
REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:	<u>11</u>
DATE OF MEETING:	12 June 2003	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	STUART BATCHELOR EXT 5820	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITY DRUGS OFFICER	REF:	SB/LJW
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	FM05

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 The contract of the Community Drugs Officer be extended to 31 March 2005.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To provide Members with background information on the work of the Community Drugs Officer and outline how the Police, PCT and District Council wish to mainstream the post and its work.

3.0 Detail

3.1 In July 2002 the District Council on behalf of the Crime and Disorder Partnership appointed a Community Drugs Officer on a 2 year contract. Since that appointment the postholder has undertaken the following work:

- monitoring and evaluation of allocated funding for agreed projects funded under the Communities Against Drugs initiative.
- development of a Local Crime Reduction Group in a key hot-spot area to build capacity and resistance to drug misuse and related crime.
- liaison between Police and SDDC regarding key police targets identified through Police intelligence.
- development of a pilot drugs intelligence mapping system in a key hot-spot area of the District.
- development of educational programmes within Primary and Secondary Schools and PRUs
- assisting the Burglary Reduction Project Team.
- co-ordinating the Pilot Neighbourhood Risk Assessment project to identify environmental improvements required to increase feelings of public safety.
- co-ordination of the South Derbyshire Persistent Offenders Project
- supporting the work of SPODA in the District.
- development of the Substance Misuse Action Team Action Plan 2003/04.

3.2 The Substance Misuse Action Team and the Partnership as a whole have recognised the value of this work and wish to make the post permanent. They are particularly keen to adopt the community development based work that has been undertaken in Newhall and use it in other communities.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The current funding arrangement for the Community Drugs Officer post is that Home Office funding will be used to cover the post until April 2004 and then the Crime and Disorder Partnership will cover the remaining contract until July 2004.

4.2 The proposal for July 2004 onwards is to fund the Community Drugs Officer post at least three ways with the Police, PCT and District contributing to the cost of the post. Already the PCT has provisionally identified £3,000 per year. Service bids will be submitted to the Police and District Council during the 2004/5 budget process.

4.3 Whilst the mainstream funding for the post is being sought the Crime and Disorder Partnership wishes to extend the postholders contract until March 2005. This will give added security to the postholder whilst permanent funding is secured. The cost of this contract extension would be covered by any future contributions from partners but in the case there was a shortfall the Partnership will fund the difference.

4.4 Consequently the proposed contract extension will not result in any increased cost to the Council as the Partnership will fund the shortfall.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The Community Drugs Officer post has already proven to be a valuable asset to both the Council and Crime and Disorder Partnership. The post is helping to reduce the effects of drugs on the local community and the subsequent costs on Council services.

5.2 The post contributes directly to achieving the Council's aim of improving the quality of life of local people by providing a safer community.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 MORI polls across the County continually identify low crime as being the number one priority for the place they live. The work of the Community Drugs Officer within the District Council and Crime and Disorder Partnership is intrinsic to achieving that for South Derbyshire and the post has already started to achieve real progress such as, Operation Night, Burglary Reduction Project, Newhall and Midway Crime Reduction Group, Neighbourhood Risk Assessments and Drugs Education in schools.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The proposal by the Partnership is an illustration of the importance the post has made to reducing the supply and effects of drugs to local communities, and securing the post is crucial to the continued successful working.

8.0 Background Papers

Communities Against Drugs File