

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	12 July 2012
TITLE:	Community Safety Plan: Helping Vulnerable People
WARD:	ALL

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

APPENDIX ONE: Briefing Note for Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

APPENDIX TWO: Diagram setting out revised tools and powers to tackling Anti Social Behaviour

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report highlights how the work of the Community Safety Partnership helps support the most vulnerable in our communities.

1.2 The Panel will be invited to test and scrutinise this work

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is requested

2.1 To note the work of the Community Safety Partnership to support and reassure vulnerable people.

2.2 To examine and test this work and its outcomes and wider impacts

2.3 To note the Government's proposed new tools and powers for anti-social behaviour and crime.

2.4 To make any recommendations to Cabinet or the Responsible Authorities Group.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Funding for the various projects highlighted come from a mix of specific Community Safety budgets and mainstream partner budgets. However, funding for a number of important services relating to support for vulnerable people will transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner in April 2013 and this is a key issue for consideration. These changes, combined with pressure on overall Council community safety budgets, have led to the need for increased targeting of funding along with still greater focus on achievement and outcomes and it is expected that this trend will continue as resources tighten.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 Helping vulnerable people is embodied in the local priorities of the Community Safety Plan and the following themes :

- Reducing antisocial behaviour - *putting victims, witnesses and communities first*
- Create a safe, strong and vibrant city economy
- Minimise harm from substance misuse
- Increase protection of the most vulnerable victims of crime – domestic violence and abuse, sexual abuse and hate crime
- Reduce crimes of local concern
- Safeguard young people – prevent them becoming victims or perpetrators of crime

4.2 The attached briefing note sets out how these themes prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable. In doing so it highlights services and projects which support victims of domestic violence and abuse, help victims of anti-social behaviour and hate crime and provide support to young people and students. It includes summaries of a range of services alongside achievements and outcomes

4.3 Appendix Two summarises the government's proposed new tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime, The Panel will also be updated on what we are doing locally in preparation for these changes.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance. There is a specific risk identified relating to the Government's proposal to transfer the current Home Office Community Safety Fund to the Police and Crime Commissioner from April 2013. There are potential opportunities for securing increased outcomes through a more integrated approach to supporting victims across the Avon and Somerset area. Discussions are taking place with the Police Authority on this and clarification from Home Office on funding is expected.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 Promoting equality and opportunity for all groups and individuals across the equality strands and promoting community cohesion is integral to this work.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Strategic Director- Resources; Divisional Director, Policy and Partnerships; Chair and Vice Chair of PDS Panel

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 Community Safety, Section 17 and 115 Crime and Disorder Act 1998; Other Legal Considerations

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication

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Background papers	White Paper: 'Putting victims first - more effective responses to antisocial behaviour'-
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

