



Home Office

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Chairs of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Drug Action Teams

Dear Colleague

There has been considerable recent attention given to what makes a successful Partnership. Last year's Audit Commission report, and more recently the pilots for the self-assessment template, have added to our knowledge. The new Partnership Standard in particular, when rolled out later this year, should help Partnerships get a clear picture of where they are working well and where they need to make improvements.

More immediately, however, the new Crime Reduction Delivery Board, which I have set up with the agreement of Ministers to co-ordinate cross-Government action on crime reduction, thought it would be useful to try to set down on a single side of paper the characteristics of a successful partnership. The attached note, which draws on a variety of experience as well as the views of the Board's members, is the result.

I should stress that the note is not intended to be prescriptive or to measure outcomes. It is offered to you simply in the hope that it will be helpful in your own self-assessment of how well your partnership is working. It does, however, carry the explicit endorsement of the Crime Reduction Delivery Board's members, including the LGA, ACPO and the APA.

I am also copying this letter and the attached note to the Chairs of DATs which have not merged with CDRPs. They have already been engaged in a very similar process, and the note will hopefully be of use to them also.

I am copying this letter to the Home Office Directors in Government Offices.

Yours sincerely

Leigh Lewis



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KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP WORKING

1. Successful partnerships will demonstrate:
 - leadership in the form of the effective personal engagement of Chief Executives, elected members and other senior partners;
 - making a reality of s. 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with a clear vision and a shared commitment to improve community safety through the concerted actions of a wide range of agencies and close links to related strategy areas including drugs and neighbourhood renewal;
 - effective performance and project management skills and, in particular, an adequately resourced and skilled Community Safety team, with top-level support and access;
 - analytical capacity and data sharing with an evidence-based approach to problem solving;
 - openness to good practice and awareness of shifting demands, with effective feedback mechanisms on impact on the ground; and
 - effective and ongoing engagement with the community, including socially excluded groups.
2. They will also be able to point to specific examples of good practice such as:
 - the existence of information-sharing protocols to ensure that core and relevant data is collated and analysed;
 - a partnership strategy with clear outcomes, time-lines, resource allocation, review processes and responsibilities;
 - effective joint planning arrangements based on agreed outcome based targets/indicators;
 - commitments to take account of all members of the community, respecting diversity;
 - strong and effective communications with the community and partners;
 - assessment procedures and an accountability to monitor and review performance;
 - a willingness to consider and introduce alternatives for failing or underperforming areas or initiatives; and
 - the use of benchmarking and twinning to learn lessons from partnerships elsewhere.