



## **West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

Appendix B

### **Principles for Engagement:**

### **Community Safety Partnerships**

#### **Background to Community Safety Partnerships**

Until November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were made up of representatives from the police, the police authority, the local authority, fire, health and probation services ('the responsible authorities.'). In some of the West Yorkshire districts, additional bodies have been invited to join the Partnerships.

Community Safety Partnerships were set up as statutory bodies under the Crime and Disorder Act 2008 and there is one in each West Yorkshire District. The responsible authorities work together to develop and implement strategies to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safe. They work out local approaches to deal with issues including antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse, burglary and re-offending.

Under these arrangements, each CSP was allocated a proportion of the Home Office's Community Safety Fund and was directly responsible for determining how this funding be used to tackle crime and reduce re-offending in that district. Approximately £2.5 million of Community Safety Funding was allocated to West Yorkshire in total for 2011/12.

#### **Impact of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**

CSPs will continue to operate as statutory bodies. However, although the West Yorkshire Police Authority was classed as a 'responsible authority' the Police and Crime Commissioner will not be classed as a 'responsible authority' and therefore will not be obliged to sit on any of the West Yorkshire CSPs.

Although the Commissioner will not be obliged to sit on the CSPs, the act explicitly states that both parties must have regard to each other's priorities when exercising their functions and developing their respective plans.

Despite this element of reciprocity, the CSPs are to some extent directly accountable to the Commissioner. The Commissioner can request reports from the CSP and can, should they feel it necessary, convene meetings of the CSPs and convene meetings of the five West Yorkshire CSP Chairs. However, the Commissioner will not be empowered to enforce the merger of two or more CSPs (this can only take place should the CSPs involved agree to merge.)

The Community Safety Fund will no longer be allocated to CSPs. It will be for the Commissioner to determine how this funding is used and to allocate crime and disorder reduction grants to any organisation or person in their force area, The Commissioner will be responsible for deciding how much funding, if any, is spent on community safety services.

## **Rationale for Engagement**

The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is highly appreciative of the advantages that will stem from a close and co-operative working relationship with the five West Yorkshire Community Safety Partnerships. The Community Safety Partnerships can play a critical role in helping the Panel:

- To **monitor** the impact of different community safety interventions and commissioning approaches.
- To **recognise and pursue** the positive outcomes that have been achieved previously through effective partnership working.
- To better **understand** the link between the strategic direction set by the Police and Crime Commissioner and its impact on crime and community safety in individual wards and **neighbourhoods**.
- To **focus** on those issues which are common to several of the West Yorkshire districts.
- To **maximise** the impact of local resources by ensuring the Commissioner addresses the issues that matter most to local communities.

In the same vein, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is in a strong position to support the five Community Safety Partnerships by:

- Holding the **Commissioner to account** if he/she
  - Has a detrimental impact on the safety or confidence of communities in West Yorkshire
  - Fails to have regard to CSP priorities and plans.
  - Commissions costly or ineffective community safety interventions.
  - Places excessive demands on the CSPs in terms of justifying decisions, accounting for performance trends, providing direct reports or attending extraordinary meetings.
  - Does not support an appropriate level of local control over local funding
- **Informing and supporting** the Commissioner in such a way as to ensure his/ her approach and plans reflect the needs and interests of the diverse communities across West Yorkshire.
- Helping them to **identify** common West Yorkshire priorities and then realise the benefits that would result from addressing these collaboratively and/ or replicating successful community safety interventions elsewhere in the sub-region.

- **Promoting** policing and community safety interventions which have proved successful in the past or are working well under the Commissioner.

