

CABINET REPORT – COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

June, 2010

Sefton Equalities Partnership

Equality Act 2010 and Equality Framework for Local Government

The Council is assessed as being at 67% of the Equality Framework. The Bill was passed in April and this requires a review of the framework, with more emphasis on outcomes and equality impact assessments. Work is underway through the corporate equalities group to ensure that the Council and its Departments are compliant.

Public Engagement and Consultation

The work of the public engagement and consultation panel continues to become embedded within departments of the Council with more buy in to publishing proposed plans for future engagement and consultation.

Work Ability

The Equalities Partnership has been successful in securing funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission to develop the above project to assist people with disabilities or limiting long term illness to access and retain employment and training in the borough.

Mystery Shopping

Members of the Ability Network have commenced the mystery shopping of the Council services as part of improving access for people with disabilities or limiting long term illness. The outcomes of this work will form the basis of an action plan to remove barriers to access.

Values Statement

The Seaforth Values Statement was launched in April at Sing Plus with all key providers of services and local residents coming together to tackle hate crime within their local communities.

Polska Tails

The book Polska Tails was formally launched at the Plaza cinema with children and families from our Polish Community who have worked to write and publish the bi-lingual children's book. The books have been distributed to all libraries and primary schools taking part in the project.

Show Racism the Red Card

Two primary schools attended Liverpool Football Club to meet with footballers, old and new, as part of the campaign to kick racism out of football. The focus this year was the World Cup and what we can all do to address racism in football and our daily lives.

IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia)

The EMBRACE and In Trust networks held an open event focusing on removing barriers to housing.

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Community Safety Department

Crime Performance (current performance and emerging risks)

- BCS-crime (10 categories of recorded crime) decreased 12.8% March-April 2010. In addition BCS-crime fell by 13.2% when comparing April 2010 with April 2009.
- Within BCS crime criminal damage represents 43% of all recorded crime, and recent performance suggests that between March –April 2010 criminal damage decreased by 2.6% (comparing April 2009 with April 2010 it decreased by 9.4%).
- Burglary dwelling decreased by 40% March 2010 to April 2010 and between April 2009 to April 2010 it decreased by 11%
- Robbery (personal) decreased by 40% between March 2010 and April 2010, and between April 2009 to April 2010 it decreased by 73% (note: the percentage reductions are based on small actual numbers of offences).
- Serious Violent Crime: National Indicator 15 (this is an aggregate measurement of 'violent crimes') decreased by 50% when comparing April 2009 with April 2010.
- Serious Acquisitive Crime: National Indicator 16 (this is an aggregate of associated 'property based crimes' such as burglary) increased between April 2009 and April 2010 by 11.2% despite a reduction in burglary dwelling during the same period.
- Knife Crime: National Indicator 28 decreased by 41% from April 2009 to April 2010.

Performance Related Risks

- Comparator performance as assessed against Most Similar Groups (LSP/ CDRP) has shown that whilst improvements continue to be made in terms of crime reduction within Sefton, that in comparison with other areas our comparator performance has slipped.
- Sefton are 11th in its LSP family of 23 (Jan –March 2010). The principle risk areas associated with this are, in relation to performance, criminal damage and burglary dwelling. Action Plans to address these risks have been implemented and performance has improved.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There was a 2.2% reduction in reports made to the Police with respect to incidents of anti-social behaviour (April 2009- April 2010). Detailed ASB profiles have been constructed with colleagues in the Police and are used extensively by partners within the Council to target resources.

Domestic Violence

From March 2010- May 2010 the Domestic Violence MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) has had 124 'high risk' referrals from a wide range of agencies. All these clients receive a detailed risk assessment and a tailored package of support.

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Hate Crime

The final stages of the hate crime CD-rom are now in place. The CD-rom will be available to all Reporting Centres and to all victims of hate crime. It will also be on the Sefton Safer Communities Web-site.

Word Cup: Social Marketing Model

Images have been designed to make people aware of the associated health and community safety risks predicted to occur during this period. The images (already market tested) will be displayed in areas of predictive risk within Sefton.

Local Strategic Intelligence Assessments (Community Safety)

Seven local SIAs (profiles associated with community safety) have been produced that describe the known prevalence, perception and predictive risks within each Area Committee.

Victims/Witnesses Confidence CD-rom

This is a product that we have produced with Corporate Communications that will be available to all people who will be going to be witnesses in court. It will be available as a CD-rom and on the Internet. The product will be available to victims support and to Witness services that will (if the victim has not got a computer or a DVD at home) make suitable arrangements for the witness to see the product. The product shows the court process in Sefton with local services telling the audience about the services they provide.

Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Department

Area Management

- Currently developing a proposal for how Area Committees could take on more power and influence.
- Initial discussions have taken place to look at how we could develop a new area based governance structure for the Sefton Borough Partnership.

Participatory Budgeting

- Two Pilots in Church and Manor ward are progressing well. Ideas for Church ward include: dog fouling project, works to Chaffers Field, Seaforth in Bloom. Manor ward are focussing on the four main housing estates.

**Councillor P.Dowd
Cabinet Member - Communities**