

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 28 OCTOBER 2009

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES AGREEMENT 2009 -10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement for 2009 – 10.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement 2009-10 is the second such Agreement to have been produced for Leicestershire and was approved by the Safer Communities Strategy Board on 15th May 2009. It is based on the strategic assessments carried out in 2008/09 and priorities are derived from the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement 2008-11 and from District Community Safety Partnership strategies.

Background

3. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require every local authority to have in place a committee with power to review and scrutinise, and make reports or recommendations, regarding the functioning of the responsible authorities (local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, the police, primary care trusts which comprise a Community Safety Partnership. The Scrutiny Commission exercises this function in relation to the County Council and is required by the 2009 Regulations to meet for this purpose at least once a year.
4. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require in two tier areas a strategy group to be established to prepare a community safety agreement for the county on behalf of the responsible authorities. The Leicestershire Safer Communities Board chaired by the County Council's Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety was established in May 2008 for this purpose.
5. According to the 2007 Regulations, the community safety agreement is intended to identify the ways in which the responsible authorities in the

county area might more effectively implement the priorities set out in their strategic assessments through coordinated or joint working; and how the responsible authorities in the county area might otherwise reduce crime and disorder or combat substance misuse through coordinated or joint working.

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6. The County Council's Safer Communities Plan, considered elsewhere on the agenda, is also aligned with the priorities set out in the Agreement
7. The Agreement is presented for consideration by the Commission to enable the Commission to carry out its function as a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

8. The Commission is asked to consider the Agreement and indicate what comments, if any, it wishes to submit to the Safer Communities Strategy Board.

Background Papers

Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-13
Leicestershire Local Area Agreement 2008-11

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officer to contact:

Phil Hawkins, Head of Youth Justice & Safer Communities
Tel: 0116 3056780
Email: phil.hawkins@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Leicestershire Safer Communities Agreement 2009–10

Equal Opportunities Implications

9. A joint Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on the Community Safety Plan and the Safer Communities Agreement, which can be found at http://www.leics.gov.uk/cex_eia.htm Some of the key findings include:
 - There are still gaps in information regarding victims, offenders, and service users, particularly regarding sexual orientation, religion and disability.

- Meeting specific needs of women offenders has been identified as an area for development by the Reducing Re-offending Board. Women are also under-represented in drug treatment.
- Young people who are Black or Black British or of Mixed ethnic origin are slightly over-represented in the Youth Justice System.
- There is an over representation of BME victims for violence against the person when compared to the population overall. Individuals of White British background aged 29 years and under are more likely to be victims of assault with less serious injury when compared to other types of violence against the person.