

Summary of audit findings and the development of priorities

Areas to include

This section should cover the following main areas:

1. Describe the main issues or themes identified in the audit. These may be:
 - Crime related.
 - Anti-social behaviour and disorder related.
 - Drug related
 - Demographic issues.
 - Geographic issues.
 - Issues affecting homogeneous groups.
 - Socio-economic issues.
 - Cross cutting themes.
2. Describe the process of identifying and refining the broad priority areas through:
 - The audit process.
 - The consultation exercise.
 - Nationally defined targets and priorities
 - Partner agency targets and priorities

Some suggestions for information that could be included under each heading follow below.

1. Describe the main issues or themes identified in the audit

Themes and issues identified as priorities in the audit should be discussed in the strategy. It is essential to make the link between the analysis in the audit and how the priority areas are subsequently identified. Priorities identified can be described in a number of ways:

- **Crime related**
Priorities may focus on particular types of crime. For example: vehicle crime, burglary.
- **Anti-social behaviour and disorder related**
Priorities may focus on disorder and anti-social behaviour. For example: vandalism, "nuisance youths".

- **Drug Related**
Will focus on targets against the national key performance indicators for all four aims of the National Drugs Strategy and may focus on local priority targets if they are identified.
- **Demographic issues**
Priorities may focus on particular sections of society, such as old or young people.
- **Geographic issues**
Priorities may focus on particular geographical areas or hotspots within the boundaries of the partnership.
- **Homogeneous groups**
Priorities may focus on issues that affect homogeneous groups. For example: victims and witnesses – priorities that focus on improving their confidence in the criminal justice system, offenders – priorities that focus on catching and convicting prolific offenders and other priority offenders, students, an ethnic group.
- **Socio-economic issues**
Priorities may focus on socio-economic issues. For example: problems of damage in derelict areas.
- **Cross-cutting themes**
Priorities that cut across a number of issues may also be identified. For example: drugs, young people and reassurance.

Thematic priorities can potentially allow a larger scope for activity, and also offer opportunities to respond to national priorities whilst still taking account of local concerns. Decisions around whether to use specific crime and community safety priorities or to use themed priorities should be taken locally, bearing in mind the need to respond to relevant national priorities. Partnerships should, however, ensure that strategies to deal with thematic issues are not generic. Strategies should be succinct, focused and manageable and for drugs, take account of the guidance of the Performance Management Resource Pack.

2. Describe the process of identifying and refining the broad priority areas

- The rationale behind the identification and refinement of the specific priority areas should be fully explained in the strategy.
- This will include references to the audit and consultation stages as well as nationally defined targets and priorities.
- The Government expects local authorities and their partners to help deliver their key priorities such as the Home Office's Public Service Agreement to reduce crime and the fear of crime and the National Drugs Strategy with its related PSAs. Partnerships with the highest recorded crime rates per 1000 population for vehicle crime, robbery and burglary will need to set appropriate targets that will have the greatest impact on reducing these crime rates.

- In identifying and refining the broad priority areas, partner agencies will want to be aware of their partners' priorities and targets such as the relevant targets included in the Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) agreed between Local Authorities and central Government. Also, partners will want to be aware that police forces will be preparing their three year strategic policing plans for 2005-08 following publication of the National Policing Plan 2005-08 in November 2004. As these strategic plans will cover the same period as the CDRP/DAT strategies, it is expected that where local authority and BCU areas are co-terminous that priority areas and targets in both strategies will be aligned.
- Priority should be given to tackling anti-social behaviour. The Government's Together: Tackling Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan – www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimpol/antisocialbehaviour/actionplan sets out its approach to dealing with ASB, and the support available to partnerships to help improve their response to ASB, including the Together Actionline and Together Academy.
- Crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour priorities, targets and key milestones, to be contained in Partnerships' 2005 – 2008 strategies should be discussed and agreed by partnerships with their Government Office/Welsh Assembly Government. Their Government Office/Welsh Assembly Government will make further guidance and information on the arrangements, process and timing for this available to partnerships.
- In respect of drugs priorities, targets and key milestones, this process will be led by the Government Office Drug Staff and will be informed by the previous year's local performance against the KPIs, local estimates of problematic drug use supplied with the treatment demand model and local and regional priorities. The result will be an overarching target setting and performance agreement, which will include key milestones for in-year monitoring. A copy of a sample agreement and suggested templates for recording targets and key milestones against each of the KPIs are provided in the Performance Management Resource Pack.
- Partnerships choosing not to include certain Government priorities in their strategies should be clear that there is evidence from the audit process that these areas have been considered and have not been shown to be a current priority within the locality. This evidence should be referred to in this section of the strategy.
- Ensure that there is no conflict between objectives and targets in different plans.

Further Information

Gray, P. Fox, C. McManus, J. and Warburton, F. (2001) [The NACRO Guide to Developing and Implementing Crime Reduction Strategies](#). NACRO

Home Office (2003) National Drug Strategy Performance Management Framework Resource Pack www.drugs.gov.uk