

COMMUNITY TENSIONS REPORTING A FRAMEWORK FOR PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT

Purpose of Report

This report outlines the framework by which Derbyshire Constabulary, D Division, Derby City Council, Derby Crime and Disorder Partnership – CDRP – and Derby Youth Offending Service Anti-Social Behaviour Team will work together to aim to prevent and provide an early response to community tensions in the city.

The framework supports the “Operational Guidance for the management of Inter-Ethnic Conflict” issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers – ACPO – in November 2002. As that guidance states:

“Inter-ethnic conflict contributes to crime and disorder from the most serious racially motivated murder to persistent minor disorder that affects the quality of life for many members of the community.

The involvement of the local community and working in partnership at all levels cannot be over emphasised. Often police are called upon to act as peacemakers or as mediators to bring people together in order to resolve problems. Another challenge for all agencies is to identify bridge builders and support them in their role as intermediaries.”

It is acknowledged that the development of community cohesion is a much larger agenda than that of the prevention and management of community tensions and conflict. However, the quality of the response to community tensions has a significant influence on community cohesion.

Framework for responding to community tensions in Derby

Identification of tension

A range of agencies, communities or individuals may become aware of and concerned about potential community tension or conflict. The Police are often one of the first agencies to detect such concerns. Nominated Police and CDRP officers will be contact points for agencies, communities and individuals, and concerns can be passed on to these officers.

Assessing the risk

On notification of potential conflict, the Police will initiate a risk assessment process. This will be a partnership process, involving initially the Police and Derby Anti-Social Behaviour Team. The Police will facilitate the assessment process using the National Intelligence model and ACPO guidelines.

The outcome of the assessment will be an agreed level of threat ranging from:

Level 6	Insignificant	Within the range of normality, monitoring and long-term partnership activities – Building Peace
Level 5	Low	
Level 4	Heightened	Heightened tension and increased risk of conflict active short term interventions – Keeping the Peace
Level 3	Moderate	
Level 2	Significant	Conflict happening or happened, co-ordinated actions and managed return to normality – Keeping and Restoring the Peace
Level 1	High	

ACTION

Level 1 and 2 Threats – Immediate / high risk / significant risk

Procedure

- Divisional Commander, DCC nominated officers and Director of Community Safety Partnership notified immediately and directly
- Inter-agency team meet immediately – Police, Council representative, Community Safety Partnership representative, and ASB team manager
- Problem analysed – potential responses agreed and authorised by senior officers. Deployment / action occurs immediately
- Police / DCC communications officers informed; media strategy agreed between both. “Talking Head” appointed.

Level 3 and 4 – Heightened tension and increased risk of conflict

Procedure

- Divisional Commander, DCC nominated officers, and Director of Community Safety partnership informed
- Inter-agency team meets within five working days
- Problem analysed – profile victims, offenders, hotspots, research intelligence and critical individuals
- Potential responses agreed and notified to Chief Officers
- Consultations with community leaders
- Notify communications officers to develop media strategy.

Level 5 and 6 – Insignificant / low level of tension

Procedure

- Community tensions incidents will be jointly monitored by the Police and CDRP
- Interventions and outcomes in relation to Levels 1 to 4 will also be monitored and evaluated
- Quarterly reports will be presented to Police, DCC, CDRP, Community representatives and other agreed groups for comment and discussion. Records of all meetings will be kept.

Implementation

This framework requires the following actions...

- Establishment of inter-agency team, with representatives from the Police, ASB team, Youth Service and Derby Homes.
- Induction training for non-Police staff in risk assessment process.
- Compilation of a matrix of a range of potential local responses, in consultation with statutory, voluntary and community sector representations.
- Clarification between Council and Police on Community leaders consultation arrangements.
- Implementation of the monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Established links with DCC Community Cohesion Strategy Group.
- It is also suggested that the Derby Social Cohesion Project be linked into this project, as a means of training and working with community facilitators / mediators.

Recommendation

To ask Derby Police D Division, Derby City Council and Derby Community Safety Partnership to adopt the framework.