

# Appendix F - 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.

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 East NE Leeds BCU

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.

### **Cross Gates, Whinmoor and Temple Newsam NP Team**

Number of Council wards	2
Number of PACT meetings per month	4

Attendance never less than 10.

Most PACT meetings are attended by a local councillor and sometimes are attended by housing staff or council wardens.

Regular attendance by chairs of local neighbourhood watch or other residents groups who represent the group rather than just themselves.

Would welcome the idea of guest speakers and feels that there are too many meetings all aiming to deliver the same things and these need to be more coordinated.

### **Garforth NP Team**

Number of Council wards	2
Number of PACT meetings per month	4

Three stand alone PACT meetings – attendance is very poor and there have been some meetings with no attendees.

Kippax – linked in to residents meeting but the chair tends to run the meeting and this can limit the PACT input.

Would like Police attendance at all residents meetings to collate all PACT issues and then feed them into 1 monthly PACT meetings and invite those who have raised issues. Ideally the main meeting would have council and partners present.

Advance notice of issues being raised would allow the right partners to be present.

The main PACT meeting would be chaired by NP lead and supported where possible by the co- chair of partner tasking group.

## **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 pilot scheme in Kippax where the PACT meeting is linked in to the residents meeting has increased attendance and has some merit. The PACT part of the meeting needs to be more remote from the rest of the meeting and it is important that discussion and the focus of the debate is not lost.

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.

### **Cross Gates, Whinmoor and Temple Newsam NP Team**

Number of Council wards	2
Number of PACT meetings per month	4

Intends to retain with 4 weekly PACT meetings as attendance is increasing at the moment . To investigate feasibility of joining up to the local ward forums ( currently 5 per Quarter across the ward) where possible. If agreed by local members, there would be a need to co-ordinate a timetable to rotate across the forums and agree a format for the meeting with the area management team..

### **Garforth NP Team**

Number of Council wards	2
Number of PACT meetings per month	4

Intends to progress the plan for Police attendance at different residents meetings to collate all PACT issues and then feed them into 1 monthly main PACT meeting. Intends to move to a six weekly PACT cycle and investigate the feasibility of joining up to the local forum meetings where possible . If agreed by local members, there would be a need to co-ordinate a timetable to rotate across the forums and agree a format for the meeting with the area management team.

Currently looking to rotate PACT meetings around different locations to capture every neighbourhood over a 3 month cycle.

**In May the DCSP signed 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.**