

**Date:** Friday 27 October 2000  
**Time:** 10.00am to 12.25pm  
**Venue:** North East Wales Institute of Higher Education, Wrexham

## **REPORT BACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETING - CRIME AND DISORDER**

1. At its meeting on 14 July the Committee agreed that:

- a letter would be sent to the Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee suggesting that the Committee look at the resourcing of the crime and disorder partnerships and drawing attention to the points raised by Richard Brunstrom's presentation;
- letters would be sent to the Finance Secretary, copied to the Chairs of subject committees and Assembly Secretaries seeking information on all the sources of funding for crime and disorder issues that could be accessed at the local level;
- the paper provided by Chris Ruane MP on Islington's "acceptable behaviour contract" would be forwarded to the Local Government and Housing Committee;
- Members of the Committee would help publicise Magistrates' Courts Committee public meetings.

2. The Chair wrote to the Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee and the Finance Secretary on 1 August. Copies of the letters are at annexes 1 and 2.

### **Local Government and Housing Committee**

3. The Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee has noted the contents of the letter. The Committee will also wish to note that, at its meeting on 18 October, the Local Government and Housing Committee received a presentation from the Crime Reduction Director for Wales, David A'Herne.

### **Database of funding sources for tackling crime and disorder**

4. The Finance Secretary replied to the Chair's letter on 24 August (a copy is at annex 3). The Finance Secretary agreed the importance of a database of funding sources for those involved in crime reduction work and indicated this will be developed over time. The Assembly's Crime Reduction Unit already maintains a paper record of initiatives with a crime reduction element and undertook to let the Committee have an updated version for its October meeting. This paper is attached at annex 4. Copies are being sent to all those who attended the Regional Committee meeting.

5. The Assembly Secretary for Housing and Local Government also responded. A copy of the letter is at

**Annex 1**



Gwenda Thomas AM  
Chair of the Local Government and  
Housing Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay

**Pwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd  
North Wales Regional Committee**

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

1 August 2000

Dear Gwenda

**Crime and disorder**

At its meeting on 14 July the North Wales Regional Committee discussed crime and disorder issues and the Assembly's responsibilities under section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The Committee received a presentation from Richard Brunstrom, Deputy Chief Constable of the North Wales Police. Mr Brunstrom gave an overview of the role and activities of the local crime reduction partnerships in North Wales. He also focussed on the role of the Assembly, as a body designated under section 5(2)(c) of the Act, and the potential tension this could create between the Assembly and the other statutory members of the partnerships.

Mr Brunstrom raised a number of interesting points and some Members felt you should consider inviting him to make a similar presentation to the Local Government and Housing Committee.

In the subsequent discussion with members of the public and interested parties, concern was expressed about the adequacy of resourcing for local crime and disorder initiatives. In particular, there was agreement on the need to identify the numerous pockets of relevant funding which could be accessed.

The North Wales Committee feels that the issue merits consideration by your Committee.

Chris Ruane MP (Vale of Clwyd) attended the meeting and drew the Committee's attention to a scheme that Islington Borough Council had piloted called "Acceptable Behaviour Contracts". The scheme seems to have a number of interesting features which the attached paper sets out in more detail.

Should you feel able to take forward any of these points, I would be grateful if you could let me know so that I can update the Committee.

Yours sincerely

**Ann Jones**

Chair, North Wales Regional Committee

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**Annex 2**

Image57.gif (50487 bytes)

Edwina Hart AM  
Finance Secretary  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay

**Pwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd  
North Wales Regional Committee**

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

1 August 2000

Dear Edwina

### **Crime and disorder**

At its meeting on 14 July the North Wales Regional Committee discussed crime and disorder issues and the Assembly's responsibilities under section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.

In the subsequent discussion with members of the public and interested parties, concern was expressed about the adequacy of resourcing for local crime and disorder initiatives. In particular, there was agreement on the need to identify the numerous pockets of relevant funding which could be accessed.

The North Wales Regional Committee believes there could be considerable merit in developing a database of the sources of funding that can be accessed at the local level to help tackle crime and disorder. The Committee feels that such a tool, identifying funding sources across the whole range of policy areas, would be of significant help to those involved in the implementation of crime reduction strategies.

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for 27 October and I would be grateful if you could respond to the Committee's suggestion in time for me to report back to that meeting.

