

DYFED POWYS POLICE



Community Tension

Force Policy Document

POLICY IDENTIFICATION PAGE

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN DRAFTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE IS APPROVED UNLESS WHERE OTHERWISE INDICATED AND JUSTIFIED.

Policy Title: Community Tension

Policy Reference No: 11/05

Police Ownership: Dyfed Powys Police

Portfolio / Business-area Owner: CM& RD

Department Responsible: Community Safety

Person Responsible: Chief Inspector

Links or overlaps with other policies:

Policy Implementation Date:

Required Frequency of Review: Annually
e.g. Six Monthly, Annually: Annually

Date Policy Last reviewed: New Guidance Document

Policy Review Date: January, 2009

REVIEW OF DOCUMENT

Date of Review	Reviewed By	Amendments made
11.12.06	Chief Insp. Nigel George	Review carried out, no changes required.
07.01.08	Chief Insp. Nigel George	Review carried out, no changes required.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This policy has been drafted in accordance with the Human Rights Act and has been reviewed on the basis of its contents and the supporting evidence and it is deemed compliant with that Act and the principles underpinning it.

Name: **Samantha Gainard**

Department: **Legal Services Department**

Signed:*S. Gainard*..... (Force Legal Advisor)

REVIEW

This policy is due for review on: December 2009

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Appendix 'A' - Community Impact Assessment template

Policy Document Statement

This policy has been drafted in accordance with the Human Rights Act

1998

(i) GENERAL PRINCIPLES

It is the policy of Dyfed Powys Police:

- i. to deliver guidance in respect of supervision and to adopt a fair and consistent approach to the monitoring and recording of community tension.
- ii. to clearly define administrative duties in support of key policing objectives
- iii. to provide key information to front line officers
- iv. to ensure Police Officers in the execution of their duty -
 - (a) create a record of all incidents where there is potential community tension
 - (b) adopt a problem solving approach, which is proportionate to the circumstances.
 - (c) give due regard to the persons involved continued welfare, safety, general well being and human rights.
 - (d) make full use of all current and relevant legislation.
 - (e) not to discriminate against any individual or groups of individuals,
 - (f) that actions taken are justified, strictly proportionate to, least intrusive and damaging option to the achievement of their legitimate aims.

Any action must be carefully considered and consistent with the guidance set out below, so that negative outcomes are avoided and officers do not lay themselves open to significant risk of personal liability for the consequences.

Thoughtful and objective action is consistent with a problem solving approach and is most likely to minimise related disorder or offences against the person, whilst reinforcing policing by consent and enhancing the confidence in police of minority communities who can be vulnerable and the object of prejudice.

When carrying out this duty, it will be the duty of all officers to follow a clearly defined decision making process by detailing their objective(s),

assessing all available and relevant information and feasible options, documenting decisions made, and reviewing outcomes.

This decision making process will be subject of review and scrutiny by Community Safety Officers, Supervisors, BCU Commanders as well as other relevant parties as appropriate.

(ii) Aims and Lawful Authority

The purpose of this policy is adopt a structured approach to identifying and monitoring Community Tension and to consistently apply such an approach with a view to sustaining public confidence.

To reassure all vulnerable communities within the Dyfed Powys police area, by providing a safe environment in which to live, work and visit.

To provide guidance to police personnel on procedures for conducting community impact assessment.

The legal basis for the exercise of the powers and duties outlined in this policy are:

- Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Common Law
- Public Order Act 1986
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Dyfed Powys Police consider that these actions are necessary in a democratic society in the interest of and in order to safeguard

- Public Safety:
- the Prevention of Disorder or Crime,
- the Protection of Public Order,
- the Protection of the Rights of others,
- the Rights and Freedom of others.

(iii) Human Rights

The Human Rights Act 1998 will be considered at all stages of the process, taking into account the need to protect the rights and freedoms of members of the community at large as well as those involved in incidents which give rise to potential community tension.

In the application of this Policy Document, Dyfed Powys Police will not discriminate against any persons regardless of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political, or other opinion, national or social origin, association with national minority, property, birth, or other status as defined under Article 14, European Convention Human Rights (ECHR)”

1. Introduction

Whilst Dyfed Powys Police have long established, strong community links, it is inevitable that local, national and international incidents coupled with the extensive media that is associated with such incidents will influence the perceptions and confidence of all communities within Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys.

Community Tension has historically related to conflict or potential conflict arising from faith crime, race or religion issues. With increasing diversity of our communities, tension can also arise from incidents involving travellers, migrant workers as well as those people from Under Represented Groups. Incidents of disorder between sections of our communities can have the potential of escalating to serious public disorder and at its worst into critical incidents. Therefore the police and other partner agencies must act proactively to monitor community tension and reassure communities.

Central to assessing community tension, is our ability to accurately identify our communities within the force area and then forming links and engaging with these communities to monitor any tension. Furthermore, there is a need to analyse and monitor incidents that give rise to community tension and to manage such intelligence in an efficient, timely and robust manner to avert or quell any potential disorder or a rise in community friction.

