

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT AUDITOR’S REVIEW – APRIL 2001

Update Action Plan

Key *Priority* ●●● High ●● Medium ● Low

Issue from DA 98/99 Review	Progress to date	New recommendation	Priority	Responsibility	Date
Establishing the Partnership	Engagement				
11 In collaboration with partners, identify the most appropriate forum to regularly review strategy implementation	A review of the Chief Officers Group (COG) on Criminal Justice is being undertaken to establish the most appropriate forum to monitor progress with strategy implementation across Hertfordshire’s agencies and partnerships. The review is being undertaken using an external facilitator from NACRO and is likely to formulate recommendations by the summer of 2001. The newly reconstituted county-wide Crime and Disorder Task Group also has a remit to monitor progress with strategy implementation at operational levels. The County Council’s Crime and Disorder Panel continues to provide overview and monitoring from elected Members.	R1 Ensure that the County Council plays an active role in any forum which is reviewing strategy implementation, at both strategic and operational levels	●●	Head of Crime Reduction Unit (HCRU)	Ongoing
12 Participate in the review of roles and responsibilities of Chief Officer level partnership and co-ordinating groups	The review of COG and the Crime and Disorder Task Group, both of which have input from County Council senior officers, will make recommendations relating to the future roles and responsibilities of Chief Officers in co-ordinating groups.	As above			

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT AUDITOR’S REVIEW – APRIL 2001

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13 Confirm partners’ contributions, including the County Council,, to the implementation of the local strategies	Wide ranging discussions have taken place during 2000 to establish appropriate levels of input and contribution from both statutory and non statutory agencies. The Joint Representatives Group, together with the County Council’s Head of Crime Reduction Unit, will agree with Partnerships what input will be required in the light of changes within the Council’s departments relating to the children, school and families review. The County Council has also participated in an overall joint action planning exercise, co-ordinated by the Constabulary, which combines the recommendations from the external auditors’ 98/99 reports/action plans and those from HMIC’s <i>Calling Time on Crime</i> report.	R2 Continue to use all appropriate channels to ensure effective contribution, from statutory and non statutory agencies, to facilitate the successful implementation of the local strategies	•••	HCRU in consultation with relevant Chief Officers	April 2002
14 Ensure elected Members continue to receive regular progress updates	The Crime and Disorder Member Panel has been kept regularly informed of progress. The Head of Crime Reduction Unit will be agreeing with Members how they wish to be kept informed during 2001/02.	R3 Ensure elected Members continue to be regularly updated on progress	••	HCRU	April 2002
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Producing the audit	Data and information sharing				
15 Consider the development of a county wide communications strategy within the work programme of the Communications Group	The Communications Group used to be chaired by the Constabulary’s Head of Communications. During 2000 there have been significant changes in key personnel within the Constabulary Communications department. As a consequence it has not been possible to prioritise a county-wide communications strategy. Some district level Partnerships are progressing communication issues using Best Value Reviews as a way of improving communication corporately. The Crime and Disorder Task Group is also discussing how to improve communication channels related specifically to community safety. The Head of Crime Reduction Unit is also actively discussing with the County Council’s corporate Communications department how to integrate community safety with longer term publicity initiatives.	R4 Participate in a review of the feasibility of a communication strategy, in the light of changes within the Constabulary’s Communications Department and the ongoing work at district and overarching agencies, to avoid duplication	••	HCRU in consultation with Head of Comms, Police and HCC	April 2002

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT AUDITOR’S REVIEW – APRIL 2001

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16 Ensure with key partners that performance measurement is a primary focus in the implementation of the action plans	This is a key task for the county-wide Crime and Disorder Task Group during 2001 and is also a priority task for the County Council's Head of Crime Reduction Unit where performance measurement issues relate to County Council responsibilities.	As R1 above.			
17 Devise monitoring systems in collaboration with partnerships to evaluate the local implementation strategies	The Crime and Disorder Task Group's work programme includes developing monitoring systems. The County Council's Crime Reduction Unit is to take an active role in this task during 2001, in collaboration with other responsible authorities.	R5 Progress and complete the development of monitoring systems, in collaboration with Partnerships, to evaluate the local strategies	••	HCRU in consultation with district/borough Community Safety Officers	April 2002
Support and Co-ordination					
18 Review the County Council's contribution with particular reference to the skill mix required for future community safety work.	This review will be a priority for the Head of Crime Reduction Unit in the light of the changes arising from the children, schools and families review. In the meantime the setting up of the dedicated Crime Reduction Unit draws on the specialist experience and expertise of senior and research staff who have been appointed to reinforce the skill mix available to the County Council.	R6 Review regularly the skill mix required and available for community safety work as undertaken by County Council staff.	••	HCRU	October 2001
19 Review the role of the county wide Crime and Disorder Task Group, including police input, as part of an overall review of the implementation structure across partnerships and key agencies	The Task Group's membership and terms of reference were reviewed during 2000 and as a result all District level partnerships are now represented. 'Overarching' agencies representatives also attend including the Constabulary's Chief Inspector, Community Safety and Assistant Chief Probation Officer (Partnership). The Group is chaired by the County Council's Head of Crime Reduction Unit. An outline work programme has been drawn up which reflects the key recommendations from the external auditors' 1998/99 reports/action plans.	See R1			
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Data and information sharing					
110 Ensure that systems and staff resources are in place to facilitate comprehensive data	Data and information feature prominently in the work programme of the county-wide Crime and Disorder Task Group. The Head of Crime	R7 Continue to prioritise, in collaboration with	•••	HCRU in consultation with Community	October 2001

