**Friday 18th July 2014**

**Item 6**

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**Community Safety Partnerships and the**

**impact of the Commissioner**

**1. Purpose**

* 1. This report informs the Panel about the latest priorities and views of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) ahead of a discussion with CSP representatives on the impact of the Commissioner and the role that CSPs can play in making communities safer and feel safer.
  2. It is recommended that the Panel and CSP representatives use the information and structure of this paper as a basis for discussion about their respective roles, including:
     1. What issues might the Panel raise with the Commissioner in future work?
     2. What changes might be made to the Principles of Engagement to improve the way in which CSPs and the Panel liaise on issues of mutual concern?

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

2.1 Each Community Safety Partnership has broadly agreed that the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan reflects agreed local priorities as required. Efforts have reciprocally been made to co-ordinate local plans and partnership activities with the work of the Commissioner.

2.2 The Community Safety Partnerships continue to recognise the commitment the Commissioner has shown to get out, meet and engage with communities across West Yorkshire. Experience of working with the Commissioner has been very positive and Partnerships feeling that the Commissioner is acting in accordance of the plan.

2.3 *The Panel and Partnerships may wish to discuss:*

* *Do CSP’s have a clear understanding about what each Partnership needs to do to help achieve the outcomes in the Police & Crime Plan?*

**3. Supporting Local Priorities**

**3.1** Community Safety Partnerships feel that the Police and Crime Commissioner is supporting their Partnerships to address their own local priorities through bids through the Safer Communities funding which support local priorities around anti-social behaviour, reducing crime and domestic violence.

3.2Community Safety Partnerships welcome the commitment to extend the transfer of the Community Safety Fund to Partnerships until 2016 and that the PCC is protecting the level of funding despite the government cut as this provides some degree of continuity and a longer time frame in which to plan and deliver more sustainable services.

3.3 There is concern, however, about the lack of clarity around the Commissioner’s intended approach to the commissioning of Community Safety activities from October 2014. Police and Crime Commissioners will be responsible for commissioning the majority of victims’ services locally through funding from the Ministry of Justice. This means that service providers may be bidding to their local PCC to obtain funding to deliver services, as well as bidding to other public sector bodies. Clarity on the Commissioner’s intentions is needed urgently to enable planning and prioritisation to respond to any changes at a local level.

3.4 *The Panel and Partnerships may wish to discuss:*

* *The implications for localities about the lack of clarity of future funding.*
* *Actions that the Panel can take to press the Commissioner for early information*

**4. Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan**

4.1 A key area for the Panel’s is to support and scrutinise the Commissioner in delivering his Police and Crime Plan. The Panel have expressed concerns that a Delivery Plan underpinning the Police and Crime Plan, has yet to be made available.

4.2 The Commissioner has now established a Delivery Group which will oversee the development of the Delivery Strategy and subsequent Delivery Plans. Community Safety Partnerships form part of the Delivery Group and along with other partners will have input into the formulation of the Delivery Strategy and Delivery Plans.

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

* *Do CSP’s feel that they have had sufficient information and opportunity to influence the development of the Delivery Strategy.*

**5. Other issues raised by CSP’s**

5.1 Road Safety

5.1.1Calderdale CSP has raised the issue of Road safety which is an addition to the Police and Crime Plan this year. This is an extremely important issue for many local communities and features as one of the main priorities in Calderdale’s neighbourhoods . Calderdale would like to see a more measureable action on this in terms of working with local areas, and where it is a high priority committing to partnership work. Calderdale has just completed a consultation on extending 20mph zones and would welcome further collaboration with the PCC on this as they move towards implementation of the findings.

5.2 Hate Crime

5.2.1 Calderdale CSP raises the issue of Hate Crime reporting within schools. They are facing increasing difficulties with regards to the growing gap in the reporting of schools based hate/prejudice based incidents which has been noted as schools move to free school, independent and academy status. This is leading to an increasingly fragmented education system. Calderdale feel that this is an issue that the PCC can support CSP’s with.

*Issues that the Panel and Partnership may wish to discuss might include:*

* *How the Panel can assist in pressing the Commissioner for more measures in Improving Road Safety. Is this an issue for all authorities?*
* *How can CSP’s be better supported to deal with issues of Hate Crime recording? Wakefield C&D Scrutiny has recently completed a report relating to priorities within the Police & Crime Plan with a number of recommendations. Could these recommendations be shared and supported across all authorities.*

**6. Liaison between CSPs and the Panel**

6.1 The Panel and Community Safety Partnerships 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 Partnerships to keep aware of Panel work. Whilst information is relayed back to the Partnerships and Committees that have provided information for the Panel, this should be further underpinned by Panel members de-briefing colleagues in constituent areas in order to put it in a firmer local context.

6.2 The Panel is keen to work closer with Community Safety Partnerships to better understand the impact of the Commissioner within West Yorkshire to enable it to prioritise key areas to scrutinise and monitor. The Panel are keen to better engage with the public and are proposing to hold themed meetings within localities and welcome input from Community Safety Partnerships around priority topics where they might have the best impact.