To support the proactive measures, this policy sets out a structured method in the way community impact/tension indicators are collated and assessed both at local and national level. .

2. Community Tension Indicators

A tension indicator is defined as

'any incident that would tend to show that the normal relationship between individuals or groups has seriously deteriorated and is likely to escalate to wider groups other than those involved.'

This may include relationship between the public and police and/or minority and ethnic groups.

3. Role of the National Community Tension Team (NCTT)

The National Community Tension Team is part of the Police National Information Co-ordination Centre (PNICC.). There are strong links between this team and all forces in the country to provide advice and guidance and monitor the impact of national and international incidents that could give rise to community tension within forces.

4. Force Liaison with the NCTT

Assessments from the NCTT are circulated to forces to support local assessments of community tension. The Chief Inspector, Community Safety Department at Force Headquarters will act as the Force Community Tension Liaison Officer. It is the responsibility of this post-holder to:

- Act as a liaison between NCTT. and Dyfed Powys Police.
- Disseminate updates from NCTT to BCUs and specialist departments.
- Collation of force-wide community safety assessments from BCU's

This approach will augment both the Force's capacity and that of the NCTT to respond to changing community tensions.

5. Identifying Community Tension

All members of staff have a duty to monitor community tension as part of their day-to-day engagement with the public and our partner agencies. Detailed below are the responsibilities of those roles that can specifically and proactively seek tension indicators within the community:

Local Policing Teams

Local Policing Teams are the main interface with our communities and have a vital role to play in constantly gathering community intelligence in respect of quality of life issues of which community tension plays an important part.

Local Policing Teams should identify vulnerable premises/persons and build alliances with shopkeepers, newsagents, doctor's surgeries, watch scheme co-ordinators etc. etc. They should also develop contact with:

- i. key community and religious leaders,
- ii. voluntary support groups and statutory organisations that work within minority communities in the force area.
- iii. referral/support agencies and partner agencies

Daily briefings should re-emphasise the need to record correctly reports of racist incidents and the need for all officers to work together i.e. daily links between CSO, CBM intelligence officers , Mobile Patrol etc.

Officers must be made aware of the importance of identifying new individuals and communities likely to have an impact on community cohesion e.g. Migrant workers/Asylum Seekers.

Community Safety Officers

In identifying community tension, Community Safety Officers should develop and maintain links with key community groups within BCUs and link closely with local Policing Teams.

BCU and Force Forums

BCU Equality of Service Delivery Groups, the Force Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT) Group and the Local Criminal Justice Boards IAG should also be used as a conduit and resource for gauging community tension whereby community tension should be a standing agenda item at these forum meetings.

Community Tension should also be gauged during BCU community consultative meetings.

6. Responding to Reported Incidents

Where a member of staff attends an incident or becomes aware of an incident that has resulted from tension within the community, or is likely to lead to tension within the community, then he/she should undertake the following actions in addition to taking any immediate steps to quell such tension, if appropriate:

- a) Ensure that the STORM message relating to that incident is endorsed with that fact that this incident has resulted from community tension or is likely to lead to community tension
- b) *(exempt from publication)*
- c) *(exempt from publication)*

When crimes are reported to the Crime Recording Bureau officers should identify to the CRB staff those crimes where there is, or there is potential Community Tension as this will be recorded on the crime report to aide analysis.

7. Monitoring Tension

To ensure effective analysis of community intelligence, devising appropriate responses and targeting of resources for appropriate intervention, community tension should be fully integrated into the NIM process both at daily tasking and BCU TT&CG meetings.

Whilst all officers should play an active role in monitoring community tension, Community Safety Officers in conjunction with the LIO should be responsible for maintaining a BCU overview to identify any escalating patterns or trends. These should be integrated into the NIM process.

The following is a list of establishments which should be considered when monitoring community tension and/or preparing action plans for community reassurance.

- All Places of Worship
- Community Centres
- Key Business Premises
- Retail Outlets
- Wholesalers
- Transport—Bus /Rail stations, Taxi Firms/ ranks, Air /Ferry Ports
- Leisure and Recreational Centres
- Civic Buildings
- Educational Establishments
- Cinemas and Theatres
- Hospital and Surgeries

The above list is not exhaustive.

8. Community Impact Assessments

The NCTT require on-going monitoring of Community Tension within forces and produce a weekly bulletin. BCUs are therefore required to complete Community Impact Assessments on a weekly basis and forward them to the Chief Inspector, HQ Communities & Partnerships Dept by 9am every Thursday.

A Community Impact Assessment template to record community Tension is attached at '**Appendix A**'.

To ensure that community tension is promptly and thoroughly gauged and subject of on-going review, it is important that the BCU commander nominates a co-ordination officer to evaluate the BCU position. It will be the responsibility of the BCU Commander to ensure that the Community Impact Assessments are accurate and submitted to HQ Community Safety in a timely manner.

