**Friday July 19th, 2013**

**Item 6**

**Jonathan Skinner**

**AWYA**

**01924 305 191**

**Old Restaurant, Wakefield Town Hall**

**Crime and Disorder Reduction Scrutiny**

**Committees and the impact of the Commissioner**

**1. Purpose**

* 1. This report informs the Panel about the latest priorities and views of Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees ahead of a discussion with Committee Chairs on the impact of the Commissioner and role that Scrutiny Committees can play in making communities safer and feeling safer.
  2. It is recommended that the Panel and Committee representatives use the information and structure of this paper as a basis for discussion about their respective roles, including whether changes might be made to the Principles of Engagement to improve the way in which Scrutiny Committees and the Panel liaise on issues of mutual concern.

**2. Strategy: the Police and Crime Plan**

2.1 Each Committee has examined the effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership in delivering the district’s Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, with two (Bradford and Leeds) examining in significant detail how the Commissioner and Partnership worked together to give regard to each other’s plans.

2.2 At Panel’s last meeting, the Commissioner reflected on concerns that it was not desirable to have both a district-level iteration of the Police and Crime Plan and separate but complementary district Community Safety Plans as this could potentially duplicate work and confuse residents.

2.3 The Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan includes priorities that may be best addressed at very different spatial levels. For example, the Commissioner describes how his approach to tackling serious organised crime is likely to require work with partners through the National Crime Agency. By way of contrast, his commitment to *“check that services provided in communities to tackle anti-social behaviour are dealing with the problem in the right way at the right time when people need them”* seems to have a greater bearing on local partners. All partners require a clear understanding of the Commissioner’s expectations of them.

2.4 Strategic topics that the Panel and Partnerships may wish to discuss include:

* How did Scrutiny Committees assure themselves that the Commissioner and Community Safety Partnerships had given regard to each other’s priorities?
* Is there agreement with the Commissioner that it would be advantageous to move towards one district-level document to eliminate duplication and prevent confusion for residents?
* Are Scrutiny Committees satisfied that the Community Safety Partnerships have the information and intelligence they require to develop strategies to address priorities at the district level?

**3. Delivery: the Police and Crime Plan**

3.1 The Panel’s main focus is to support and scrutinise the Commissioner in delivering his Police and Crime Plan. Much of Panel’s recent work with the Commissioner has focused on the performance framework that will reflect his impact in making communities safer and feeling safer. Scrutiny Committees - notably in Leeds - have also identified a need for further information about the framework and the impact on partners. Panel’s understanding is the Commissioner’s overall framework will include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Event and Frequency** | **Content and Participants** |
| Strategic Planning Meetings  (Quarterly) | To ensure the Chief Constable’s planning and strategy for the Force is aligned to deliver the Police and Crime Plan  With Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Constable. |
| Force Accountability Meetings  (Monthly) | To seek assurance that the Chief Constable is holding his Senior Leadership Team to account for delivering the Police and Crime Plan. This includes a broad examination of current performance and in-depth analysis of one specific topic, such as burglary or child sexual exploitation.  With Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Director of Policy and the Chief Constable. |
| Community Outcome Meetings  (At least fortnightly) | For the Commissioner and Chief Constable to address current operational or organisational issues, such as decisions about selling police stations, a concern raised by members of the public and the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.  With Commissioner and Chief Constable. |
| Budget Planning Meetings  (Monthly) | To monitor progress on budget, spending and savings. Taking decisions on resources when necessary.  With Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Constable. |
| Monthly Performance Updates  (Monthly) | * Update on the ten indicators included in the Police and Crime Plan. * Performance by exception against other key crime types * Activity undertaken towards the Commissioner’s commitments. |
| Quarterly Performance Updates  (Quarterly) | As per the monthly performance update plus:   * Exceptional reporting of all crimes contained on iQuanta; * Performance update reports from those receiving grants from the Community Safety Fund; * Summary of casework and complaints; * Exceptional reporting of the public perception survey; * Summary and actions from external inspections; * Key actions from the Partnership Executive Group; * Internal Audit / Audit Committee views that can be made public; * Narratives from the Commissioner and Chief Constable. |

3.2 Through their detailed scrutiny work, Committees have uncovered valuable information about the effectiveness of interventions. The Panel has been keen to impress upon the Commissioner the importance of capturing these successes and the Commissioner has articulated a long-term vision to use a *‘What Works’* database which will also incorporate academic findings.

