

*Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998
Revised under the Police and Justice Act 2006*

SECTION 17 – REVISED DEFINITION AND DUTIES

A focus on revision of S.17 under the Police and Justice Act 2006

Tuesday 6th November 2007

Local Government House, Smith Square, Westminster SW1

The Police and Justice Act 2006 has refocused the individual contribution of key agencies to the Safer Communities agenda, originally introduced in statute by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The amended definition of Section 17 places specific duties on responsible authorities. It states:

“Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies (local authority, police authority, joint authority etc) to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent, (a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area.”

This one-day conference highlights the current development of Section 17 and explores its contribution to sustained crime reduction and its relation to the CDRP reform programme. The conference also explores the development of the new area-based assessment framework and the joint police and community safety assessment framework.

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Leading Local Authority Members with responsibility for Crime and Disorder
- Chief Executive Officers & Departmental Heads
- Community Safety Managers and Officers
- Chair and members of the CDRP
- Head of Legal Services in authorities with duties under Section 17
- Anti Social Behaviour Managers
- Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordinators
- Members and Officers of Authorities with Section 17 responsibilities

REGISTRATION

Online

You can register for this conference online at www.psstrategies.co.uk

Fax / Post

Please complete the enclosed booking form and fax, email or post it to the address shown on the form.

Further booking forms are available from the conference administration team on 01483 203536 or by emailing benedictbr@btinternet.com

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SPEAKERS INCLUDE

- Linda-Claire Smith, Performance & Policy Unit, the Home Office
- Jane Mowat, Chair, National Community Safety Network (NCSN)
- Carmel Murray, Solicitor, Northumberland County Council
- The Audit Commission (representative to be confirmed)
- Richard Vernon, Community Safety Manager,
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
- Joy Nolan, Safer Communities Manager, Middlesbrough City Council
- Paul Johnson, Policy Manager, Bradford City Council

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MORNING PROGRAMME

09.30 **Registration and Refreshments**

10.30 **Chair's Introduction**

Jane Mowat, Chair, National Community Safety Network (NCSN)

10.35 **The Implications of Recent Reform**

Linda-Claire Smith, Performance & Policy Unit, the Home Office

The introductory presentation will provide a Home Office view on the amendment to Section 17 within the framework of other recent legislation. The address will present central government's expectations of authorities and will examine Section 17 duties within a changing community safety arena. These include the creation of scrutiny functions, the production of strategic assessments, the impact of the Government Crime Strategy and recent Alcohol Strategy.

11.00 **The Local Authority View of Section 17 Responsibilities**

The Local Government Association

This address will provide a local authority view on the objectives for the amended Section 17. The presentation will examine how the new focus fits within both the wider safer communities' agenda and the recent emphasis on governance and leadership within authorities. The address will focus on the role of leadership and partnership-working in meeting the responsibilities of the authority.

11.30 **Questions**

11.40 **Refreshments**

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MORNING PROGRAMME

11.55 **Workshop Session 1**

The Police and Justice Act 2006 sharpens the focus of Section 17. Local authorities are now charged with considering the implications of local authority decisions on crime and disorder, alcohol and substance misuse and anti-social behaviour – highlighting the Government's community safety priorities. The workshops provide delegates with a forum to consider how these priorities can be met.

Delegates may attend one workshop
Workshops are repeated in the afternoon.

A Safer Communities – Duties and Legal Obligations

Carmel Murray, Solicitor, Northumberland County Council

This workshop will focus on the legal implications of the amended Section 17 within the wider safer communities' legislative framework. It will look at the range of regulatory and legislative duties charged to the authority and how these can support and enable safer communities' work.

B A Whole-Authority Approach

Richard Vernon, Community Safety Manager,
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

A case study from an authority awarded "excellent" status through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) process. The workshop will look at the work of Hammersmith and Fulham on developing additional freedoms and flexibilities in community safety and its response to ensuring Section 17 responsibilities are met.

C Anti Social Behaviour – Producing a corporate response to RESPECT

Joy Nolan, Safer Communities Manager, Middlesbrough City Council

Middlesbrough is one of the local authorities selected as exemplars of the RESPECT programme due to its strong track record in tackling anti-social behaviour. This workshop will examine its cross-authority response and the development of its action plan to meet the RESPECT agenda.

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AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

12.45 Extending Section 17 – Case Study

Paul Johnson, Policy Manager, Bradford City Council

This address will provide a case study of an authority that was a Section 17 pilot in 1998 and also provide a view of the development of Section 17 and how the duties of Section 17 have been met by the authority. The presentation will also focus on the authority's future proposals for the service taking account of the sharper Section 17 focus under the Police and Justice Act as well as additional new initiatives and proposals.

1.10 Questions

1.15 Lunch

2.00 Measuring Performance – Area-Based Assessments

The Audit Commission (representative to be confirmed)

Comprehensive Performance Assessments are to be replaced with a new area-based assessment. In addition, a joint Police and Community Safety assessment framework is being developed with the Audit Commission in a working group with other agencies including the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). This address looks at the implications for local authorities and provides a review of the CPA process of assessing contributions of councils to safer communities.

2.30 Questions

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AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

- 2.40 **Workshop Session 2**
Repeat of workshops.
- 3.30 **Report back from Workshops**
Jane Mowat, Chair, National Community Safety Network (NCSN)
- 3.45 **Chairs Closing Remarks**
- 3.50 **Conference Close**

PSS

Public Sector Strategies has been facilitating and producing conferences for the public sector since 1994, often in partnership with local government and central government agencies and departments. For a list of forthcoming events please visit www.PSSstrategies.co.uk

Conference Objectives

- To evaluate the impact of the revised definition of Section 17.
- To focus on the contribution of Section 17 to sustained crime reduction and its relation to the CDRP reform programme.
- To inform delegates of developments in the assessment framework including the new area-based assessment framework and the joint police and community safety assessment.
- To explore how Section 17 fits within the CDRP reform programme and the emphasis on governance and scrutiny.
- To look in depth at good practise within local authorities in applying and developing Section 17 duties.

Further Information

For further information on this, or other Public Sector Strategy (PSS) conferences, please telephone PSS on **0118 933 2636** or email info@PSSstrategies.co.uk
For booking queries please contact Benedict Business Resources on 01483 203536.