

To: All Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)

From: Cambridgeshire County Council Research & Performance Group

Purpose: To provide clarity of this year's Strategic Assessment process

Introduction

All CSPs are legally required to produce an annual strategic assessment, as specified by the minimum standards that came into effect in August 2007.¹ The aim of the strategic assessment is to support the CSPs in developing an evidence-led approach to address issues around community safety.

"The statutory framework requires partnerships to include the following components in the strategic assessment:

- analysis of the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse;*
- changes in the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse since the last strategic assessment;*
- analysis of why these changes have occurred; and*
- assessment of the extent to which last year's plan was implemented."*

2

The strategic assessment evolves year on year as we learn from what works and adjust to reflect the changes that have taken place to the partnerships. Following on from a review of the 2010 strategic assessments, the existing guidance available and conversations with partners, the following process and format are recommended for 2011. The table below highlights some of the comments that were received from CSPs and changes to be made to resolve them.

Comment	Change
Some lack of understanding of the Victim, Offender, Location (VOL) presentation	Provide clearer explanation of VOL Provide more guidance of partnership working to address underlying issues
Need to access to underlying data/analysis	Provide appendix bundle to include additional data/ charts
Document length – too long	Reduce number of key lines of enquiry
More CSO involvement needed	CSOs to be part of scanning process CSOs to be part of editing document OSGs to be contribute to content
Greater use of partnership data	A review of data sources will take place. With an offer to discuss with partners best use of data ³
A need to provide more recommendations for the partnership	More recommendations to be included. Scanning of national best practice and discussion with leads on what interventions the partnership should discuss

These changes should allow for a more integrated holistic document, with greater involvement from the Community Safety Officers (CSO) and strategic leads for specialist

¹ The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007.

² Developing a Strategic Assessment An effective practice toolkit for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships October 2007

³ Previous years has shown that some data sources sent to us are not as robust as others. However it must be noted that Cambridgeshire County Council Research & Performance Group does not has the capacity to re-analysis every partnership data source.

areas. Furthermore, the strategic assessment will be a living document and would include the priorities once agreed. An example structure for the document can be seen in appendix 1.

Process

As before, we will follow the recommended SARA⁴ model for the process. This year there will be an emphasis on early scanning. This will allow more time for analysis on emerging issues and discussions with partners, and potentially a reduction in the number of key lines of enquiry. This in turn should produce a more focussed document.

Scan

- Review all issues within the district, with input from CSOs about which areas might form the key lines of enquiry.
- Matrix for decision making process for deeper analysis
- Use of Constabulary risk assessment of

Analyse

- Conduct a more in-depth analysis of problem areas, including what the partnership has done and progress made. This would integrate some of the work previously presented in separate sections to enhance understanding of what works.
- Working closely with partners to attempt to identify cross-cutting issues and underlying causes

Respond

- The document will include clear recommendations. These should be jointly written with partners and CSOs
- The response element is seen through the action plans written by the CSPs, which should include proven and effective interventions.

Assess

- Re-examine the 2011 process to develop the 2012 strategic assessment

Format

The Jill Dando Institute recommends that strategic assessments are written in the victim, offender, location (VOL) problem triangle rather than the crime chapter methodology. This allows for a greater level of understanding of underlying causes of community safety problems instead of 'descriptions' of the crime patterns within the CSP area.

For 2011, the emphasis this year will be to produce a working adaptable document that provides the partnership with a solid starting point from which to form action plans. To this end, less 'data' will be within the main document but will instead be made available within the supporting information pack.

For this year's document the recommendation is that for each VOL theme the following 5 areas will be covered.

- Key Information (what is the problem)
- Current work being carried out (what are we already doing)
- Progress made in tackling the problem (how successful is the current activity)
- Gaps identified (gaps in intervention or intelligence)
- Recommendations (possible future work)

The following examples give an explanation of what each section might look like;

⁴ Scan – Analyse – Respond - Assess

Victims - Those groups of people who suffer high levels of victimisation or are particularly vulnerable to particular crimes, any identified areas of need, and the inclusion of recommendations for partners.

Offenders - Those groups of people who are the most prolific or are most likely to become offenders, any identified areas of need, and the inclusion of recommendations for partners.

Locations - Those geographic areas and times often referred to as hotspots, which have high levels of offences any identified areas of need, and the inclusion of recommendations for partners.

Data Sources

Please see attached document “2011 Strategic Assessment Data Sources” for list of data sources to be reviewed.

Community Consultation

It is a requirement that:

“The partnership will consult its communities about crime and disorder issues in their area and also about what priorities the partnership should tackle”⁵

The partnership therefore needs to agree what process it wishes to adopt for consulting with the public. The move to a living document allows more flexibility in the timescale for the consultation.

Suggested Timescale

July 14 th – Aug 4 th	- Scanning
Aug 1 st – 14 th	- Consult with CSOs/OSG and agree key lines of enquiry
Aug 15 th – 31 st	- Write introduction & scanning sections
Sept 1 st – 30 th	- Analysis & write main section
Oct 1 st – 19 th	- Complete editing with partners & agree draft recommendations
Oct 20 th – Nov 30 th	- Present to CSPs and agree priorities
Dec – Jan 2012	- Complete documents

Recommendations

- That the partnership support the proposed process and format changes for this years strategic assessment
- That the partnership identifies a clear process and timescale to allow for consulting with the public in 2011.
- That partners contact the Research & Performance Group at their earliest convenience to discuss appropriate use of data sources.
- That the partnership commits to the process by supporting the sharing of information and notes the impact on resources for its partners and in particular the CSO’s time.

⁵ Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working

Suggested content for a partnership strategic assessment document⁶

Contents

Title page

Executive summary

Section 1: Introduction

The introduction

The team

Methodology

Data sources

Section 2: The Analysis

Contextual information

The scanning exercise

The analysis

Current Activity and Progress

Section 3: Priorities

The priority selection process

The strategic priorities

Section 4: Gaps in Current Activity, Provision and Intelligence

Local experience

Section 5: Conclusion

Next steps

Appendices

⁶ Adapted from the Home Office Toolkit suggested structure 2007