



From: Home Secretary,
Secretary of State for Health
Secretary of State for Justice
Communities Secretary
Secretary of State for Education

To: Community Safety Partnership Chairs

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 central 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, as has already been done in Gloucestershire, is one way to achieve this.
- 3. Many of the solutions to crime are rooted in prevention, early intervention, better education 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. The case for a radical shift of power from a centralised state to local communities is set out in the **Department for Communities and Local Government guide on 'The Localism Bill'** available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/decentralisationguide>
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. To find out more go to www.justice.gov.uk.
7. The Government's proposals on health intend to provide a forum to bring together local partners around health and well-being and to provide opportunities for a more joined-up approach across wider public services. We are proposing that councils do this by establishing Health and Well-being Boards in each top-tier local authority. We will be publishing more detail on how we intend to take forward these proposals later this month and encourage you to consider with colleagues your role in contributing to health improvement locally.

Information sharing and violence

8. We have committed to ensuring that hospitals collect and share non-confidential information with CSPs to reduce violence locally. The Department of Health is working closely with hospitals to promote information sharing and has provided £750,000 to the NHS in 2010/11 to support this. The effective use of this information is critical to achieving reductions in violence. Therefore we want CSPs and local health agencies to work in partnership to ensure that, where information is provided, it is used effectively to inform local violence reduction activities. Government will be monitoring progress on this commitment and we look forward to CSPs' support delivering this work.

Doing better with less

9. 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.

10. In addition to the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 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-ring fenced but reflects the important role local authorities play in community safety and crime reduction. In addition the Government has committed to: a new single fund to Youth Offending Teams which includes funding for youth crime prevention; £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; a renewed focus on early intervention through a single £2,212m fund for services in England in 2011/12; ring fenced funding of £340m for neighbourhood policing; and a £28m protected contribution over four years to specialist services for women and girls who are victims of violence.
11. 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.
12. 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. 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

13. 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.
14. The Government's approach to cutting crime will be set out in a **new Crime Strategy**, to be published in the New Year.
15. 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

Yours,



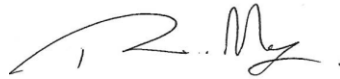
Andrew Lansley
Secretary of State for Health



Eric Pickles
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