

REPORT TO: CABINET COMMUNITIES

DATE: 8 September 2010

SUBJECT: Safer Stronger Communities Departmental Service Plan 2010-11
(Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate)

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Assistant Director Safer Stronger Communities

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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:
To seek approval of the Safer Stronger Communities 2010/11 Departmental Service Plan
REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:
To approve the proposed actions/activities of the Safer Stronger Communities Division as contained in the Service Plan attached to the report.
RECOMMENDATION (S):
The Cabinet Member Communities is recommended to:
1. Note the progress made on 2009/10 actions and
2. Agree the intended action plans for 2010/11 -

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: Not appropriate

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following expiry of the call in of the minutes of this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: N/A

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial: Financial: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, as these have all been considered and taken account of in the Council's overall budget.

	2009/	2010/	2011/	2012/
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<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2010	2011	2012	2013
	£	£	£	£
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: None

Risk Assessment: None

Asset Management: None

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS:

All departments were consulted in the preparation of this report.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People	√		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the corporate performance management framework, service areas are required to present to their Cabinet Member a service plan for the coming year. The attached document contains a number of service priorities which will be implemented in pursuit of the achievement of departmental service objectives.

2. The Safer Stronger Communities Department Service Plan

- 2.1 The Safer Stronger Communities Division brings together the Council's main strategic, operational, and tactical functions in relation to addressing crime, disorder, anti social behaviour, substance misuse, environmental crime and public/community safety in Sefton. Along with the relevant Council departments we work actively with key agencies to help build *safer communities*, and reduce the risks of becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour, and *stronger communities*, by reducing inequalities and increasing community wellbeing.
- 2.2 The Division consolidates the councils role within the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP) so that its work complements, reciprocates and adds value to the work undertaken by the Police Authority, Police, Fire Service, Public Health Partnership, Probation Service, HM Courts, the Third Sector and the Local Criminal Justice Board. Adopting this approach secures the council, and its partners responsibility to ensure that Sefton residents, along with those working, visiting and investing here, are safe and feel secure in their environment.
- 2.3 The Division aims are to:
- Reduce crime
 - Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime
 - Tackling the causes of reoffending
 - Build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour
 - Reduce the harm caused by domestic, sexual violence and hate crime
 - Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs and alcohol
 - Improve the quality of the local environment by addressing environmental crime
 - Protecting the public in relation to civil contingencies and emergency planning.
- 2.4 The attached Service Plan sets out how the Division currently seeks to achieve these aims in 2010 / 2011.
- 2.5 It should be noted that these plans were developed at the start of the financial year, since which the Council, along with many of our public sector colleagues, has seen and is experiencing significant change to both the structural and financial environment. The achievement of the key outcomes and principles of the service plan will remain our goals, however it is anticipated that flexibility will be required to accommodate the changing environment.

3. Safer Stronger Communities Division - Significant Changes

- 3.1 In April 2010 responsibility for the Division moved from the Chief Executives Directorate to the Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate. This move also saw the

integration of the Drug Action Team and Civil Contingencies (emergency planning) Team into the Division.

- 3.2 At the same time the Division assumed additional responsibilities for Hate Crime, Cohesion, and the PREVENT agenda. In addition new legislation placed the statutory responsibility for Hate crime and Reducing Reoffending with the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP) so further extending the remit and agenda of the Division.

4. Safer Stronger Communities Division - Looking Back

- 4.1 This has been a period of continuing change and development for the Division, during which we have continued to deliver and to make a significant difference to the quality of life for the residents of Sefton.

- 4.2 Notable achievements from the past year 2009/10 include:-

Safer Communications

- **2.4%** reduction in BCS Crime to Sept 09 in comparison to the previous year, four of the top five highest BCS Crime Wards experienced a higher rate of reduction than the Sefton average during this period Linacre 3.7%, Dukes 23.5% St.Oswald 9.7% & Church 12.1%
- **Increase** in the number of residents who consider the Council and police are dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime. Sefton has out performed all other Merseyside authorities as well as the average for all authorities in its Most Similar Group.
- **Reductions in repeat victims** by focusing on repeat victims, offenders and locations with immediate joint action plans to preclude further occurrence
- **10,800** hours of work delivered within Sefton communities through Community Payback.
- **60** arson reduction home security programmes delivered to vulnerable victims.

