

# Scrutiny Sub-Committee for Promoting Strong, Healthy and Safe Communities



4 December 2006

## 'Who's Afraid of Crime?': Review Report

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### Report of Head of Overview and Scrutiny

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#### Purpose of Report

1. To update the Sub-Committee about progress on the "Who's Afraid of Crime?" scrutiny report which looked at fear of crime issues in County Durham.

#### Background

2. A Scrutiny Group, in April 2006, made recommendations about reducing fear of crime in County Durham. The recommendations were grouped around a number of themes:
  - Improved communications (better publicity by those agencies involved in tackling crime of successes and promotion of "good news" on the crime and disorder front)
  - Increasing understanding (breaking down barriers, overcoming hate crime and tackling social exclusion)
  - More rigorous evaluation of performance and outcomes in relation to tackling crime and disorder and fear of crime
  - More engagement with young people
  - More support for initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour
  - Enhanced community engagement, capacity building and raised confidence in our local communities
  - A greater role for members as community safety ambassadors
  - More joined up working (greater involvement of other agencies in CDRPs)
  - Other Policing Issues

#### Progress against the Recommendations

3. Because of pressures on the scrutiny diary, it has not proved possible to convene a meeting of the Working Group to review progress against the recommendations. However, a schedule has been prepared showing the current position for consideration by members of the Sub-Committee.
4. Members will note that there has been progress in a number of areas, although for some issues, there had already been recognition at the

time of publication of the Working Group report by some agencies concerned of a need for improvements and in those instances actions were already underway.

### **Recommendation**

5. That members of the Sub-Committee consider the progress made against the recommendations and, if satisfied with the outcomes, “sign off” the project accordingly.

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