

Summary

This document provides a summary of consultation work relating to the 2008-11 Safe Newcastle Strategy and outlines the consultation element of the Strategic Assessment.

Background

Safe Newcastle has a statutory obligation to consult with its residents as well as a series of hard to reach groups. This is to inform its community safety strategy and to verify their approach. The consultation activity focuses on each of the four strategic themes in the current Safe Newcastle Strategy.

Consultation work has been ongoing since May 2008 through attending and delivering events, as well as using the Shape Bus as a mobile unit. A total of 246 individuals have been consulted at events since May 2008 and further street-work consultation is taking place in January and February 2009 across Newcastle. The findings of this work will be triangulated against specific consultation activity being undertaken as part of the strategic assessment e.g. the questionnaire in Citylife and focus group work with target groups recognised from the Social Inclusion strategy.

Consultation work planned for 2008/09

The following is an outline of the work programme of consultation taking place between January and March 2009. It is informed by both Home Office guidance and by Newcastle City Council's Social Inclusion Strategy (2008).

Street Work Consultation

This part of the programme would be described as 'broad and wide' consultation. The intention is to engage with the travelling public and with people where they work and where they live. Venues have been selected to ensure a high and representative footfall for Newcastle's residents, visitors and workers. These include customer contact centres, sports centres and market/shopping precincts.

There will be two parts to this consultation:

- Ask passers-by to score out of ten how safe they feel, 10 being safe and 0 unsafe.
- Using this first part as a prompt, ask the pass-by the reasoning behind their score.

It should be noted that the following methods have been used in the ongoing consultation and have proven to be an effective tool for quick and positive engagement.

Focus Group Consultation

Newcastle City Council's Social Inclusion Strategy (2008) identifies a series of priority target groups. These will form the basis of the consultation exercise and will include;

- People living in deprived areas
- Adults facing chronic exclusion
- Households with the lowest incomes
- Young People in transition into adulthood who face exclusion
- People with low educational achievement
- Vulnerable workers and people facing multiple barriers to employment
- People who are at risk of exclusion or are excluded because they are disabled
- Isolated and vulnerable older people
- Adults who face exclusion because they are carers

In addition to these groups, we will also consult with Islamic faith groups and migrant worker communities.

A total of two focus groups will be carried out in each category, giving a total of 22 focus groups.

There will be three parts to the focus groups:

- A discussion about current community safety concerns, followed by a ranking exercise. These will be grouped into the following three categories: you and your family; the area you live; and Newcastle as a whole.
- Cross checking the crime and disorder headings presented in the City Life questionnaire (January/February 2009). These headings will be used to ask respondents if they reflect their community safety concerns.
- Presenting Safe Newcastle's response to community safety concerns, as presented in the 2008-11 Community Safety Strategy. This will be done to determine Safe Newcastle's response if appropriate and proportionate. It will also identify any gaps.

City Life Questionnaire

This will be the third time in five years that Safe Newcastle has used City Life to distribute a community safety questionnaire for residents to complete. The questionnaire is composed of four sections:

- The first highlights community safety issues that were identified in the strategic assessment and asks whether they are a concern for:
 - ‘you and your family’;
 - ‘the area you live’; and
 - ‘Newcastle as a whole’
- An opportunity to inform Safe Newcastle about other community safety concerns
- How much would you say your worry about crime has changed over the last 12 months?
- Monitoring questions

The results of the consultation will be thematically analysed and will directly inform the 2009/10 Strategic Assessment.