6.3 CSP representatives and Panel may wish to review and strengthen the Principles of Engagement that are attached to this report.

6.4 *The Panel and Partnership may wish to discuss*

* *How Panel can better support CSP’s to ensure local priorities are met*
* *What information and support can the CSP’s provide to the Panel to ensure that it targets the areas of priority that are impacting at a local level.*

**7. Recommendation**

7.1 It is recommended that the Panel notes the views and issues 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.

**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel** **Principles for Engagement:**

Appendix A

**Community Safety Partnerships**

**Background to Community Safety Partnerships**

Until November 22nd 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 Peter Box (on behalf of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel)



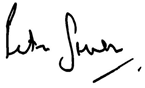
Cllr Imran Hussain (on behalf of Bradford CSP)

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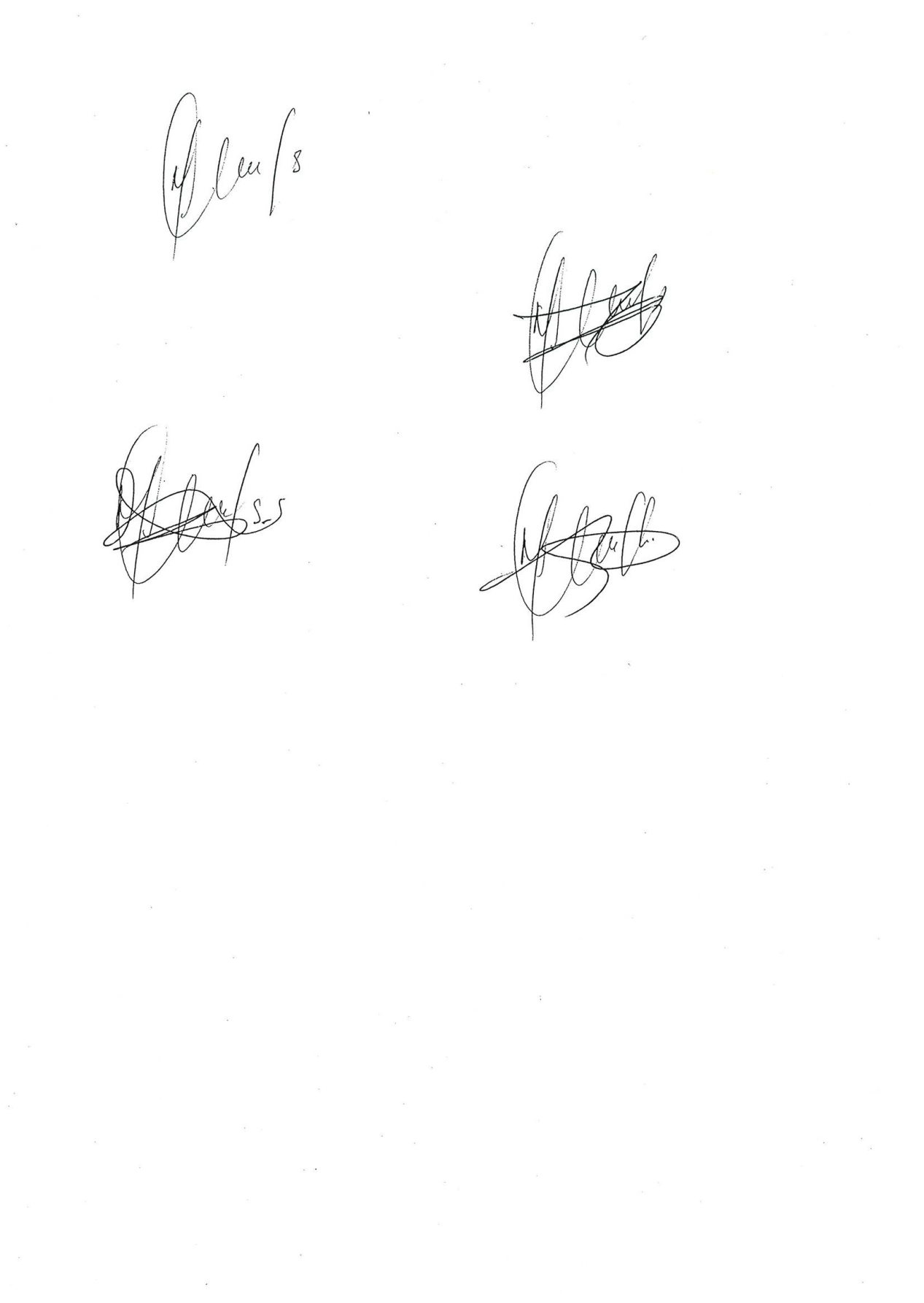
Cllr Pauline Nash (on behalf of Calderdale CSP)

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Cllr Jean Calvert (on behalf of Kirklees CSP)



Cllr Peter Gruen (on behalf of Leeds CSP)



Cllr Maureen Cummings (on behalf of Wakefield CSP)