

Safer Communities - a glossary

The following information is designed to provide an introduction and reference point for members. This section covers community safety. Information on public protection and fire will follow shortly.

Basic Command Units (BCUs)

The national Police Service is organised into 43 individual police services, roughly at county level. Each police service is sub-divided into Basic Command Units (BCUs). There are 318 Basic Command Units in England and Wales typically commanded by a Superintendent or a Chief Superintendent.

Since 2001, the Government has published crime statistics at BCU level and HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) have inspected BCUs. BCUs are grouped into 13 families on the basis of socio-economic and demographic characteristics, and these families can be used for comparisons in performance.

The BCU fund is a budget which has been devolved to BCU commanders. The objective of this is to:

- Help the frontline to deliver crime and disorder reduction locally; and
- Promote Partnership working.

In many cases, the BCU fund is used to fund the activity of the local CDRP(s) but this is at the discretion of the BCU commander.

As Police service and BCU boundaries are not always coterminous with county and district or unitary council boundaries, one BCU may be aligned to more than one Crime and Disorder Partnership.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)

Known in Wales as Community Safety Partnerships

Crime and Disorder Reduction partnerships are the core partnership for the delivery of community safety activity at a local level. Established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, they are responsible for taking the lead in a three-yearly community safety Audit and Strategy process.

The statutory partners, known as the 'responsible authorities' are:

- Local authorities;
- Fire authorities;
- Police;
- Police authorities; and
- Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England and health authorities in Wales.

In two-tier areas, partnerships exist at district level (although districts have the option to merge their partnerships). County councils provide a coordinating role, and can provide valuable data collected at county and district levels.

Children's Trusts

Children's Trusts are the key outcome of the Children's Act 2004 and are intended to ensure that services for children are child-focused and joined-up across local agencies. Within Children's Trusts, local partners will be able to jointly plan, commission, finance and deliver these services.

These new arrangements will see children's services professionals working in multi-disciplinary teams, with joint training to tackle cultural and professional divides. Services will be co-located in extended schools or children's centres. At an operational level, trusts will be supported by integrated processes. A common assessment framework will be introduced and led from central government, with scope for some 're-engineering' at a local level.

Community mental health teams (CMHTs)

Also known as Primary Care liaison teams

Launched in March 2001, CMHTs coordinate mental health services for adults who suffer from a wide range of mental health problems. This might include the provision of advice on the management of mental health problems and the provision of treatment and care.

CMHTs adopt an integrated multidisciplinary approach and undertake outreach work. They accept referrals for assessment from GPs, primary care team members, social services and all other components of the mental health services.

CMHTs should establish links with local police and voluntary agencies so that exceptional direct referrals can be facilitated. The need for close working with drug and alcohol services is also recognised.

Drug (and alcohol) Action teams (D(A)ATs)

DAATs are responsible for producing local strategies to tackle drug mis-use. They were first established by health authorities (and according to health authority boundaries) in response to the white paper "Tackling Drugs Together." The Police Reform Act 2002 then assigned joint responsibility for this task to:

- Local authorities;
- Fire authorities;
- Police;
- Police authorities; and
- Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) or health authorities.

D(A)ATs and CDRPs are now jointly responsible for the delivery of strategies to tackle drug misuse. DAATs operate at the level of county or unitary councils. In some areas, the D(A)ATs and CDRP have been merged.

Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)

Formally known as Criminal Justice Interventions Programme

This programme aims to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the criminal justice system to access offenders who are misusing drugs. Its overall aim is to reduce drug-related crime.

Through the programme, individuals are offered treatment for drug misuse. It recognises that an offender's need for support does not end when they reach the end of their sentence or treatment. Interventions are therefore seen as part of a beginning-to-end support programme that follows and manages offenders as they pass through the criminal justice system. This includes:

- Police custody;
- The courts and probation;
- Prison;
- Treatment; and
- Through care and aftercare.

Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJB)

A Local Criminal Justice Board exists for each of the 42 criminal justice areas in England and Wales. Their role is to further the objectives of the Criminal Justice system at large:

- To reduce crime and the fear of crime; and
- To dispense justice fairly and efficiently, promoting confidence in the rule of law.

LCJBs are also tasked with driving improvement in the delivery of justice, service delivery to victims and witnesses, and securing public confidence in the system.

Each Board includes:

- Police;
- Crown Prosecution Service;
- Magistrates' and Crown Courts;
- Youth Offending Teams;
- Probation Service; and
- Prison Service.

All local Boards should have agreed local consultation mechanisms to involve other Criminal Justice system stakeholder organisations at a local level.

Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) replaced Area Criminal Justice Strategy Committees (ACJSCs), Trial Issues Groups, Chief Officers' Groups and any other outstanding Criminal Justice Boards on 1 April 2004.

