

Executive Report**HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR GEORGE CLEMENTS – PORTFOLIO HOLDER****TERRY CHILCOTT – LEAD OFFICER****1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 Community Safety
Tasking Groups – Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership****Violent Crime**

The Task Group is working with the West Cumberland Hospital A&E department with a view to developing an action plan which will address issues of verbal and actual assaults against staff. Perpetrators names that are identified will be raised through the pub watch schemes if alcohol has been a factor in the assault. The Police will be making regular visits to the hospital to help prevent nuisance behaviour and reduce fear of crime levels.

Prolific Offender Scheme (PPO)

There are currently 22 names on the Prolific Offender list, each case is being carefully monitored and appropriate interventions are being put in place to deter them from committing further crimes or actively targeting them when they do not comply with bail conditions, drug testing and treatment orders or curfews.

Community Safety

This group is just being established; it is a new group and has a very wide remit. It is to focus on Acquisition Crime (vehicle crime, burglary and theft), Fear of Crime, Business Crime, Race and Hate and Road Safety. This Task Group will split into sub groups where necessary to undertake and co-ordinate activities in respect of the aforementioned key areas.

In terms of Burglary, the group has decided to continue with the Homesafe Scheme in partnership with Age Concern. The scheme is aimed at reducing burglary and preventing repeat victims of burglary by target hardening properties throughout West Cumbria.

With respect to vehicle crime, that group has recently invested in a number of Datatag kits which will reduce the number of quad bike thefts. Apcoa has recently agreed to print a crime prevention message on the back of all of their ticket machines – they are designed to remind motorists to remove valuables and belongings from view.

Anti Social Behaviour

A multi agency meeting is progressing issues of disorder and nuisance in Cleator Moor. The Partnership, supported by representatives from Copeland Homes, Connexions, Town Council and many other agencies are committed to improving the quality of life for residents and will deal with individuals causing problems with appropriate actions.

Drugs and Alcohol

An action planning day has been arranged for 16th June 2005 at The Oval Centre, Salterbeck. The aim of the day is to develop action plans in terms of Treatment Provision, Enforcement, Employment and Education, Accommodation and Young People.

The day should allow us to identify gaps, best practice and what is working well and not so well.

1.2 Housing Renewal

Members will be aware that the Government and Regional Housing Board have announced that at least £14 m will be available to Barrow and West Cumbria to help tackle housing renewal over the next few years. This is subject to properly researched proposals reflecting real needs in the main urban areas of Allerdale, Barrow and Copeland. Additional funding sources are to be explored. Two important pieces of work which will assist our area are to commence this month and the Council is represented on the steering groups for each:

- At the sub-regional level a Furness and West Cumbria housing Market Renewal Area Prospectus is to be prepared by consultants on behalf of the partnership of local authorities, local housing associations, West Lakes Renaissance with presentation from regional bodies. This follows on from the recently completed Economic and Housing Research Study and will be in the form of an Action Plan detailing the scale and location of interventions required to help deliver sustainable housing markets. It is expected to be submitted to ODPM by the end of September. (I attended a learning event organised by the Audit Commission on such matters in Leeds on 10th June).
- At the local level Copeland Homes and West Lakes Renaissance are jointly funding a Housing and Community Regeneration Strategy for the Kells, Woodhouse and Greenbank areas of Whitehaven. This is part of the overall Whitehaven Regeneration Programme and focuses on preparing an action programme, consultation and management arrangements, and developing new projects which will also feed into the sub-regional prospectus. It is expected to be completed by the end of October.

It will be important for us to ensure that the Regional Spatial and Housing Strategies support these objectives and appropriate lobbying is being undertaken.

1.3 Trusteel

Officers will shortly be appointing a consultant to write the tender documentation, tenders will be invited and assessed and contractors appointed at the earliest opportunity so work on the Trusteel properties can commence. A timetable will be agreed and reports made to the OSC.

1.4 Supporting People

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Supporting People five-year strategy submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and has been well received.

Officers from the ODPM visited the Cumbria Supporting People team in April, to ensure the review programme was progressing. Following the visit a detailed report has been provided by the ODPM indicating that they are satisfied; they complimented the team on operational processes that have been developed.

2. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

None

3. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

None