



Item 12a

Friday 9th September 2016

Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall

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**Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committees -
Assessing the Impact of the Commissioner**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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?*
 - *How can the Scrutiny Committees and the Panel work together better to share information and avoid duplication of effort?*
 - *The direction of future scrutiny reviews.*
- 1.3 The following Scrutiny chairs/representatives have agreed to attend the Panel meeting on 9 September.

Cllr Graham Hall, Calderdale
 Cllr Julie Stewart Turner, Kirklees
 Angela Brogden, Officer from Leeds

- 1.4 Questionnaires were received back from four of the five authorities with the exception of Kirklees.

2. Local Scrutiny Investigations

- 2.1 The table below shows the areas of work that the individual authorities have considered during the past year. Whilst they have not all specifically been investigations, these are the themes that have been focussed on within the districts.

Bradford	Performance and Resource issues around Safer and Stronger Communities, CSE
Calderdale	Domestic abuse, Hate crime, Prevent strategy, closer working between emergency services, developed a protocol of operation and information-sharing between the CSP and CDC
Kirklees	Reviewing the Crime and Disorder Plan, Prevent, Community Cohesion, ASB, CSE and Safeguarding

Leeds	New Psychoactive Substances, Human Trafficking, Prostitution, Leedswatch (CCTV), PCSO's, domestic violence
Wakefield	Review of the district CSP

2.2 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?*

3. Impact of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the districts.

3.1 None of the responding authorities gave any positive examples of the way in which the Police and Crime Commissioner is impacting on their district.

- *Panel members may wish to explore this further with Scrutiny Chairs and to establish what, if any, positive impact the PCC is having on local issues.*

3.2 Local authorities did identify some concerns that they would wish the Panel to raise with the PCC or to consider investigating at a sub-regional level.

3.3 Concerns from local authorities included:

- The under-reporting of FGM, FM and HBV – therefore being “hidden” crimes
- The need for early clarity around the future funding of PCSO's and the need to ensure that existing PCSO vacancies are filled
- Funding of posts to support community cohesion

3.4 Panel and Scrutiny chairs may wish to discuss

- *What support can the Panel offer to make sure that the PCC is aware of these concerns and seeks where possible to ensure that they are addressed.*

4. Future Scrutiny Reviews

4.1 Not all Scrutiny Boards have their full work programme in place at this point in time, however, the following themes have been identified for future consideration.

Bradford	Domestic Violence
Calderdale	Domestic Abuse and the White Ribbon Campaign, Community Cohesion
Leeds	Tackling begging across the city, future provision of CCTV, addressing ASB, addressing youth offending

4.2 Calderdale is also keen to share information around a joint piece of work that is being undertaken with the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel around community cohesion. This is acquiring greater prominence post-Brexit, although the

perception locally amongst some members is that related hate crime incident increases are happening in other places, but not Calderdale, as there has not been a significant increase in reports. This runs contrary to anecdotal evidence. Calderdale Cabinet has now set up an EU Referendum Working Party to look at all implications of the vote, including community cohesion.

4.3 Panel and Scrutiny chairs may wish to discuss

- *Sharing information on the impact of hate crime and community cohesion post Brexit*
- *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?*
- *Are there other key themes that authorities would wish to see scrutinised?*

5. Liaison between Scrutiny Chairs and the Panel

5.1 The Panel and Scrutiny Committees have previously agreed a set of 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.

5.2 The Panel is always 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.

5.3 *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.*

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.