

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 states:

"Without prejudice to any other obligations imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority 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 crime and disorder in its area."

SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT: A WHOLE-AUTHORITY APPROACH TO CRIME AND DISORDER

The Crime and Disorder Act places a duty on authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of all their policies and practices.

Local authorities need to consider the implications of Section 17 on the decision-making process and to develop whole-authority frameworks to ensure routine consideration in all decisions. Many authorities are currently developing this framework and preparing for the 2005/2006 CPA where corporate delivery of safer communities will be evaluated for the first time.

This timely conference provides an in-depth examination of Section 17 and its place in the Safer Communities agenda. It provides the government framework for Section 17 and focuses on good practice from lead authorities who have developed corporate plans ensuring Section 17 is inherent in local authority decision-making. The conference will also examine the legal implications of Section 17 and the role of legal services in preparing Section 17 reviews.

Date: Tuesday 11th January 2005

Venue: Local Government House
Conference Centre
Smith Square
London SW1

Who should attend: Leading Members responsible for Crime and Disorder
Chief Executive Officers
Departmental Heads
Safer Community Policy Officers
Community Safety Officers
Chair and members of the CDRP
Head of Legal Services
Authorities with duties under S.17

SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT: A WHOLE-AUTHORITY APPROACH TO CRIME AND DISORDER

Tuesday 11th January 2005

Local Government House, Conference Centre, Smith Square, London SW1

PROGRAMME

- 10:00 **Chair's Opening Remarks**
- 10:15 **Keynote Address**
David Truscott, Head of Partnership Performance and Support Unit, The Home Office
- 10.40 **The Impact of Section 17 on Local Authorities**
Peter Nash, Community Safety Policy Officer, Local Government Association
This address will provide an overview of the impact of Section 17 on local authorities and the key challenges to compliance. The address will provide a view of the role of both elected members and officers and will look at how Section 17 fits with local and central government Shared Priorities, CPA and impact on Crime and Drugs agendas.
- 11.10 **Questions**
- 11.20 **Refreshment Break**
- 11.35 **Section 17 and the Crime and Disorder Agenda**
Professor Ken Pease, Visiting Professor UCL and Loughborough, Former Professor of Criminology, Manchester University
Ken Pease will provide an academic perspective on Section 17. The address will examine the impact of Section 17 on the Crime and Disorder agenda and provide a critical analysis of national Safer Communities policy.
- 12.00 **Questions**
- 12.10 **Seminar 1**
- 1.00 **End of morning programme**
- 2.00 **A Corporate Approach**
Dilbagh Dhani, Senior Policy Officer, Birmingham City Council
This case study will provide an in-depth look at a whole authority approach to Section 17. This includes the key considerations, structure, ownership and implementation issues in respect of the introduction of a corporate S.17 plan.
- 2.25 **Questions**
- 2.35 **Seminar 2**
- 3.25 **Feedback from Seminars and Panel Discussion**
- 3:45 **Conference Close**

SEMINARS

Delegates may attend two seminars.

Each seminar will commence with a presentation of the subject and then provide a forum for delegate participation through discussion of the issues raised and sharing of experience.

A The Legal Implications of Section 17

Peter Tilson, Solicitor, Northumberland County Council

A local authority interpretation of the legal implications of Section 17 and an examination of the role of legal services in supporting Crime and Disorder partnerships and the corporate response to Section 17.

B Anti-Social Behaviour – the lessons of a whole-authority approach

Andy Mills, Head of Service (Community Safety) Leeds City Council

This seminar will provide a view of Section 17 encapsulated by whole-authority approaches to Anti-Social Behaviour. The seminar will provide a framework of Anti-Social Behaviour work on which to model the implementation of Section 17.

C. Application of Section 17 to Environmental Crime

Glynis Rogers, Community Safety Manager, and Graham Ward, Head of Review and Improvement, London Borough of Bexley

London Borough of Bexley was rated as an "excellent authority" under CPA. This seminar focuses on its Section 17 work in relation to environmental crime including work on public consultation and Community Safety Action Zones.

D Licensing – S.17 as part of the Legislative Framework

John Whittington, Community Safety Officer, South Bucks District Council

The Licensing Act includes the reduction of crime and disorder as one of the key priorities for licensing authorities. This new area of responsibility for local government is a prime example of national policy with Section 17 principles embedded in the legislation. This seminar examines how authorities should interpret this and the application of Section 17 in licensing.

E Section 17 in Rural Authorities

NACRO – speaker to be confirmed

This seminar examines the issues of the application of S.17 to rural local authorities including parish councils. Rural authorities face specific crime and disorder issues – incorporation of Section 17 into policy making can be used by an authority as "rural testing" of decision making to tackle crime and disorder issues over a wide geographical area.

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 provide an overview of the Government's objectives for local authority action in response to Section 17
- To look at the role of Section 17 in the wider Safer Communities agenda
- To examine a whole-authority approach to Section 17 in preparation for 2005/2006 CPA
- To provide good practice case studies of Section 17 corporate policy and departmental Section 17 reviews
- To examine the implications of Section 17 from an academic and legal perspective

Speakers include:

- David Truscott, Head of the Partnership Performance and Support Unit, the Home Office
- Peter Nash, Community Safety Policy Officer, Local Government Association
- Professor Ken Pease, Visiting Professor UCL and Loughborough, Former Professor of Criminology, Manchester University
- Dilbagh Dhami, Senior Policy Officer, Birmingham City Council

Seminar leaders include:

- Peter Tilson, Solicitor, Northumberland County Council
- Glynis Rogers, Community Safety Manager and Graham Ward, Head of Review and Improvement, London Borough of Bexley
- Andy Mills, Head of Service (Community Safety), Leeds City Council
- John Whittington, Community Safety Officer, South Buckinghamshire District Council

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

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