I am copying this letter to all Chairs of subject committees and Assembly Secretaries.

Yours sincerely

**Ann Jones**

Chair, North Wales Regional Committee

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**Annex 3**

**Edwina Hart AM**

Our ref: EH 00079-00

Ann Jones AM

Chair

North Wales Regional Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

24 August 2000

Dear Ann

Thank you for your letter of 1 August in which you follow up on certain points arising from the North Wales Regional Committee's meeting of 1 August which focused on crime and disorder.

In particular, you identify the need for a compendium of information about the funding sources which local crime and disorder reduction partnerships may access. This information is already available from the Assembly's Crime Reduction Unit which has drawn up a comprehensive list of Government funding initiatives and also Assembly initiatives which have a crime reduction bias. It is the Unit's intention to provide this in a more sophisticated form eventually, perhaps to match the electronic database you have in mind, but for the time being this remains the best source of information. I will ensure that an entirely up-to-date version of it is with you before the next committee meeting on 27 October.

The Crime Reduction Unit is in regular contact with the local partnerships and keep them fully apprised of each new funding round. Whilst we will always wish for more for Wales, it would appear that we are receiving an appropriate population share of the main England and Wales funding.

I am copying this letter to Gwenda Thomas and Peter Law.

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**Annex 4**

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES INITIATIVES WITH CRIME REDUCTION ELEMENT**

### **1. EDUCATION**

The forthcoming **Crime and Public Protection Bill** will carry an amendment to the Education Act 1996 that will require parents to attend court to answer to charges relating to their child's non-attendance at school or face arrest.

Under the **GEST**, Grants for Education Training and Support Programme for 2000-01, £3 million has been allocated to enable Welsh LEAs and schools to tackle school attendance and behaviour issues.

Section 16 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 affords the **police the power to take truants** back to school or another place designated by the LEA. Cardiff LEA and South Wales Police made a Truancy Order under this section on 18 February 2000 to apply to Llanrumney and St Mellons. Between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm 69 school age children were stopped and asked about their absence from school.

(Also relevant - Intervention Work in Schools, On Track - see Crime Reduction Programme.)

## **2. SOCIAL INCLUSION**

The People in Communities (PiC) programme is an innovative response to tackling social inclusion in deprived communities in Wales. It recognises the need to promote community participation in policies to regenerate deprived areas.

One of the policy aims of the programme is that everyone should have somewhere decent and safe to live.

In October 1998 eight communities in Wales were selected to participate in the programme. These were: Gurnos and Galon Uchaf; Merthyr Tydfil; Duffryn, Newport; Blaenymaes and Portmead, Wrexham; Rhiwgarn Estate, Trebanog, Rhondda Cynon Taff; Rhymney, Caerphilly and Deiniolen, Dinorwig; Clwt y Bont, Gwynedd and Southsea and Brynteg, Wrexham. In the first year a total of £750,000 funded development co-ordinators in these communities to help the residents draw up long-term action plans.

£1 million of PiC monies was committed to enable the eight existing projects to expand and develop their work. Applications were invited on a rolling basis from November (1999) to the end of March (2000). Rhymney, Caerphilly did not apply under this round of bids as they were unable to achieve additional funds through Capital Challenge.

In addition, £750,000 was made available during 1999-2000 to fund an additional 8 projects. These additional communities were announced on 16 June 2000 and are as follows: Rhyl West Central, Denbighshire; Butetown and Grangetown, Cardiff; Mount Libanus Estate, Penyreglyn, Rhondda Cynon Taff; Bush and Park Estate, Pembrokeshire; Giants Grave, Briton Ferry, Neath-Port Talbot; Nantyglo, Blaenau Gwent; Caerau, Bridgend and; Abersychan, Torfaen.

Crime reduction remains one of the issues which may be prioritised.

Building on PiC "Communities First - Regenerating our most disadvantaged communities" was launched in May. This is a new concept in community regeneration in Wales. It is a non-prescriptive approach designed to meet the needs and priorities determined by communities. It will be targeted at the most deprived communities in Wales; it will involve long-term commitments for resources and funding and will promote real partnerships at local level for the delivery of action. It will help communities to take the lead and build capacity for sustainability.

Responses to the initial consultation document have now been analysed, along with feedback from the area-based discussion and focus groups which were held.

