

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

3rd May 2005

MIDDLESBROUGH'S 3 YEAR CRIME, DISORDER, DRUG AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY
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JOHN RICHARDSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To present to Overview and Scrutiny Board the next 3 year Crime, Disorder, Drug and Alcohol Strategy for their consideration and to help inform the Executive.

BACKGROUND

- 2 The 1998 Crime & Disorder Act compels responsible authorities, including the Council, to do all they can to prevent crime & disorder and to consult, develop and implement a strategy which sets out how they will do this. This is the third 3-year strategy for Middlesbrough prepared since the Act was introduced.
- 3 Over recent months consultation has taken place with residents of Middlesbrough. An assessment has been made of current situation and of the priorities of the responsible authorities, other key partners and Government.

Drawing up the Strategy

- 4 In the summer of last year an audit report was put together and formed the basis of consultation. It was delivered to every household in Middlesbrough, in addition to key partners. Nearly 1200 written individual responses were received. The priorities expressed through consultation are set out in the strategy. In addition, the audit was presented to various community Councils over the summer and autumn. There were also a series of presentations at community conferences organised by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) as part of the community strategy consultations.

The strategy links to various local and national agendas including :

- Mayor's Reduction Agenda
- LSP's Community Strategy
- National & Local Policing Plans
- Public Service Agreement Targets 2205/2008
- Prolific & Other Priority Offenders scheme
- National Drug Strategy
- National Alcohol Strategy
- Drugs Intervention Programme

5 The draft strategy, as appended, has been put together with the support of various agencies, including input from senior Council officers and myself as Chair, and has been approved by the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and the Drugs Action Team (DAT). In line with national guidance, and to better co-ordinate our activities locally, the CDRP and DAT have merged into a single organisation, now called the Safer Middlesbrough Partnership.

DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

New Areas of Activity

6 The new strategy moves into additional areas of activity, with some new approaches. These include :

- Working through an area-based team approach by agencies to seek to divert more young people from anti-social behaviour - and targeting individuals through enforcement activity where necessary.
- Implementation of the Priority & Prolific Offenders scheme to "prevent & deter", "catch & convict", "resettle & rehabilitate" the relatively small number of people who can commit large numbers of crimes.
- Establishment of an Alcohol Task group, linking enforcement activity with health education.
- With relation to the drugs agenda, linking action against drug dealers with nationally recognised treatment & rehabilitation services.

CO-ORDINATION

7 Given the growing importance of these issues locally and nationally; the need to draw up a coherent strategy; the need to ensure relevant human and financial resources are efficiently managed. Following the above merger; and to introduce effective performance management, it was clear there was need for a Partnership Co-ordinator.

8 The Chief Constable agreed to second an appropriate officer. Following an internal recruitment process it was agreed to second Inspector Graham Strange, initially for a 12 month period, as Safer Middlesbrough Partnership Co-ordinator, thereafter reviewed.

STRUCTURES

- 9 The strategy highlights all the relevant structures in diagramatic form and their relationship. The Partnership Co-ordinator will ensure where possible that the work undertaken is "joined-up".

TARGETS & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 10 The strategy sets out the relevant targets locally and nationally. We will seek to maintain and further develop a quarterly performance management regime that will satisfy the partnership, other agencies and Government office .
- 11 The Council plays a key role within the strategy, and in its development. We are well-placed in terms of influence and, in pursuit of the civic renewal agenda, have a local authority led partnership, described recently as "refreshing" by the cabinet office, and which last year won Beacon status. Members will continue to receive regular progress reports on all aspects of the strategy, through the Executive Member's report to Council.
- 12 The targets set for the partnership over the next 3 years are challenging. The new merged organisation, supported by a Co-ordinator, with the full support of all partners and the community provides an excellent foundation to take the agenda forward.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 13 **Financial** – The actions planned will be implemented through existing agreed budgets and partnership funding.
- 14 **Ward Implications** – All wards are affected.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15 OSB helps to inform the Executive through consultation on the draft.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16 Crime and Disorder Audit

AUTHOR

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