



**From:** Home Secretary,  
Secretary of State for Justice

**To:** Community Safety Partnership Chairs, Wales

17 December 2010

Dear Colleague

### **CUTTING CRIME TOGETHER**

Cutting crime and protecting vulnerable people from harm matters to local communities. Places where crime is tackled effectively are also more likely to have thriving economies, healthier citizens and cohesive communities; and keeping communities safe is best achieved by local agencies collaborating effectively together. That is why we want to ensure that all the agencies our departments work closely with understand the importance the Government attaches to working in partnership. As the leaders of local partnerships your role is vital. This letter outlines the government's reform agenda, future funding and our role in working with you.

#### **Partnerships**

- 2. Effective partnerships play a crucial role in helping to tackle crime and reduce re-offending.** Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) will continue to be statutory and we want them to be partnerships focused on taking actions and achieving outcomes – cutting crime and reducing harm – not process and bureaucracy. We are freeing partnerships from unnecessary UK Government reporting burdens and prescriptions and this provides an opportunity for you to decide how to operate more efficiently and address the issues that really matter to local people, not those set out by Whitehall. As a result CSPs and Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) now have greater freedom to work more flexibly and innovatively together. Combining CSP and LCJB arrangements is one way to achieve this.
- 3.** Many of the solutions to crime are rooted in prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation and these need to be addressed by partnerships. Maintaining multi-agency services to protect the public is vital, for example, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements to target the most serious violent and sexual offenders; case conferencing to protect the victims of domestic abuse; and the use of Integrated Offender Management to coordinate and focus work on those who cause most harm locally.

#### **Reform**

4. In the Coalition Programme we set out our commitment to ending the era of top-down government by decentralising the delivery of local services, cutting bureaucracy, enabling greater professional discretion for people working in local agencies and giving power back to local people. We are working together across and beyond central government to remove obstacles to those delivering public services.
5. We have already proved our intent. The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners from May 2012 will give the public direct influence over crime in their local area. Crime mapping down to neighbourhood level in the New Year will provide the public with the information to hold partners to account.
6. The **Ministry of Justice Green Paper, Breaking the Cycle**, represents a fundamental shift towards ensuring that offenders pay back to victims and communities for the harm they have caused; placing more emphasis on the effective rehabilitation of offenders to stop them reoffending time and time again. We would very much welcome your views on the proposed reforms, particularly as we recognise that there are particular issues to consider in how our proposals might work in the devolved Welsh context. To find out more go to [www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk).

### **Doing better with less**

7. As you know, it will be essential to work together to limit the impact of tightening public spend on frontline community safety services. The new approach to tackling crime will require us to do better with less. It means services which provide targeted and specialist support working together with a strong focus on early intervention, and it will involve Government providing leadership and freeing frontline professionals to work innovatively and to target local need.
8. In addition to the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for England announced earlier this week, the Home Office will make a contribution to local government funding in 2011/12, which will be announced in January – this will be un-ringfenced but reflects the important role local authorities play in community safety and crime reduction. Welsh CSPs will enjoy equal treatment with their English counterparts. In addition, across England and Wales, the Government has committed to a new single fund to youth offending teams which includes funding for youth crime prevention; ringfenced funding of £340m for neighbourhood policing; £125m for the Drug Interventions Programme in 2011/12 to support local partnerships across England and Wales to identify, assess and manage drug misusing offenders during their recovery journey; and a £28m protected contribution over four years to specialist services for women and girls who are victims of violence.
9. Together this funding will make an important contribution to resourcing community safety services locally. Wherever possible we have sought to simplify the funding landscape and remove ringfences so that local partners target community safety issues that matter locally. As you know, a joint approach to local funding decisions will increase your ability to ensure that key services are protected. It is also important that we recognise the valuable contribution that Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, charities, social enterprises and cooperatives can make and work to ensure that cuts to budgets do not disproportionately affect them.

10. Once Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are introduced they will be responsible and democratically accountable for tackling crime at a local level, working alongside local partners. The public will be able to raise any concerns directly with them, and PCCs will have the power to respond. We will also be introducing Police and Crime Panels in every force area to scrutinise the Commissioner. The Welsh Assembly Government will have a representative on each Panel and will therefore play an important role in holding their local Commissioner to account. As such, once PCCs are in a position to commission services locally, the majority of central government funding for crime and community safety programmes will be devolved to them and they will work with CSPs and others to prioritise the issues that matter most to local residents.

### Next steps

11. Community safety continues to be a key priority for the Government collectively and we recognise the very real challenges which local partners are facing in agreeing local priorities and budgets for the year ahead. The importance of local partners working together to make these decisions cannot be overstated. Contributions from local partners to providing police community support officers, for example, have been vital in ensuring much of the visible policing that deters crime and makes communities feel safe, and will continue to be an important supplement to the Neighbourhood Policing Fund, which pays for 75% of police community support officers.

12. The Government's approach to cutting crime will be set out in a **new Crime Strategy**, to be published in the New Year.

13. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to make contact with officials in any of our Departments, who will seek to provide the advice or support you need, alternatively please email [CSPEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CSPEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours,



Theresa May  
Home Secretary



Kenneth Clarke  
Secretary of State for Justice