Anti Social Behaviour

- **9.5%** reduction in ASB Incidents to Sept 09, in comparison to the previous year, three of the top five highest ASB Wards experienced a higher rate of reduction than the Sefton average during this period Linacre 12%, Dukes 14.7% & Church 22.1%
- **135** young people referred to the Anti Social Behaviour Unit and offered a range of services to address their behaviour including educational, training and youth service providers.
- **3652** individual visits offered through the Street Games initiative
- **350** young people involved in 2 music and band nights held at Dunes Splash World to offer diversionary activity.
- **192** advisory letters & Parental Advise booklets sent out to parents/ guardians regarding the behaviour of their children in relation to ASB and/or alcohol misuse.

Domestic & Sexual Violence

- **Reduction in the number of Repeat incidents** of domestic violence. Sefton outperformed its repeat target by 9 percentage points in 2009/10
- **180** high risk victims of domestic & sexual violence have received help from agencies at MARAC, inc: benefits advise, housing support, and employment

- **16** victims of hate crime have received help from agencies at MARAC, inc: benefits advise, housing support, and employment
- **150** home security programmes delivered throughout the borough to vulnerable victims of crime including domestic violence and hate crime.

Community Safety Area Partnerships

- Continued development of Area working with over 20 departments and partners and 55 local elected members attending the CSAPS through the year.
- The coordination with Merseyside Probation Trust of the Community Payback programme, which see offenders on community orders delivering these against locally determined priorities, such as graffiti removal, clean up operations etc.
- **22** schools visited to discuss ASB and or deliberate fire setting
- Tackling under age drinking in bars and nightclubs in Southport Town Centre, resulting in significant reduction in under-18s being found in licensed premises
- Co-ordination of Operation Staysafe. Staysafe is a joint operation between Merseyside Police, Sefton Youth Service, Brunswick Youth Centre and Leisure Services to identify and deal with young people that are at risk of significant harm.
- Operation Collar to combat dog fouling, carried out in St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell areas saw a five-week long initiative across 12 locations, with Sefton's Dog Wardens, Community Safety Officers and Merseyside Police joining forces to tackle the problem. A total of 344 people were stopped and provided with information.
- Co-ordination and deployment of Operation Maynard, an pilot to tackle the problem of aggressive and dangerous dogs by offering micro-chipping and registering as well as offering the neutering of the dog. Also resulted in the seizure of a banned breed dog.
- Tackling mini-moto issues on Leeds – Liverpool canal banks through installation of a gate that prevents access to the canal but allow pedestrian access

Drug Action Team

- Gaining status as a Pilot Area under the Drug Treatment System Change Programme. Sefton is one of seven successful pilots, which will provide more flexibility to explore innovative approaches to tackling drug misuse. Sefton's proposals are the most ambitious of the seven partnerships within the programme. We are undertaking whole system change and the development of new approaches to both local community and prison based treatment
- Establishment of a Single Point of Assessment in Knowsley Road Bootle and in Church Street Southport in partnership with the Social Care & Well-Being Directorate. Service users now receive a holistic assessment of their health and social care needs along side their drug treatment needs.
- Successful and rapid negotiation of a new service provider in the borough following our main community based treatment provider, the Lighthouse Project, falling into administration, in October 2009.
- **56** persons accessed the Move On scheme which offers people with drug issues intensive support into education, employment, training.
- **900** children across the boroughs schools spoken to about drugs and their effects by Police School Liaison Officers

Civil Contingencies

- Successful management of the Flu Pandemic, Severe Weather Emergency and the Southport Gas Leak.
- Delivery of Business Continuity Seminar to assist local businesses in planning for a serious incident or major disruption. Delegates from a range of companies learnt how

to plan for incidents such as fire, flood, staff sickness, terrorism, or loss of technology or supplies.

