

Theory of Change

1. Members of the community safety team were recently invited to attend a training session run by HelmePark on behalf of Sunderland City Council. The training ran over two days and was free of charge, paid for from a reward grant made to Sunderland for innovation.
2. It has been suggested that the Safer Stockton Partnership could request a further training package for the partnership delivered to us by HelmePark free of charge to this partnership as it would be part of requirement for Sunderland to spread best practice therefore paid for via their grant allocation. This report provides a definition of the model of Theory of Change used and a summary of how it could be useful for the partnership.
3. Theory of Change is a rigorous, participatory process through which groups and stakeholders in a planning process, for example the development of a community safety intervention; articulate their long term goals and identify the conditions they believe have to enfold for their shared goal to be met. It is outcome focussed throughout, based on a route map of necessary outcomes, that in turn provide a process for evaluation and ongoing service improvement.
4. The flow chart at Appendix 1 is an example of the route map that is used. The process could be used by leaders of each key priority to ensure that their action plan is robust and achieves the shared desired outcome. However it is considered important that those at a more senior level endorse the use of this process.
5. In summary looking at Appendix 1 we are not solely responsible for all of the population outcomes above the line however we must demonstrate that we are contributing to them. The service outcome is the agreed outcome that we are trying to achieve. Each precondition is based on assumptions and rationales taken from local evidence for example the PSA and local research and consultation and is an outcome that is necessary to achieve the service outcome. There is no limit on the number of population outcomes or preconditions. A clear definition of each outcome used is vital to ensure that all partners share the same understanding and also to aid the ongoing evaluation process that is embedded in the theory.
6. For our training session we used 'Reduce repeat re-offending' as our service outcome and our route map will be available at the SSP meeting. It is proposed that members are given a brief presentation on the process used by the community safety team based on the route map. In summary we considered that our service outcome would contribute to:

- Regeneration of Stockton
- Improved feelings of safety for residents and visitors
- Improved health and well being/quality of life
- Reduced demand on core partners

For us to achieve this we identified the following preconditions:

- Repeat offenders are identified
- History of the offender is known
- Motivation for offending is understood
- The needs of offenders understood
- Offenders with alcohol and/or substance misuse supported
- Offenders finance, benefit and debt addressed
- Appropriate housing is available for offenders
- Training and employment opportunity available
- Health issues addressed
- Behavioural therapy is accessed
- There are no blockages in the treatment system
- Carers and families of offenders are supported
- Offenders have personal responsibility

A further consequence/outcome of this approach would be that crime, disorder anti social behaviour is reduced.

7. Members are asked to consider the proposal for Sunderland to provide training to the partnership and to use the process described to formulate our actions plans for each key priority.

Community Safety Manager
17th March 2011

