

## Review of PACT Meetings

### 1. Background

The introduction of the Policing Pledge formalised the provision of public meetings by undertaking to arrange a public meeting at least once per month in order to agree priorities and provide an opportunity to meet local officers.

The Pledge suggests that such meetings are held on a neighbourhood level but the definition of a 'neighbourhood' has been open to interpretation. BCU's and Police areas have varied from a neighbourhood being defined as a council ward area to a small identifiable community.

When directives to introduce the Pledge first came, it was agreed at the NE Divisional Community Safety Partnership that preference would be for a 6-weekly cycle that aligned with Tasking Team arrangements. However it was acknowledged that the Police needed to implement the national guidance as a priority and therefore a monthly Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting led by the NPTs focusing clearly on local policing of crime and ASB issues was accepted as the best way forward.

Information on how PACT was to be rolled out was provided to local Councillors through the Area Committees.

North East Leeds BCU has a varied interpretation of a neighbourhood for the purpose of PACT meetings from the small villages in Wetherby and Harewood NP area to a densely populated ward area in Roundhay.

Most PACT meetings in North East Leeds are stand alone meetings held in public buildings in the heart of the community. Attendance is varied and fluctuates according to whether there are any particular concerns or issues ongoing at the time.

Attendance tends to be limited to member of the public who are already active within the community such as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators or member of residents associations.

### 2. Current PACT Provision across Outer North East

The following section provides a summary of views of Inspectors on how the PACT meeting has developed in each NPT and highlights the main issues of concern regarding their effectiveness and ideas for improvements.

#### **Roundhay, Alwoodley and Moortown NP Team**

Number of Council wards	3
Number of PACT meetings per month	3

PACT meetings are always Inspector lead and are well attended with 20-30 at each meeting. Regular attendance from neighbourhood watch groups and other residents groups.

Local councillors attend when they are available.  
Would welcome the idea of guest speakers e.g. ASBU.

### **Wetherby NP Team**

Number of Council wards	2
Number of PACT meetings per month	18

Police attend all monthly Parish Council meetings and have PACT agenda time.

The PACT part of the meeting allows for other residents to attend but in reality this is not happening.

## **3. The Future of PACT**

### **(a) Priorities**

To ensure compliance with the Policing Pledge by arranging public meetings to agree local priorities at least once per month which also provide an opportunity for communities to meet their local team.

To utilise the meetings to give monthly updates on local crime and policing issues and also provide details in partnership work ongoing in the area to make it safer.

### **(b) Constraints**

Current financial pressures dictate that PACT meeting provision should be robustly managed and opportunities to deliver the provision without any cost to the Force should be capitalised upon. Opportunities for efficiencies by sharing meetings with partners should be explored.

PACT meetings should seek to engage with the wider community rather than just a small section or those residents and communities who are already involved with policing activity.

PACT meetings need to be carefully managed in terms of frequency and location to ensure that they remain fresh and interesting and inclusive of all communities and neighbourhoods.

Service delivery needs to take into account the requirement for a bespoke delivery taking into account the needs and wishes of the local community and should not follow the 'one size fits all' method.

### **(c) Opportunities for more efficient and effective engagement**

Many of the issues raised at PACT meetings require partnership solutions/working. Each of the main agencies that have a role to play in tackling the issues have their own community engagement strategies and resources to support resident involvement. For example ENE and Aire Valley Homes each have a tenant involvement team and local Housing Support Assistants.

In the Priority Neighbourhoods the proposal is to develop Community Leadership Teams which will be made up from local residents who have a civic role in the community. ENE Homes, the NPT and local Neighbourhood Manager in Gipton are also looking at how a Community Champion role for residents could combine the desire to develop Key Individuals Networks, tenant champions and community leaders. This will see a move away from old style forum meetings to more inclusive and empowering involvement of residents in a way that better suits their own requirements. At the heart of this is better frontline engagement and relationships with residents at delivery level with local staff empowered to respond to issues as they arise.

There is an opportunity to link with the Community Engagement Strategies being developed for each of the Area Committees to put PACT meetings into the context of local partnership engagement with residents. This may help avoid duplication for residents and staff alike and if linked properly to tasking make the meetings more meaningful and effective.

#### **4. Preferred Options**

The current delivery of PACT meetings in the RAM neighbourhood is a success in terms of numbers attending and involvement from the community. It is concluded that this should remain unchanged.

Research suggests that there are sufficient residents and community meetings for the Police and Partners to join up with and more effectively deliver PACT.

NP Inspectors will plot the location of other meetings and then timetable a rotation of the PACT meetings to ensure that we engage with the widest possible audience.

The PACT provision will be widely advertised to all other groups and meetings as well as the wider community and the other meetings will be used as a feeder into the main meeting. This will inform any requirement for other partners to be present at the meeting. This system will be subject to review for a period of 6 months.

Police and partners will identify opportunities for relevant guest speakers to attend the PACT meeting to provide inputs and updates. This is in response to community feedback and a drive to keep the meetings interesting and relevant.

Partners have already agreed to attend PACT meetings where issues are specifically raised which require their action and feedback.

NP teams will develop a electronic mailing list of community contacts in order to provide timely updates and advertise future events.

Attendance will be monitored for a 6 month period and will be reviewed via the DCSP.

### **Roundhay, Alwoodley and Moortown NP Team**

Number of Council wards	3
Number of PACT meetings per month	3

Intends to stay with current format as attracts sufficient community interest.

### **Wetherby NP Team**

Number of Council wards	2
Number of PACT meetings per month	18

Reduce to 4 PACT meetings for the neighbourhood working on a 6 weekly cycle.

Each area (Wetherby, Eastern and Southern villages) will have one meeting each 6 weeks to tie in with the tasking cycle. The PACT will move from village to village each time to ensure that our services are accessible to all our communities.

Parish councils will receive crime and news updates by e mail each month and there will be attendance once per quarter to discuss any live issues that may need addressing.

**The DCSP in May 2010<sup>1</sup> agreed to sign up to the review of PACT meetings as outlined, with the following principles:**

- **Each NP area should be allowed to create the right PACT structure for its own area which must comply with the Policing Pledge and retain a focus on tackling local crime and ASB priorities.**
- **PACT meetings should look to join up police and partner agencies to make the most effective and efficient engagement in the NP area around issues of crime and ASB.**
- **Unless locally agreed with partners, PACT meetings should be arranged to follow the tasking team's 6 week cycle so that issues can be fed straight into local tasking**

- **Partner agencies confirm their commitment to attending PACT meetings when there is a specific item to address and will seek to support further where they can (e.g. through taking responsibility for actions that may come from them). This particularly applies within the priority neighbourhoods.**
- **Where possible PACT meetings will be scheduled to bolt onto existing residents meetings or local forums/engagement events.**