**Friday November 8th, 2013**

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**AWYA**

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**Item 7**

**Elizabethan Gallery, Wakefield**

**Local Perspectives: the impact of the Commissioner**

**1. Purpose**

* 1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Panel of the work and views of the district Community Safety Partnerships and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees. Updates have been received from seven of the Community Safety Partnerships and Scrutiny Committees in accordance with the protocols agreed between the Police and Crime Panel and the local bodies.
  2. It is recommended that the Panel notes the common trends and views highlighted in the report. Suggestions for future work may be included in the Panel’s forward plan and members may also wish to raise issues with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**2. Views from Community Safety Partnerships**

2.1 Responses were received from four district Community Safety Partnerships (Bradford, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield).

2.2 Partnerships reiterated their feeling that local priorities were incorporated into the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan and that there was strong evidence that parties had ‘given regard to’ each other’s priorities.

2.3 There is strong evidence that the PCC is acting in accordance with his Police and Crime Plan. This includes widespread appreciation and support for his strong visible presence to listen to the views of communities and victims about how they might feel safer. The PCC’s national work was also recognised by some Partnerships who cited examples of his personal leadership of the campaign for a greater local share of POCA funds and lobbying work to influence emerging agendas, such as the Government’s plans for *‘transforming rehabilitation’*.

2.4 The Partnerships recognise the steps that the PCC is taking to build links. This includes the PCC acting as a figurehead and champion of priorities, such as his personal launch of the Hate Crime Strategy in Kirklees and Wakefield’s Victims’ Strategy. There is ambition, however, for this work to go further and deeper. The PCC has taken the step of bringing CSPs together in the Community Safety Forum which looks at West Yorkshire-wide issues, sharing good practice and developing new approaches. Recent work has focused on tackling shoplifting and improving the way domestic violence is addressed and victims are supported.

2.5 There are no major policy differences between the PCC and Partnerships. Those areas where some Partnerships feel there is room for improvement cover only minor administrative processes like ensuring that deadlines for reporting on performance measures reflect when such information is available.

2.6 The Partnerships are supportive of the PCC’s decision to extend their funding for community safety work for a further six months to September 2014. It was emphasised, however, that this period needs to be used well to develop a commissioning framework that helps localities address their priorities by integrating with services already offered by partners across the public and voluntary sectors.

2.7 Following the Panel’s meeting with CSP representatives in July, the AWYA has brought together CSP Managers to act on joint opportunities. This has been widely welcomed by the Partnerships and looks at mutual issues including strategic intelligence work and shaping local and national commissioning programmes.

**3. Views from Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees**

3.1 Responses were received from three district Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees (Calderdale, Leeds and Wakefield).

3.2 The Committees’ recent topic-focused work has examined: the potential impact of community payback and restorative justice measures (Calderdale); the response of partners to illegal money lending (Leeds); and measures to record and address hate crime (Wakefield). Recommendations on each are being made to local Community Safety Partnerships and partners as appropriate.

3.3 Four Scrutiny Committees (Bradford, Calderdale, Leeds and Wakefield) have agreed to undertake a coordinated piece of scrutiny work to understand how the number and targeting of PCSOs might be improved, particularly in light of the PCC’s suggestion of new accreditations and local authority decisions on financial contributions.

3.4 Committees highlighted three areas of concern for the Police and Crime Panel to monitor:

* Performance information in the Police and Crime Plan:
  + In scrutinising local performance against performance measures, some Committees have begun to see increases in some types of crime. Should these trends widen and sustain, the Committees and Panel might wish to understand what action the PCC will take.
* Funding of community safety projects:
  + Following concerns expressed previously, some Committees cited uncertainty about the process and effect of the PCC’s commissioning strategy which will operate from October 2014. The importance of early and clear communication was emphasised so partners have the opportunity to influence and prepare exit strategies from current projects where appropriate.
* Security and safety of the Tour de France Grand Depart:
  + Scrutiny Committees welcomed the Panel’s intention to seek the PCC’s assessment of the local implications of assuring the safe and successful hosting of the Grand Depart in West Yorkshire.

**4. Implications for the Panel**

4.1 Common issues that may warrant further discussion with the Commissioner include:

* The timescales and engagement process for developing the commissioning framework for the Commissioner’s community safety funds from October 2014.
* What plans he has to use groups like the Community Safety Forum and Partnership Executive Group to develop practical and transformational policy responses to some of the West Yorkshire issues he has identified, including domestic violence.

4.2 Crucial to the success of the ‘Local Perspectives’ process is the two-way provision of information. Whilst information will be relayed back to the Partnerships and Committees that have kindly provided information for the Panel, this might be further underpinned by Panel members de-briefing colleagues in constituent areas in order to put in a firmer local context.

**5. Recommendation**

5.1 It is recommended that the Panel notes the common trends and views highlighted in the report. Suggestions for future work may be included in the Panel’s work programme and members may also wish to raise certain issues with the PCC.