

Feedback on Partnership Strategic Assessment

1. Attached to this report is the feedback commissioned by GONE from the Jill Dando Institute (JDI).

2. This provides a useful independent assessment, although from a different perspective from that of most Partnership members (e.g. the reference to consulting the public on priorities as 'a novel approach'). Our approach was different to that set out in the guidance, written by the author of the evaluation, which came out after the deadline for producing the PSA and this is commented on. We have focussed on crime types rather than using the Offender, Victim and Location approach which is advocated. It is worth noting that data quality impacts on our ability to do this fully, offender address data is not available and data on ethnicity is hit and miss with only age and gender being consistently available on police data sets.

3. Points of particular note include:-
 - (a) Section 2, third bullet point: the DAT leads on misuse of drugs. Misuse of alcohol was not one of the top priorities identified in consultation.

 - (b) Section 4, third bullet point: the Strategic Assessment was never intended to be a plan – our Community Safety Plan fulfils that function;

 - (c) Section 5, first bullet point: suggests that we need an 'intelligence improvement plan': the final para of the Strategic Assessment (page 18) listed 16 action points – this is the plan, attached as Appendix B (and it will be important to monitor progress on these in the next Strategic Assessment).

 - (d) Section 6, second, third and fifth bullet points – reference to inclusion of maps, brevity, possible inclusion of a performance history and evaluation of past intervention - this seems to be broadening the concept of the Strategic Assessment considerably. The brief we set was to produce an Assessment of 15 – 20 pages. This point needs discussion – see Recommendation below.

 - (e) First recommendation – wrongly implies that ASB and young people can be lumped together: in fact a significant proportion of ASB Team activity addresses ASB by adults.

(f) Second recommendation on forming 'an alliance with the business community.' Business has not been directly represented on the Partnership for several years since the North East Chamber of Commerce elected no longer to send a representative but merely to receive agenda papers. Business crime was heavily discounted as a potential priority in the consultation programme. It is acknowledged that businesses are victims of some of the crime types prioritised by the Partnership, and thus benefit from our activities.

4. It is RECOMMENDED that members of the Partnership discuss the feedback and in particular

- (a) our relationship with the business community;
- (b) the optimum length for the next Strategic Assessment, with reference to what size of document members of the Partnership can practically absorb; and
- (c) the possibility of including 'Reducing Adult Reoffending' and 'Reassuring the Public' as 'menu items' in our next consultation programme, in 2010

Mike Batty
Head of Community Protection