

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE**

### **CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVES – PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **Purpose**

1. At Committee on 14 March the Minister undertook to provide a progress report on crime reduction initiatives, including the funding which has become available from the Home Office under the Partnership Development Fund. Also, in line with the Committee's wish to receive a presentation from the police, Keith Turner, Chief Constable, Heddlu Gwent Police, who is the Chair of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Wales, has been asked to address the Committee in the future, he was not available for this meeting.

#### **Summary**

2. This paper provides background to crime reduction within the Assembly; an update on the progress of the Crime Reduction Programme in Wales since these were last considered by the Committee on 13 December and details of new funding announced recently.

#### **Timing**

3. The paper is presented in line with the Committee's wish for an early discussion.

#### **Background**

##### Introduction

4. Although statutory responsibility for crime and disorder rests with the Home Secretary, Better Wales has as one of its priorities 'to help local people, particularly those living in disadvantaged areas, develop confident communities, with decent housing, good local facilities and high quality environment, which is non-threatening and free from crime'. The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities takes the lead responsibility for the subject in the Cabinet. The Minister's responsibilities do not extend to matters of operational policing, which remain with the Home Office, or to youth offending, responsibility for which lies with the Minister for Health and Social Services. The Crime Reduction Director for Wales, David A'Herne works closely with the Minister and the Assembly as a whole on integrating crime and

disorder issues into the Assembly's policies.

### Crime and Disorder Act 1998

5. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 is the cornerstone of the Government's policy on tackling crime and disorder and creating safer communities. Central to the Act was the creation of local crime and disorder reduction partnerships; the Act placed a new responsibility on local authorities and the police as the key partners working with the probation service, health authorities and other partners to develop local strategies to reduce crime and disorder. The 22 Welsh strategies are now being implemented and are due to be reviewed in 2002. The Act requires the Partnerships to undertake a full review of the strategies now in place by March 2002 and many have already begun work on fresh audits of crime and disorder to inform this review.

6. The Assembly organised an audit seminar last month to help the partnerships as they approach the review. Seminar training has also been organised to help mainstream crime reduction in accordance with Section 17 of the Act; a North Wales seminar was held in March and a South Wales event is planned for this month.

### Crime Reduction Programme

7. The Government's Crime Reduction Programme for England and Wales, amounting to £400 million over 3 years, is investing in a range of initiatives offering a significant and sustained impact on the crime rate. £153 million is available for closed circuit television (CCTV) of which £3 million is ring-fenced for the provision of CCTV on social housing estates in Wales. So far Welsh projects have attracted £6.3 million in funding from the Programme, details are at **Annex A**. A small team of Assembly officials is funded by the Home Office to manage the Programme as its agent in Wales. They contribute to the criteria for the different initiatives, are involved in the selection procedure and monitor the projects. In addition to the £6.3 million mentioned above, 33 Welsh CCTV schemes have recently been shortlisted under round 2 of the initiative. If acceptable final bids are received from them all it will result in a further £5.8 million coming to Wales, £1.2 million of which is for CCTV on social housing estates.

### Partnership Development Fund

8. The Crime Reduction Programme ends in March 2002 and will be replaced by two funds: the Partnership Development Fund, which began this April and the Safer Communities Fund which will run from April 2002. The Partnership Development Fund was announced by the Home Secretary at Last year's Labour Party Conference. It consists of £20 million in 2001-02 and each of the following 2 years. The purpose of the Fund is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and others who implement projects aimed at tackling local crime and disorder problems. The funding has been allocated

between the English regions and Wales according to a formula reflecting the number of partnerships and crime levels. The allocations to the 10 Regional Crime Reduction Directors for England and Wales have been announced; the Crime Reduction Director for Wales will receive £1.2 million.