3.3 In discussing the importance of capturing what works and developing an effective commissioning system, the Commissioner has been clear that opportunities need to be taken to increase expertise and work more efficiently. For example, that may mean that a particular CSP with proven expertise might take on the delivery of a particular programme across a larger area than the district. Accountability would be via the Commissioner.

* 1. Some of the headline findings from recent scrutiny work include:
* Wakefield: Focused inquiries on support for victims of anti-social behaviour and child exploitation. This has resulted in an agreement with Banardos for a specialist Child Sexual Exploitation worker to directly support victims and train local service providers. A multi-agency Panel, chaired by West Yorkshire Police, supports agencies on specific cases.
* The Bradford Community Safety Partnership is concerned at the resources available to support victims of anti-social behaviour and suggests that the Commissioner works with Victim Support to broaden its remit.

3.5 Committees are now finalising their work programmes for 2013/14, with inquiries on:

* The effectiveness of drug and alcohol treatment services (Bradford);
* The impact of, and agencies’ collective response to, domestic violence and what practical steps councils can take as employers through the White Ribbon Campaign (Calderdale and Leeds);
* The impact of proposed changes in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill and the Offender Rehabilitation Bill, and their local implications (Calderdale);
* Progress on the Victims’ Strategy (Wakefield);
* How public agencies can develop a better understanding of emergent Hate Crime issues and prevent groups and individuals becoming involved in extremist behaviour (Leeds and Wakefield).

3.6 Many of the complex issues Committees have been investigating have involved how different public bodies work together. The Commissioner has initiated a Partnership Executive Group to help work together to problem-solve, influence, innovate and galvanise partnership responses to crime, disorder, community safety and criminal justice issues. This Group is beginning to develop responses to the shared issues identified at the Commissioner’s conference on 10th May. They include:

1. Recording and sharing information more effectively to support real partnership work;
2. Build, use and share evidence of good practice more effectively;
3. Have greater focus on early intervention in delivering safer
4. Strengthen our engagement with communities;
5. Deliver the Victims Code.

3.6 Delivery topics that the Panel and Partnerships may wish to discuss include:

* Panel understands that the first quarterly update is to be made at the end of July. How can the Panel best relate to Scrutiny Committees to ensure that scrutiny is conducted proportionately?
* What steps might Scrutiny Committees take to undertake joint investigations where the Panel identifies an issue in the performance framework?
* What type of assurance and information might Scrutiny Committees want to see from the Partnership Executive Group?

**4. Liaison between Scrutiny Committees and the Panel**

4.1 The Panel and Scrutiny Committees have agreed Principles of Engagement (attached as Annex A) that cover respective roles and the importance of working closely together. This provides the foundation for the quarterly ‘Local Perspectives’ report and the provision of information (e.g. meeting minutes) that help Scrutiny Committees to keep aware of Panel work. Whilst information will be relayed back to the Committees that have kindly provided information for the Panel, this can be further underpinned by Panel members de-briefing colleagues in constituent areas in order to put it in a firmer local context.

4.2 The Panel has also discussed with the Commissioner the importance of an open and responsive relationship with local Community Safety Partnerships and Scrutiny Committees. To that end, the Commissioner requested that Panel members might encourage local bodies to highlight any issues to his Office in order that they are resolved quickly.

4.3 Scrutiny Chairs and Panel may wish to review and strengthen the Principles of Engagement.

**5. Recommendation**

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