
REPORT TO:	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 13
DATE OF MEETING:	4 SEPTEMBER 2003	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	STUART BATCHELOR TEL 5820	DOC:
SUBJECT:	PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM05

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 The Council, on behalf of the South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder Partnership, recruit a Community Engagement Officer on a 21 hours per week, one year contract at Scale 6 (pro rata)

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To gain Members' agreement for the Council to employ a Partnership Community Engagement Officer on behalf of the South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder Partnership, who will support Neighbourhood Watch and Local Crime Reduction Groups.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder Partnership recognises that the community has a significant role to play in the reduction of crime, but can only do so if it is supported and developed.
- 3.2 To involve the community more the Partnership has developed a project which would support Neighbourhood Watch groups in the District and also increase the number and effectiveness of the Local Crime Reduction Group network across South Derbyshire. This support would be undertaken by a Community Engagement Officer, who could develop the capacity of communities to analyse their local problems and put into place work to reduce those problems.
- 3.3 The post holder would take on the organisation of Liberation Day, which proved to be a highly successful event this year and is to be repeated in 2004.
- 3.4 The Community Engagement Officer would also have an important role to play in helping to reduce the fear of crime within the community by supporting crime prevention campaigns and awareness events.
- 3.5 This project is identified in the Partnership's 2003/4 Action Plan and is supported by the Police and the Home Office.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of this project and the salary of the Community Engagement Officer (3 days per week for an initial one year contract at Scale 6) is funded by a combination of sources including the Police, the Home Office and the District Council. Their contributions have been provided to the Crime & Disorder Partnership and there will be no additional costs to the Council for the cost of the post and the project's activities.
- 4.2 The officer would share a desk within the Community and Leisure Development Department.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The appointment of an officer to work with the community to reduce the levels of crime and perceptions of fear of crime will contribute to the Council's aim of improving the quality of life for local people.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The project is designed to develop and empower local communities by giving them the skills and resources to solve their local problems. The appointment of an officer to support this process will enable its success.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 The Crime & Disorder Partnership has had some success with engaging the community in its work, particularly young people, but further work is required to ensure Neighbourhood Watch and Local Crime Reductions Groups can reach their full potential.

8.0 Background Papers

Crime & Disorder Files CD1 - 10