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

The ODPM definition of a local strategic partnership (LSP) is a 'single body' that:

- brings together at a local level the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together;
- Is a non-statutory, non-executive organisation;
- Operates at a level which enables strategic decisions to be taken and is close enough to individual neighborhoods to allow actions to be determined at community level; and
- Is aligned with local authority boundaries.

LSPs operate at county and district levels.

In the 88 designated neighbourhood renewal areas, it has been compulsory to establish an LSP. These bodies have been made responsible for allocating neighbourhood renewal funds (NRF) locally.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is a Home Office department, established in 2004 in response to the Carter Review for Correctional Services, 'Managing Offenders Reducing Crime', and the Government's Response, 'Reducing Crime – Changing Lives'. Its aim is to ensure an end-to-end approach to the management of offenders by bringing together responsibility. In the past, this has been split between the Probation and Prison services. The main outcome of this is intended to be a reduction in rates of re-offending.

NOMS is also tasked with:

- Ensuring that security, control and decency is preserved in all prisons;
- Raising the public profile and reputation of NOMS; and
- Building effective working partnerships across the Criminal Justice System, including other key public sector partners and the voluntary and private sectors

Police authorities

Police authorities are independent bodies, appointed to oversee the work of the local police service. Chief Constables of police retain operational control and police authorities do not discuss operational matters. Rather, they are expected to ensure that police service represents efficient and effective practice, and serves local people adequately. They set the strategic direction for the force, and hold the chief constable to account on behalf of the local community for the policing service delivered.

Police authorities are responsible for:

- Setting the police budget (including how much money for policing should be paid through council tax);
- Appointing the chief constable and senior officers;

- Consulting with local people about the policing of their area;
- Setting local policing priorities and targets;
- Monitoring the performance of the local police service;
- Publishing an annual plan, telling local people what they can expect from their police and service and reporting on performance in the past year; and
- Overseeing complaints against the police and disciplining senior officers.

Currently, police authorities have 17 members:

- 9 local councillors
- 5 independent members
- 3 magistrates.

However, the police reform white paper *“Building Communities, Beating Crime”* (November 2004) proposes to change these arrangements.

The Probation Service

The National Probation Service exists to supervise offenders in the community. Service delivery is through 43 local probation services, each sharing the same aims:

- To protect the public;
- To reduce re-offending;
- The proper punishment of offenders in the community;
- To ensure offenders are aware of the effects of crime on the victims of crime and the public; and
- To rehabilitate of offenders.

Sentencers can make a probation programme part of an offender's order if the court probation officer recommends that the programme suits the offender and can produce a positive outcome.

If an offender's failure to comply with supervision of the Probation Service, they can eventually be returned to court and be re-sentenced (or recalled to prison if the offender is on licence).

The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF)/ mini local area agreements (mini LAAs)

The Safer and Stronger communities fund (SSCF) is designed to transform the way local government receives funding for community safety related activity. The principle behind this change is to allow local authorities more flexibility in the way they spend the resources available to them.

The SSCF will bring together existing funding streams from the Home Office and ODPM into one pooled fund. The term ‘mini local area agreement’ refers to the arrangement by which this fund will be allocated. Led by the local authority and the local strategic partnership (LSP), local partners will be able choose where they direct money at a local level. This might include CDRPs, Drug Action teams, Community Empowerment Networks, the voluntary and community sector and business community.

Details of the SSCF were first published in the Local Area Agreements prospectus and the fund is likely to be integrated into Local Area Agreements from 2006. For the 21 pilot areas, the SSCF will be one strand of the local area agreement for 2005. For most local authorities in 2005, however, mini local agreements will be developed separately.

Section 17 (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that community safety issues are mainstreamed – that is, considered in everything that responsible authorities do.

Youth Justice Board (YJB)

The Youth Justice Board exists at a national level to support the achievement of the youth offending system as whole. It does this by:

- Advising the Home Secretary on the operation of, and standards for, the youth justice system;
- Monitoring the performance of the youth justice system; ;
- Purchasing places for children and young people remanded or sentenced to custody;
- Identifying and promoting good practice;
- Making grants to local authorities and other bodies as appropriate; and
- Commissioning research and publishing information.

The Board consists of 12 members appointed by the Home Secretary.

Youth Offending Teams (YOTs)

Youth offending teams work with children and young people aged 10 to 17 who offend, or who are accused of offending. They were established as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which placed a new emphasis on the need to ensure that appropriate youth justice services are available locally.

At minimum, a YOT will include:

- a social worker;
- a probation officer;
- a police officer;
- a person nominated by a health authority in the local authority area; and
- a person nominated by the local authority's chief education officer.

Their performance is monitored by the Youth Justice Board.

Common abbreviations

BCU	Basic Command Unit (police)
CDRP	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
CMHT	Community Mental Health team
D(A)AT	Drug (and alcohol) action team

DIP	Drug Intervention Programme
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LCJB	Local Criminal Justice Board
LSP	Local strategic partnership
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
SSCF	Safer and Stronger Communities Fund
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOT	Youth Offending team

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