9. Community Impact Assessments following National / International Incidents

When national or international incidents occur that have the potential to exacerbate community tension within local communities, the monitoring, defusing and reporting of any community tension is of critical importance and must be undertaken in a meaningful and thorough manner with full engagement with our most vulnerable communities.

To inform the national picture when these incidents occur, NCTT will request community impact assessments from forces at regular intervals. HQ Community Safety will act as the Force NCTT liaison officer and immediately forward the requests to BCU commanders providing details of the threat and community impact requirements.

BCUs should ensure that in these circumstances, there are clear lines of communication of any tensions and interventions with BCU Command teams maintaining accountability.

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Community Impact Assessment

Time/Date of Assessment: _____ **BCU:** _____

This assessment is divided into five sections relating to the community impact assessment process.

- 1) **Experienced** (how do communities feel) –
- 2) **Evidenced** (what does our information tell us is happening) and
- 3) **Potential** (what might happen).

- 4) **Information to support points 1 – 3 above**
- 5) **Action Plan to reduce tension (where appropriate)**

1. Experienced

Assessment definitions

1	Imminent	Corroborated evidence of preparation for crime and disorder – e.g. groups gathering, weapons being prepared etc.
2	High	Substantial evidence of fear of crime and/or disorder along with evidence of preparations to deal with the consequences – e.g. boarding up of shops.
3	Moderate	Evidence of widespread alarm at current tension levels. Local media reporting that tension is raised with local opinion formers and/or significant local people stating their fears.
4	Moderate	Corroborated evidence that a significant number of people in the community in question or across communities fear crime and/or disorder. They expect crime and disorder to happen if no action is taken to prevent it and/or another event serves to increase tension.
5	Raised	Some corroborated evidence of fear of crime or disorder within the community. The crime and disorder feared would be of low intensity and/or experienced by a limited range of people.
6	Normal	Limited community concerns that tension will rise and that, even if it did, the impact will be minor.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT IN THIS SECTION	
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2. Evidenced

Assessment definitions

1	Imminent	Tension indicators indicating crime and/or disorder to be expected within hours – e.g. stockpiles of weapons discovered, groups gathering on streets, opposing groups planning to demonstrate. Community and/or criminal intelligence suggests disorder is likely to develop within hours.
2	High	Levels of crime and/or disorder raised along with evidence of serious offences having been committed. Tension indicators showing sustained hostility between particular groups or towards police. There may be evidence of activity by extremists groups. Disorder may have happened in the recent past. Community and/or criminal intelligence suggests disorder or crime likely to develop within days.
3	Moderate	Substantial rise in crime and/or disorder combined with substantial corroborative evidence of other tension indicators. Particular communities may be targeted. Community and/or criminal intelligence suggests disorder or crime is likely to develop unless responses are developed.
4	Moderate	Crime and/or disorder levels clearly raised above normal. Other tensions indicators –e.g. assaults on police, racist graffiti etc. – providing corroboration. Levels may indicate targeting of specific communities. Levels well above normal. Community and/or criminal intelligence suggests disorder or crime may develop but that steps can be taken to prevent such development.
5	Raised	Evidence that crime and/or disorder levels are raised when compared to the normal levels. Raised levels may indicate targeting of particular communities. Levels not substantially above the normal. Information sources do not suggest that crime and/or disorder will develop.
6	Normal	No indication in police crime and disorder reporting that tension is above normal.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT IN THIS SECTION	
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3. Potential

Assessment definitions

1	Imminent	Local, national or international events, taken alone or in combination, expected to lead to outbreaks of crime and/or disorder within hours.
2	High	Local, national or international events, taken alone or in combination, expected to lead to outbreaks of crime and/or disorder within days.
3	Moderate	Local, national or international events, taken alone or in combination, expected to raise substantially local experienced and evidenced tension. The expected rise in tension may be localised geographically or within communities.
4	Moderate	Local, national or international events, taken alone or in combination, expected to raise local experienced and evidenced tension. The expected rise in tension may be localised geographically or within communities.
5	Raised	Local, national or international events, taken alone or in combination, may lead to limited experienced or evidenced raising of tension. Any expected tension may be localised geographically or within communities.
6	Normal	No issues locally, nationally or internationally that would impact on local communities sufficiently to cause abnormal tension levels.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT IN THIS SECTION	
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4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This section should contain information to support the assessments at points 1 – 3 as detailed below:

- a) Details of any incidents that have occurred as a result of tension within the community or incidents that are likely to increase tension within the community.
- b) Details of who has been consulted to gauge levels of community tension, e.g. community/religions leaders, local councillors, shopkeepers, members of minority groups, etc.

Supporting Information

5. ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE TENSION (where appropriate)

BCU Commanders are responsible for the content and implementation of Action Plans to reduce Community Tension

Details of action being taken/to be taken

Authorised by member of BCU command team.

SIGNED: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Rank: _____