How to set up a coact prayer group in your area

- 1. Ascertain that your church(es) are willing to commit themselves to develop a working relationship **COCT** with your NPT and to pray for the police service and local community using the model. Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) don't really want individual churches coming at different times to offer the same service and much prefer a representative for a number of churches who will then disseminate information. NPT's have a responsibility to engage with the faith communities and may well be in contact with you already. **Ensure you have the support of your minister/leader**. You can then progress to the next stage.
- 3. At the meeting, coordinators should be agreed for the church(es) involved and for the particular NPT concerned. If this is not possible at the first meeting, arrange to meet or make contact again.
- 4. Determine what information is available, how to access it and how often one will meet.
- 5. Agree a starting date and the frequency at which information will be exchanged.
- 6. Agree the limits of the information to be exchanged and sign up a Data Protection Form, example set out on the next page.
- 7. Issue the sheets entitled "Guidelines for Co-ordinators" and discuss any local amendments.
- 8. After the meeting, report back to your own fellowship and start to pray.

Appendix A1

Guidelines for Co-ordinators (Church)

- 1. Make contact with the designated NPT co-ordinator i.e. Sergeant or Inspector details on local police website.
- 2. Ascertain from the NPT co-ordinator details of who should be prayed for at the local police station e.g. named community beat officers and PCSO's, Senior Management Team members, C.I.D.; administrative departments, etc.
- 3. Agree the frequency that you will liaise with each other and how that will be done e.g. telephone, email, newsletter or personal meeting.
- 4. If there are specific prayer requests passed to you by the police co-ordinator, do enquire at your next point of contact how your prayers may have been answered.
- 5. If you are praying for named officers, do invite them to church functions <u>but</u> do not put any pressure on them to attend.
- 6. If your local police co-ordinator is moved to another station, try to ensure that a replacement is appointed as soon as possible. The (temporary) absence of a NPT co-ordinator should not stop you praying for local issues and those in the police service.
- 7. If you are part of a group of churches / fellowships who are all praying for the same NPT / station, do liaise to ensure that there is only one co- ordinator to represent the whole group of churches / fellowships.
- 8. A group co-ordinator must ensure that other **COCC** churches / fellowships in the group are kept up to date with news from the police co-ordinator.
- 9. Do try and involve other local churches / fellowships in the scheme.

 If you wished a presentation to be made to a group of interested churches, the
 Christian Police Association would do its best to assist you in this. Please contact
 your local CPA branch in the first instance or CPA for assistance www.CPAuk.net
- 10. Consider other ways in which your church can support the NPT see the Big 7 for ideas.

Appendix A2

Guidelines for Co-ordinators (Police)

- 1. Do ensure that you know who the designated co-ordinator is for the church(es) that have agreed to pray for the police in your area.
- 2. Liaison should be **only through that co-ordinator**. Enquiries from other persons, however well meaning, should be referred to the church co-ordinator.
- 3. Do let colleagues know that the scheme is in operation, stressing the positive community benefit from such contact.
- 4. Agree with the church / churches co-ordinator the limits of information to be exchanged and sign up a Data Protection Form, example set out below. It is helpful for NPT officers to be prayed for by name. Particular shifts might also be prayed for, the C.I.D., Administrative staff, Management Team, etc.
- 5. Agree the frequency that you will liaise with each other and how that will be done e.g. telephone, email, newsletter or personal meeting.
- 6. Encourage colleagues to pass prayer requests through you to the church co-ordinator.
- 7. If colleagues do not wish personal details to be forwarded to the church co-ordinator, their wishes should be complied with. It is still possible to pray in general terms if there is a need. Such a request might be made in the following way ... "A colleague has requested prayer for a son / daughter / relative who has been involved in an accident".
- 8. The church co-ordinator may ask you for **COOC** up-dates on any prayer requests that have been made in order that thanks to God might be given or further prayer made.
- 9. As the result of contact made through the **COOCT** scheme, churches may invite officers to church functions but attendance is at the total discretion of the individual.
- 10. Any problems encountered with the scheme will hopefully be resolved at a local level. Should this not be possible, the Christian Police Association may be contacted at info@CPAuk.net

Appendix 'A3'

CoAct Scheme Data Protection Form

Name of Church(es)/Faith Group(s):	В
Name of Church(es)/Faith Group(s) Contact:	
Police Neighbourhood Name:	
Name of Police Neighbourhood Contact:	
Agreed method of Contact and Frequency:	
Church(es)/Faith Group(s) Authorisation: I consent to Police holding my personal details on behalf of my Church(es)/Faith Group(s) for the purposes of administering the Coct scheme in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.	
Signed	
Dated	
Police Neighbourhood Contact:	
Signed	
Dated	
What to do with this form: Add details to police records and keep a hard copy on	
file. Note: If the church(es) co-ordinator changes you will need you will need to obtain	
a new Data Protection Act authorisation.	