

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

SECTION 17 AUDIT

Autumn 2008

ASSESSING ACHIEVEMENT OF SECTION 17 (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

Background - The implications of Section 17

The 1998 Crime & Disorder Act provided local authorities, the police and a number of other key partners with a new legal framework to reduce crime and disorder. Within this, Section 17 of the Act requires local authorities, police authorities and other agencies to consider the crime reduction potential of all their policies, budgetary and other decisions and service provision.

Section 17 states: 'Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority... to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area'

The Council is therefore obliged to keep an up-to-date audit of how services provided are taking into account the Section 17 duty.

The positive opportunity of Section 17 for WFDC

Community safety touches the work of most Divisions and service areas. Through Section 17, it provides the Council with the opportunity to consider how each service can contribute to reducing crime and disorder, addressing the social, community and physical 'drivers' of crime and so enhancing quality of life for our local communities.

The legal challenge of Section 17

The Council should be aware of the legal consequences of not considering Section 17 i.e. the risk that individuals or groups who feel that authorities are in breach of their duty may challenge their actions and decisions in the courts. In the absence of case law, it remains unclear what the courts would consider to be a breach of Section 17. The courts will, however, seek evidence that an authority has done all it reasonably can to prevent crime. Experience of similar duties suggests that, in making this assessment, they will look for evidence that the authority has a coherent plan for complying with Section 17, and that it is being implemented.

Approaches to Section 17

- **Minimalist** - the minimalist approach involves having mechanisms in place to ensure that crime and disorder implications are considered whenever policy and service developments are approved. This might be achieved, for example, by inserting a section on community safety in all reports going to the Council's Cabinet for decision.

- **Mid Level** - the mid level approach involves building a commitment to reducing crime and disorder into the routine activities of individual departments and service areas.
- **Corporate** - the corporate approach involves treating crime and disorder reduction as a 'whole' organisation activity and supporting this at corporate level, for example by building a commitment to creating safer communities into the Corporate Plan, objectives, information gathering and review processes. The corporate approach has most potential for delivering safer communities, demonstrating Best Value, responding to community concerns and joining up service delivery.

Current position statement on WFDC level of approach for Section 17

The previous Section 17 audit undertaken in 2007 demonstrated that Divisions had various approaches to the Section 17 duty for their services. A mix of the minimalist, mid level and corporate approaches were evident. However, it is acknowledged that all Divisions should be striving to achieve the corporate approach. It is anticipated that this audit will demonstrate that the Council as a 'whole' is progressing towards this approach, however it will also enable us to identify what further work needs to be undertaken.

Purpose of this Audit

The purpose of this Audit is to help Divisions assess their service delivery against the Section 17 standards listed and rate themselves in one of four categories:

- **Gap identified;**
- **Working towards;**
- **Some success; and**
- **Doing well.**

Clearly, these categories could be open to a certain amount of interpretation. To ensure consistency in approach to the Audit, the following guidelines should be followed when classifying levels of success:

Gap identified: The Division feels that, at present, it is not achieving the Section 17 standard and this is, therefore, a gap in its current practice. Alternatively, only very limited progress has been made towards the Section 17 standard.

Working towards: The Section 17 standard listed has been identified as a gap in current practice and the Division has developed responses or actions to address it. Partial achievement of the Section 17 standard has been made, but substantial further work is required.

Some success: To classify itself in this category, the Division will have achieved significant achievement against the Section 17 standard and can give robust examples of this.

Doing Well: The Division is delivering well on all aspects of the Section 17 standard. Note that some areas of development and refinement could remain, even when they define themselves as Doing Well.

Evidence

To further avoid subjectivity, Divisions are asked to demonstrate what evidence they drew on to categorise their success. The evidence box is not intended to require a written report under each standard. Instead, where available, it should specifically reference work undertaken which identified the level of success indicated.

Development Goals

Included on the audit form is additional space for the identification of development goals relevant to each standard. Where a Division has identified a gap in its performance against a particular standard, this box allows them to identify their goals for improving performance. This box will be very helpful in moving on from the audit process to establishing and delivering a development.