## **Moving Forwards**

On the basis of the rationale outlined above, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel will work in partnership with the five Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in the following ways:

### **1. Panel Meetings**

- 1.1 CSP Chairs will, at the very least, be invited to meetings of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel on an annual basis to engage in an open discussion about the impact of the Commissioner in each district and to review the relevance of the latest iteration of the 'Principles for Engagement.'
- 1.2 Should serious concerns arise during the year, the Panel may ask one or more CSP Chairs to attend additional Panel meetings and provide their perspective on the issue under consideration.
- 1.3 CSP Chairs can request an item to be put on the agenda of a Panel meeting by contacting the Chair of the Panel directly and explaining the reason for the request.

### **2. Influencing the Police and Crime Plan**

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Panel is in a fortunate position in terms of its ability to influence the development of the Police and Crime Plan and the CSPs are encouraged to inform the Panel's approach when exercising this influence.
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Panel will encourage the Commissioner to have regard to the business cases and strategic assessments submitted by the individual authorities when developing his/ her Police and Crime Plan and subsequent commissioning arrangements.
- 2.3 CSPs will be sent a copy of all the draft iterations of the Police and Crime Plan that are submitted to the Panel and will be asked to return any comments or suggestions in advance of the Panel meeting during which the draft will be discussed.
- 2.4 CSPs are also asked to brief their authority's Panel Members in advance of any discussions on the Plan so the local perspective is sufficiently understood and so the Panel is made aware if the Plan does not have regard to the evidenced needs of communities across West Yorkshire.

### **3. Regular Exchange of Information and Intelligence**

- 3.1 The five CSPs will each complete a quarterly briefing note for use by all Panel Members to support them in assessing the impact of the Commissioner across West Yorkshire.
- 3.2 The lead CSP officers will be notified of the deadlines for these briefing notes as far in advance as is practicable. These deadlines will be aligned with Panel Meeting dates as responses will be required two weeks before each Panel meeting.
- 3.3 All completed briefings notes are to be formally approved by the CSP Chair before submission.
- 3.4 Unless a request is made to the contrary, all submissions will be circulated to the other CSPs in West Yorkshire to allow comparisons and further linkages to be made.
- 3.5 The completion of the briefing notes will not be an onerous task and will only call upon information and examples that the CSPs are already aware of or hold.
- 3.6 CSPs will be encouraged to play an active role in developing and adapting the themes covered within the briefing note.
- 3.7 Questions in the briefing note will, at the very least, relate to:
  - The extent to which the Commissioner is having regard to the priorities within each individual Community Safety Plan
  - The extent to which the Commissioner is having regard to their own Police and Crime Plan
  - The ways in which the Commissioner is supporting or undermining CSP efforts to address local priorities, either at an individual district level or through collaboration with other CSPs in West Yorkshire.
  - Changes to the funding of/ commissioning arrangements for Community Safety related activities and the impact these changes are having.
  - Any concerns the CSPs want the Panel to be aware of, to either raise directly with the Police and Crime Commissioner or to investigate further.
  - Any suggestions about the way in which the Panel could better support or influence the approach of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- 3.8 Panel Members will have sight of all of the completed briefing notes as well as a covering note highlighting any common issues or trends.

3.9 CSPs may also choose to arrange regular verbal briefings with the Panel Members representing their authority on the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

**4. Supporting Linkages**

4.1 If deemed appropriate locally, a Panel Member will sit on their authority's CSP to ensure the Panel has a detailed understanding of local issues and of underlying causes and trends in relation to crime, community safety and ASB.

4.2 Where membership is not aligned in this way a Panel Member from each authority will be designated as the lead Panel Member for their authority's CSP and as such will contribute to CSP meetings as and when required and subject to existing workload pressures.

**Endorsement**

These principles have been endorsed by:

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Cllr Alison Lowe (on behalf of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel)

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Cllr Arshad Hussain (on behalf of Bradford CSP)

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Cllr Steve Sweeney (on behalf of Calderdale CSP)

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Cllr Graham Turner (on behalf of Kirklees CSP)

.....  
Neil Evans (on behalf of Leeds CSP)

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Cllr Maureen Cummings (on behalf of Wakefield CSP)