A second consultation document, to be issued in October 2000, will set out a more detailed policy and funding framework. The target for identifying communities is the turn of the year and the beginning of

implementation is 1 April 2000.

Constructive comments on the crime reduction elements which may be included in the consultative process have been actively encouraged.

### **3. HOUSING**

**The Secured by Design initiative** was developed by the Association of Chief Police Officers with the backing of the Home Office Crime Prevention Agency and was originally introduced in Wales in 1994. It is intended to encourage the building industry to adopt crime prevention measures in the design of developments to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime, creating a safer and more secure environment.

Research has shown that application of the scheme has helped to reduce estate crime. A study by Gwent Police in 1999 found that houses within the scheme suffered 40 per cent fewer burglaries and vehicle-related crime and 25 per cent less criminal damage than houses without security features. The research also found that far less crime took place during the day.

The scheme was re-launched by the First Secretary on October 1999 as a national scheme aimed at designing out crime on new housing developments. The new scheme includes:-

- more detailed requirements related to the overall layout and arrangement of the development (location of communal areas, safe routes, lighting, surveillance, parking and landscaping).
- detailed requirements for physical security of dwellings (entrance doors, windows, security lighting and alarms).

In Wales all Assembly funded social housing schemes have to comply with the requirements of Secured By Design. To date in Wales approximately 15,000 homes have been built in compliance with the standards.

The requirements of Secured By Design are incorporated into the Design Quality Standards and Standard Contract Documentation produced by the Assembly for Housing Association developments. Close links have been developed between Assembly officials and the Police Architectural Liaison Officers based in the four Forces to ensure the smooth operation of the scheme and the rapid introduction of any improvements or amendments.

Due to commence in February 2001, the **New Home Energy Efficiency Scheme** for Wales is part of a two year programme, with a budget of £15.3m to provide energy efficiency measures in the homes of the fuel poor - the poorest sections of society, the elderly, disabled and those on qualifying benefits.

Included in the scheme is £500,000 from the Home Office Crime Reduction Programme (Treasury approval pending) in order to provide basic crime prevention measures, such as the provision of window

and door locks, chains, bolts, etc, in the homes of pensioners in high crime areas, who also receive support under the energy efficiency elements of the scheme. The over 60's have the greatest fear of crime of any section of society.

Areas that will benefit from the measures include, for South Wales and Gwent police force areas, all counties with the exception of Monmouthshire and Torfaen and for North Wales and Dyfed-Powys the highest 50% electoral wards as ranked by the index of multiple deprivation.

The contract for the management of the scheme was recently awarded to EAGA Partnership managers of the current Assembly Home Energy Efficiency Scheme.

The **Sustainable Communities Programme** offers capital and revenue support to local authorities, registered social housing landlords and voluntary organisations for small projects in targeted areas that will help to secure the sustainability of communities. Projects which increase security and include crime prevention measures are eligible.

Whilst there are no other Assembly housing programmes specifically aimed at crime reduction, a **substantial number of single people with support needs**, particularly drug/alcohol misusers and those with mental illnesses, are encouraged not to offend or re-offend by the supported environment within which they live. There will thus be a number of grants that indirectly help prevent regression.

#### **4. TRAINING/EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

**The Youth Access Initiative** became operational in April 1998, initially for a three year period. It aims to tackle the issue of youth disaffection/disengagement and it focuses on 14-17 year olds both in and out of school. It is delivered by Training and Enterprise Council (TEC)-led local partnerships which include local authorities and the voluntary sector. The Assembly budget for the current year is £2.5m although TECs inject additional funding from their local initiatives funds.

The initiative arose as a response by the Welsh Office to research by TECs into "status zero" young people - i.e. 16-17 year olds that were not in education, training or employment. Because changes to the benefit rules meant that they could not register until they were 18 these young people had effectively "disappeared". The research indicated that up to 20% of this age group fell into this category. Current Assembly statistics indicate that the figure is around 11% or 12,000 young people. The size of this group has important implications for learning targets, workforce skills, crime, poverty, drug use and a range of other social problems.

The initiative was launched with two main aims: (a) To help people under school leaving age who have dropped out of mainstream education, or are in danger of doing so, to be reintegrated into mainstream education, or to progress to other effective forms of education or training which meets their needs; (b) To help young people above school leaving age who are not in education, training or jobs to progress to effective forms of education or training or jobs. Typically, locally developed joint action plans include



two categories of activity: pre-16 projects such as providing alternative curriculums for young people at risk of disaffection; and post-16 activities such as outreach and mentoring.