Safer Stronger Communities Partnership (SSCP)

- Development of a boroughwide collective **Partnership Plan**
- Continued development of the statutory Strategic Intelligence Assessment to enable Area Committee level profiling together with predictive analysis
- Launched of a brand new SSCP website, which gives people the chance to find out more about what we are doing in Sefton to make their communities safer and improve their wellbeing. The site shows videos about the work the Partnership does, allows people to check out the latest news and initiatives and view statistics on anti-social behaviour, environmental issues, crime and satisfaction.
- **78** priority and prolific offenders offered intensive support service into education, employment, training.
- **30** repeat offenders have attended problem solving courts and been offered assistance in education, employment and training, benefits & housing.
- **5** alcohol test purchasing operations involving 57 premises, undertaken in conjunction with the Police and Trading Standards **Over 15** licensed premises have achieved Best Bar None standard, relating to employee and customer standards.

4.3 A summary of progress achievement against Performance Targets is shown below:

LAA Indicators exceeding performance targets in 2009/10:-

- NI 17 - Perceptions of Anti Social Behaviour
- NI 20 - Assault with injury crime rate
- NI 21 - Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local authority and police
- NI 30 - Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders
- NI 32 - Repeat incidents of domestic violence
- NI 195 - Improved street and environmental cleanliness - litter
- NI 195 - Improved street and environmental cleanliness – detritus

LAA Stretch Target Performance – April 2007 - March 2010

In 2006 through the Local Area Agreement Sefton were set a number of 'stretch target' subject to performance reward grant. Four off these fell under the remit of the division and have all been achieved following the introduction and coordination of significant activity to achieve that target:

- In 2006, the percentage of Sefton's residents who felt that buying and selling drugs was a fairly big or big problem was 35.7%. In 2009, the percentage had vastly improved to only 20.98%. Sefton exceeded target and is in a position to apply for 100% of performance reward grant.
- In 2006, the percentage of Sefton's residents who felt well informed about what was being done to tackle anti social behaviour was 32.9%. In 2009, the percentage had greatly improved to 43.58%. Sefton exceeded target and is in a position to apply for 100% of performance reward grant.
- In 2006, the percentage of Sefton's residents who were engaged in formal volunteered for more than two hours per week was 9.4%. In 2009, the percentage had improved to 12.17%. Sefton exceeded target and is in a position to apply for 100% of performance reward grant.

- In 2006, the percentage of Sefton's residents who felt that people from different backgrounds got on well together was 62.8%. In 2009, the percentage had improved to 65.82%. Sefton exceeded 60% of the stretch target and is in a position to apply for 60% of associated performance reward grant

6. Safer Stronger Communities Division - Looking Forward

4.1 The next three years will continue to be challenging for the Division, some of the key issues will be:

- ❖ The Conservative led Coalition Government has started with a programme of reducing the budget deficit. This is to a very tight timescale with initial cuts being felt in this financial year to the tune of £6billion nationally and expected further cuts of approximately £32billion for the next financial year. This will have a massive impact on public sector spending and as a Council we have to react to this huge challenge. In Sefton this is likely to mean savings to be made by the Council in the region of £53 million over the next three years.
- ❖ Significant elements of the Division and those services and agencies it works with and supports, such as positive activities for young people, domestic and sexual violence services, priority and prolific offender service, are subject to cocktails of funding including Area Based Grant and Working Neighbourhoods Fund. How we ensure the outcomes from these services are maintained in the future will provide a challenge.
- ❖ There is considerable uncertainty about the future direction of drug treatment. The National Treatment Agency (an arms length body) has overseen drug treatment within England since 2001 but there are some voices within the new government calling for it to be replaced by a National Addictions Board. It has been indicated that the current drug strategy and the clinical governance which underpins it will be replaced by a new strategy which is promised for December this year. Our future plans will need to reflect both of these. In addition the level of future funding remains a concern as we await the outcome of the public spending review in October.
- ❖ As the public sector environment both structural and financial undergoes significant change the retention of key partnership working is critical and our ability to maintain and grow these relationships is paramount.

5. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member Communities is recommended to:

1. Note the progress made on 2009/10 actions and
2. Agree the intended action plans for 2010/11

