

MEETING:	COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	28 JUNE 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	SAFER HEREFORDSHIRE REVIEW GROUP UPDATE
REPORT BY:	Partnership Manager for Safer Herefordshire

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Purpose

To provide a summary of the evidence the Review Group has received and to set out the considered findings and recommendations to the Committee.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **A member of the review group attends the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group meeting when the Strategic Assessment is presented and priority settings are carried out;**
- (b) **The Council income streams be rationalised so that funding for the partnership is received from a central source within the council, and that the Director of Resources should be invited to ensure that funding is coherently managed;**
- (c) **A more extensive breakdown of integrated offender management should be provided to a future meeting;**
- (d) **In order to provide a true costing, the Council expenditure on the budget should include the teams hidden costs, a figure of approximately £94k;**
- (e) **A breakdown of Council contributions to the Partnership should be provided to the review group;**
- (f) **Elected members should be asked to encourage their Parish Councils to reply to any future information/survey requests pertaining to the Safer Herefordshire Partnership and;**
- (g) **All alcohol commissioning should be centralised and the commissioning of services by the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Group should be targeted through the Joint Commissioning Group.**

Key Points Summary

- The process for arriving at the priorities, via the strategic assessment, is appropriate.
- Community consultation and engagement is carried out on a regular, on-going basis and fed into the strategic assessment process.
- Work is being carried out against NI 39 (Rate and number of alcohol harm related hospital admissions).

Reasons for Recommendations

- It was unclear what the process was for matching budgets to priorities.
- Safer Herefordshire was having some difficulties in recouping small contributions from Council and PCT directorates.
- A poor response rate has been received from previous surveys undertaken with Parish Councils.
- Integrated Offender Management was a developing area of work that needed to be considered in greater depth.
- Alcohol treatment commissioning was occurring on an ad hoc basis within a variety of agencies.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Every Local Authority is required to have a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee; locally the Community Services Scrutiny Committee has been designated to fulfil this function. To ensure sufficient time could be given to this area of work, it was agreed that a Review Group should be established to carry out this role. Members would be drawn from the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

The Review Group has met twice, initially to examine key documents relating to Safer Herefordshire and the second meeting to look at work relating to NI39 (Rate and number of alcohol harm related admissions).

Key Considerations

- 2 Initial meeting – The following areas were discussed:
 - a. Safer Herefordshire Annual Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan
 - b. Partnership community consultation and engagement, and
 - c. Information sharing arrangements within the partnership.
- 3 It was explained that the strategic assessment is undertaken annually following Home Office guidance. It is used by the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group to identify emerging trends and priority areas within the county. The forthcoming assessment will focus more on problem oriented locations rather than types of crime, to identify vulnerable areas. Both quantitative and qualitative information is used from many sources, to include community consultation. The strategic plan and priorities then inform the budget. Action

plans are also developed.

- 4 Discussion was held around Safer Herefordshire community consultation and engagement. Much of this activity is incorporated into the Partnership Strategic Assessment process and included PACT feedback and information from Parish Councils.
- 5 The Safer Herefordshire Information Sharing Protocol was currently being reviewed. Discussions are being held with lead officers within the Public Service Trust to ensure that the documentation was appropriate to the needs of the Partners.
- 6 The development of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) was also discussed. This area of work is at an early stage.
- 7 NI 39 (Rate and number of alcohol harm related admissions) meeting:

NI 39 is a LAA and World Class Commissioning target. Currently different services are being commissioned by different agencies to include Safer Herefordshire and PCT, rather than through one integrated process.

An Alcohol Harm Reduction Group has been established, chaired by the Assistant Director (Public Health) and has drafted a local strategy. This year the group's key actions are within the Health Improvement Plan, to cover the strands of:

- Safe alcohol consumption by children and young people, focusing on 11-17 years and 18-30 years.
- Supporting people drinking unsafe amounts e.g. pregnant women
- Support people with alcohol related hospital admissions
- Enhance the capacity to identify and give brief advice for harmful alcohol consumption
- Provide an environment to drink alcohol safely e.g. working with Trading Standards
- Reduce inequalities of rates of harmful alcohol consumption e.g. most deprived are most likely to be admitted to hospital
- Advocate the prioritisation of resources, to include lobbying at both a local and national level.

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Group is currently working to further operationalise the plan by identifying key actions partners need to take and then feedback to the Safer Herefordshire Strategy Group.

The Review Group felt that work was on going against the indicator and that co-ordination of the activity would be the key to its success. The use of proxy indicators was well supported, together with the suggestion that all funding streams should be centralised.

Appendices

- 8 None

Background Papers

- 9 None.