
Decision Session – Executive Leader

7 September 2010

Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Update on Capable Guardian Scheme

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Executive Leader on the progress of the Capable Guardian scheme.

Background

2. The Capable Guardian scheme is about partner organisations working together to act as the 'eyes and ears' within the community, to address and prevent anti social behaviour, and to improve public confidence. Whilst some of this work is already happening, the actions, and the sharing of information to address and report anti-social behaviour are not fully coordinated. The Capable Guardian scheme aims to improve this and thus build safer, stronger communities, and to improve public confidence.
3. A pilot was run in the Westfield ward in April 2008. The pilot was evaluated by the Safer York Partnership (SYP) team. The results of that pilot indicated that:
 - a. Overall the Capable Guardian scheme had been received extremely positively by the community.
 - b. The Capable Guardian scheme had achieved visibility in the Westfield area.
 - c. Monthly meetings provided a clear focus for the partnership working at ward level.
 - d. Issues were dealt with more promptly as those involved in each service area could share information and discuss options to resolve problems.
 - e. There was stronger partnership working between ward based agencies.
 - f. There were improved communication at ward level.
4. The Capable Guardian pilot scheme was widened to include the neighbouring wards of Dringhouses and Woodthorpe in December 2008.

5. A decision to extend the Capable Guardian scheme to other areas in the city that have high incidences of anti social behaviour, and to provide temporary resources to assist with this initial work as part of the PREVENT co-ordinators role was taken by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) (Safer York Partnership Board) at a meeting on 14 December 2009.

Extension to other areas of the City of York

6. The Capable Guardian scheme will be maintained in Westfield, Dringhouses & Woodthorpe and will be rolled out to 4 other wards with high incidences of anti Social behaviour during 2010. These are Clifton; Guildhall; Heworth; and Hull Road.
7. The nominated Capable Guardians from each service area within the council and partners are:
 - Environmental Protection Unit
 - Neighbourhood Management officers
 - Youth Services
 - Estate Officers from Housing
 - Local Councillors
 - Group Response
 - Mediation Services

Working in partnership with:

- Police safer neighbourhood team
- NY Fire and Rescue
- Local school head teachers

Progress

8. The Capable Guardian schemes are at different stages of being established.
9. Westfield, Dringhouses and Woodthorpe, Heworth and Clifton schemes are now in operation. Guildhall and Hull Road have had initial meetings and are currently in discussion with the Capable Guardian partners in order to determine how the scheme will be managed.

Consultation

10. Consultation and discussions have taken place with all the respective Ward Councillors, Police, Neighbourhood Management officers, Housing, Street Environment officers, Environment Protection Unit officers and SYP. Due to the nature and characteristics of the anti social behaviour experienced within each ward and existing and preferred methods of dealing with issues, the Capable Guardian 'model' of operation is not intended to be prescriptive. The operation of the scheme will vary in format between wards according to locally agreed preferences, the key element being the way partners work together and achieve outcomes.

Monitoring / Evaluation

11. The monitoring of each Capable Guardian scheme at ward level will be undertaken by each Capable Guardian group against locally agreed priorities.
12. The 'actions' and outcomes will be reported by the respective groups to the SYP anti-social behaviour co-ordinator, and the outcomes will be evaluated annually. Surveys will be developed to give an indication of whether the scheme has influenced the levels of public confidence in the local authority and police working together, (a key national performance indicator).

Corporate Strategy

13. The Capable Guardian Scheme supports the 'Safe City' element of the corporate strategy.

Implications

14. **Financial Implications:** There are no financial implications.
15. **Human Resources:** The rollout of Capable Guardian is being led by the PREVENT co-ordinator as part of that officer's remit. This post terminates in November, and as such a key element of the implementation is that the wards which have adopted the scheme are able to take ownership of it, and provide resource within the existing ward partnership framework so as to ensure it is self sustaining
16. **Equalities:** There are no equalities implications
17. **Legal Implications:** There are no legal implications
18. **Crime and Disorder:** There are no crime and disorder implications
19. **Information Technology (IT):** There are no IT implications
20. **Property:** There are no property implications.

Risk Management

21. There are no risks associated with this paper.

Recommendations

22. The Executive Leader is asked to note the report.

Reason: To keep the Executive Leader informed of the progress of the Capable Guardian scheme.

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Report
Approved



Date 18 August 2010

Wards Affected:

Clifton
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
Guildhall
Heworth
Hull Road
Westfield

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Capable Guardian scheme report to CDRP Board on 14 December 2009.

Annexes:

None.