

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 10 April 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community

SUBJECT: Strategic Needs Assessment of Community Safety

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide the Executive Board with the Strategic Needs Assessment of community safety, for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) Executive Board approve the Strategic Needs Assessment of Community Safety.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Home Office has directed that all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CRDP) conduct a Strategic Assessment and develop a Partnership Plan for 2008. This process replaces the audit and 3 year strategy process that CDRP's have conducted since 1998.

3.2 The purpose of the strategic assessment is to "assist the strategy group in revising the partnership plan". A Partnership plan will identify broader priorities for the Borough over a three year period. The Strategic Needs Assessment is an internal document for the partnership and does not need to be published.

3.3 The statutory framework contained within the Home Office guidance requires partnerships to include the following components in the strategic assessment:

- Analysis of the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse
- Changes in the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse since the last strategic assessment.
- Analysis of why these changes have occurred
- Assessment of the extent to which last year's plan was implemented.

3.4 The purpose of the strategic assessment is to provide knowledge and understanding of community safety problems that will inform

and enable the partners to:

- Understand the current patterns, trends and shifts relating to crime and disorder and substance misuse.
- Set clear and robust short term priorities for their partnership.
- Develop activity that is driven by reliable intelligence and meets the needs of the local community.
- Deploy resources effectively and present value for money.
- Undertake annual reviews and plan activity based on a clear understanding of the issues and priorities.

3.5 The strategic assessment is intended to align with the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and the Police process of producing strategic assessments that have been successfully used by the Police to address crime issues.

3.6 The partnership process of conducting a strategic assessment will enable the partnership to respond more effectively to the communities they serve. The nature, extent and causes of local community safety problems can be better understood by:

- Working with a wide range of relevant datasets and intelligence.
- Developing expert opinion and sources of community intelligence and interpreting what this means.

This will drive forward the process of:

- Agreeing priorities
- Identifying meaningful outcomes.

This will, in turn, help each partnership to:

- Plan activity;
- Allocate resources
- Deliver activities that will focus on priorities and achieve results.

3.7 The strategic assessment in Appendix 1 best reflects the most up to date needs of the community and intelligence from a wide range of partners.

3.8 The strategic assessment is intended to provide the partnership with the core planning material to inform elements of the partnership plan. It doesn't replace the need for partnerships to develop more of an understanding of the issues. Strategic assessments are only a part of the intelligence-led business process. Partnerships will still need to produce further analytical work during the course of the year including:

- Further in depth analysis associated with priority problems.
- Routine evaluation of interventions to assess effectiveness
- Performance management processes including some level of

analysis and interpretation to present the intelligence in a meaningful and informed way.

Intelligence generated from the above may be useful at recurring points throughout the year to support partnerships continue to make effective decisions.

4.0 THE PROCESS

4.1 A dedicated partnership group was formed to collate the work on the process. Partner agencies were represented on the group and consulted about what data they collect, in what format and what they can provide to the process. The group drew upon existing public consultation exercises and existing strategies, for example, anti-social behaviour.

4.2 The strategic needs assessment has informed the review of the existing LAA.

4.3 The Strategic Needs Assessment will inform a revised Performance Plan for the Safer Halton Partnership which will be developed in the near future within the Safer Halton Partnership.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Strategic Needs Assessment will inform the Local Area Agreement and the Partnership Plan for community safety. In so doing it will help address the public priorities in relation to community safety.

5.2 Safeguarding Adults is a key component of this strategy and a joint scrutiny of the service is currently being undertaken by the Health and Urban Renewal PPB.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no other implications.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The Strategic Needs Assessment of community safety includes information relating to anti-social behaviour and youth offending. As such it will inform a strategic approach by partners to tackle these issues and identify ways of preventing young people from being involved in crime by providing positive activities.

7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The Strategic Needs Assessment for community safety will link with the need to improve skills levels and employment, thus deterring people from criminal activity and enabling them to be positive role models for young people. The Safer Halton Partnership are also keen to support and treat those with drug or alcohol problems to remain in work.

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Supporting people who are drug or alcohol dependent through the treatment process is part of the Strategic Needs Assessment.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

The Safer Halton Partnership has carried out the Strategic Needs Assessment and this document will inform the work and priorities of the Partnership.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Some of the work covered by the Safer Halton Partnership, for example making town centres safer, designing out crime link with the urban renewal agenda.

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 Any risks would not be directly related to the Strategic Needs Assessment but more to do with the delivery of a revised strategy and action plan. Funding and partnership working are key to ensuring that the priorities raised as part of the strategic needs assessment can be addressed. A full risk analysis has been included within the Strategy.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 Equality and diversity are key aspects a safer Halton and the Strategic Needs Assessment identifies community cohesion as a priority for action.

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

None.