NB - Section 17 Standards are listed on a divisional basis. However, there could be cross cutting across one or more divisions due to how the achievement of the standard could be demonstrated.

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
1. Enable information sharing and analysis under Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998.				✓	New Information sharing protocols have been developed and are going through the approval stage. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) and West Mercia Constabulary Information Sharing Agreement. ▪ Safer Communities Board Information Sharing Protocol. ▪ Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team Information Sharing Protocol. 	To ensure that protocols are reviewed on a regular basis and that all partners are aware of them and understand their purpose. Potential training need to be identified.
2. Ensure that all relevant agencies participate in the triennial community safety audit and strategy development cycles.				✓	First strategic assessment conducted in 2008 as part of statutory duty on CDRPs. Second strategic assessment has nearly been completed.	WFCSP taking part in Partnership Peer Support Programme. First session looks at strategic assessment and Partnership Plan. To ensure all partners understand the process and how the CDRP priorities are identified.
3. Ensure that funding is available to meet the cost of implementing community safety.				✓	Through the Local Area Agreement the WFCSP is provided with the majority of its funding. WFDC and other partners have made contributions to the external funding the WFCSP has available. This has been used to support the delivery of the LPSA 2 targets. WFDC has a small pump-priming budget for projects.	Divisional Business Planning to ensure that funding for community safety and meeting Section 17 obligations is mainstreamed into budgeting processes.
4. Secure external funding to fill gaps in local funding plans.			✓		WFDC has an External Funding Working Group. The External Funding Strategy was adopted in April 2005. WFCSP is represented on the Working Group and supported the development of the Strategy. WFDC subscribes to an external funding database, which can be accessed by the Community Safety and Partnerships Officer and others to identify funding opportunities.	Scrutiny review of the External Funding Strategy taking place. To put in place agreed recommendations.

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COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
5. Provide grant-aid to community organisations that are delivering community safety outcomes.			✓		Through available <u>external</u> funding streams, monies are allocated by the WFCSP towards District, North Worcestershire or Worcestershire wide projects. The majority of the Council's budget is allocated towards improving the operation and performance management of the Partnership.	Look at what proportion of the Council's Community Safety Budget can be used to pump prime other projects that may not meet the criteria of the available funding streams.
6. Provide support for the community safety partnership.			✓		One full-time WFDC Officer - Community Safety and Partnerships Officer. Support from WFDC Strategy, Partnerships and Communications Manager. One part-time WFCSP Project Officer and one part-time WFCSP Support Officer both employed by WFDC. One full-time WFCSP Analyst employed by Worcestershire County Council.	To buy in extra capacity as and when needed for specific pieces of work. Capacity has increased and support for the Partnership now stands at 4 members of staff.
7. Provide support and information for those Councillors overseeing community safety implementation.			✓		Update meetings with Cabinet Member for Community Safety, items in Members' Information Bulletin, briefing notes on various issues and information provided on a quarterly basis in the Members' Lounge.	To further increase information provision by developing a newsletter.
8. Promote community safety within the Council; for example, incorporate impact assessments into service plans, reviews and committee/Executive papers.			✓		Some Divisions have effectively built the implications of Section 17 into their Business Plan. The Local Plan very clearly identifies the linkages through the various policy statements around community safety. Cabinet report template has specific section for legal implications.	To monitor Divisional Business Planning process to ensure Section 17 implications are effectively represented. Section 17 needs to be mainstreamed as a core day to day business item.

