

MEETING:	COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	6 DECEMBER 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE SAFER HEREFORDSHIRE SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP
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: The recommendations below be endorsed by the Committee, and referred to the Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing), for consideration.

Key Points Summary

- The Review Group felt that NI30 was well understood by Safer Herefordshire and performance and activity was well under control. In terms of the indicators, the Review Group felt well assured that positive progress was being made.
- The Review Group felt the meeting was very useful and informative. The group has looked at several areas now and genuinely applauds the progress in this area. It was recognised that Safer Herefordshire has hard, tangible information and intelligence which it uses to direct activity and so reduce the impact on society.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Community Services Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for scrutinising the local Community Safety Partnership 'Safer Herefordshire'. To ensure this process was carried out effectively, a Review Group, made up of members of the main committee, was established. The Review Group considers a rolling programme of Safer Herefordshire activities and performance. Since the last Scrutiny meeting, the Safer Herefordshire Review Group has met once, to review:

- NI30 – To reduce the re-offending rate of prolific and other priority offenders *LAA target*

This report sets out the recommendations and findings from the Review Group meeting.

Key Considerations

- 2 The indicator above is owned by Safer Herefordshire. The IOM (Integrated Offender Management) group, led by Liz Smith, Area Manager for Probation, delivers activity against the indicators.

- 3 The five key principles of IOM are:
 - All partners tackling offending and risk of reoffending together;
 - Delivering a local response to local problems;
 - Offenders facing their responsibility or facing the consequences;
 - Making better use of existing (and proven) programmes across agencies and
 - All offenders at high risk of causing serious harm and/or re-offending are in scope for IOM.
- 4 The group needs to oversee and co-ordinate work on the 7 pathways linked to the risk of reoffending. The pathways are: accommodation; education, training and employment; health; drugs and alcohol; finance and debt; children and families; and attitudes, thinking and behaviour.
- 5 IOM will be developed further with a workshop planned for 30th November, involving a range of partners. Mapping of current service and activities will be carried out. Potential gaps and areas of duplication will be highlighted. The group will be looking at who and where the repeat offenders are in the county and what types of crimes are being committed. This is to ensure needs-led commissioning is carried out. The workshop will also explore the key outcomes that should be focused on.
- 6 One of the current activities commissioned was discussed in detail – SHIFT project. SHIFT is a care farm project for Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO's). They attend the farm and engage in activities such as working with animals, physical work on the land and growing produce. This gives clients the structure they may never have had in their life, and can be the first step in their recovery, whilst motivating them and building confidence and self-esteem. PPO's attend SHIFT show a clear reduction in offending behaviour and positive improvements in more social outcomes.

Conclusions

- 7 Safer Herefordshire has a statutory responsibility to deliver on the reducing reoffending agenda under the above principles.
- 8 The Review Group noted full agency representation was yet to be achieved in this area.
- 9 The IOM group will use the information from the service mapping work to develop its Reducing Reoffending Strategy, to be in place by April 2011.
- 10 As a result of the discussions of the Review Group, the following recommendations were made:
 - (a) **applaud the success of the Shift Care Farm Programme and were impressed to receive clear evidence of its results.**
 - (b) **that the Chairman of Herefordshire Policing Board be invited to consider, in consultation with the BCU Commander, the possibility of offering some degree of funding to evidently high performing services such as Shift Care Farm Programme.**

Community Impact

Engagement with offenders in this way significantly reduces the impact on communities, as their criminal behaviour lessens.

IOM encourages communities to engage with offenders in a positive manner and be part of their rehabilitation process and so increase the effectiveness of their re-integration into society.

Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications.

Legal Implications

None identified.

Risk Management

All partners must be fully engaged in IOM for this to be effective.

Consultees

Safer Herefordshire partners are consulted as projects are progressed and developed.

Offenders are consulted around service improvements, delivery, specifications etc.

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

Integrated Offender Management Priority Task Group Terms of Reference

IOM Key Principles Self Assessment Tool

IOM Government Policy Statement by Home Office

IOM Performance against targets report