

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT ON ALCOHOL, YOUNG PEOPLE AND DRUG RELATED CRIME/YOUTH NUISANCE AND TOWN CENTRE SAFETY LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

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Background Papers:- The BDC Constitution, Agendas and Notes of PSPDG Meetings, Cllr Dr Evan's notes on visits to NAPs, Enhancing Accountability in Local Policing, Neighbourhood Renewal and social inclusion, LGIU briefings
Financial Implications:- None
Equalities Implications:- None
Legal Implications:- None
Options: To support/not support the recommendations arising
Risks: None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report outlines the approach, methodology, research and findings of the Group whilst investigating this topic. It also outlines a number of frustrations encountered in terms of communication and access to information, and identifies some factors that Members consider to be a barrier to them fulfilling their Role as Ward members.

DECISION

To support the recommendations arising from the report:

- That the BDC Cabinet Member for Community Safety, in conjunction with Community Safety Partners,
 - reviews their interpretation of the data protection laws as they relate to Ward Members to enable them to fulfill their role as community representative, as set out the BDC Constitution,
 - have regard to the finding of this Group in respect of the feeling of lack of empowerment amongst Ward Members, and
 - ensures effective communication between those responsible for the implementation of the new scrutiny powers in Braintree with those responsible for the implementation of the new Crime and Disorder procedures by Essex Police in the District to avoid damaging the partnership.
- That whatever the fora for dealing with Community Safety issues in Braintree exists, information is made readily available to the public and these are advertised widely.
- That Ward Members are kept informed, using a simple "traffic light" system, about action taken in respect of community safety issues.
- That "the role of the ward member as an empowered community champion" is adopted by Braintree District Council as a topic for scrutiny investigation in 2007/8, along the lines proposed in Neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion – a councillor's guide to scrutiny: IDeA, October 2006.