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REPORT

Councillor Cole-Morgan : Cabinet Member for Community & Housing

A SUMMARY OF THE AUDIT OF CRIME, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND DRUG MISUSE IN WILTSHIRE & SWINDON

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek Members views on:

- the suggested crime reduction priorities that will form the basis of South Wiltshire's Community Safety Strategy for 2005 - 2008
- the suggested priorities that could form the basis for a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs in the area due to be published by 1st April 2005.

2. Background

- 1.1** The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, requires local community safety partnerships across England and Wales to undertake a full audit of crime and disorder in their area every three years, and then to publish a crime reduction strategy to tackle the problems identified in the audit.
- 1.2** Audits were completed in 1998 and again in 2001 - now, in 2004, the third audit has been undertaken to review the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in Wiltshire and Swindon to make sure that the next round of Crime Reduction Strategies, running from April 2005 until March 2008, are based on as full and accurate information as possible.
- 1.3** In addition to the requirement to undertake an audit of crime and disorder, the Police Reform Act 2002 imposed a new duty on community safety partnerships to carry out a review of the levels and patterns of the misuse of drugs in the area and subsequently to formulate a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs in the area

3. Summary of Suggested Crime Reduction Priorities

- Violent Crime - with a focus on alcohol-related violence and disorder, domestic violence and sexual attacks
- Anti-Social Behaviour - with a focus on vandalism & graffiti, litter & rubbish, vehicle-related nuisance, and fire-related anti-social behaviour
- Reducing road casualties - with a focus on speeding vehicles and on the design of road accident hotspots
- Reducing victimisation - with a focus on victims of hate crime, young people and older people
- Reducing offending behaviour - with a focus on prolific offenders, dangerous and registered sex offenders, and young people who offend or are at risk of offending
- High-crime wards, neighbourhoods and hot spots - with a focus on those places which experience disproportionate levels of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reducing fear of, and worries about crime - with a focus on those who are most vulnerable and those worries and disproportionate to the levels of crime around them

3.1 The Audit also highlights that South Wiltshire has the second highest level of distraction burglaries when compared with other CDRPs in its family

4. Summary of suggested priorities that could form the basis for a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs in the area. (Alcohol as a legal substance, is not included in the drugs audit)

4.1 Drug Supply

- Focusing Enforcement and Rehabilitation Services on Prolific and Other Priority Offenders
- Disrupting drug supply in Wiltshire by prioritising the removal of Class A drugs from the supply chain
- Making use of the powers contained in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

4.2 Communities

- Increasing the opportunities to consult with, and provide information to communities, parents and young people about drug use and its effects
- Assessing and meeting the drug-related needs of client groups who are or may be under-represented in current treatment services
- Supplementing drug treatment services with other relevant resettlement services

4.3 Young People

- Identifying, and providing services to, all young people at risk of harm as a result of drug misuse
- Ensuring a consistently high standard of drugs education in schools and other youth settings

4.4 Treatment

- Reducing drug-related crime through the provision of co-ordinated services spanning remand, custodial sentences, release into the community, community sentences and discharge from residential centres
- Reducing waiting times for all treatment modalities
- Improving inter-agency communication and cross-agency working
- Reducing the transmission of blood-borne viruses
- Ensuring the drug service users and their families & carers are involved in the identification of need and the planning and provision of services

5. Recommendation:

5.1 Members are asked to:

- (1) note the suggested crime reduction priorities that will form the basis of South Wiltshire's Community Safety Strategy for 2005 - 2008 and
- (2) note the suggested priorities that could form the basis for a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs in the area.
- (3) highlight any other issues that should be considered in either strategy

Background papers: A copy of the audit is available in the Members Room

Implications:

- **Financial** : None at this stage
- **Legal** : None at this stage
- **Human Rights** : None at this stage
- **Personnel** : None at this stage
- **Community Safety** : Contained in the report.
- **Environmental** : None at this stage
- **Council's Core Values** : Providing excellent service; supporting the disadvantaged; being fair and equitable; being a progressive employer
- **Wards Affected** : All wards are affected as the Audit covers the whole district.
- **Consultation undertaken:** Contained in the full report available in the Members room.