



# Home Office

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To: Chairs of Community Safety Partnerships  
Cc: Community Safety Managers

1 April 2010

Dear Colleague,

## **RECENT STATUTORY CHANGES FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

I am writing to you about our recent package of measures to strengthen Community Safety Partnerships. As you know, section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, which takes effect on 1 April 2010, means that Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have a new duty to reduce reoffending and probation becomes the sixth statutory responsible authority on CSPs.

Partnership working is central to delivering safer and more confident communities and will become even more crucial in the tighter economic climate, particularly in helping improve value for money of service delivery. These changes should further enhance the key role CSPs can play in bringing together and co-ordinating the actions of housing providers, health services, local authorities and other key players who have a critical role in cutting crime and reducing reoffending. I know that probation already plays an integral part in local partnership working and many CSPs have already adopted a more holistic approach to tackling crime that embraces reducing re-offending.

The duties of bodies listed under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to exercise their functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all that they reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, and substance misuse in their area, have also been extended to include reducing reoffending.

The new duties strengthen the link between crime reduction and reducing reoffending. They also formalise the effective joint working that is already underway at local level through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and schemes such as Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPO). Reducing reoffending will impact on crime levels, make communities safer and improve public confidence and reassurance in the criminal justice system.

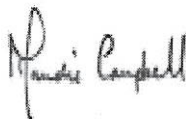
Working together to protect the public

There have also been amendments to two existing regulations to support these changes, which also take effect on 1 April: the **Crime and Disorder Strategy regulations** and the **Crime and Disorder Information Sharing regulations**. Further information about all of the above changes can be found in the annex to this letter.

The final change I wanted to bring to your attention is the amendment to the **Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny regulations**, following our commitment in the policing white paper, *Protecting the public: supporting the police to succeed*, to enable the co-option of members of the public and community groups to Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny committees. This amendment takes effect on 1 April and means that where these Committees believe they would benefit from having the objective voice and experience of the public, they will be able to invite a representative to sit on the Committee. This change will strengthen the ability of local communities to hold to account their local Community Safety Partnership for the services it delivers in their area.

If you have any questions or queries about these changes, please do not hesitate to contact Katie Ratcliffe ([katie.ratcliffe@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:katie.ratcliffe@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)) or Varsha Ratna ([varsha.ratna@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:varsha.ratna@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)).

Yours ever,



**Mandie Campbell**

Director, Drugs, Alcohol and Partnerships