**Friday 17th July 2015**

**Item 11**

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**Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committees -**

**Assessing 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 representatives on the impact of the Commissioner and the role that Scrutiny Committees can play in making communities safer and feel safer.
  2. It is recommended that the Panel and Scrutiny representatives use the information and structure of this paper as a basis for discussion about their respective roles, including:
* What issues might the Panel raise with the Commissioner in future work?
* What changes might be made to the Principles of Engagement to improve the way in which Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees and the Panel liaise on issues of mutual concern?

1.3 Councillor Graham Turner from Kirklees CD Scrutiny Committee has agreed to attend the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 17 July.

**2. Local Scrutiny Investigations**

2.1 Only Wakefield CD Scrutiny Committee provided a response to the Panel’s requests for information. The Wakefield response was brief as no new investigations had been carried out which would assist the Panel in effectively scrutinising / supporting the work of the Commissioner.

2.3 Wakefield CD Scrutiny Committee did highlight that they intend to carry out reviews of licensing arrangements and the role of the District’s CSP within the next three months.

2.4 Panel and Scrutiny Representatives may wish to discuss:

* *What is the criteria for investigation*
* *Could there be better cross-authority collaboration on key themes*
* *Do the Scrutiny Committees receive adequate and timely information from the Commissioner to assist in their investigations*
* *What steps might Scrutiny Committees take to undertake joint investigations on priority issues.*
* *Do Scrutiny Committees wish to see any issues escalated to the Police and Crime Panel for further investigation?*

**3. Liaison between Scrutiny Chairs and the Panel**

3.1 The Panel and Scrutiny Committees have agreed Principles of Engagement that cover respective roles and the importance of working closely together (attached at Appendix A). 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.

3.2 The Panel is keen to work closer with CSPs and Scrutiny Committees 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 Scrutiny Chairs around priority topics where they might have the best impact.

3.3 *The Panel and Partnership may wish to discuss*

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

**4. Recommendation**

4.1 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.