

Committee: Scrutiny 1 – Community & Housing
Date: 1 November 2002
Agenda Item No: 6
Title: Community Safety Strategy Update
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Summary

- 1 This is a progress report on the work/projects and actions that are being/have been undertaken and/or completed to meet the six Aims of the Uttlesford Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005.

Background

- 2 In July 2002, Members approved the Uttlesford Community Safety Strategy (2002-05). The Strategy sets out six Aims, which are being pursued by the Community Safety Action Team (CSAT), and its various Working Groups.
- 3 The table attached as Appendix 1 lists each of the six Aims, the key objectives being pursued to meet the Aims and the actions being undertaken to achieve them. It shows that the majority of the actions are on target and underway. Some have been completed. Many of the projects and initiatives are dependant on the Partnership achieving funding to support implementation as there are insufficient finances available within partner's budgets. To this end, some £100,000 has been secured in one year funding towards projects such as Motorwise, Sports in the Community, Outreach workers, "Help is there" booklet, Mobile Information Bus etc.
- 4 The funds that are available from the Government towards Community Safety initiatives, e.g., Safer Communities Initiatives (SCI), Partnership Development Fund (PDF) and Communities Against Drugs (CAD) are issued under strict criteria and conditions, are for one year only and have to be spent by the end of the financial year. The Public Service Agreement (PSA) fund is the only grant that is potentially available for a further three years if the specific funding criteria are met. All of these funding streams supplement the mainstream activity to reduce crime and the fear of crime across the district.
- 5 The work described in the Appendix is underpinned by Action Plans that each of the Working Groups develop. CSAT monitors the Action Plans, by exception, at each of its meetings and each Working Group undertakes an

Annual Review to assess their own progress against the Aims and Objectives of their Action Plans.

- 5 The Working Groups have devolved budgets (made available from the CSAT budget) to assist them in carrying out projects and initiatives in relation to their Action Plans. The Groups make decisions about the work undertaken; Chairmen of the Working Groups report back to CSAT at its quarterly meetings.
- 6 With regard to monitoring the strategy as a whole and the progress made towards the baseline targets e.g. reduction in Crimes of Violence, Hate Crimes, Criminal offences, Road Accidents etc., there will be a mid-term review of the actions, projects and progress by CSAT 18 months into the 3-year cycle (Winter 2003). These figures will be report to Scrutiny at the appropriate meeting. This event will also re-enforce partnership working and cross-reference any potential duplication of work.
- 7 The future of CSAT continues to evolve. The Council, Essex County Council and the Government for the East of England need to monitor progress carefully as clearly Community Safety is still at an embryonic stage and will develop and grown over time and through experience.

Recommended that the Scrutiny Committee note the progress being made towards the Uttlesford Community Safety Strategy 2002/05.

Background Papers: Community Safety in Uttlesford
Funding Streams & Projects – 23.7.02
Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005
Working Group Action Plans