

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 15 March 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Adults & Community
SUBJECT: Community Safety
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Policy and Performance Board on the new funding allocations and proposed new changes to Community Safety legislation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

i) **The report be received and noted;**

3.0 GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING

3.1 Anti Social Behaviour Tools and Powers review

Although not announced yet, all Council's have been advised of the Government's 'Anti Social Behaviour tools and powers review'. What we may expect to see in the review is:

- the term, "Anti Social Behaviour Order" (ASBO) will be dropped but aspects of the 'ASBO regime' will be continued.
- the number of antisocial behaviour offences (categories) will be cut from 19 to 5.

The five reported measures designed to simplify the system are outlined as:

- A "criminal behaviour order" that could, for instance, see someone who is convicted of being drunk and disorderly banned from a town centre for two years.
- A civil "crime prevention injunction" which could be obtained within "hours rather than months".
- Court orders to close a property where there has been persistent disorder.
- Fines for people who have been a persistent nuisance and harmed the quality of life in an area.
- A "direction to leave" which will see any individual causing or likely to cause crime directed away from a particular place and

"related items" confiscated.

Additionally, Police Officers will be given more discretion to deal with offenders such as forcing them to make amends, rather than pursuing formal legal interventions. Appendix 1 provides a helpful outline which has been produced by the Social Landlords Crime & Nuisance Group.

3.2 New powers to tackle gang problems

3.2.1 New civil injunctions to prevent gang-related violence by adults will come into effect on 31 January 2011. The 'gang injunctions' are designed to break down gang culture and prevent further incidents of gang-related violence by imposing certain prohibitions and requirements on the recipient.

3.2.2 These could include:

- Not entering a certain geographical area
- Not being in public with a particular species of animal, for example a dog which had previously been used as a weapon
- Not wearing certain 'gang colours' in public
- Participating in positive activities such as entering a mentoring programme.

3.2.3 The police and local authorities will be able to apply for the injunctions which will be issued by a county court (or the High Court). The injunctions will last for up to two years and will be for adults who have been proven to have engaged in, encouraged or assisted gang-related violence.

3.2.4 The injunctions differ from anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) as they target a higher level of criminality. There is no minimum term for a gang injunction, no criminal record for breach and positive requirements can be attached to the injunction. However, the Government is clear that those involved in gang-related violence should be prosecuted under criminal law if there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest to do so.

3.3 Government champion for active, safer communities

3.3.1 Outlining her programme of work the Government's champion for active, safer communities, Baroness Newlove, has called on community activists to spread their good work. The Baroness' new role will involve:

- A series of visits to projects across the UK to meet people who have helped make a difference in their area, witnessing first hand what works and what the barriers are to successful community

activism;

- A new blog to directly communicate with activists and the wider public, sharing on-going learning from her visits, highlighting innovation and challenges and signposting people to useful resources;
- Reporting back to ministers next year detailing how Government and local agencies can empower communities.

3.3.2 As part of her work Baroness Newlove will travel around the country visiting areas with strong community engagement, shining a light on good practice and encouraging others to follow the example. Where communities face barriers the Baroness will seek to bring services together to get work moving. In the coming weeks around six neighbourhoods across the country, which face real challenges, will be chosen to act as a 'test-bed' for galvanising local services to join forces with communities and tackle problems together.

3.4 **Cutting Crime Together (key points)**

3.4.1 Partnerships

3.4.1.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) will continue to be statutory partnerships focused on taking actions and achieving outcomes – cutting crime and reducing harm – not process and bureaucracy, freeing partnerships from central reporting burdens and prescriptions and this provides an opportunity for partners to decide how to operate more efficiently and address the issues that really matter to local people, not those set out by Whitehall.

3.4.2 Police Crime Commissioners

3.4.2.1 The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners from May 2012 will give the public direct influence over crime in their local area. Crime mapping down to neighbourhood level in the New Year will provide the public with the information to hold partners to account.

3.4.2.2 Once Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are introduced they will be responsible and democratically accountable for tackling crime at a local level, working alongside local partners. The public will be able to raise any concerns directly with them, and PCCs will have the power to respond.

3.4.2.3 As such, once PCCs are in a position to commission services locally, the majority of central government funding for crime and community safety programmes will be devolved to them and they will work with CSPs and others to prioritise the issues that matter most to local residents.

3.4.2.4 Work is ongoing through the Sub National Crime and Justice Commission to ensure that there are plans in place for March 2012.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 These are contained within the report.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The future for funding from central Government for community safety is not yet clear, however the Government intentions were set out in a letter from the Home Secretary to all Council Chief Executives on 17th December 2010 titled 'Cutting Crime Together' stating that:-

"In addition to the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced earlier this week, the Home Office will make a contribution to local government funding in 2011/12, which will be announced in January – this will be un-ring fenced but reflects the important role local authorities play in community safety and crime reduction"

5.2 In addition the Government has committed to: a new single fund to Youth Offending Teams which includes funding for youth crime prevention; £125m for the Drug Interventions Programme in 2011/12 to support local partnerships across England and Wales to identify, assess and manage drug misusing offenders during their recovery journey; a renewed focus on early intervention through a single £2,212m fund for services in England in 2011/12; ring fenced funding of £340m for neighbourhood policing; and a £28m protected contribution over four years to specialist services for women and girls who are victims of violence.

5.3 Together this funding will make an important contribution to resourcing community safety services locally. The Government have sought to simplify the funding landscape and remove ring fences so that local partners target community safety issues that matter locally.

5.4 The Local Strategic Partnership have agreed that Working Neighbourhood Funds can be used to fund a number of projects for one year:

	£
Anti Social behaviour	175,000
Domestic Abuse and sexual violence provision	103,000
Licensing Enforcement /night time economy	130,000
Integrated Offender Management	40,000

TOTAL £ 448,000

5.5 In addition to the above, it was agreed that Safer Halton can

reallocate the £532,000 Local Public Service Agreement 2 (LPSA2) funding that was previously agreed by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board for 2011/12. Instead of the 2 Sergeant and 13 PCSOs, it will now fund 13 PCSOs and the balance will be used as part of a funding package for a restructured Community Safety Team in 2011/12.

- 5.6 The funding for 2011/12 for the projects listed above and the re-profiling of the LPSA2 will help to ensure that there continues to be a level of community safety service available next year. However beyond that time, there is no mainstream resource allocated and partners are requested to consider what services are a priority and to look to mainstream these in the longer term.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The clear links between the priorities of community safety and children and young people service means that any reduction in our funding streams will have a direct impact in delivery of our prevention and intervention schemes.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The clear links between the priorities of community safety and alcohol and drug services means that any reduction in service will have a direct impact in delivery of our prevention and intervention schemes. The ability to deal with the serious issues around excessive alcohol consumption would be at risk.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Community safety issues continue to be a main priority for the communities of Halton, there are many themes that cut across the council's services and priorities. The lack of mainstream funding and possible changes in legislation could have an extremely detrimental effect on our ability to deliver our current level of service

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The future funding implications for non mainstreamed services may

seriously impact on the Local Authorities delivery of community safety services and safeguarding issues

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The possible impact on delivery of services to some of our more diverse communities.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the act