

SAFER CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE PARTNERSHIP

(CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP)

PROGRESS REPORT

November 2009



Scrutiny Committee

Summary

1. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships – also known as Community Safety Partnerships in Wales - are statutory partnerships 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 (Local Health Boards in Wales). There is a provision in the current *Policing and Crime Bill* to add probation authorities to this list. There are 338 CDRPs, and they are generally sited at unitary authority level in single tier authorities and district level in two tier authorities. The number has reduced in recent years partly because of mergers, which resulted from recognition of the difficulties faced by smaller partnerships, and partly because of local government reorganisation.
2. The role of CDRPs is to work together to formulate and implement strategies in order to reduce crime and disorder in their areas. They were introduced by the *Crime and Disorder Reduction Act 1998*. Early evaluations pointed to the complexity of funding arrangements, which had led to administrative burdens on partnerships. There have been various changes to simplify the funding system. Currently, funding is mainly through the new Area Based Grant, which is a non ring-fenced general grant to local authorities, who then decide on the allocation to CDRPs; however, there are still some specific grants for capital elements, and for tackling specific types of crime. Recent Government reforms have resulted in a repeal of annual reporting requirements, and the introduction of statutory minimum standards based on six “hallmarks” of effective practice. Other reforms have included the introduction of new scrutiny methods through Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committees in local authorities.
3. South Ribble and Chorley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are currently piloting a merger of the two partnerships, which commenced in July 2008 for a 20-month period. The partnership has been named the Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership and has aligned its performance management against the current LAA (Local Area Agreement) made up from a suite of National indicators.
4. The pilot merger aims to achieve a more effective and efficient approach to community safety which will benefit all partners but in particular both councils and the police. This includes the removal of duplication, pooling expertise and resources, joint approach to securing funding and achieving efficiencies.
5. An evaluation of the partnership which will include input from Government Office North West (GONW) will take begin in March 2011.
6. This report provides members of the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress of the partnership and also progress against the key actions.

Background

7. Following the review of the Crime and Disorder Act 2007, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) were required to produce a new type of Strategic Crime Assessment. These replaced the audits produced for the 2005 Community Safety Strategies.
8. In order to produce this new assessment in an economic and efficient manner, CDRPs in the Police Southern Division decided to work together and develop a

joint assessment to meet the needs arising in South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancashire.

9. The joint development of this new assessment led on to a consideration as to whether the CDRPs might be able to operate together at a strategic level whilst also improving local service delivery. All partners were consulted and there was strong support for a merger which partners considered would achieve a more efficient and effective approach and better use of partner resources.
10. Following detailed consideration of the options both the South Ribble and Chorley CDRPs decided to undertake a pilot merger which was supported by formal decisions from the cabinets of both councils. West Lancashire decided to remain as a stand alone CDRP.
11. The pilot merger of the Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership commenced in July 2008. The purpose of the partnership is to co-ordinate community safety work within South Ribble and Chorley and to identify priorities and strategic approaches in the following areas of work:
 - Crime and Disorder including acquisitive crime violent crime and criminal damage
 - Antisocial Behaviour
 - Substance misuse covering alcohol and drugs
 - Quality of life issues including primary and secondary fires and Road safety
 - Community cohesion
12. The Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership also act as the thematic partnership for the Chorley and South Ribble Local Strategic Partnerships and undertake responsibilities associated with this role.
13. The partnership is supported by an Officer Working Group, which is made up of key partners.
14. Through the merged partnership thematic actions groups have been identified and set up to work across both South Ribble and Chorley to cover the following themes from the strategic priorities.
 - Alcohol
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Positive Activities (focus on reducing Anti-social Behaviour/Criminal Damage etc.)
 - Vulnerable Households
 - Drugs/Joint Commissioning Group (JCG)
 - Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPO)
 - Families First
 - Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC)
 - Multi Agency Licensing Tasking (MALT)
15. The structure of the CDRP has therefore been developed using an intelligence led approach.

