

Safer Leeds Executive

Protocol to Support Local Working Between Leeds City Council Environmental Services and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

1. BACKGROUND

Leeds currently has over 320 PCSOs working across the city and Leeds City Council provides a 30% contribution towards 170 of these posts. Despite huge budget pressures for the Council, it has maintained significant investment in the PCSO service. In April 2011, the Council agreed to extend the existing arrangement with West Yorkshire Police Authority to retain the level of PCSOs in Leeds. The investment by the Council was awarded on the basis of strengthening arrangements between PCSOs, NPTs and Leeds City Council Services. One particular aim is to support the improved delivery of locally identified environmental priorities and this was supported at the Council's Executive Board in September 2011.

2.0 PURPOSE OF THIS PROTOCOL

This protocol provides guidance for NPTs, PCSOs and Council Officers to jointly deliver better outcomes in respect of environmental issues and enforcement in localities across the city.

An essential element of integrated locality working is the ability to involve the community and partners in finding solutions to the problems they have identified. By doing this it is more likely that the identified and implemented solutions will be sustainable.

PCSOs contribute to the policing of neighbourhoods, primarily through highly visible patrols with the purpose of reassuring the public, and being accessible to both communities and partner agencies working at local level.

There are strong links between crime and disorder and environmental issues and this protocol is aimed at ensuring the quality of the local environment is incorporated into the work of crime reduction partnerships. It is important that the fear of crime, heightened by issues such as graffiti, litter and abandoned vehicles, is addressed.

This protocol provides a coordination and tasking mechanism for NPTs, PCSOs and Council Officers to jointly deliver better outcomes in respect of environmental issues and enforcement in localities across the city.

3.0 WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT ISSUES WILL PCSOs BE INVOLVED IN?

PCSOs will play a pro-active and re-active role in addressing environmental concerns that have been raised. These will be agreed jointly at a local level between Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Police (NPT) officers.

Appendix 1 (a) details the initial priority actions for each of the 3 areas of the city, which will be subject to change as outlined at paragraph 4.

4.0 PROCESS FOR AGREEING ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

Priorities will be communicated at local tasking meetings. These are chaired or co-chaired by a senior officer from the Police, Council or ALMO. Meetings are held on a six weekly cycle which is programmed into core business throughout the year.

A regulatory team officer / supervisor from Environmental Services will attend these meetings and will provide information from the analysis of local data which will highlight areas of poor environmental conditions. This will enable the prioritisation of specific issues where environmental crimes require a focused partnership approach.

It is proposed that priorities should be reviewed at each cycle, be amended as appropriate on the tasking matrix, updated with progress and monitored through the existing performance framework.

5.0 CONTACTS

Contact details are included for Police, Environmental Services and Area Community Safety Coordinators to support the implementation and monitoring of these arrangements and can be found in Appendix 1 (a) by area.

6.0 GOVERNANCE

The protocol will be agreed and periodically updated by the Safer Leeds Executive.

Taibred reports will be presented to Area Committees with inputs from each tasking meeting to brief them about initial arrangements and provide periodic updates. Periodic reports will also be provided for Divisional Community Safety Partnerships / Locality Partnership meetings which will also be able to consider PCSO support for other local priorities, such as tackling burglary and antisocial behaviour, alongside contributions from other partners.

Divisional Community Safety Partnerships / Locality Partnerships will monitor the implementation of the protocol.

Key issues of significance and occasional updates will be provided to the Safer Leeds Executive.

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