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COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
9. Integrate and promote joint working of the Community Safety Partnership with relevant national, regional and local bodies, for example, Home Office, Regional Government Offices, Regional Development Agency, local Youth Offending and Drug Action Teams, voluntary and business sectors, local communities.			✓		Good joint working arrangements exist. Both the Youth Offending Team and Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) are members of the Partnership although closer relationships could be enhanced further. Have a close working relationship with GOWM on a range of community safety initiatives.	Provide more information to voluntary and business groups to support community safety initiatives. Use the newly established Wyre Forest Matters Forum as a vehicle.
10. Link community safety to other strategic planning issues, for example, regeneration, town centre management, policy research, media liaison/public relations/marketing, best value, equalities, customer relationship management, human resources and emergency planning.			✓		Links exist in a number of the areas identified including regeneration (Horsefair Triangle), CCTV in all town centres, Alcohol Restriction Zone in Bewdley Town Centre and Stourport-on-Severn Town Centre, and relevant media publications including Newswyre. Other examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire safety: 'Colin - the firestarter' website ▪ Wider regeneration issues: Mosaic Stourport-on-Severn ▪ Severn Project, Stourport-on-Severn planning gain around Basins ▪ Arts Development working with Kidderminster Prospectus ▪ Public art lighting scheme in Kidderminster Town Centre 	Continue to raise awareness of the Strategic Priorities for Community Safety as outlined in the current District Community Safety Partnership Plan to ensure all Divisions make the appropriate links as necessary. Where required, support this with appropriate training.

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COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
11. Raise the profile of community safety in local publications and media channels.			✓		Currently utilising any opportunities possible to promote community safety, including through the local newspapers, the Council's website and newspaper Newsyre, The Community Housing Group's Better Streets Ahead, Pathfinder Express and HBGP Link magazine. Have started to build closer links with the Kidderminster Shuttle and have a monthly column in the paper, which starts in November.	The WFCSP is planning to produce a quarterly newsletter. WFCSP website is to be revised and promoted before the new year.
12. Ensure that local people receive accurate information about the true risk of becoming a victim of crime.			✓		All publications and press releases seek to include the most up to date and relevant information on crime and disorder issues	Use of the WFCSP's website to publish up to date crime and disorder statistics. These are currently published on Council's Intranet.
13. Challenge stigmatising images of high-crime neighbourhoods.			✓		Much work has been undertaken in such neighbourhoods, namely Oldington and Foley Park and Horsefair, Broadwaters and Greenhill as all Community Safety Strategies produced for the District have identified these areas as having vulnerable communities. The new HBGP has been having a positive impact with a number of initiatives achieving media coverage, such as the Big Tidy Day.	More press coverage of positive neighbourhood action should be a key development goal for the future. The Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme in Oldington and Foley Park Ward and the Horsefair, Broadwaters and Greenhill Partnership contribute to increasing community confidence and raising a positive profile for working towards change in those areas.
14. Incorporate community safety issues into community consultation and market research.			✓		Community safety issues continually feature in general quality of life surveys and consultation matters.	Continue to feed community safety issues into community consultation.

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COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
15. Identify and achieve communication with vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities.			✓		The Council has many links to communicate with vulnerable and hard to reach communities and in particular is supported through the various forums. WFCSP has established a Hate Incident Reporting Partnership	To continue to build on the links established.
16. Devise youth-specific consultation and communication arrangements.			✓		The Council continually explores arrangements for engaging young people in community safety consultation e.g. Wild Walshes play project: monoliths and BMX track, 11 Million Day, District Youth Forum and The Big Questionnaire.	Continue to look at other innovative methods for engaging young people in youth specific consultation
17. Ensure that services are influenced by community consultation and are available in disadvantaged areas.				✓	<p>Friends of St George's Park: supporting new BMX track in park. MAPA in this park is very successful with floodlights - feedback from young people.</p> <p>Play Day 2008: excellent feedback. Will include this and more smaller local events in 2009 programme</p> <p>Play Rangers scheme working in areas of need. These are determined by partner consultation and community feedback.</p> <p>Education Ranger work programme determined by local tenant groups seeking environmental projects as well as focus on disadvantaged young people and work with schools and Youth Support Service.</p> <p>Shindig Rural Touring Scheme: access to high quality art performances in local venues at subsidised costs. Community groups can select from varied menu.</p>	<p>New schemes for 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Best Foot Forward walking project ▪ Dance project ▪ Diversionary activities, CSP funding ▪ Access to Nature project ▪ Play Builder 2009/10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capital schemes in WF - partner in county play adventure centre

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COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
18. Provide play schemes for younger children.				✓	After School Clubs - Play Rangers Holiday Schemes. Concessions are available making activities largely free. Working in partnership. Different settings to appeal to a wider audience.	Continue development of play opportunities. Better liaison and adding value to independent providers and settings. In summer 2009 provide more "Play Day" type events.
19. Provide staff training in crime prevention and management of disruptive behaviour.				✓	Staff training in this area has taken place with summer rangers, sports development coaches, play leaders etc. Drugs Awareness training for Community Development staff. Level 1 achieved with some staff moving on to next level. Safeguarding Children Policy has a Code of Behaviour for young people and a Code of Conduct for employees. Summer staff receive comprehensive training package.	To work towards all staff in Community Development undertaking external training where appropriate. Staff Inductions. EDR training needs.

