

COMMUNITY SAFETY and LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - Investigation into Active Intelligence Mapping

Background - In 2002 the Crime statistics for Middlesbrough were in the top ten Nationally and while the statutory agencies were endeavouring to tackle such issues the outturn figures were not demonstrating any noticeable impact into these problems. Running parallel with this was the concern of residents and visitors to Middlesbrough at the incidents of Anti Social behaviour.

In 2002 an independent Mayor was elected for Middlesbrough and presented a "Raising Hope" initiative. Contained within this were some key messages of intent. One prime area was to tackle the incidents of crime and disorder and bring a greater feeling of wellbeing to the residents and visitors of Middlesbrough. Consequently, the Mayor introduced a process termed Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM). To ensure this was not simply an academic process, representatives of key agencies formed a partnership which meets weekly, identifies key issues and gives a commitment to deploy resources in a co-ordinated way to tackle these issues.

Scrutiny - The Scrutiny Panels investigation of the AIM process attempted to assess the benefits achieved by the Active Intelligence Mapping process over the last two years and the cohesion between partner organisations involved. The panel also considered why the AIM process was created, whether it fulfilled its purpose and whether it was still useful in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

Initially the Panel noted the Community Safety aspects of the Community Strategy, the Corporate Plan and the Mayor's Raising Hope and Reducing Fear initiative. The Panel then viewed the CD on the AIM process. Following this the Panel received a range of presentations and detailed information, including access to a National Conference, which embraced the AIM process. Receiving this information provided a solid foundation for the Panels awareness on the operation, actions and achievements of the AIM process.

Where the Panel wanted to major its enquiries was with the Partnership. The Panel wanted to ascertain the benefits derived from the AIM process for the Partnership and could commitment and subsequent action be demonstrated. A significant factor in this partnership is one of accountability, weekly agreed actions are assessed, and the commitment and application of each contributor

referenced. The Panel found information was current and responses were intended to be swift.

During the Course of this examination, the Panel became aware that two other reviews were being undertaken concurrently. One was commissioned by the Mayor as an Independent Review looking at the objectives, areas of improvement and ways to increase efficiency and effectiveness. The Police Standards Unit (PSU) was undertaking the other review. However, this review appeared to concentrate primarily on comparisons with the National Intelligence Model and the need for processes such as AIM to be compliant. The Panel placed a greater emphasis on the impact these processes have on Middlesbrough and obtained an analysis on the PSU findings from a Council and Police perspective.

Findings - The Panel have deliberated their findings and have found that while their Terms of Reference are very clear they have, on occasion, moved outside of these and to consider issues regarding the direction of AIM and not just a reflection on the past two years.

The Panel recognises the Councils obligation as presented within Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act that the Local Authority must endeavour to incorporate actions, which prevent crime and disorder in its area.

Middlesbrough has clearly demonstrated a significant initiative over the last two years to fulfil that obligation. Crime has reduced significantly and is undoubtedly continuing to reduce in Middlesbrough. However, it cannot be evidenced that AIM in isolation has had this impact on crime but certainly the Panel considers it has been a major contributory factor

Once established, AIM has taken information, established a forum to address specific issues and acted upon them. With regard to Middlesbrough, the simple statistics are compared to a Tees Valley average. This does not easily portray the real progress achieved, by Middlesbrough as the true reduction in Middlesbrough's statistics create a reduction in the Tees Valley Average consequently Middlesbrough is always chasing a self created reducing target.

Conclusion – The Panel considers the AIM process is clearly a success and that the commitment from partner organisations is real and effective. The evidence of its success can be demonstrated by the swift and co-ordinated response from agencies to tackle issues, which result in the reduction in crime figures and the impact on Anti Social behaviour over the last two years.

The panel considers that the categorisation of Anti Social behaviour should be reappraised and that common objectives should be incorporated within the body of each organisation to ensure the conflict between individual priorities is limited. The Panel considers that to provide the required amount of detailed analysis and ensure support for the AIM process and partnership meetings the level of resource and administrative support should be re appraised.

The level of cohesion between partners is good and general liaison has demonstrated improved joint working. In many respects this is a major step for some of these agencies. The movement and openness of information and agreement to deploy resources in line with the partnerships priorities should not be underestimated as a major step forward. Undoubtedly, the cohesion can be improved and this report has outlined some ways the Panel believes with contribute to that improvement.

AIM is working for Middlesbrough, the Partners are supportive to this process and while it may not comply with the Police National Intelligence Model, the Panel is not overly concerned about this as it concludes the present process has advantages over the NIM and should continue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Community Safety and leisure Scrutiny Panel recommends to the Executive, that :-

- A That additional manpower resources are provided by the Council to support the AIM Manager in the detailed analysis of intelligence received from all the contributing partners. The analysis of intelligence would be improved, by creating a number of separate categories, which reflect the different forms of Anti Social behaviour.
- B Partner organisations formalise their commitment to the AIM process, by establishing agreed key objectives and incorporating those within their own Individual Service Plans and ensuring the appropriate level of resources are allocated.
- C That AIM meetings continue to be Chaired by a Senior Officer of the Council to whom the partnership is accountable for the delivery of actions and the agreed deployment of resources.
- D AIM meetings continue to be held weekly as an operational meeting reacting to evidence, to supplement this, a quarterly meeting of the partners is convened for the formulation of policy and guidance for the AIM process in determining long term objectives.
- E The Environment Department further examine the budget and potential to employ the target level of 80 wardens and also ensure the funding is sustainable. for funding the warden resource.
(The funding and deployment of street wardens is also programmed for a Scrutiny examination in the 2005 – 06 work programme)
- F That the PCT be invited to join the Partnership and a senior representative from the PCT attend Panel meetings. As the actions of the PCT contribute to the improvement of health and lifestyle, which can contribute significantly to the reduction in Anti Social behaviour.
- G That representatives of the AIM partnership meet occasionally with the Magistrates Courts to convey any concerns regarding the effects of decisions taken by the Courts. Consideration be given by the AIM Partnership to meet, with court officials every

six months on issues of mutual concern, which have emerged from the AIM meeting.

- H When the AIM process identifies the need. Specific engagement between the Councils Press Office and the Police Press Office to co-ordinated publicity, which improves public awareness of the reduction in crime within Middlesbrough.
- I The concern over Drugs as a major driver for Crime should be explored as one of the issues within the mapping process and targeted by the AIM Partnership.

SCRUTINY REPORT

ACTIVE INTELLIGENCE MAPPING

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