

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board

Date: 10th June 2013

Subject: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In recent years, the role and responsibilities of overview and scrutiny have expanded significantly, with the function now responsible for investigating the delivery of services provided by a wide range of public, private and third-sector partners.
- 1.2 Provisions in the Police and Justice Act 2006, namely Section 19, 20 and 21, further extend the remit of local authorities to scrutinise crime and disorder functions and as from April 2009, the Council has been required to designate a Scrutiny Board to act as the Council's 'Crime and Disorder Committee'. The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board has been assigned to fulfil this role.
- 1.3 In its capacity as a 'Crime and Disorder Committee', the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board has powers to review or scrutinise decisions made (or action taken), in connection with the discharge by the 'responsible authorities' of their crime and disorder functions. These are the authorities responsible for crime and disorder strategies and include the Local Authority, the West Yorkshire Police Force, the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups and the West Yorkshire Probation Trust.
- 1.4 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 also introduced Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (now referred to as Community Safety Partnerships) to develop and implement such strategies. In Leeds, *Safer Leeds* is the city's Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.5 Home Office guidance recommended that a protocol be developed jointly between the local Scrutiny function and the Community Safety Partnership to help provide

guidance and a common understanding of how crime and disorder scrutiny will operate in practice. A protocol was therefore developed in Leeds and is attached for the information of the Scrutiny Board (Appendix 1).

2.0 Introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels

- 2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 replaced police authorities with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and introduced Police and Crime Panels to scrutinise the decisions and actions of the PCCs and assist them in carrying out their functions.
- 2.2 On 15th November 2012, Mark Burns-Williamson was elected as the first West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and will hold office for a period of 3.5 years to May 2016.
- 2.3 However, local Crime and Disorder Committees have no remit to directly scrutinise their PCCs as this role lies with the new Police and Crime Panels (PCPs). In view of this, particular importance is placed upon forging strong links between Crime and Disorder Committees and their respective PCP members in order to relay to the PCC any issues that have been raised through local scrutiny and vice-versa.
- 2.4 The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel also fully recognise the benefits of establishing and maintaining strong links with the five Local Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees. As such, a 'Principles for Engagement' document was developed in liaison with the five Local Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees. This is also attached for Members information (Appendix 2).

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities) are asked to
 - (i) note the attached joint protocol between Scrutiny and the local Community Safety Partnership
 - (ii) note the Principles for Engagement document in relation to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel and the Local Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees.

4.0 Background documents¹

- 4.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.