

CABINET REPORT – COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

4 February, 2010

Sefton Equalities Partnership

Equality Framework for Local Government

The new Equality Framework for Local Government has now been introduced and work is underway in migrating the Council's performance into the new system. The new framework consists of three levels as opposed to the current five and early work puts the council at 84% of the overall framework and at 55% of Level 3 in the new framework, working towards excellence.

Holocaust Memorial

The Equalities Partnership has been working with Sefton Unison, the Holocaust Memorial Steering Group and the Civic Mayoral Services to produce the 'Legacy of Hope' booklet to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the liberation of Belsen. The booklet will be distributed at the Holocaust Memorial Service on the 24th January and thereafter distributed widely across Sefton.

Quality

The Equalities Partnership and NHS Sefton were highly commended for their work with under-represented groups and the support they receive to access volunteering.

The Equalities Partnership has been shortlisted for the national Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards the outcome of which will be known at the end of March.

External Funding

The Equalities Partnership has successfully gained funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission to develop a local project to provide advocacy support to people with disabilities and limiting long term illness to access volunteering and employment.

Community Safety Department

Community Safety Area Partnerships (CSAPS)

The CSAP process continues to demonstrate how collaborative working between agencies and organisations continues to deliver reductions in priority crime and disorder issues across Sefton. Priorities are identified and agreed by Members every three months, using a balanced combination of information provided by the Strategic Intelligence Assessment, combined with findings from perception data generated by the Safer and Stronger Perception Surveys. By using this dual approach to set priorities, knowledge of the negative impacts that affect our communities (crime statistics) are combined with understanding (perception survey) to increase the

CABINET REPORT – COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

4 February, 2010

insight into our communities, which in turn helps Members to plan and deliver effective and visible interventions to reduce the crime and disorder harms affecting them.

CSAPs are held every month in each Area Committee Area and continue to be well attended, with new partners continually joining, for instance, Connexions, Sefton's Parenting Practitioners and Area Managers from Children's Services.

The work of CSAPs focuses specifically on the outcome oriented National Indicator NI 21 – *Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by local council police*. The following table compares the levels of reported anti-social behaviour between June and August 2008 and the same period in 2009

All ASB			
No. Of Incidents Reported			
Jun to Aug 2008	Jun to Aug 2009	Change	% Change
3577	3060	-517	-14.5

There is also evidence that this reduction in ASB is recognised by residents. The following table, using data from the perception survey demonstrates significant changes in residents' opinion about crime and disorder and how it affects them.

Percentage of people who do NOT think that the following is a problem...			
	Aug 08	Aug 09	% Change
Crime	79.3	81.6	-2.3
Community ASB	70.5	73.2	-2.7
Environmental ASB	77.8	79.1	-1.3

* Cohesion & Satisfaction

In addition the CSAPS also consider use data from the perception survey so that we can measure levels of satisfaction in terms of Community Cohesion, using the changes in perceptions around, 'how well informed people feel', 'how much people they can influence decisions' and 'how involved people feel within the community'.

Overall Satisfaction levels regarding Community Cohesion			
ACA	Aug 08	Aug 09	Change
Crosby	28.0	31.6	+3.6
Formby	33.0	37.3	+4.3
Linacre / Derby	25.3	26.0	+0.7
Litherland / Ford	23.6	25.4	+1.8
Sefton East Parishes	19.9	22.9	+3.0
Southport	38.2	40.9	+2.7
St Oswald / Netherton and Orrell	19.7	21.7	+2.0

CABINET REPORT – COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

4 February, 2010

* Reducing Inequalities

A key element of delivering improvements in community safety is reducing inequality – in effect, tackling issues and problems in areas with the highest prevalence of crime and disorder at a faster rate than the average rate for the whole Borough. The following examples demonstrate how the CSAPs have “narrowed the gap” in Sefton:

* BCS Crime

The average reduction across Sefton between April to September 2008 compared to the same period in 2009 was 2.4%. However in four of the top five wards experiencing the highest prevalence of BCS crime the reductions were as follows:

- Dukes – 23.5% reduction
- Church – 12.1% reduction,
- St Oswald – 9.7% reduction
- Linacre – 3.7% reduction

* ASB Incidents

The average reduction across Sefton between April to September 2008 compared to the same period in 2009 was 9.5%. However in three of the top five wards experiencing the highest prevalence of ASB the reductions were as follows:

- Church – 22.1% reduction
- Dukes – 14.7% reduction,
- Linacre – 12% reduction

* Business Crime

Business crime in Sefton increased by 2.1% between April to September 2008 compared to the same period. However in three of the top five wards experiencing the highest prevalence of business crime demonstrated the following reductions:

- Kew – 12.7% reduction
- Linacre – 9.5% reduction
- Dukes – 2.1% reduction

New Funding: Anti-Social Behaviour: Tackling not tolerating.