### Funding to tackle Drug Related Crime

9. On 5<sup>th</sup> April the Home Secretary formally announced £220 million new money for projects which tackle drug related crime. The extra £220 million over 3 years for Crime and Disorder Partnerships in England and Wales as part of the package of measures to tackle drugs and related crime was part of the Budget 2001 announcement. There is also an extra £50 million for increased drug testing in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales. It is not yet possible to quantify the Welsh share of these increased resources.

10. The money is intended to help the police and local communities disrupt the local drugs markets and drive out the drug dealers and to strengthen local joint working in tackling this problem. The intention is that the local partnerships should be able to use the money flexibly and imaginatively so that it can be spent on anything from, for example, mobile police stations, highly visible policing of drug hot spots and targeted action to cut income addicts can get from burglary and shoplifting, through to neighbourhood wardens, extra truancy sweeps and CCTV.

11. The only condition set on the use of the money will be that the Crime Reduction Directors will agree the strategy for using the money with both the local Police Basic Command Unit Commander and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). Each of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships will receive funding; money will not be allocated out in equal amounts but will be focused on areas with the worst problems. Each partnership will receive up to £0.5 million and those with larger areas and the worst problems up to £1 million. The precise funding arrangements are yet to be worked up but the programme is expected to start by July.

### **Compliance**

12. As none of these initiatives affect the Assembly's vote there are no compliance or financial planning implications.

### **Action for the Committee**

13. The Committee is invited to note the contents of their paper and to use it as a focus for discussion.

### **Contact Point**

David A'Herne, Crime Reduction Unit, ext 0030.

## **Crime Reduction Programme**

### **Successful Welsh Projects**

#### **1. Targeted Policing**

Grants to police forces for crime hotspots. Two Welsh projects were approved under Round 1: £500k for a project in Rhondda Cynon Taff to reduce crime and disorder problems associated with children's homes, and £498k for a project to reduce alcohol related street violence in Cardiff. Both projects are well underway and emerging findings suggest that they are already having an impact. Under Round 2, a bid from North Wales police to fund a concerted approach to crime reduction on a major industrial estate in Wrexham will receive a grant of £188k.

#### **2. Reducing Burglary**

In the first round one Welsh bid was approved - £60k for a project in St Mellons, Cardiff. Four projects have been approved under Round 2 – three for North Wales attracting £33k and one for Caerau, Bridgend, attracting £12k. Five Welsh bids are under consideration under Round 3.

#### **3. Intervention Work in Schools**

Five Welsh projects approved covering 9 schools - funding of £1.06 million will support work to improve school management of pupil behaviour and reduce bullying, truancy and exclusions for schools in Cardiff, Abertysswg, Llanelli and Swansea. The projects are underway.

#### **4. CCTV**

Grants of £2.6 million approved for Wales, including one award of £1 million to Bridgend to upgrade and extend town centre provision and to provide cover for 3 park and ride car parks and a tourist car park at Rest Bay, Porthcawl. Thirty-three Welsh bids have been shortlisted under round 2 and must now prepare final bids; if approved funding of £5.8 million will follow including £1.2 m for CCTV on social housing estates.

#### **5. Domestic Violence**

Twelve applications were received from Welsh groups with projects to reduce domestic violence or rape by a known perpetrator. Approvals amounting to £6 million were announced on 10 July including two Welsh projects, for Bridgend £21k and Rhondda Cynon Taff £11.7k. Home Office decided to reconsider some of the unsuccessful projects late last year and a further 7 Welsh projects have been approved amounting to £734,227.

## **6. Neighbourhood Wardens**

Applications were invited in relation to existing or proposed Neighbourhood Warden projects. A total of £4.5 million Crime Reduction Programme money was available for this and £300k was ring fenced for Welsh projects. Five projects have been approved for Merthyr Tydfil, Swansea, Caernarfon, Caerphilly and Cardiff.

## **7. On Track – Multiple Intervention 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. Projects are funded to a maximum of £400,000 for each of the first 3 years and then tapering. Two Welsh projects, for Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taff, have been successful and will receive funding in excess of £1 million over the course of the projects.