Summary of Progress

Overview

16. Overall the partnership is making good progress.

Areas of Significant Progress / Achievement

- The pilot partnership is bringing about a number of benefits including a more effective and efficient way of working.
- Joint Community Safety Manager in post.
- Themed Action Groups established in priority areas.
- Governance arrangements established.
- Introduction of alcohol Consequences campaign.
- Respect Weeks of Action have taken place.
- External additional funding of £60k secured to support the Consequences campaign over Chorley and South Ribble £30k per geographic area.
- Sanctuary scheme continues to provide support to vulnerable people.
- Continued reduction in LAA target priorities Serious Acquisitive Crime and Assault with less serious injury.
- Positive results from the Place Survey, which includes a reduced perception of anti social behaviour in the borough.
- Multi agency action initiatives being carried out.

Areas of Concern

- Funding for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service is only currently available until March 2010.

Progress against highlighted pilot merger benefits

The joint approach has enabled a number of benefits including:

- **Shared posts** - a review of the staff structure to take into account the shared provision of a Community Safety Manager has enabled a more efficient way of working. The appointment of a shared analyst has enabled operational resources to be targeted more effectively with the post being funded through five partners contributing equal amounts.
- **Pooling of expertise, knowledge, skills and resources** - there are clear benefits to the pooling of expertise, knowledge, skills and resources. Some examples include an officer who has experience of funding applications leading on the preparation of bids to cover both boroughs, an officer who has specialist expertise of CCTV who is taking the lead on CCTV for both boroughs and one council providing a venue for key meetings whilst the other provides administrative support.
- **Shared approach to joint applications and bids for the funding of projects** - a shared approach to joint applications and bids for the funding of projects has enabled more effective use of staff time compared to the previous arrangements when time was spent by both CDRPs preparing separate bids. Also through the merger, the partnership is potentially in a stronger position to attract funds as a recent bid to GONW

resulted in the maximum award of £30k to each borough. Neighbouring CDRPs did not achieve the same level of success.

- **Reduction in duplication and the number of meetings attended by partners/agencies** - the merged partnership has significantly reduced duplication especially with regard to attending meetings. In some cases under the previous arrangements it was necessary for either two meetings or two officers to attend meetings whereas now only one is required. Whilst this is removing duplication by the two councils it is also beneficial to the partners/agencies which previously had to support two CDRPs and also helps to create capacity for tackling crime.
- **More efficient and effective working practices** - through the merged partnership there are opportunities to streamline processes, procedures and working arrangements. Examples include a shared partnership plan which is meeting the needs of both boroughs. This is a much more streamlined approach compared to the development and management of two separate plans. Arrangements have been developed for joint management of the partnership budgets and performance monitoring and reporting.
- **Learning** - the merged partnership has enabled learning to be shared between the partners/agencies and officers from both councils especially around an enhanced level of collaboration and cooperation, which has been essential to the success so far of the partnership.

Progress against the delivery of the CDRP action plan

17. See appendix 2

In addition to the above information a number of actions/initiatives and results can also be reported.

18. **A new joint partnership logo** has been designed by Runshaw College students and is now included on partnership documents and correspondence.
19. **Governance arrangements** have been established for the partnership including terms of reference for the Partnership (Responsible Authorities (Strategic) Group), Officer Working Group and thematic action groups such as Domestic Violence.
20. **Evidence from the 2008 Place Survey** Evidence from the 2008 Place Survey shows that the % of residents rating anti social behaviour as a problem in the borough is low at 13.6% putting Chorley in the 2nd quartile nationally. We are performing significantly better than the Lancashire and National average of 18.8% and 18.3% respectively.
21. The survey has also identified that 30.5% of residents in Chorley believe that the local council and police are dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour. This puts Chorley in the upper quartile nationally.
22. **The alcohol Consequences campaign** to raise parents' awareness of the consequences of the excessive alcohol consumption by young people and where to seek advice in relation to their child was implemented last year and is still ongoing. The campaign was enhanced following a successful multi agency

bid to secure £30k of external funding to carry out activities around alcohol and young people in Chorley. A new leaflet is due to be launched and a dedicated website for the campaign is under development.