In November 2009 it was announced that Sefton, as one of the 30 Pioneer Areas was to benefit from a new package of measures specifically introduced to add value to the above programme and to further assist local partners tackle anti-social behaviour and to keep communities informed and safe. In Sefton the measures announced will assist in the delivery of the Pioneer Programme and will see a further investment of £40,000 made available this financial year from Communities and Local Government funded through S.31 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2003.

CABINET REPORT – COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

4 February, 2010

It has been stated in the guidance that the areas receiving the funding will be allowed to determine how best to spend the funding in line with however there are clear expectations as to how the funding should be used to address anti-social behaviour.

Given the Home Secretary has set Crime and Disorder Partnerships the challenge to set, agree and publicise minimum standards of service on how anti-social behaviour will be addressed by March 2010 there is advise and a clear expectation from Government Office that this funding would and should support that work as well as for example:

- Training for front-line staff
- Communicating Confidence
- Support for Community led projects to engage young people
- Offering support to victims of anti-social behaviour

The final decision on how to use the funding to best effect is a decision for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) who will agree a spend profile at their next meeting in February.

Family Justice Centre

In consultation with vulnerable victims of violence and abuse we have learnt of their deep and abiding desire for a Family Justice Centre approach to receiving holistic wrap around services that work together to identify their needs and reduce the risks they experience. Their experience tends to be one of agencies that seem to provide 'seem less' services rather than seamless services, and we have become increasingly convinced that improved collaborative service delivery is the way forward.

To this effect Sefton has adopted the Government's 'Coordinated Community Response' (CCR) model as integral to our delivery mechanisms for our Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy (2007-2010)

In March 2009 Sefton worked with GONW to facilitate a successful conference, co-delivered by the International Family Justice Centre Alliance that enabled a project team to begin the process of achieving 'buy in' for the vision of our service users and SSCP. We have now established a strong and effective working relationship with the International Family Justice Centre Alliance (IFJCA), based in San Diego where the collaborative service delivery model was initially developed, including the development of a business plan that will enable us to realise our shared vision if this was judged to be feasible. We have also already had some initial discussions with the IFJCA about the feasibility of Sefton becoming both a national and European regional centre of excellence and learning, to ensure that the lessons learnt throughout this project can be replicated in other communities.

CABINET REPORT – COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

4 February, 2010

A project team has been established which includes senior officers from across the Council departments, Merseyside Police, CPS, NHS Sefton, MerseyCare, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, and other key partners, and also includes the GONW Violent Crime Lead as an integral member.

In August 2009 the project team submitted a bid to the Home Office under the Home Secretary Priority Fund to fund a feasibility study that would enable Sefton to establish whether an extended version of a Family Justice Centre could be achieved. In October 2009 the Home Office confirmed that this bid had been successful, and Sefton has been awarded £110k to develop and implement phase 2 of the project plan, which whilst in itself does not commit the council to any future spend, does now allow the development of a feasibility study.

Performance Indicators LAA Stretch Targets 2007 – 2010

The Safer Stronger Communities Partnership has responsibility in relation to the delivery of 4 LAA stretch targets with reward. The measurement period in relation to 3 of those ended in October 2010, however these results require validation but show a positive result.

** Percentage of respondents who think selling or using drugs is a very big/fairly big problem*

Buying and Selling Drugs target for 100% stretch 28.7%. Final aggregate May - October 20.97% therefore we have exceeded target by 7.73 percentage points and will be able to apply for 100% of performance reward grant £863K

** Percentage of residents who are very well informed/fairly well informed about what is being done to tackle anti-social behaviour in their local area*

ASB Informed target for 100% stretch 40.9%. Final aggregate May – October 43.52%, therefore we have exceeded target by 2.62 percentage points and will be able to apply for 100% of performance reward grant £863K

** Percentage of residents who strongly agree or agree that their neighbourhood is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together*

Different Backgrounds target for 60% stretch 65.8%. Final aggregate May - October is 65.82%, therefore we have exceeded the 60% target by 0.02 of a percentage point. Based on this calculation we will be able to apply for 60% of performance reward grant circa £500K

The estimate of associated applied for PRG for the above indicators equates to circa £2.2m

Councillor Porter
Cabinet Member - Communities