

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Title: Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships – Progress Report

1. Purpose

When the Committee met on 7 November 2001, it decided to invite the Crime Reduction Director for Wales, David A'Herne, to make a presentation on the progress of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

2. Summary

This paper provides an update on the work of the Partnerships; looks at the extent of the funding they received from the Crime Reduction Programme; outlines the funding streams that have replaced the Programme and highlights certain specific issues which are topical currently.

3. Timing

This was the earliest opportunity for this presentation to be worked into the Committee's programme.

4. Background

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Central to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 were the creation of new 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 Partnerships had their first strategies in place for April 1999 with full reviews after 3 years; these have now been completed and informed the strategies covering the next few years that have now been produced.

David A'Herne took up his Home Office appointment in the Summer of 2000; he is one of 10 Crime Reduction Directors for England and Wales. His team of 11 are Assembly staff who are paid by the Home Office to act as their agents in Wales. The Unit monitors crime reduction

projects; supports the Partnerships and also performs as a policy division interfacing very closely with the Welsh Assembly Government. The Director works very closely with the Partnerships to help them realise their full potential.

Also located within the Unit are a team of three Home Office researchers who support and advise the Partnerships with the development of their strategies and ensure that they are outcome driven. The research team will also be advising the Director on crime trends and hotspots to inform how resources may best be targeted, and will be carrying out in depth research into crime issues of significance in Wales.

Crime Reduction Programme

The Partnerships' activity to date has been influenced to a high degree by the funding streams which were available to them. Central to this has been the UK Government's **Crime Reduction Programme** for England and Wales which amounted to £400 million over 3 years (1999-2002) and invested in a range of initiatives offering a significant and sustained impact on crime reduction. £153 million was made available for CCTV alone, of which £3million was ring-fenced for the provision of CCTV on social housing estates in Wales.

The funding rounds were organised on a competitive bidding basis; the £400 million was not used in its entirety for projects and, of the amount that was offered up, Wales managed to achieve about a 5% share. Most of the projects are being subjected to in-depth evaluation so that a picture may be shared of 'what works'..

Funding Sources in 2002-03

With the end of the Crime Reduction Programme, four main funding streams will be available to the partnerships this financial year:

The Home Office's new **Safer Communities Initiative (SCI)** began on 1 April 2002 and runs for four years. This scheme replaces the Crime Reduction Programme and it has been allocated £20 million for the first year. Welsh Partnerships will benefit from the £1.1 million which is coming to Wales, with areas of high crime receiving the largest funding boost. Funding for the remaining three years is not yet known but is expected to be more than has been allocated for this year. The SCI is intended to provide the Partnerships with funding to supplement mainstream activity. Spend on capacity building will be permitted, but it is anticipated that most of the money will go for projects, the focus of which will be determined locally to supplement the new strategies.

Communities Against Drugs will continue and it is expected that the amount coming to

Wales will be at least at last year's level of £2.7 million. Again all Partnerships will benefit.

The Partnership Development Fund has been confirmed at £1.1 million (slightly down on last year because of the additional call on Home Office funds for the street crime initiative). Most of the money will be passed out to Partnerships for capacity building.

The **Support for Small Retailers in Deprived Communities** continues with double the amount of last year's funding available in Wales - £381,257.

The details of the funding by scheme which has come to Wales is set out in **Annex 1**. (The Annex to the paper on links between Crime Reduction and Social Inclusion , SF/Eh/0451/02, which the Committee is also considering today provides some background on the schemes). **Annex 2** shows how each of the individual Partnerships has benefited from the schemes.

Issues of Topical Interest

The UK Government's proposals for tackling street crime have attracted considerable interest. The new package of measures relate to certain areas of high crime in England and concentrate on the 10 force areas which account for 82% of all robbery for England and Wales. Action is being taken on robbery, snatch theft, carjacking and the possession and use of firearms; Home Office have set aside £67.0 million for the initiative, much of which will go on police operational duties. No Welsh force area is included in the ten because street robbery is not on the increase here; in fact, it fell between 2000 and 2001, in line with the general downward trend for crime in Wales. However, all police forces will benefit from lessons learnt which will be applied in other parts of the country in the form of best practice.

Action on **anti social behaviour** continues. Many more Partnerships are making use of the Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) provision in the 1998 Act which can curtail the activities of individuals who are making life a misery for others. Evidence suggests that the first step – an Acceptable Behaviour Contract - can serve to curb the offensive behaviour and that the threat of an ASBO can have the same effect. Best practice emerging from the 9 Welsh Crime Reduction in Secondary Schools projects could be replicated in schools throughout Wales which are concerned about links between truancy, exclusions and offending behaviour. CCTV will have a considerable impact in curbing town centre street violence and make it easier to bring the perpetrators to book.

Two conferences being run by the Crime Reduction Unit are focussing specifically on domestic violence. These are major events – one in Cardiff on 16 May, the other in North Wales on 23 May – which will bring together hundreds of practitioners. These will be followed by a seminar in June to carry the momentum forward.

The Minister briefed the Committee on the threat to Southern Wales from the spread of **Class**

A drugs when the Committee met on 8 May. Chief Constables are alive to a developing situation which could see increased control of the volume of these drugs by organised drug gangs who may be spreading to Wales from the South West. The police, in collaboration with others, are working on a joint strategic approach and are in touch with the Minister. This multi-agency joint approach is crucial if the strategy is to succeed.

Also at Committee on 8 May, Supt Pat Daley of the British Transport Police touched upon the problem his force faces from drug peddlers and users. The Committee indicated that it would welcome further discussion of issues around crime and drugs generally and it is proposed that Mr A'Herne facilitates just such a discussion after this paper has been presented and considered.

5. Action for the Committee

The Committee is invited to note this paper and to use it as a focus for discussion.

6. Contact Point

David A'Herne, Crime Reduction Unit, ext 1361.