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Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
20. Promote and provide a mix of activities that meet the needs of different groups and ages.				✓	<p>Leisure centre programme including Passport to Leisure, free swimming initiative (WFCSP provided a grant to DC Leisure for free swimming), IFI, MEND, Activity Referral, Access Gold Community Development projects.</p> <p>Leisure events including skateboarding, youth shelters Young Rangers and Far Out Club, Play schemes, Community Sports Coach Scheme and work towards increasing participation through the Physical Activity Officer.</p> <p>Sports Development leading Sport Unlimited programme.</p> <p>Liaison with The Community Housing Group, Oldington and Foley Park Network, Children's Fund, H & W Sports Partnership to name but a few.</p> <p>Liaison with Connexions for young people identified as within an 'at risk' category.</p> <p>Parties in the Park led by Police and supported by WFDC and WFCSP.</p> <p>Bewdley Museum, Bands in the Park, Kidderminster Arts Festival, The Big Draw, The Apple Project, led walks and water activity/swimming for people with learning disabilities.</p>	<p>Disability scheme part funded by WCC - Celebration Sports Day.</p> <p>Better facilities for teenagers.</p> <p>Work with community groups and statutory organisations (e.g. LSP).</p> <p>WFDC co-ordinate Holiday Activities Group, which maps out and communicates what's going on for young people in the district.</p>

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COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
21. Provide accurate, accessible high-quality service information.				✓	Well-honed in-production of Summer Programme. New theme and style adopted for 2008. Summer brochure on website. Additional fliers aimed at youth. Information on <i>Plug & Play</i>	Mailing list updated and reviewed regularly i.e. every holiday period. In 2009 considering additions to the summer brochure to support community groups. WFDC website – new content management system with AAA accessibility capability.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
22. Support emergency and contingency planning, for example, in dealing with floods			✓		Emergency Plan in place and team of identified officers. This service is managed by Property and Operational Services. However the Chief Executive has overall responsibility for Emergency Planning. Excellent links with Countywide Emergency Planning Team, which has added value to dealing with both the Foot and Mouth and Flooding Emergencies. Plan provides process for looking after vulnerable individuals displaced due to flooding or other emergencies.	Keep up to date with any available training on Emergency Situations and ensure all Members and Officers know who the Emergency Planning Team are.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
23. Integrate community safety consultation with Best Value consultation.			✓		Previous Best Value service reviews including cleansing services and planning have incorporated community safety matters into their respective consultation. Cleansing services was very much focused around liveability issues e.g. litter, graffiti etc.	Continue to mainstream community safety questions into relevant consultation exercises.

LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
24. Support activities to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, nuisance and harassment.				✓	Legal advice relating to these matters including consideration to all matters relating to crime and anti-social behaviour.	To deliver well in all aspects of S17 and review.
25. Ensure that contracts incorporate appropriate community safety measures where relevant contracts always include the appropriate S17 requirements.				✓	Nuisance and harassment. Working towards supporting evidence. The contracts proforma has been amended to incorporate appropriate clauses if relevant.	To deliver well in all aspects of S17 and review.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
26. Implement corporate policies that provide fair access to services by reducing violence, racial and sexual harassment to both personnel and the public.			✓		Safeguarding Children Policy adopted corporately June 2005. Diversity role sits within Chief Executive's Office - Single Equalities Scheme adopted by Council 2008.	The Authority is currently reviewing its approach.
27. Provide appropriate support to personnel who are victims of crime.				✓	Provide counselling and support through Occupational Health Services.	On going monitoring.
28. Incorporate appropriate community safety perspectives into recruitment procedures and performance appraisal.			✓		The Job Applicant's Information Pack, which is sent out with the application form contains information on community safety. The Employee Development Review Questionnaire examines employees' understanding of Section 17.	Ongoing.

