



Report to: Safe Newcastle Board **For Approval**
From: Gillian Tullock **Community Safety Co-ordinator**
Report Title: Safe Newcastle Partnership Review
Date: 12 February 2009

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on progress relating to the Safe Newcastle Partnership review and seek approval for the proposed brief/scope of the work.

Background

Safe Newcastle was formed in April 2005 by integrating the former Newcastle Community Safety Partnership and Newcastle Drug Action Team. Safe Newcastle is widely regarded as a high quality, effective and accountable partnership and works to ensure that the balance between strategy, governance, delivery and use of resources is achieved most effectively and appropriately aligned

Current Position

Recent discussions have taken place within different parts of Safe Newcastle's structure with a number of common aspects/issues:

- There have been changes in the strategic context in which the partnership operates
- There are a range of responsibilities facing the partnership creating a need to review the strategy.
- There is a need to review governance arrangements, both within the partnership and with other partnerships.
- The resource base of the partnership has changed radically in the past year.
- No significant review of the partnership and its work has taken place since 2004 when the Drug Action Team and The Community Safety Partnership were brought together to form Safe Newcastle.

Safe Newcastle at its Board meeting on 24 November 2008 and AGM on 28 November 2008 endorsed a proposal to review each of these elements

Work Programme

The process for this project will entail:

- Refreshing the strategic assessment 2009 and refreshing the strategy 2010-2012
- Taking stock of the current situation; e.g. mapping current partnership groups and their roles; mapping resources; understanding delivery; and appreciating the current dynamics between them
- Engaging with people from across the whole partnership structure
- Developing a joint understanding of how Governance, Strategy, Delivery and the use of resources inter-relate and how improvement is best achieved.
- Implementing changes

Timescale

This is a significant piece of work which will last for 12 months beginning March 2009. The milestones for progress are as follows

- External consultant/ resource engaged and brief agreed - March 2009
- Regular updates to Responsible Authorities wef April 2009
- Initial audit/mapping exercise completed - June 2009
- Draft proposals /recommendations submitted to Safe Newcastle Board September 2009
- Final proposals agreed by Board November 2009
- Findings incorporated into strategy refresh Jan - March 2010
- Programme for implementation of changes agreed Jan - March 2010
- Full implementation - April 2010

External Resources

In order for Safe Newcastle to continue its successful delivery, this review will happen alongside existing work and during the refresh of the strategy. An external resource and expertise is required to project manage the work, report to Responsible Authorities and help to facilitate the change processes which may be required. This support will focus on identifying

- areas for improvement
- areas for improved performance against the Hallmarks of an Effective Partnership.
- best practice
- how to achieve a better fit in relation to the alignment of governance and delivery
- areas where governance can be streamlined / adding value

It is anticipated that the work will result in a number of outcomes including:

- enhanced clarity of purpose
- improved accountability between partners and to the local community

- more streamlined governance
- better use of resources for added value between areas of work (both within Safe Newcastle and externally to other key partnerships).
- more flexibility in responding to future changing demands

Request for Funding

A total requirement of 30 days external consultancy has been identified to support the project. Government Office North East has agreed to contribute £2,000 towards this cost with Safe Newcastle meeting the balance of costs anticipated to be in the region of £10,000. This cost can be met from existing budgets.

Recommendations

Safe Newcastle Board is asked to

- Note the content of this report
- Agree the proposal regarding engagement of an external consultant to carry out the work
- Agree the proposed governance arrangements and timescale for the work
- Agree to receive further reports as required