

West Wiltshire District Council

Cabinet

9 March 2005

“Staying Safe, Feeling Safe” A STRATEGY FOR REDUCING CRIME, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND DRUG MISUSE IN WILTSHIRE April 2005 - March 2008

1. Purpose

To advise Cabinet about the **Draft Crime and Drug Misuse Strategy 2005-2008**. The strategy sets out a framework for tackling problems of crime, anti-social behaviour and drug & alcohol misuse in West Wiltshire over the three year period. It identifies which problems will receive particularly close attention over this time, and sets clear targets which, if they are achieved, will make West Wiltshire an even safer place to live, work and visit than it is now.

2. Background

- Work done was executed collaboratively across Wiltshire through a multi-agency working group to complete the 3rd Crime & Disorder and Drugs Audit as a Home Office requirement during the year 2004.
- ‘Crime Concern Consultants’ were commissioned to do the ‘donkey work’ in terms of data collection, consultation, and review of progress to date, compilation of data and statistics with help from Partnership Data Analysts.
- A Wiltshire document has been produced with separate sections for each district area. The Draft Crime and Drug Misuse Strategy 2005-2008 has been developed as a result of the above audit.
- The document is in draft and the requirement is that the main document is to be produced and submitted to the Home Office by 31st March 2005.
- Summary documents have been produced for each of the four Community Safety Partnerships(CSP) across Wiltshire. The summaries will be published as a public document in the form of a leaflet in an easily understandable form.
- The summary documents do not have to be submitted by 31st March but it is the aim to complete them in April 2005, along with the Action Plans which will encompass the methods by which the CSP aims to achieve the targets set.

3. West Wiltshire Priorities – Reducing crime, ASB & drug abuse.

OVERARCHING TARGET: CUTTING THE LEVEL OF CRIME

West Wiltshire has set itself the target of **cutting overall crime in the district by 12.5% between 2003/4 and 2007/8** – that’s an average of just over 3% per year over four years

Supporting areas of focus:

a) REDUCING OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

National figures suggest that about 5,000 people across the country commit almost 10% of all crime. In West Wiltshire, the 15 most prolific and dangerous offenders will be targeted, their behaviour monitored, and any support that they need to prevent them re-offending will be provided.

b) REDUCING VICTIMISATION

"To achieve a year-on-year increase in the number of hate incidents reported to the police, other statutory agencies, and organisations in the voluntary & community sectors"

c) PRIORITISING HIGHER CRIME NEIGHBOURHOODS

"To reduce crime in the West Wiltshire ward with the highest crime rate by one third between 2003/4 and 2007/8"

d) REDUCING CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

"To reduce the number of violent offences recorded in town centres on Thursdays-Saturdays by 12.5 % between 2005/6 and 2007/8"

e) REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

"To set a baseline for the number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police in 2005/6; to maintain the number of incidents at the same level in 2006/7; and to achieve a reduction in reported incidents of 10% in 2007/8"

f) REDUCING DRUG & ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM

The links between crime and the misuse of alcohol & drugs are now well known. The misuse of alcohol is particularly associated with violence, disorder and criminal damage, and drug misuse is one of the main underlying causes of property crime, especially burglary and theft from shops & vehicles.

g) REDUCING ROAD CASUALTIES

"To contribute to a reduction in deaths & serious injuries on Wiltshire's county roads from 287 in 2003 to 231 in 2007; and to contribute to a reduction in deaths & serious injuries to children on Wiltshire's county roads from 22 in 2003 to 18 in 2007"

h) MAKING PEOPLE FEEL SAFER

4. Key Issues

- Please note that Wiltshire is currently the safest county in England. The Strategy is a key document to support this position.
- Despite Wiltshire's relative high level of safety, the fear of crime continues to increase.
- Although a 3-year strategy, the law states that changes should be made to the strategy if required by emerging trends.
- Improved data is becoming available to the CSP to enable it to keep abreast of trends of crime & anti-social behaviour, and thus monitor the places where the problems are the greatest.

5. Impact on WWDC Services

Service Managers will be asked to consider and pay particular attention to the impact of their activity on achieving the targets set out above. Opportunities to adapt service delivery to support targets should be explored with activity that has an adverse impact carefully considered in light of Section 17 responsibilities.

Financial implications:

The Home Office is implementing the **Stronger and Safer Communities Fund 2005-2006** West Wiltshire will receive approximately **£113,000.00** in order to commission projects aimed at reaching the priorities outlined above. The CSP will manage the decision making process and commissioning of work

From 2006 Stronger and Safer Communities Fund will be distributed via a 'Mini Local Area Agreement (LAA) through the LSP. Early indications are that the ODPM will allocate the funds to LSP's at a County level and discussions are yet to take place on the subsequent method of how funds will reach local CSP's. It is unlikely that the District Council will continue as the agent for the fund as we do now. However, decisions on how the funds are spent will stay with the local partnerships and we will be working to ensure West Wilts continues to secure the share of funds appropriate to our needs.

Legal issues:

- The adoption of the crime and anti-social behaviour strategy is a requirement under the Council's obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.
- The strategy has been written in accordance with the Police Reform White Paper 2004.

Human Rights: The Human Rights implications of the actions recommended in this report have been considered.

5. List of background papers

Staying Safe, Feeling Safe: A STRATEGY FOR REDUCING CRIME, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND DRUG MISUSE IN WILTSHIRE April 2005 - March 2008

(A copy is available in the member's room)

6. Recommendations

1. Cabinet is asked to note the Partnership approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through the CSP.
2. Cabinet is asked to endorse the strategy and priorities as outlined above with a view to the Strategy going forward to full Council for approval on 6th April 2005 and to the West Wiltshire LSP for final endorsement on 11th April 2005.

Plain English Guidance Given

Authors

Councillor Ernest Clark

Ishti Turner - Community Safety Officer

16 February 2005