

**SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

7 JUNE 2006

**CRIME AND SAFETY PROJECT****Accountable Cabinet Member: Irene Henderson****Contact Officer: Richard Solly, Community Safety  
Manager (Tel: MK 254429)****1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the initiation and progress of the Crime and Safety Project.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the report and suggests ways of refining and improving project delivery.

**3. Issues and Choices**

The aim of the project is to reduce crime and the fear of crime amongst vulnerable adults in Milton Keynes. Vulnerable adults are defined as those eligible for services under the Health and Community Care Act.

The target group is vulnerable older people and adults with a disability. It may ultimately include people with mental health problems.

The whole project is based on the single assessment process that has been introduced for vulnerable adults, ensuring they receive one high-quality needs assessment covering both health and social care. The person's vulnerability to crime and fire is also assessed. Through this process, a link is established between the vulnerable person and the police crime reduction officers. The fire service is also included, and a further link will be established with the Trading Standards Officers.

The police, fire service and trading standards may offer a range of services according to need. In many cases, expert advice will be sufficient. In other situations there will be a need for services such a provision of locks or fire sprinkler systems. In more severe cases, multi-agency problem-solving will be necessary – e.g. when there is evidence that an area has been targeted by “rogue traders”.

The project forms part of the Public Services Agreement 2005-8, under which the local authority agrees to meet enhanced targets in return for greater flexibility from government. In addition, the government awards a modest pump-priming grant to enable the project to get under way. If the targets are met at the end of the agreement, a much larger reward grant (in the order of £450,000) is payable. The incentive for success is therefore substantial.

The targets are:

- To reduce domestic burglary by 17.5% amongst the vulnerable adult population
- To reduce domestic burglary by 17.5% amongst the population as a whole (the government insisted on this target)
- To reduce fear of crime amongst the vulnerable adult population.

The project was set up by the Community Safety Partnership. Steering Group members are:

- Milton Keynes Council - Adult Social care
- Milton Keynes Council - Housing
- Milton Keynes Council - Trading Standards
- Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust
- Thames Valley Police
- Bucks Fire and Rescue
- Age Concern
- The Community Safety Partnership

In October 2005, *Age Concern* was commissioned to deliver the project.

The first stage was to develop a computer database that could hold the necessary information and would conform to appropriate multi-agency protocols. This database has been developed, and is now ready to be piloted.

The second stage will be to pilot the project at Newport Pagnell. This area was selected because it has a fairly high proportion of vulnerable adults, and yet is compact enough to provide adequate scope for a pilot. Unfortunately the staff member at *Age Concern* resigned, and a replacement has not yet been appointed. As a result the pilot has been delayed from the April start that was originally projected, and there is a danger that the project could fall significantly behind schedule.

The pilot should serve to iron out any major teething problems. After four months, we shall proceed to the third stage, which involves a formal project launch across the whole Milton Keynes area.

#### 4. **Implications**

##### 4.1. Policy

The main innovation behind the project is to link adult social care assessments with police and fire services. This represents a new policy

framework, but it does not involve any breach of individual confidentiality. The service users must consent before information is shared, and Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act confers a power on the various authorities to share this data for the purposes of crime reduction.

#### 4.2. Resources and Risk

As with any project in the public domain, resources are limited and timescales are tight. The main risk is that the project will be delayed to the point where targets will be difficult to achieve. There is already a danger that this might occur (see above), and in that case the project management may have to be transferred. The steering group is extremely reluctant to take this step, but is examining a contingency plan under which Bucks Fire and Rescue Service will take over. Hopefully this can be avoided.

A subsidiary risk is that the budget will prove inadequate to sustain the project. This has been minimised by the willingness of all partners to contribute funding, but nevertheless it remains a danger that the steering group is under pains to overcome.

✓	Capital	✓	Revenue	✓	Accommodation
✓	IT	✓	Medium Term Plan	✓	Asset Management

#### 4.3. Legal

The provisions of Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act are discussed under 4.1 above.

#### 4.4. Other Implications

Sustainability beyond the immediate life of the project is frequently an issue, and this project is no exception. It is not expensive, and we estimate that the entire project can be delivered for £30,000 per year. If it proves its worth, as we are sure it will, it is likely that the partners will provide the necessary funds for it to continue after 2008.

✓	Equalities / Diversity	✓	Sustainability	✓	Human Rights
✓	E-Government	✓	Stakeholders	✓	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers:

PSA Scheme 2005-8