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FINANCIAL SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
29. Establish systems that reduce the risk of the Council's exposure to crime, for example, fraud and theft.				✓	Corporate Governance Framework, Council's Constitution including financial regulations. Internal and external audit reports.	Maintain and monitor current procedures making amendments as required.
30. Track the cost of crime, including petty theft, across the Council and implement measures to reduce it.				✓	Council's Constitution including financial regulations.	Maintain and monitor current procedures making amendments as required.
31. Maximise benefit take up within deprived areas and communities.			✓		Publicity in Newsywe, Council Tax information, Department for Work and Pensions Cutting Council Tax, Completion of Department for Work and Pensions Performance Standards – User Focus and Benefit Strategy.	Department for Work and Pensions Performance Standards – User Focus (Enabler 39).
32. Pool all possible information to reduce benefit fraud with other Council departments and other local agencies under an information-sharing protocol.			✓		Working practices in place, including DWP nationally and locally, and HMRC, Completion of Department for Work and Pensions Performance Standards - Security, and Audit Commission - National Fraud Initiative. Liaison with RSL's including The Community Housing Group.	Department for Work and Pensions Performance Standards - Security.

PLANNING, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals

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Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
33. *Ensure that allocation policies are sufficiently sensitive to create balanced communities.				✓	<p>Some local lettings policies in place and work with The Community Housing Group's Anti Social Behaviour Unit where appropriate. Development at Broomy Close with Waterloo. CHG has introduced a local lettings plan into the Hurcott Road Flats, Kidderminster. This is designed to restrict lettings to people with specified serious criminal convictions or a history of anti social behaviour.</p> <p>Waterloo HA and Nexus Housing Association have introduced starter tenancies for WF lettings.</p> <p>Housing Services have and will continue to support the introduction of the new Family Intervention Project being operated by CHG.</p> <p>The Council and Supporting People are currently jointly commissioning a North Worcestershire young person's homelessness scheme, which will see new housing and support services being developed, including a Foyer and supported accommodation for young people with multiple problems.</p> <p>The Council along with other Worcestershire Authorities has been working with West Mercia Probation service on a housing protocol for ex-offenders.</p> <p>The Worcestershire Chief Housing Officers Group has been working with the SMAT and the Home Office to assist implementing the housing elements of the new Substance Misuse Strategy.</p>	<p>The Hurcott Road local lettings plan is currently being evaluated, but it is likely to have contributed to the fall in crime levels in the Horsefair and Broadwaters area.</p> <p>To reduce the number of homeless cases through family breakdown and to meet Governments targets on reducing the use of temporary bed and breakfast accommodation for vulnerable young people.</p> <p>To improve the housing prospects of offenders who leave prison and people with substance misuse problems.</p>

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PLANNING, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
34. Regulate use of houses in multiple occupation.				✓	<p>Licensable HMOs have been identified and all have applied.</p> <p>Landlords have been informed of management requirements including duties regarding anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>New Housing Act 2004 powers for property assessment now allow for assessment of property security as a hazard that can be dealt with and landlords required to make security improvements.</p> <p>Housing grants have been replaced with Decent Home Financial Assistance and includes for improving security, not just ensuring basic facilities.</p> <p>Ongoing development of relationships with landlords through advice and assistance.</p>	Maintain and monitor licence conditions to ensure compliance with licence conditions.
35. Increase the safety of vulnerable people's homes by installing better security measures.			✓		<p>The Council has established the North Worcestershire Care & Repair Agency with Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils to improve service delivery in this area.</p> <p>The Council has agreed to continue to provide financial support for the Lifeline service by The Community Housing Group.</p> <p>Supporting People have doubled the level of Domestic Abuse (DA) cases supported in Worcestershire with a potential impact in WF. The Council has successfully introduced a Sanctuary scheme to assist the level of DA homelessness applications.</p>	Supporting People have recently concluded a county wide review of DA services. The Sanctuary scheme continues to operate successfully.

