**Friday 17th July 2015**

**Item 10**

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**Community Safety Partnerships –**

**Assessing 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. The report is based on responses from Leeds, Kirklees and Bradford CSPs.
	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:
* 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 CSPs and the Panel liaise on issues of mutual concern?

1.3 The Chair of the Kirklees CSP, Councillor Graham Turner and the Chair of the Leeds CSP, Mr Neil Evans have both agreed to attend the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel on 17 July.

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

2.1 Each CSP 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. In particular, Kirklees CSP highlighted that it had developed its plan in conjunction with the Commissioner to ensure strategic alignment.

2.2 The CSPs continue to recognise the commitment the Commissioner has shown to get out, meet and engage with communities across West Yorkshire. Leeds CSP also refers to the joint working with the Commissioner on priorities such as domestic violence, CSE, improving response to victims, CCTV / ANPR and PCSOs / neighbourhood enforcement.

2.3 Based on the three responses received, experience of working with the Commissioner has been very positive and Partnerships felt that the Commissioner is acting in accordance of the plan.

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

* *Do CSPs 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**

3.1CSPs felt 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.

3.2Bradford CSP highlighted the meeting they had with the PCC to discuss Partnership priorities in November last year and would welcome more regular meetings with the Commissioner.

3.3 CSPs 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.

3.5 Kirklees CSP stated that the provision of the Community Safety and Innovation Fund has provided capacity to deliver activities and shared priorities. They welcomed the flexible nature of the funding as it has enabled a wide variety of interventions to be delivered which represent good value across a broad range of themes.

3.4 Bradford CSP cited commissioning priorities identified in March 2015 which are;

* Domestic violence (including forced marriage and honour based violence)
* Human trafficking
* CSE
* Serious sexual offences
* ASB
* Burglary Dwelling

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*
* *How the Partnership intends to evaluate the impact of commissioning activity*
* *How do Partnerships work with the Commissioner to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan*

**4. Other issues raised by CSPs**

4.1 Crime data integrity

4.1.1Bradford CSP raised the issue of in-year changes to police recording of crime which has had an impact on their baseline data and subsequent targets set for this year are no longer valid.

4.2 Increased Collaborative working

4.2.1 Leeds CSP highlighted that due to the potential for new opportunities and greater flexibility through devolution, collaborative working needs to be a focus moving forward in some key areas of business.

4.3 Early intervention and prevention

4.3.1 Kirklees CSP were keen to ensure that the Panel continued to hold the Commissioner to account and to ensure transparency. In particular, Kirklees CSP would like to see more early intervention work being undertaken to prevent issues becoming embedded later on.

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

* *How the Panel is scrutinising the Force’s response to HMIC’s crime data integrity inspection recommendations to ensure police recorded crime is compliant with National Crime Recording Standards and Home Office Counting Rules.*
* *What role can the Panel play in encouraging and facilitating greater collaboration across the region?*
* *How can the Panel and Partnership improve information flows to ensure that the Panel is effectively holding the Commissioner to account?*

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

5.1 The Panel and CSPs have agreed Principles of Engagement (attached at Appendix 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 elected members of the Panel de-briefing colleagues in constituent areas in order to put it in a firmer local context. Members will recall that this was also raised at the Panel’s recent Away Day.

5.2 The Panel is keen to work closer with CSPs to better understand the impact of the Commissioner within West Yorkshire to enable it to prioritise key areas to scrutinise and monitor. CSP representatives and Panel may wish to review and strengthen the Principles of Engagement that are attached to this report.

5.3 *The Panel and Partnership may wish to discuss*

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

**6. Recommendation**

6.1 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.