



Your Moray - Your Community

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP ON 5
NOVEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC ASSESSMENTS

BY: MORAY COUNCIL - CORPORATE POLICY UNIT
MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Community Engagement Group is asked to note the development and use of strategic assessments within the community planning partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Group is asked to note the development and use of strategic assessment within the community planning partnership.
- 2.2 The Group is also asked to consider any use they may wish to make of the information being gathered for use within community engagement.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In early 2008, the Scottish Government's community safety unit was encouraging community safety partnerships to make use of an existing national intelligence model, NIM, which had been used for several years to identify priorities within the police service. Strategic assessments are a core aspect of the NIM.
- 3.2 A Strategic Assessment is a report that presents data and other information to create an accurate overview of the current and longer-term issues surrounding a particular topic or area of activity. It provides a picture of the current situation, how that may change in the future and the factors that might influence and effect that change, and makes recommendations about how to improve future outcomes. It should also contain details of any existing gaps in information and how these could be filled.
- 3.3 Further a Strategic Assessment is used to assist at a strategic level with decision-making and the identification and setting of priorities within a partnership or organisation. It provides the evidence needed for this process and enables the partnership or organisation to accurately and efficiently target activity and resources.

- 3.4 In February 2008, following the production of a strategic assessment on Community Safety, the community safety partnership held workshops to determine the priorities for the revised Community Safety Strategy. Moray was one of the first community safety partnerships to adopt the use of the NIM. Now, NIM is widely used in community safety partnerships supported by training at the Police College and special central team within police services.
- 3.5 All of the Council's Research & Information Officers received direct training from the Police College on how to carry out a strategic assessment.
- 3.6 In October 2008 guidance was issued in relation to the development of the next round of SOAs. Contained within the key message from Scottish Government in developing the SOA, it states that "the national outcomes agreed between national and local government in the Concordat address the improvements sought across Scotland as a whole in quality of life, opportunities in life and living context. Each local partnership needs to examine trends and issues in their own areas, and establish local priorities within that context. In some areas aspects of quality of life and opportunity may already significantly exceed national ambitions (e.g. life expectancy East Renfrewshire or East Dunbartonshire). In other areas, the same aspects may fall well below any reasonable expectations (e.g. life expectancy in parts of Glasgow). Priorities need to be set accordingly. In summary the SOA had to reflect local priorities which were evidenced-based.
- 3.7 The Community Planning Board began discussing the development of the SOA in detail in November 2008. A copy of the report submitted to the Board reflects the guidance from Scottish Government, highlights the outcomes from the strategic assessments and identified for the first time the key priorities. This report is attached for reference.
(Appendix 1)
- 3.8 As seen in the report it was agreed that the strategic assessment approach would provide the partnership with a model to use to develop an evidence-base. Therefore it was agreed that this model then be rolled out to other themes to use.
- 3.9 Strategic assessments were produced on each of the five themes. After which the information within the assessments were merged to create an area profile and performance management information into one document. This document was contained in the first draft of the SOA submitted to Scottish Government in February 2009. This document was not included in the final version of the SOA due to the volume of information. A copy of the report is attached for reference.
(Appendix 2)

- 3.10 The comments received from Scottish Government in April 2009 on our SOA 2009-2010 are the "SOA contains good analysis of the area profile and where Moray stands in relation to Scotland as a whole. This section is particularly simple and clear. In most cases your local outcomes emerge clearly from this analysis, although one or two are perhaps most influenced by the results of your extensive consultations (which are of course evidence in themselves)".
- 3.11 Detailed strategic assessments have continued to be used in the community safety partnership with the production of two other assessments: domestic abuse and drug/alcohol misuse. Both of these documents are being used to set priorities within those areas.
- 3.12 Guidance from the Scottish Government on the SOA is that it should be reviewed annually but it is not anticipated that this review will result in major changes within the Agreement. To assist with that review, the previous strategic theme assessments are being updated. This update should show any emerging trends which may impact on the focus of the priorities. The first draft of the revised assessments will be reported to the Board in November.
- 3.13 In addition over the next year, each of the strategic theme assessments will be looked at in greater detail using the full range of tools available within NIM. Detailed assessments take on average 3-4 months to complete.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**
The revised SOA will form the Community Plan and inform other partners' strategic documents.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
The Community Planning Partnership is required to sign off the final Single Outcome Agreement.
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)**
Detailed analysis of the financial, staffing and risks will be considered further once the overall commitments are agreed.
- (d) **Consultations**
No consultations were undertaken as this is an information report based on current practice.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Strategic Assessments have been used to provide the evidence base for our SOA. The Scottish Government have stated that our SOA contains good evidence. The next stage in the use of strategic assessments is to update the information to identify any emerging trends which will influence partnership priorities and to carry out detailed analysis against each of the 5 themes.

Author of Report: Bridget Mustard, Corporate Policy Unit Manager
Background Papers: Scottish Government guidance, comments on our SOA, intelligence led policing model

Ref:

Signature Bridget Mustard Date: 30/10/09

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