

29 June 2010

## **SUPPORTING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH INTO THE FUTURE**

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. This report provides Members with an update on the development of a formal approach to the expectations and arrangements for Neighbourhood Watch working within Neighbourhood Policing and Intelligence.

### **BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION**

2. Humberside Police and Humberside Association of Neighbourhood Watch Groups (HANWaG) have benefited from a long and successful period of partnership working. Few police forces have such a strong affiliation with their individual Neighbourhood Watch Groups via an association such as HANWaG.
3. Although HANWaG are responsible for managing the delivery of Neighbourhood Watch throughout the Force area, they have had to meet differing objectives and outcomes as part of their funding arrangements from the Police Authority and the four Community Safety Partnerships (CSP). This has meant that the Force has not adopted a formal approach in the past.
4. Last year a User Management Group was convened by the Police Authority. Discussions have taken place between Humberside Police, the Police Authority, the four CSPs and HANWaG to work towards a joint Service Level Agreement (SLA) to both ensure consistency across the four CSPs and to agree Terms of Reference between the partners.
5. The SLA has now been agreed and signed-off by all relevant parties and although Humberside Police do not directly fund HANWag the following objectives have been agreed by the Force and form part of the SLA:
  - NHW Development Officers are to attend divisional force tasking.
  - Development of two way communications with NHW Groups and agencies.
  - That HANWaG will organise and promote awareness raising between agencies.

6. The User Management Group is seen as the correct vehicle to ensure a coordinated approach for all partners to deliver expectations and arrangements for Neighbourhood Watch and the next stage of the formal process is to agree a communication system that meets the needs of all.
7. Outside that formal process the Force will continue to hold discussions and work with HANWaG to build on the capacity and role of Neighbourhood Watch to deliver positive outcomes to the community. This will specifically include matters in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). This approach promotes flexibility to meet changes in political, national, regional or local agendas.
8. The Force are about to begin a Neighbourhood Policing stock-take which will provide us with an up to date picture of Neighbourhood Policing and highlight any areas where further work is needed. Neighbourhood Watch will contribute to that stock-take and any further areas of development required to deliver expectations and arrangements for Neighbourhood Watch working within Neighbourhood Policing will be identified.

#### **OPTIONS/RISK**

9. Not applicable.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. None at this time.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. Not applicable

#### **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

12. Not applicable.

#### **CHILDREN ACT 2004**

13. Not applicable.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

14. Not applicable.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. It is recommended that Members:

- i Consider the information contained within the report.
- ii Raise any concerns for discussion.

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Background Papers: HANWaG SLA