

## **North East Community Safety Regional Meeting 25 September 08**

### **Agenda Item 4 Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership [RIEP] Community Safety Pilot Activity**

#### 1. Background

The National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy places Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs) at the heart of the delivery support arrangements for Local Area Agreements. They are partnerships made up of authorities, working with partners who commit to joint work to raise performance collectively. RIEPs have a crucial role in setting the strategic vision for improvement and efficiency, providing a strong, early first line of external support for localities and a mechanism for ensuring that performance issues are challenged and tackled. RIEPs will work closely with local authorities and strategic partners in the region to co-ordinate support programmes to make it easier for councils and their partners to access the right support at the right time.

In the North East, working through the Association of North East Councils, the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership has brought together the North East Improvement Partnership, the Centre of Excellence and North East Connects. The North East RIEP has produced a Strategy and Delivery Plan with a focus on “supporting, facilitating and challenging local authorities, the Fire and Rescue Services and their partners to deliver on their ambitions.”

These documents are available via the following hyperlinks

<http://www.northeastcouncils.gov.uk/global/assets/documents/asset20080305090110.pdf>

<http://www.northeastcouncils.gov.uk/global/assets/documents/asset20080305090246.pdf>

The increasingly important role of RIEPs in providing performance support to partnerships has been recognised by the Home Office. It has therefore asked Government Office and the North East RIEP to develop a pilot programme of activity to build the capacity and capability of RIEPs to provide delivery and performance support on community safety.

The intended outcomes of the pilot work are as follows:

- a methodology for the Home Office and Ministry of Justice to work with RIEPs to provide performance support on community safety;
- evidence of RIEPs adding value by joining up performance support on cross-cutting community safety issues; and
- evidence and effective practice of RIEPs supporting delivery of community safety outcomes at a local level.

## 2. Project Proposals

Our intention is that the Pilot will help partnerships' self improvement with the RIEP providing a part of a wide support package to partnerships. The pilot will aim to demonstrate that locality led and regional collective working for improvement through the RIEP has a positive impact on community safety outcomes, and that it produces products that are fit for purpose, represent value for money and that may be rolled out nationally.

The focus for the pilot is support to partnerships to embed the Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships and to improve the delivery of local alcohol strategies.

Key to the proposal is the close involvement of Community Safety Partnerships. The Pilot can build on work that GONE facilitated last year in which Community Safety Partnerships shaped improvement activity including Strategic Analysis training, community problem solving training and an induction course for Community Safety Responsible Authority members.

The baseline for this is an assessment of progress against the Hallmarks of Effective Partnership and Review of development of Local Alcohol Strategies in the North East.

A summary of the proposed pilot process is:

Partnerships have already carried out a self assessment of progress on embedding the Hallmarks, many of these using a proforma prepared by GONE. Similarly, the Review of development of Local Alcohol Strategies in the North East provides an assessment for alcohol element of the pilot.

Our intention is to facilitate partnerships to validate these assessments to identify regional priorities for improvement. This will result in a number of workstreams that will drill down into the detail of the priority and identify appropriate improvement activity.

We have existing task and finish groups involving Community Safety Partnerships in relation to Strategic Assessment and Information Sharing that have the appropriate skills and knowledge to develop appropriate elements of activity concerning intelligence led business processes. Other Task and Finish Groups could be established where necessary under the guidance of a Steering Group to involve RIEP, Home Office, GONE, YJB and a Community Safety Partnership rep.

This Task Group activity will result in:

- bespoke community safety specific activity to be commissioned through the RIEP,
- activity that falls within the generic RIEP Partnership workstream, and
- activity that will fall outside the Remit of the Pilot.

It is expected that the bespoke community safety specific activity can be delivered January to March 09. Other elements, using RIEP resources, can be delivered January – July 09.

The Pilot can culminate in a further assessment of progress in the summer of 09.

Key outcomes from the pilot will be development of consistent and clear processes by which HO and RIEP can develop and commission high quality, consistent, and where possible, accredited development activity with a clear route of access by partnerships via the GOs and RIEP.

### 3. What we are asking from Partnerships

Last year, partnerships led the development of the training delivered through the Iscan project. We would like partnerships to play a key role in the REIP Pilot this will give them the opportunity to shape not only the improvement activity delivered this year, but the way in which Government Offices, Home Office and Ministry of Justice will support partnerships in the future.

We are very grateful for the time that partnerships have committed to the Task and Finish groups on Information Sharing and Strategic Assessments. We would like to embed the principle of these Groups into the way of working with the RIEP.

We are therefore asking for Partnerships to support the Pilot process in the following way:

- by agreeing to contribute to the development of regional improvement priorities by participation in a validation process, and by nominating an individual or individuals to help design the validation process;
- by nomination of 1 partnership representative to sit on the Steering Group; and
- by nominating appropriate representatives to any task groups arising from the validation process.

There will be an opportunity to discuss these issues at the meeting.