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PLANNING, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
36. Seek to provide housing for those most at risk of becoming a victim of crime, for example, homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers.			✓		The Council works closely with the Local Women's Refuge and has recently introduced a floating support scheme to assist homeless people and in particular single vulnerable people. The Council has extended this scheme through funding it has received from the CLG. There is due to be a review of the Care and Repair services across the County and there will be a renewed focus on what the Agency can do to support home community safety initiatives. Also see details set out in 37 above.	Through the Supporting People 5-year strategy the Council will be looking to develop specialist housing and support schemes for higher risk individuals such as people with offending backgrounds, those with drug or alcohol problems and mental health problems.
37. Ensure that a crime impact analysis forms part of development control and planning applications.		✓			West Mercia Constabulary's Crime Risk Manager (CRM) to provide training to WFDC staff in Advice from CRM is that this should form integral part of Design & Access Statements. Awaiting confirmation of this by training session.	Training for WFDC staff
38. Develop community safety guidelines for developers, builders, and statutory local plans, to design out crime in new developments and refurbishment.				✓	Local Development Control policies. Design & Quality Supplementary Planning Guidance has been adopted. Changes to layouts and designs are being achieved with the assistance of the CRM. Core Strategy Issues & options Consultation Paper contains a section on Quality of Life, which makes the links between design, health, crime and safety. It begins to explore how the LDF can help to deliver safer places.	Annual monitoring of policies required. New PPS1 cancels former circular 5/94 'Planning Out Crime'.

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PLANNING, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
39. Consider community consultation feedback on community safety issues.				✓	Statement of Community Involvement adopted by Council. Core Strategy Issues & Options Consultation Paper contains a question on the key opportunities for improving safety and reducing anti-social behaviour.	
40. Apply 'secured by design' schemes and principles to create safer neighbourhoods.				✓	Negotiated improvements to layouts allowing consultation with CRM. Supplementary Planning Guidance as above.	
41. Work with Police architectural liaison and crime prevention officers to prevent crime through better environmental design			✓		CRM consulted and views taken into account. Development proposals amended to take account of suggested changes.	Continuing training needed for Development Control Staff.
42. Promote mixed developments of housing, cultural, retailing, business and leisure that support community activity and natural surveillance in local areas both day and night.				✓	Local Development Control policies being delivered through planning applications and planning briefs e.g. KTC3, STC4 sites.	Monitor and Review policy impact.
43. Exploit planning gain and Section 106 opportunities to attract funding from developers for community safety improvements.				✓	Local Development Control policies. Development Control Practice Note. E.g. CCTV funding Kidderminster Town Centre, street lighting. Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document adopted and provides policy framework for negotiating Section 106 Obligations.	

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PLANNING, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
44. Use licensing and regulatory powers to control alcohol-related crime and disorder.				✓	Worked with WFCSP regarding a Licensed Premises Information Pack, which has been distributed to all DPS'. Alcohol Restriction Zone in Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn. Licensing Policy Statement approved by Council and annual report provided and updated Jan 2008. S17 consideration in Premises Licence Application. Joint training undertaken with Police and Members, regarding Licensing Act 2003 and continues with training of new members. Enforcement of licensing conditions.	To work with SMAT to support implementation of Substance Misuse Strategy, where appropriate.
45. Develop registration and training schemes for door staff in licensed premises.				✓	Security Industry Authority (SIA) now responsible. WFDC monitoring and enforcing by written agreement with the SIA.	Continue to monitor that only licensed staff are used.
46. Support and use mediation approaches to resolve neighbour disputes.		✓			Staff act as 'mediators'.	Continue to examine all possibilities of providing an independent mediation service.
47. Enforce noise control legislation.				✓	Response times. Local Performance Indicators. Noise policy. Education – schools etc.	

*Section 17 criteria for the Council's Housing Services are greatly reduced due to having no Council housing stock. Through the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership we will encourage The Community Housing Group (previously Wyre Forest Community Housing) and other Social Housing Landlords to consider Section 17 implications, if not already doing so.

