

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

FEAR OF CRIME IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel in relation to the Fear of Crime in North Lincolnshire.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 19 January 2011, the council considered a report of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel in relation to the Fear of Crime in North Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The report was approved by council and referred to cabinet for consideration of the recommendations with a view to the preparation of an action plan.
- 2.3 The panel completed this review in January 2011. It was carried out with a brief -
- To consider why residents of North Lincolnshire appeared more fearful of crime than the actual incidents of crime suggested.
 - To consider what North Lincolnshire Council and its partners were doing to address this.
- 2.4 Following the review the panel made 14 detailed recommendations. A copy of the recommendations are attached as an appendix to the report.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are no options associated with this report.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 4.1 There may be some resource implications associated with the recommendations when they are implemented.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 5.1 There may be other implications associated with the implementation of the recommendations which will be highlighted in any action plan.

6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The panel consulted widely with other scrutiny members, officers, other organisations and members of the public in relation to the preparation of the original report.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Service Director Community Planning and Resources and other appropriate Service Directors and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Environment prepare an action plan in response to the recommendations of the report for submission to a future meeting of cabinet.

SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC

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19 January 2011

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Report of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Panel

Recommendations

The final recommendations of the scrutiny panel are summarised below: -

Recommendation 1

That working alongside the local media, consideration be given to members of the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership publishing a bi-monthly four page newsletter of local crime prevention initiatives, community safety initiatives and quality of life issues. This will allow all partners to publish the articles they deem appropriate, whilst maintaining full editorial control.

Recommendation 2

Where large screen televisions are owned and displayed in areas of high footfall by statutory and non-statutory partners, for example in libraries, local links, leisure centres and accident and emergency departments, consideration be given to showing corporate messages giving information on crime related issues, education, health related issues and seasonal campaigns.

Recommendation 3

That the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership consider running competitions in schools and colleges to encourage young people to think about crime and safety issues. Prizes could include students having films and art work shown on the community televisions described previously.

Recommendation 4

Members recognise the increasing popularity and accessibility of the internet as a source of public information. However, the Safer Neighbourhoods website is outdated and low on up to date content. Therefore, a complete overhaul of the website is required to include, for example, a media player so visitors can watch partnership TV clips.

Recommendation 5

Members were greatly impressed with the Safe Links web site. This web site is an excellent source of information and advice for residents of North Lincolnshire and should be publicised accordingly.

Recommendation 6

Members were reassured to hear that all Community Safety Partners were proactive in promoting the positive work they were doing to reduce crime. However, the creation of a properly resourced multi agency communications strategy to ensure successful media messages are delivered from Community Safety Partners is essential.

Recommendation 7

Although the council has created a Section 17 Group, members would still like to see all service areas further embed their commitment and responsibilities to community safety and to Section 17 requirements.

Recommendation 8

Members would like to see a greater commitment given to the multi-agency Intergenerational Steering Group which is currently in existence. In particular, greater emphasis should be placed on the creation of more intergenerational projects between young and older people which break down the prejudices which frequently exist

Recommendation 9

That a colour booklet, designed and written by the Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership be produced to raise awareness of the raft of crime interventions which the Partnership are involved in. This booklet to be available at the 'meet the people' sessions, circulated to local voluntary and community groups and using geo-demographic data provided by Mosaic Public Sector software, to be delivered to 5,000 local households who the software identifies as living in areas which are populated by those who are most receptive to, and likely to read, leaflets delivered through the door.

Recommendation 10

That the Partnership reaffirms its commitment to holding 'meet the people' events where, instead of asking residents to come to public meetings, the Partnership goes to them. Members of the Partnership would be in attendance to discuss any issues or problems relating to community safety and anti-social behaviour.

Recommendation 11

This Panel wholeheartedly supports Humberside Police's commitment to neighbourhood policing and to the high visibility policing provided by Police Community Support Officers and strongly recommends that this commitment continues.

Recommendation 12

That Humberside Police considers the comments made in our survey in relation to the call-centre and the 0845 number.

Recommendation 13

That Humberside Police and North Lincolnshire Council explore the development of new technology which would allow their respective call centre operators to transfer callers to the relevant organisation, for example, if a caller rings Humberside Police with a trading standards issue then the operator transfers the caller through to the council.

Recommendation 14

Members believe that the 'unpaid work in the community' Community Sentence scheme has great value in helping to raise confidence in the Criminal Justice System. The panel feel that the scheme has the potential for dealing with local environmental concerns, itself a major factor in fear of crime. Members support the promotion of unpaid environmental work and people having a say in what work should be undertaken.