The findings of two evaluation studies into the effectiveness of the Youth Access Initiative are clear: the initiative is supporting valuable work which should continue. Consideration is being given to combining the initiative with Children and Youth Partnership Fund which delivers a range of activities to combat crime, drugs, vandalism and truancy and is led by local authorities. Feedback to date from the consultation process is supportive of this move; which would take place from April 2001.

Many young people lose their way at an early age because they make ill-informed choices about educational options and career choices. This damages motivation and self-esteem and sows the seeds for disaffection and social exclusion. There is no doubt that if more people can be encouraged back into learning and the potential of all young people maximised - then there will need to be ready access to independent and impartial information and advice on learning and career opportunities. The **Youth Gateway Programme** is a key part of the Assembly's policy to address skills and social exclusion issues for young people. It provides a comprehensive assessment and support service to help, primarily, 16 to 19 year old young people who have left full-time compulsory education, decide on a career opportunity commensurate with their aims, aspirations and abilities (although assistance is available up to the age of 25). A key feature of the Gateway is the appointment of personal (advisors) advocates - these provide support to the young people throughout their time in the Gateway and during the transition to further training, education or employment. Additionally the Gateway provides assistance to young people in overcoming motivational problems, and also provides assistance with identifying and overcoming learning blockages prior to extended assessment, counselling, part-time training and work sampling.

The initiative is Wales-wide and began as a pilot in the first year from September 1999. There are many organisations in public, private and voluntary sectors who have dealings with the potential Gateway client group, e.g. careers companies, Probation Service, youth organisations, local authority social services, health workers etc. Though collaboration is essential, for the Gateway to operate effectively there is a need for some form of control to be exercised over entry. Initially managed by TECs, the Gateway is now managed by TECs and Career Companies, with Career Companies taking the lead management and administration role in this the second year of operation (2000/2001). Gateway will become part of the Assembly's mainstream provision in April 2001.

A preliminary evaluation of Youth Gateway has taken place and a second evaluation will look at the longer-term aspects of the Gateway strategy and how it relates to other Assembly programmes.

The National Assembly has endorsed the proposal in the Education and Training Action Plan for the establishment of " **Careers Wales** " - an independent, national all-age guidance service. Careers Wales will have a central role in promoting learning and reducing the waste that results from poor choices. The new service will be required to work closely with local partners, including the probation service and prison support services, to re-integrate young people into education, training and employment. Much

good work is already being done in this area through partnership arrangements with Young Offenders Institutions.

## **5. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

The **Children and Youth Partnership Fund**, which was launched in December 1999, is aimed at developing ways of combating social exclusion and encouraging young people away from crime, drugs, vandalism and truancy. The Fund is delivered by local partnerships across Wales, which include all relevant local authority services, the health service and the voluntary sector. A total of £25 million is available between 1999 and 2003.

Another programme which will have an impact on children throughout Wales is **Sure Start**. Very young children should be given the best possible start in life and the scheme seeks to ensure that children from deprived areas do not begin their formal education at a disadvantage. Partnerships of local authorities and health services have drawn up plans with the specific aim of improving the health, ability to learn and social development of children aged three and under. Again, £25 million is available over 3 years.

(Also relevant: Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - Parenting Orders; Child Safety Orders; Child Curfew Orders - Crime Reduction Programme - On Track; Youth Inclusion.)

## **6. SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

The National Assembly launched a refocused **Welsh substance misuse strategy** in May 2000. This new strategy '*Tackling Substance Misuse in Wales: A Partnership Approach*' will build on the good work that has already been done in Wales, but will maintain an emphasis on helping children and young people to resist substance misuse so that they can achieve their full potential in society. Integration and co-ordination will be key features of the new strategy. The misuse of substances can propel individuals into damaging situations, including unhealthy lifestyles, marginality from education or labour market, homelessness and involvement in crime. At the same time, substance misuse is more prevalent in these situations because people do not have the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives. The new strategy will stress the importance of these connections, and of ensuring that action to tackle substance misuse assumes a key role in wider policy agendas such as social inclusion, economic development, public health and crime and disorder.

