



Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Kathryn Hebbert, Community Safety and Partnerships Officer

Date: 3 December 2009

Open

Section 17 Audit - November 2009

1. Summary

- 1.1 To report on the Council's seventh Section 17 (S17) Audit and progress in meeting this statutory duty as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA98).

2. Background

- 2.1 The CDA98 provided local authorities, the Police and a number of other key partners with a new legal framework to reduce crime and disorder. Within this, S17 of the Act requires local authorities to consider the crime reduction potential of all their policies, service provision and other decisions.
- 2.2 However, in the absence of case law, it remains unclear what the courts would consider a breach of S17. Experience of similar duties suggests that the courts would seek evidence that an authority has done all it reasonably can to prevent crime, has a coherent plan for complying with S17, and that it is being implemented.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council's seventh S17 Audit was undertaken in November 2009, as attached in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The purpose of the audit was to help Directorates to:
 - a) Rate their service delivery against a range of S17 standards, as defined by the Audit Commission;
 - b) Provide evidence to justify achievement and the level of rating indicated; and

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- c) Set development goals where a gap in a service's performance against a particular standard has been identified.

4. Options

- 4.1 To consider and comment on the progress made by the Council in meeting its S17 statutory duty, as reported in **Appendix 1**.

5. Implications

- 5.1 Resources: Financial implications relating to the implementation of S17 are met within respective Directorate budgets.
- 5.2 Equalities: Equality implications relating to the implementation of Section 17 are met within the respective Directorates.
- 5.3 Partnership Working: Wyre Forest District Council is a responsible authority on the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership and plays a key role in its operation. The Council works closely with a wide range of partners across its service areas.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of each Directorate to conduct equality impact assessments on their respective policies and service areas.

7. Wards affected

- 7.1 District Wide

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Seventh Section 17 Audit - November 2009

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Crime and Disorder Act 1998

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