

Area West Committee – 15th May 2013

7. Community Justice Panel

Strategic Director: Rina Singh (Place & Performance)
Assistant Director: Helen Rutter / Kim Close (Communities)
Service Manager: Andrew Gillespie, Area Development Manager (West)
Lead Officer: Valerie Keitch, Community Justice Panel Manager
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Purpose of Report

To note changes proposed to the management and operation of the current Community Justice Panel project in South Somerset in 2013/4 and to note performance figures for 2012/3.

Recommendation

To note the report.

Background

The CJP has been supported by SSDC since its inception in 2004. In the detailed report made to Area West Committee in July 2011, twin objectives were agreed to; -

- seek core funding from 2013 through the budget of the Police and Crime Commissioner and, funding permitting
- establish a Charitable Trust to take the project forward from April 2013

In the last progress report to Area West Committee in July 2012 it was noted that a Community Justice Panel Trust had been established to replace the previous Management Group with a view to responsibility for project staff being transferred from SSDC to the trust by March 2013.

Funding

It was also noted that through fundraising and planned economies every effort was being made to ensure that the CJP had sufficient funds to carry on until April 2013, by which time it was anticipated that the prospects for long term funding would be clear enough to allow the Trustees to take decisions about the future. This timing was a further reference to the possibility of funding being made available via the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office (PCCO).

The 2011/12 budgeted annual cost of the CJP project, by then operating across South Somerset and 2 other Somerset Districts was reported as £105,000. This included the in kind cost of a full time seconded Police Officer, Sgt Bill Geddes. That secondment ended when Sgt Geddes retired in January 2012.

As reported in July 2012, further economies were made to lower costs and the 2012/13 outturn cost was £43,636 against an income of £29,761, leaving a shortfall of £13,875.

SSDC submitted a funding bid to the Safer Somerset Partnership for inclusion in its bid for community safety funding from the PCCO. That did not receive sufficient priority in relation to other proposals and therefore did not achieve a share of the £193,000 budget that was allocated to Somerset. Consequently the CJP Trustees are not able to take responsibility for project staff. Both part time posts of Project Manager and Panels Coordinator will not continue and the office based at Holyrood Lacemill in Chard will close as soon as is practicable.

The Future of the CJP project in Somerset

With the support of Kim Close, AD Communities, the CJP Trust has been encouraged to develop a forward plan for the project that relies solely on volunteers and so far this approach has been endorsed by some existing volunteers and key referral agencies. The Police have offered support and accommodation for the project. Safer Somerset Partnership still have £10,000 of PCC partnership funding that is unallocated and so a further bid has been submitted and this is currently under consideration.

Activity report 2012/13

During the last year 74 cases were dealt with involving nearly over 240 people. Of that total 24 were in Area West and involved 70 people. There were some complex cases involving more than one offender and victim.

The chart below shows types of cases and outcomes:

Type of offence	Number	Referred by	Adults/Young people	Outcomes
Assault	5	Police	Both	ABC'S
Common Assault	5	add	add	add
Criminal damage	2	Police	Both	ABC,S
Sec 5 Public Order Act	4	Police	A	ABC
Neighbour disputes	1	Yarlington Housing Group	A	Acceptable Agreements
Theft and Shoplifting	3	Police	Y	ABC
Noise nuisance	1	Police	A	ABC

