

## **Regional Independent Assessment of Hallmarks of Effective Practice**

1. Government Office North East has secured funding from the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) to employ consultants to work with each of the 12 CDRPs in the region to provide an independent assessment of their position with regard to the Home Office's Hallmarks of Effective Practice.
2. The Hallmarks were published in April 2006 and the Safer Stockton Partnership carried out a self-assessment against them in September 2006, leading to an Action Plan, attached as Appendix A. The Action Plan was monitored every six months until discharged at the meeting of the Partnership on 6 May 2008. This process followed the earlier self-assessment undertaken by the Partnership in January 2004 against the previous Self-Assessment Framework for Partnerships prepared by the Home Office.
3. In essence, the Hallmarks offer a set of standards against which Partnerships can benchmark their processes, based on the idea that if these 'success factors' are reproduced then all Partnerships will perform effectively. The Hallmarks therefore address issues of process, rather than engaging directly with performance.
4. The total regional package consists of 65 days of consultancy, divided into three stages:  
Stage 1 – individual assessment of the 12 CDRPs: and  
Stage 2 – an overall regional assessment of the situation, which may give rise to further regional funded programmes of training / skills development, especially if common training needs emerge. I have been asked to take part in a 'task and finish' Project Board for this work, along with colleagues from GONE and other sub-regions
5. Each Partnership has been asked to indicate how many days of individual support it will need, up to a maximum of five, and bearing in mind that if all Partnerships choose five then there would probably be insufficient time within the package for the Stage 2 work.
6. I have suggested two days for Stockton, taking account of our history of self-assessment and improvement planning, the stability of our Partnership, especially compared to those in areas where Local Government Reorganisation took place in 2009, and our performance (29.5% reduction in total crime between 2003/04 and 2008/09, compared to England & Wales average reduction of 21.8%, and despite significant increase in population, plus a further year-on-year reduction of up to 20% in 2009/10).

7. In the interim period there have been changes in the Partnership 'landscape', including the eventual merger of the 'old' Safer Stockton Partnership and the DAT Steering Group from April 2009 (but following an extended period of joint working), and the merger of Durham and Teesside Probation Services, coinciding with the national date for Probation Services becoming a statutory 'responsible authority' in CDRP terms, but twelve months after we amended our Constitution to adopt reduction of reoffending as one of our formal aims and put in place our first Reducing Reoffending Action Plan.
8. The consultant for Stockton will be John Tench, whose CV includes 10 years at the Audit Commission and 3 years at the Centre for Local Governance, and he is scheduled to meet Marilyn Davies and I on 31 March 2010.
9. It is proposed to provide him with a package of background documents, including Appendix A, our Constitution, Induction Pack and examples of our Performance Monitoring.

Mike Batty  
Head of Community Protection