power to review and scrutinise and make reports or recommendations regarding the functioning of the responsible authorities of the local CDRP/CSP. The Act also provides now for a “Councillor Call for Action”, which gives councillors a formal mechanism for raising issues of local concern with the relevant OSC in their local authority area. The provisions came into force in England on 30 April 2009

Forthcoming changes

Reducing re-offending is an increasing priority for CDRPs and Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), which are the focal point to bringing together and coordinating the actions of housing, health services, local authorities and other key players to help resettle and rehabilitate offenders. In order to encourage and formalise this work, we propose making two changes to CDRPs:

- Add, by statute, probation trusts to the list of ‘responsible authorities’. Currently police, police authorities, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities and primary care trusts are responsible authorities, whereas probation is defined as a ‘co operating body’.
- And expand the statutory duties of CDRPs to include reducing re-offending.

The Policing and Crime Bill contains provisions to probation authorities to the list of “responsible authorities” that comprise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (in England) and extending the remit of these partnerships to explicitly include the reduction of re-offending.