



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

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Agenda Item No: 4 (a)
Safer Stockton Partnership
12 May 2009

18 March 2009

Dear Elaine

COMMUNITY JUSTICE INITIATIVE FUNDING 2009/10

Thanks for your letter of 5 March, received 11 March. I appreciate that the problem which you outline has been brought about by a change of policy within OCJR, but the timing is about as bad as it could be. The Council has just been through a difficult budget balancing cycle, and has agreed a programme of reviewing all its activities over the next three years in order to reduce costs, and to avoid the crisis management measures to which some local authorities are being obliged to turn.

In this context, the only way we could contribute towards maintaining CJI is if it were demonstrably a higher priority than something which we are currently funding. This is a very hard case to make, given that there has been no obvious benefit from CJI for Stockton to date. On behalf of the Council, therefore, I regret to confirm that we have no proposals to contribute to CJI.

The issue was also discussed at the meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership on 17 March, as an item under 'Any Other Business'. Although there was a small amount (£10,000) of unallocated funding within the Partnership's Investment Plan for 2009/10, the consensus view was that this should be invested in the Fire Brigade LIFE programme, because of its track record of success in diverting young people (including young adults) from offending. Although this response will no doubt be a disappointment to those involved in the CJI, I hope that you will take some comfort from the investment in the LIFE programme, and the continuing success in reducing crime (projected to be down by about 16% year on year from 2007/08 to 2008/09, and down by 30% over the last five years, since 2003/04)

Yours sincerely

Mike Batty
Head of Community Protection



