

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12 APRIL 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY - WORK PROGRAMME</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide.

### **Purpose**

To consider the work programme for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Scrutiny Review Group.

### **Recommendation**

**THAT**

- a) **the Committee examine the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Scrutiny Review Group work programme to ensure that matters listed for future consideration are appropriate subjects for scrutiny;**
- b) **subject to any other comment or issues raised by the Committee the CDRP Scrutiny Review Group work programme recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval and reported to Safer Herefordshire;**
- c) **a further member should be appointed to serve on the Review Group to lead on the scrutiny of crime and disorder scrutiny.**

### **Introduction and Background**

- 1 At the Committee's meeting on 26 February it was resolved that a Review Group should be formed to specialise in the scrutiny of Crime and Disorder matters. The Group will operate informally and submit reports and recommendations to the Committee for approval. It was also resolved that the Group should submit a proposed work programme to the Committee's next meeting. Under the Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must oversee, co-ordinate and approve the work programmes of the Scrutiny Committees and approve its own annual work programme. It must also periodically review its and the scrutiny committees work programmes to ensure that overview and scrutiny is effective that there is an efficient use of scrutiny resources and that potential duplication of effort by Scrutiny committees is minimised. The proposed Work Programme will be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 26 April.

- 2 The statutory guidance states that the role of scrutiny should be focused on the Partnership as a whole and will be more effective if it focuses on the policy issues rather than a single organisation. If issues arise which relate specifically to a particular partner organisation it may be appropriate to refer such issues to the governing bodies of that organisation for action. The guidance states that the role of the Committee should be as *“a critical friend of the community safety partnership, providing it with constructive challenge at a strategic level rather than operational fault finding at an operational level.”*
- 3 At the meeting of the Committee on 26 February, it was agreed that there would be four members of the Safer Herefordshire Scrutiny Review Group, which would be chaired by Councillor KG Grumbley. The other members are Councillors KS Guthrie and RH Smith. A further member is therefore sought to progress the work of the Review Group.
- 4 At its meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, the Review Group decided that it would consider the priority areas that had been identified by the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group for 2010/11. These are alcohol use, anti-social behaviour, drug use, road safety, domestic abuse and offender management. These priority areas relate to National Indicators listed in the Safer Communities section of the Council and NHS Herefordshire Joint Corporate Plan 2010-13. The Work Programme is attached as Appendix A.

### **Co-option for consideration of Crime and Disorder Matters.**

- 4 The report to this Committee on 26 February referred to the provision in the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 (Regulation 3 (paragraph 4)) that “a Crime and Disorder Committee shall only co-opt a person to serve on the Committee who is (a) an employee, officer or member of a responsible authority or of a co-operating person or body and (b) is not a member of the executive of the local authority.
- 5 There was a conflict between this provision in the Regulations and the statutory guidance.
- 6 The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) (Amendment) Regulations have now been issued, coming into force on 1 April 2010. These substitute the following for Regulation 3 paragraph (4) quoted above, removing the limitation on co-option in Regulation 3 section 4 (a): “(4) The crime and disorder committee of a local authority (or authorities) shall not co-opt a person to serve on the committee who is a member of the executive of that local authority (or authorities)”.
- 7 The Council’s Constitution provides that Co-optees should be appointed annually by Council. On 26 February 2010 this Committee recommended that Council should be recommended to approve the co-option of a member of the public to the Committee. A report will be made to Council in May.

### **Appendices**

- 8 Appendix A – Work Programme

### **Background Papers**

- None identified.