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT AUDITOR’S REVIEW – APRIL 2001

sharing and analysis of information	Reduction Unit has been working closely with other key officers from the ‘overarching’ agencies such as the Constabulary and Probation, as well as Partnerships, to contribute to the identification of resources required both in terms of staff and systems for the next round of local crime and disorder audits and strategies in 2002. This builds on the work in 1999/2000 with providers of information to identify key data omissions and agree an ‘information specification’ for Partnerships. An information strategy is also to be developed. This work continues to be ongoing and will need to be accelerated during 2001 to ensure the appropriate preparations are made by early autumn in time for the work required for the next round.	key local partners, the data and information preparatory work required for the next round of local crime and disorder audits and strategies	Safety Officers, Police, Probation and Health
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Mainstream services and decision making processes		Section 17-compliance			

None

<p>I11 Participate in the development of a financial framework for community safety implementation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify any shortfalls in resources • agree mechanisms between partners to secure internal funding • make bids to external sources 	<p>The Head of Crime Reduction Unit has participated in the work being co-ordinated by the Constabulary’s Chief Inspector (Community Safety) and the Assistant Chief Probation Officer (Partnership) to develop a costing methodology for domestic violence. This model is based on the good practice model developed by Professor Stanko from Brunel University and is a detailed breakdown of costs from ‘simple’ incidents (no direct intervention), police interventions and complex interventions involving arrest/non custodial sentences. Other methodologies developed by the Home Office are also being researched and will be adopted/adapted in Hertfordshire as appropriate. The Crime and Disorder Task Group will assess if the costing methodology used for domestic violence can be used for other types of crime and as part of the development of a wider financial framework incorporating the features identified in the external auditors’ reports/action plans in 1998/99.</p>	<p>R8 Continue to review progress with costing methodologies as part of the development of a financial framework for community safety implementation</p>	<p>• •</p>	<p>HCRU in consultation with Community Safety Officers Police, Probation and Health</p>	
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HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT AUDITOR’S REVIEW – APRIL 2001

I12 Consider community safety implications in future service planning and budgeting plans	An initial mainstreaming exercise was undertaken by the secondee to the post of Crime and Disorder Liaison Officer during 2000. A more detailed exercise will be undertaken during 2001, co-ordinated by the Crime Reduction Unit , to establish how community safety implications can be further integrated.	R9 Progress and agree a timetable of initiatives to further integrate community safety within the Council's service planning and budgeting plans	•••	HCRU	Ongoing, with first milestone February 2002
I13 Integrate community safety links with Best Value and other corporate development initiatives	The County Council's financial commitment of circa £50,000 to support the 10 Partnerships is based on a bids process whereby Partnerships have to demonstrate links to their local crime and disorder strategies, community plans and to District level and County Council level Best Value plans. The Head of Crime Reduction Unit is also in active discussion with the County Council's Assistant Chief Executive with lead responsibility for Best Value to explore the integration with community safety.	R10 Confirm the integration of community safety links with Best Value and other corporate development initiatives	•••	HCRU & Assistant Chief Executive	Ongoing, with first milestone April 2002
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Macpherson Report (not reviewed in 1998/99)					
	The County Council's Assistant Chief Executive is the Equalities lead and is prioritising issues arising from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and the Macpherson Report. Staff awareness sessions have been organised for Education and Social Services and a 'Putting People First' campaign was completed in October 2000 for all corporate services staff. Discussions are taking place to explore whether the terms of reference for the county-wide Domestic Violence Forum could be widened to include responsibility for race hate initiatives.	R11 Continue to ensure the County Council prioritises issues arising from the Macpherson Rep	•••	HCRU & Assistant Director, Personnel	Ongoing