PROPERTY AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
48. Maintain and clean all public spaces to improve public perception of neighbourhood value.			✓		<p>Zoning system introduced January 2005 whereby street areas are categorised with specific response target times.</p> <p>Staff training in enforcement procedures completed. Publicity campaign completed in each town. Working with community groups to deal with issues such as graffiti, dog fouling, fly-tipping etc. Scrutiny review and increased environmental sessions introduced July 2008.</p> <p>BVPI 199 inspections continue to monitor the quality of street scene on a monthly basis by inspecting prescribed areas at random measuring their cleanliness by lack of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting.</p> <p>BV199 over 12 months with overall performance at 17% below Grade B.</p> <p>Hotspot cleansing in high density continues to be a priority. Improvements have been achieved in anti litter campaign.</p>	<p>Monitoring system in place to evaluate performance in connection with Zoning.</p> <p>Proactive approach by staff involving issue of Fixed Penalty Notices.</p> <p>Continuation of Education and Enforcement programme. Working with schools to highlight cleansing issues.</p> <p>Neighbourhood partnerships set up in Kidderminster and Bewdley. Regular litter picking exercises with help of Bewdley Development Trust.</p>

PROPERTY AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
49. Encourage reporting of, and speed up the removal of, graffiti and fly-posting.				✓	<p>Development of Enforcement Protocol and training of key operational staff in the use of Fixed Penalty Notices.</p> <p>Expanding Fixed Penalty Notices to include offences under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act which will allow local authorities to deal with graffiti and fly-tipping, issuing fixed penalty notices specifically for these offences.</p> <p>Website reporting. Telephone reporting through the Worcestershire Hub.</p>	<p>To continue to improve reporting culture and better enforcement.</p> <p>Removal of offensive graffiti and also fly-posting within 24 hour period.</p> <p>Closer working relationship with Worcestershire County Council regarding respective responsibilities and protocol is in place.</p> <p>Greater use of Fixed Penalty Notices through provisions in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.</p> <p>We have spoken to the local Police to obtain support of the Community Support Officers in the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices for these offences.</p> <p>Improve reporting through improved online forms and upgrade to Council Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.</p>

PROPERTY AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
50. Efficiently collect and fine against rubbish dumping and littering and provide adequate number of litter bins.				✓	<p>Funding for new litter bins secured – bins installed. Littering enforcement/education sessions held. Key operational staff trained ref. Fixed Penalty Notices. In addition to those recently installed at parks, new litter bins installed in the King George V Playing Field at Marlpool.</p> <p>Collection of data and submission to DEFRA site via 'Fly-capture' Database. Liaison with The Community Housing Group to deal with problems at Redstone Marsh area.</p> <p>38 FPN's issued since September 2005 with a high proportion of them paid at stage one. One prosecution by Environment Agency and WFCH pursuing dumping of rubbish.</p> <p>Internal protocol produced to clarify responsibilities for littering and rubbish dumping.</p> <p>Website information and reporting online and through the Worcestershire Hub.</p>	<p>Continue with enforcement policy actions.</p> <p>To develop a localised and focused agreement between all agencies with responsibilities and improve action on fly-tipping prosecutions.</p> <p>Improve reporting through improved online forms and upgrade to Council Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.</p>

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PROPERTY AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
51. Efficiently collect and fine against dog fouling and provide adequate number of collection bins.				✓	<p>Warning stickers displayed on highway. Dog fouling enforcement/education sessions held. Key operational staff trained re Fixed Penalty Notices. Publicity to advise that all bins can be used for disposal of dog waste.</p> <p>Parks Patrol includes awareness in dog fouling and preventive measures and trained in enforcement to complete Fixed Penalty Notices.</p> <p>Commenced February 2006 - educational walkabouts, publicity campaign and general awareness raising of profile. Fewer problems seem to be reported of late.</p> <p>Over previous 18 months we have installed an additional 80 litter bins in the Wyre Forest District.</p>	Carry out enforcement policy and on the spot fines. Greater use of Fixed Penalty Notices through provisions in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.
52. Maintain clean and safe public toilet facilities.			✓		<p>Review of public toilets in 2003. Refurbishment programme over 3 years. Stourport Riverside, Broadwaters Park, Load Street Car Park - toilets completed. New toilets built in Market Street, Kidderminster. Toilets in Rowland Hill Centre to be moved and refurbished.</p> <p>Online reporting for faults and cleanliness standards.</p>	To improve quality and quantity of public toilet provision.

