

### **Overview and Scrutiny of CDRPs/Councillor Call for Action**

1. The Police and Justice Act 2006 and The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have both introduced a mechanism for scrutiny of activity involving CDRP members. The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny [OS]) regulations can be found in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the regulations and commencement came into force on 30th April 2009. The Councillor Call for Action is introduced in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The regulations and commencement came into force on 1st April 2009.
2. It is likely that the provision under the Police and Justice Act will be the most used process for issues relating to this partnership however in some instances the Councillor Call for Action (CCFA) could be used.
3. Under CCFA Councillors will have the ability to call for debate and discussion at committee a topic of neighbourhood concern. The powers are limited to issues affecting single council wards. A record of any decisions made must be kept but it is up to the council to specify how CCFA will work in Stockton. CCFA is intended to be a 'long stop' measure to be used when other attempts at resolution have failed. An example of when this could be used for a community safety issue is poor maintenance of a park, which is in turn leading to increased levels of anti social behaviour.
4. Examples of why councillors may want to exercise these functions, is to provide funding for local community projects and/or to improve partnership working when needed. The CCFA committee can use powers under the Local Government Act 2000 to invite representatives from partner organisations to attend and to request information.
5. Under OS arrangements councils must have a committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions by responsible authorities. The Crime and Disorder committee is to be an overview and scrutiny committee within the meaning of Part two of the Local Government Act 2000, in Stockton this is the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee.
6. This committee makes a report and provides a copy to each responsible authority and to those they have a duty to cooperate with. They must also respond to the person/body instigating the request. The recommendations must be considered and a response drafted on the

action that is proposed to address the issue. This report must be in writing and be submitted to the Crime and Disorder Committee within a period of one month from the date of the report. The C & D committee will then review responses and monitor action (if any) in accordance with its powers under the PJA 2006 section 19.

7. A report is being prepared by the Council's Democratic Services that will be taken to the next CMT session for discussion. It is felt that our current arrangements can be adapted with little problem to facilitate this process. Once the process is agreed by CMT a further report will be brought to this meeting.

Community Safety Manager  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2009