



Community Safety & Crime and Disorder

What it means to you?

Training &
Development
Safer Communities Dept
Safer and Stronger

Louise Kelly 2013

Foreword

This handbook has been produced to help the Council and it's Members meet the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Section 17 seeks to ensure that all council departments have community safety embedded into their planning, their policy and their operational day-to-day activity. Section 17 identifies in law '*a need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area*'.

This handbook explains what this can mean in practice and gives examples of activity for individual service areas.

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1. Community Safety – General information

What is Community Safety?

Community safety is a broad term. With regard to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; it refers to the protection of local communities from the threat and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour; by achieving reductions in crime and the fear of crime.

We need to involve communities in identifying criminal and anti social behaviour problems and for them to help to develop the solutions. Community safety includes things like drug crime, anti social behaviour and disorder, as well as the fear of crime.

The council has a vital and crucial role in contributing to the Community Safety Agenda.

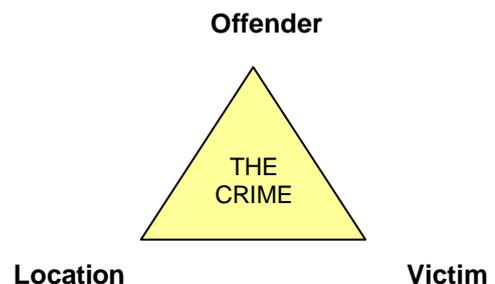
As well as specific departments such as the Youth Offender Service, Trading Standards and our Fire and Rescue service, the majority of County Council front line services may affect in some way or another community safety and quality of life for victims, offenders and the wider community.

The more obvious are dealing with truants, protecting and assisting vulnerable children and adults, services for people with addictions, Education and Youth Services to name but a few. The less obvious include our Passenger Transport fleet, the work we do in Neighbourhood Forums and Sports Developments initiatives.



How is crime prevented?

Three things need to be in place for a crime to occur (namely, location / offender / victim) known as the Problem Analysis Triangle. The triangle below demonstrates a well-known crime prevention theory at its simplest:



Alongside enforcement measures, by manipulating any one of the three elements, it is possible to change or remove the factors that lead to the offence taking place – and prevent crime. For example, by removing an offender from the area, or by changing features of the location (eg locks and bolts) or by altering a victim's route or method of transport, then a crime that would have been committed can be prevented.

To reduce crime, three issues can be tackled. They underpin the policies and activities of CCC's response to Section 17, namely:

- to work to divert **offenders** and **potential offenders** from criminal behaviour
- to provide support, advice and protection to **victims, repeat victims and potential victims** of crime.
- to identify problem **locations** and reduce the opportunities for crime to occur.

It is important that Section 17, in practice, reflects the local priorities and takes on board a **location/offender/victim** focus.

2. Introducing Section 17

A legal responsibility

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. This means that all policies, strategies and service delivery need to consider the likely impact on crime and disorder.



How Section 17 affects you?

Every day, the responsible authorities (namely the Councils, Police, Health, Fire and Probation) are required to provide a range of services.

They each have a key statutory role in providing these services. Section 17 defines that their contribution must have embedded in it a focus on reducing crime, disorder and the fear of crime, later broadened to include anti-social behaviour, behaviour adversely affecting the environment and substance misuse.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave locally elected councils an ideal platform to ensure local issues are not ignored.

Although rural areas generally suffer less reported crime than urban areas, it is still an area of concern for many residents.

Council staff should therefore become actively involved in the identification of the local problems and be part of the solution.

Failure to comply with the legislation could result in legal redress. Fulfilling the statutory obligation is therefore an obligation for all elected members and staff.

To whom does Section 17 apply?

It applies to everyone who works for, acts on behalf of and is contracted by the local authority.

Authorities have to ensure that all departments within their organisation can show that crime and disorder issues have been fully considered.

It applies to you!!!



3. Section 17 in practice

Your contribution to a safer Cumbria

All Elected Members and members of staff are required to consider their own role in the context of Section 17, and to identify all activity that has an impact on crime.

The following list of examples is a checklist of activities that can be incorporated into your every day role and future service planning.

Each activity demonstrates a potential contribution to a safer Cumbria. This can be achieved by:

- Championing the cause of crime and disorder reduction and community safety – by ensuring your department supplies all appropriate data to the Cumbria Observatory. This information is collated and integrated in to local Strategic Assessments for the Community Safety Partnerships.
- Promoting the message that Cumbria is a safe place to live. Use social media and consider the use of the Cumbria Community Messaging site.
- Familiarise yourself, get involved and support the work of the Community Safety Partnership's and the District Delivery Groups etc. Based on analysis; priorities have been identified and action plans are developed – local authority elected members and staff need to be aware of what's expected of the council.
- Identify what the **impact** on community safety would be when you do your day to day work – i.e. stop funding a project; remove some equipment; plan a new project; reduce staffing; or if you take NO action?
- There are lots of CS partnership activities going on – i.e. MARAC*, MAPPA*, Prevent and Deter, Integrated Offender Management, Focus Families, Responsible Authorities Partnership, Domestic Violence Champions Network, Neighbourhood Watch..... The list is endless. Do you have a role to play; if so please see how to get involved? All of these groups not only need Enforcement support they need help from partners who offer Rehabilitation, Resettlement, Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol, Financial advice, Offender Management, Diversionary activities, Crime prevention and Information Sharing to name but a few.
- Help to reduce the fear of crime by providing reassurance and encourage reporting.
- **ALL COUNCIL ACTIVITY supports the work of the Community Safety Partnerships, the key vehicles for tackling crime and disorder issues across Cumbria.**

*Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements.

Local government has a critical role to play; staff and members are in an excellent position to contribute towards a Safer Community.

4. Community Safety across Cumbria

The Safer Cumbria Partnership

Under its remit to address crime and disorder issues Safer Cumbria also addresses community safety, domestic violence and criminal justice issues.

Safer Cumbria consists of two groups, a Direction group to review all the evidence and decide on the strategic community safety priorities that should be addressed and an action group to deliver on those priorities. The partnership continues to provide a Strategic Assessment document that outlines priority areas of concern and how these can be best addressed in partnership. The current priorities include substance misuse, reducing reoffending, domestic violence and addressing other crime and disorder issues.

The Community Safety Partnerships – how it began

- **1998 The Crime and Disorder Act** laid the foundations for statutory CDRP's and gave the lead responsibility to the Police and Local Authorities. This required that they produce audits and strategies to plan for future input to the reduction of crime in their area.

Section 17 placed a new duty on Police and Local Authorities to consider crime and disorder and community safety in all their activities. Potentially this is a useful and powerful tool and requires us all to look at the crime and reduction/community safety potential within all our policies, budgetary and other decisions and service provision.

- **2002 Police Reform Act** made Health a Statutory Partner. This meant that they became part of the decision making process for crime reduction and have a role to play in allocation of resources and identifying priorities.
- 2004 Government announced a review of partnerships. Intention to strengthen; increase visibility and consider its role and membership. Partnerships responsibility under the CDA to produce an audit and strategy was replaced by Strategic Assessments and Partnership Plans. Scrutiny committees were required to encompass the work of the CDRP and the responsibilities of CDRPs was broadened to include anti-social behaviour, behaviour adversely affecting the environment and substance misuse; the list of responsible authorities that are subject to section 17 should be extended by means of secondary legislation.
- **2006 The Police and Justice Act** 2006 which received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006, introduced most of the changes to the Crime and Disorder Act.
- **2007 Cumbria's first Local Area Agreement** was launched it was an agreement with government to deliver on a range of issues. The document is presented under four blocks; but is focused around 5 key themes

- Children and Young People
- Economic Development and Enterprise
- Healthy Communities and Older People
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Liveability

For the 2007 LAA a range of government funding streams were brought together to support the delivery of the LAA. This totalled at just over 13 million pounds in Cumbria. Partners also agreed to align some of their mainstream funding with achieving the outcomes in the LAA.

Cumbria's first Local Area Agreement was signed off by Government in March 2007. The Agreement went into operation on 1 April 2007

- **2009 Policing and Crime Act** saw Probation becoming a responsible authority of CSPs, having previously been a cooperating body. The other responsible authorities are the Police, Police Authorities, Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue Services and Primary Care Trusts. It requires CSPs to formulate and implement a strategy “to reduce reoffending”. It amends section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act to add a duty for certain defined authorities to consider reducing reoffending in the exercise of all their duties.
- **2011 Policing and Social Responsibility Act** covers five distinct policy areas: police accountability and governance; alcohol licensing; misuse of drugs; and the issue of arrest warrants in respect of private prosecutions for universal jurisdiction offences.

We have four local Community Safety Partnerships across Cumbria; and they are Carlisle and Eden; West Cumbria; South Lakeland and Barrow in Furness.

The Responsible authorities have a statutory duty to work together with other local agencies to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder. They need to include anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment as well as the misuse of drugs in their area.

The Responsible authorities who are legally obliged to work in partnership are:

- Police
- Local authorities
- Fire and rescue authorities
- Primary care trusts (PCTs) in England (PCTs were added on 30 April 2004).
- Probation Trusts

These agencies are under a statutory duty to ensure that key agencies come together to work in partnership in a CSP. They audit crime on an annual basis and produce a strategic assessment which identifies the priorities for the partnership for the next year. The partnership produces a partnership plan based on the

strategic assessment which explains how they will take action to reduce crime and disorder in those priority areas.

Crime reduction priorities

The priorities of Cumbria's CSPs include:

Anti Social Behaviour, Reducing Reoffending, Violent crime including Domestic Violence, Drugs and Alcohol and Acquisitive crime.

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