The Assembly is making £1.5 million per year available for a Drug and alcohol Treatment Fund. This initiative, which will contribute to the Treatment Aim of the new strategy, is helping to ensure that effective, timely treatment and care for substance misusers is available, particularly to those in the vulnerable groups. Rehabilitation and other treatment programmes for substance misusers have shown real gains in crime reduction.

The Home Office has made £20 million available over 3 years for the development of **Drug Arrest**

**Referral** projects in England and Wales. The face-to-face arrest referral schemes are intended to impact on drug-related offending in England and Wales. They involve a mixture of on-site and on-call drug workers managed and supported by drug agencies. Police forces, which had successfully bid for funding, under this initiative were asked to draw up detailed action plans by the end of January 2000.

The Home Office CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare) scheme is a multi-agency approach to tackling drug abuse in prisons and, for the first time, co-ordinates support for prisoners after release.

(Also relevant - Sections 61-64 of the Crime and Disorder Act - The Drug Treatment and Testing Order - a new community sentence aimed at breaking the link between drug use and crime.)

## **7. YOUTH OFFENDING**

**The Youth Justice Board** was established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to monitor the youth justice system; to advise the Home Secretary on the operation of that system, on how the principal aim of that system of preventing offending might most effectively be pursued and on drawing up standards for the work of youth offending teams; and to identify and disseminate good practice.

**Youth Offending Teams** in England and Wales have been introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and became formally operational in April 2000. The Teams deliver the full range of local youth justice services in a radically new way, by requiring close inter-agency co-operation between local authorities, police, probation and health authorities.

Each local authority, in consultation with its statutory partners, has to produce an annual youth justice plan setting out how services in their area are to be provided and funded. The Youth Justice Board issued guidance on the key information it required in each youth justice plan. The second round of youth justice plans will need to be prepared by all youth offending teams towards the end of this year.

There have been three bidding rounds under the **Youth Justice Board Development Fund** for projects concerned with bail support and crime prevention. £35 million over a 3 year period was set aside for grants for bail support and supervision and other remand related initiatives during the first round of bail support grant bids. There were 8 successful Welsh bids - amounting to a total of £1.3 million grant support. A further opportunity was recently provided by the Youth Justice Board to those areas which did not (for whatever reason) receive a grant in the first round of bail support grant. A total of 5 bids were received from Welsh authorities amounting to £689,642.

In addition to this, a further phase of grants totalling £50 million over a 3 year period, was made available for youth justice services and intervention programmes designed to change offending behaviour. A total of 17 bids from Wales were successful, with the Board making available a total of £3.1 million in grant in Wales - 8.6% of total.

The Treasury has also agreed that £12 million remaining from the £35 million ring-fenced for bail support can be used for new small grant schemes under which all youth offending teams will be entitled to apply for grant on the basis of pence per head of population. The grants will be aimed at: i) purchasing information systems; ii) planning and development work for through-care programmes for young offences in secure facilities; and iii) mapping local resources for parenting programmes. Grant will be paid on the basis of pence per head of population in the 10 to 17 year old age range.

Cardiff, which is one of eight areas in England and Wales chosen to be Youth Justice Board Pathway (Exemplar) projects, has been awarded a total of £561,000. NACRO, as part of their work programme for the Assembly, will now be advising Cardiff on various aspects of service delivery to help ensure the City retains the high standards required for Pathway Status.

The Assembly has awarded a three year grant (£371,000) to NACRO (Cymru) towards the funding of a **Youth Offending Unit in Wales**. NACRO will provide consultancy services to local agencies in the development of their youth offending teams; encourage the development of four regional youth offending strategies in Wales and provide additional support to Cardiff as a Pathway Site.

The Youth justice Board has announced that it will be funding a new national programme, known as the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme, which will target the 2,500 offenders who it is estimated commit 25% of youth crimes. The 3 year programme, run by YOTs, will identify the hardcore offenders to be included and will ensure the delivery of an intensive and highly structured programme. The schemes will initially be focused in major conurbations where the greatest volume of hardcore offenders is concentrated. The Board will fund the programme for 3 years commencing in 2001.

(Also relevant - Crime Reduction Programme - On Track; Youth Inclusion.)