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PROPERTY AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
53. Clear and dispose of discarded drug and alcohol-related paraphernalia rapidly and safely.				✓	<p>Staff have 'sharps' boxes in their vehicles to deal with any isolated cases they come across.</p> <p>Needle Collection Points now set up at local public areas in collaboration with SMAT. Disposal units installed at Horsefair and at Rifle Range in Kidderminster.</p> <p>Community Forums in place for each Nature Reserve where problems are dealt with.</p> <p>Liaison with SMAT to deal with the problems.</p> <p>Online information and reporting.</p>	To continue liaison with other agencies in order to deal with the problems as resources allow.
54. Control growth of trees and vegetation to ensure visibility and surveillance levels on streets and in public open spaces.				✓	<p>Good relationship with Highways Partnership Unit.</p> <p>Working with Police to identify potential security risk areas within Baxter Gardens area, here problems have involved young people.</p> <p>Ongoing improvements in Brinton Park.</p>	<p>Continue partnership working and action improvements.</p> <p>Cutting back of shrub vegetation to ground level in the problem areas. This work will be completed during the autumn/winter period 2008/09.</p>

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PROPERTY AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
55. Provide warden services that cover parks and open spaces.			✓		<p>Two Parks Patrol Officers and three during summer months. These have been effective in reducing Anti Social Behaviour and assisting Police by identifying persistent offenders. Good interaction with The Community Housing Group's wardens and the Community Support Officers from the Police.</p> <p>Police attend Friends Group meetings, take place once a month. PACT meetings held involving members of the community, Police and other agencies to identify problems and resolve them.</p>	<p>Continue to provide service.</p> <p>Work closely with Neighbourhood wardens.</p> <p>Continue development with community and neighbourhood groups to liaise on problems and bring forward improvements.</p>
56. Increase safety and security in car parks through CCTV surveillance, radio security, regular patrolling by car park attendants and environmental measures.			✓		<p>Design policies in Local Plan.</p> <p>Currently just below national average for vehicle crime, issued by Home Office.</p> <p>CCTV installed in Kidderminster, partially covering car park areas.</p> <p>Membership of 'Park Mark' now in place and Secure Car Parks Status' achieved for Weavers Wharf Car Park.</p> <p>Height of all shrub beds is monitored by Parks Section and dealt with as appropriate during winter period.</p>	<p>Monitor and review.</p> <p>Continue with CCTV for car parks wherever possible.</p> <p>Car Park improvements will be governed by 'Secure by Design' themes.</p> <p>Improve lighting levels on car parks with high levels of crime.</p> <p>Ongoing shrub maintenance.</p>

PROPERTY AND OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Section 17 Standard	Gap identified	Working towards	Some success	Doing well	Supporting Evidence	Development Goals
57. Encourage reporting of and speed up the removal of abandoned vehicles.				✓	<p>100% of vehicles removed within 24 hours. 100% of vehicles removed within statutory removal timescales.</p> <p>Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act allows the use of Fixed Penalty Notices and greater enforcement.</p> <p>Online information and reporting.</p>	<p>Continue to develop Partnerships with Police.</p> <p>Improve use of Fixed Penalty Notices for nuisance and abandoned vehicles.</p>
58. Provide appropriate support to personnel who are working in situations where their safety may be at risk.				✓	<p>Advisory notes: Lone Working, Aggression and Violence.</p> <p>Risk Assessments - all areas.</p> <p>More workers are now using central control. Also training is being given on handling potential violent situations.</p>	<p>The Council is constantly reviewing lone working risk assessment.</p> <p>Continue to encourage use of central control and the voice connect system.</p> <p>This has been moved from HR to POS as part of Health and Safety.</p>
59. Implement corporate policies that reduce substance misuse in the workplace				✓	<p>Health and Safety policy and Occupational Health support.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>This has been moved from HR to POS as part of Health and Safety</p>