23. **A Responsible Alcohol Retailing Course** has been introduced in partnership with Runshaw College. If a retailer fails an alcohol sales test purchase i.e. selling to an under age person, they are given the opportunity to attend the course at the college. They have to fund the course as an alternative to receiving a fixed penalty ticket.
24. **A Face the Public Consultation Event** was held earlier this year which included presentations from all key partners around their work in community safety and was an opportunity for the public to ask the partners questions.
25. **The Substance Misuse Arrest Referral Pilot Project** commenced earlier this year. The project consists of alcohol and drug workers who provide referral, harm reduction advice and basic information and advice to offenders arrested due to alcohol and/or drug related offences the previous night.
26. **A number of ANPR Auto number plate recognition** initiatives have been carried out in the borough consisting of a number of different agencies working together to target defective and suspect vehicles. Typical agencies and partners involved in an operation of this type would be the Traffic Police, VOSA, Trading Standards, SRBC Community Safety, Benefits and Licensing.
27. **An annual refresh of the Strategic Assessment** has been carried out this year and been used to inform the joint partnership plan currently in place. The strategic assessment is a strategic and high level review which identifies the key issues within the borough which affect community safety. The refresh of the strategic assessment which will cover financial year 2011 to 2012 is currently underway and will use a range of multi agency information and data to form an intelligence led approach to the continued identification of strategic priorities for the CDRP.
28. **A shared Crime Car** has been introduced into South Ribble and Chorley. The vehicle operates in the evenings and nights and provides a rapid response to suspected vehicle crime and burglaries. It also targets suspicious vehicles from outside the area as travelling criminals is a problem for both boroughs.
29. **Operation Julius** has been in place throughout the summer . This initiative is a burglary reduction operation as burglary normally increases during the summer months due to more property being left insecure. Operation Contego has succeeded this operation and is currently getting underway across the borough.
30. **The launch of Business Watch** in Chorley Town Centre during September 2009 will formalise the previous radio/photograph scheme operated across this area. The proposed extension of participants involved in the scheme will give better coverage across the Town Centre as a whole.
31. **Launch of the Open Spaces Watch** during October 2009 with large number of partnership agencies involved in the identification of problems including anti-social behaviour, crimes, fly-tipping etc., in the vast amount of open spaces that the area has. The first strand of this project was the Dog Watch where

visitors to Hillcrest Animal Hospital organised Dog Show in September were approached to join.

32. **Crime Prevention days** which have included the replacement of tamperproof screws for number plates, fitted by the A.A., together with the distribution of crime prevention advice across the Chorley area.
33. **The Sanctuary Scheme** provides home safety for the victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable victims of domestic burglary. The scheme operates in both South Ribble and Chorley. During 2008/9 there were 46 referrals in South Ribble and in 2009/10 there have been 26 to date.
34. **A pilot training programme for the Witness Service Volunteer service** has been developed to enable them to safely support victims of domestic violence at court. The training was piloted in July and was very well received with discussions now being held for it to be rolled out across Lancashire.
35. **A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** is held every month with statutory and voluntary agencies to discuss the support and assistance for very high-risk victims of domestic violence. During 2008/9 the MARAC considered cases for 132 adults, which also included 235 children, which were identified as 'very high risk' cases of domestic violence. To date in 2009/10 there have been cases for a further 48 adults which also included 93 children. Through the MARAC, training has been provided to 70 front line officers.
36. **The Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)** service offers crisis intervention to domestic violence victims who are at very high risk of serious harm or murder and to support victims throughout the duration of their case, acting as an advocate/advisor on both criminal and civil court processes, agency responsibilities and playing a crucial and pivotal role on the MARAC. Following increased efforts to encourage victims to come forward there is now an increased level of reports. During 2008/9 the IDVA service received 269 referrals 42% are referrals for Chorley . The service is funded by the Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership and the Ministry of Justice. The service faces a number of challenges as the current level of referrals is already unsustainable and funding is only available from the Ministry of Justice until March 2010.

Conclusion

37. It is considered that the pilot Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership is making good progress. A business improvement plan has been formulated to ensure that the CDRP continues to improve and develop. This plan will be delivered by March 2010 and will in part be used to evaluate the success of the pilot merged CDRP.
38. The partnership is due to commence an evaluation to inform the way forward and to determine whether the pilot should be recommended to become a permanent arrangement. This will require Home Office approval.