

Warwickshire Police Authority – 29 October 2008

Warwickshire Partnerships and Local Policing – Report of the
Governance Stream Lead

Purpose and Supporting Documents

This highlight report enables members to consider the progress made by the Police and the Authority in its Governing role in respect of partnerships and local policing directly related to those elements of the Governance and Policing Plans allocated to this Governance Stream.

Recommendation

That this report is discussed/noted.

1. 2008/2009 Policing and Governance Plan Objectives

1.1. We held a stream meeting on 30th September and the following objectives set for the remainder of the financial year:

- Governance of the performance and resources allocated to the delivery Safer Neighbourhoods (*Remains a live issue*)
- Engage with the County Council and Districts to regularise the relationship between CDRPs and Locality/Community Forums.

Community Engagement & Consultation

- Engage with partner agencies and the force to consolidate consultation arrangements ensuring that all policy aspects are covered and mechanisms in place to report results back to the Authority.
- Identify any aspects of relevance to the authority not covered by 3(above) and arrange specific consultation.
- Ensure that a a single issue question and response facility is developed on the Authority web-site.
- Ensure that appropriate feedback is provided to those consulted.

District Partnership Leads

- Ensure that District Partnership Leads are properly embedded in each district LSP and in Locality/Community Forums.
- Attend Locality/Community forums and District Quarterly Performance Review and report back to the Authority.

Voluntary Services & Custody Visitors

- Ensure that reporting processes are in place for custody visitors to raise issues with the force.
- Encourage an increase in the coverage of prisoners visited.
- Encourage an increase in the number of specials recruited.

Safeguarding Children

- Ensuring the Authority and Force have appropriate and effective policies and procedures in place to safeguard, protect and promote the well-being of children and young people as required by the Children Act 2004.

LCJB Link

- Ensure the Authority is kept informed of any issues relevant to its business.

1.2. All the foregoing objectives are to be reviewed in March 2009

2. Critical Governance activities undertaken since last meeting

2.1. None

3. Progress against Governance Objectives

3.1. The previous objectives set in 2007 have in the main been achieved. We have established and maintained representation on the PSB and the District and Borough CDRPs. Our district leads have been proactive in liaison with the district commanders and good relationships established. PACT/locality/community meetings appear to be developing well. We had nominated PA members to district and borough CDRP scrutiny panels but such panels do not seem to have materialised. It is interesting to note that the Policing Green paper seeks to introduce such panels with designated PA membership – obviously we were a little ahead of the game! There is a lot more work to be done to develop adequate consultation and feedback and this is addressed in our new objectives

4. Risks

4.1. The following risks relevant to this stream have been included in the Authority Risk Register:

- Breakdown in working arrangements with partners. Priorities for the Force or Authority do not align with those of other local stakeholders.
- Failure of governance of safer neighbourhoods.
- Failure to have in place adequate arrangements for consulting with the community and engaging with stakeholders.

- Poor working arrangements with CDRPs.

5. APA Regional Networks

5.1 An initial meeting of representatives of each of the West Midlands Authorities took place at West Mercia's 'spanking new' Authority Headquarters in Shrewsbury on 26th September. I attended together with Phil Robson, Dorrette McAuslan and Sue Howl. It was agreed that, for the initial round of meetings of the APA Networks, that volunteers should be sought to attend supported by an officer from one of the four Authorities. Arrangements would then be put in place for each of the regional networks to meet to appoint their chair and their regional representative to attend the APA Network meetings. Claire Thomas, the Regional Co-ordinator would make the necessary arrangements for all future meetings of the regional networks which would normally be held at Lloyd House, Birmingham. The meeting was aware that consideration would need to be given to how diversity issues would be dealt with in each of the networks particularly as the Diversity Leads were not represented on the Corporate/Business, Citizen Focus & Partnership or Strategic Policing & Policy Networks while three of the four Leads were members of the People Network. The most encouraging thing to come out of the meeting was a clear willingness to work together as a matter of course within the region notwithstanding the fact that the structure had been modelled to meet the new arrangements within the APA.

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