## **8. CRIME REDUCTION PROGRAMME**

The Crime Reduction Programme, amounting to £400 million over 3 years for England and Wales, will invest in a range of initiatives offering significant and sustained impact on the crime rate. In 1999-2000 over £150 million was available across England and Wales for CCTV alone - the largest single amount ever set aside for this crime prevention tool. The Programme will support evidence based research projects which can be emulated elsewhere; it is open to local crime reduction partnerships, and other agencies such as local education authorities, to apply for the funding. Several elements of the Programme have already been introduced.

### **Targeted Policing**

For known crime hotspots. Under Round 1 two Welsh projects were approved: £500,000 to Rhondda Cynon Taff to reduce crime and disorder problems associated with children's homes; £498,000 to Cardiff to reduce alcohol related street violence. A project to improve security at an industrial estate in Wrexham succeeded under the second round, with a grant of £188,000.

## **Reducing Burglary**

One Welsh project was approved as a Strategic Development Scheme: £60,200 for a project in St Mellons. Two other projects, for North Wales and Bridgend, were awarded £33,300 and £12,200 respectively under Round 1. Round 2 is currently being run as a rolling programme.

## **Intervention work in schools**

Five Welsh projects approved covering nine schools; funding of £1.06 million is supporting work to improve schools' management of pupil behaviour and reduce bullying, truancy and exclusions.

## **CCTV Challenge Fund**

£153 million for England and Wales to be spent over 3 years, £3 million of which is for social housing schemes in Wales. First round bids approved to date have seen funding of over £3 million coming to Wales. Round 2 is currently being run as a rolling programme.

## **On Track - Multiple Intervention Programme**

Another element of the Crime Reduction Programme, 'On Track' is a multiple intervention crime reduction programme targeted at children at risk of getting involved in crime. The programme is aimed at children aged 4-11 and will run for up to 7 years. Two Welsh projects have been approved - for Rhondda Cynon Taff and Bridgend - and will each receive funding in excess of £1 million over the life of the scheme.

## **Youth Inclusion**

A £33 million Home Office, DETR, DfEE, Youth Justice Board Programme aimed at 40-50 young people on each of 200 of the worst estates in England and Wales over 3 years, with an eventual target of 400 in 5 years. It will build on the 'Youth Works' model which has already been piloted with some success in Leeds, Blackburn and Sunderland; the model establishes youth works projects and brings together regeneration, environmentalism and crime reduction. Wales will receive a proportionate share of Crime Reduction Programme and Youth Justice Board funding. The latter is already supporting a pilot project in Cardiff and two other local authorities are drawing up proposals for schemes for some of the worst estates in the most deprived wards in Wales - in Merthyr Tydfil and Wrexham.

## **Neighbourhood Wardens**

Five projects for new or extended Neighbourhood Warden Schemes have been approved for Wales with grants totalling £287,947.

## **Violence Against Women**

Bids were invited from multi-agency partnerships to develop and implement local strategies for reducing domestic violence, and rape and sexual assault. Two Welsh projects were successful - for Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taff - and will receive £32,500 in total.

## **Tackling Prostitution: What Works?**

An amount of £500,000 has been made available to fund about 5 projects aimed at tackling crime and disorder associated with prostitution in England and Wales. The closing date for applications is 20 October.

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**Annex 5**

**Peter LAW AM**

Our ref:PL 00886/00

Ann Jones AM  
Assembly Member for the Vale of Clwyd  
National Assembly Building  
Pierhead Street  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

22 August 2000

Dear Ann

Thank you for your letter of 11 July, which I note that you have also sent to Edwina Hart AM.

As the Assembly Secretary for Local Government and Housing with responsibility for community regeneration, I am responding to both letters.

The Assembly is determined to combat poverty and social disadvantage and to bridge the gap between

the most deprived communities in Wales and the more affluent ones. The consultation document 'Communities First' which issued in April, put forward a proposal to establish cross sectoral and multi agency methods of designing policy and local service delivery, involving the direct participation of the community in planning and developing the services delivered to that community. Local authorities will have a crucial role in this approach, being in a key position to encourage, support and help co-ordinate the development of community regeneration plans.

"Communities First" will sponsor the creation of partnerships which draw directly from the local authority, other statutory agents, the voluntary and private sectors and most importantly the communities themselves.

Responses to the initial consultation document are being analysed, along with feedback from the two developmental seminars, the area based discussion and community focus groups.

A second consultation document will issue late in August which will set out a more detailed policy and funding framework and I will ensure you receive a copy.

I hope this is helpful.