



Agenda Item 9

Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 25th September 2014

Report of: Matthew Borland, Policy and Improvement Officer
Tel: 2735065
Email: matthew.borland@sheffield.gov.uk

Subject: South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel – Joint Working Protocol Proposal

Summary:

This report provides the Committee with a proposed joint working protocol between the four South Yorkshire local authority crime and disorder scrutiny committees and the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

1. Consider and agree the proposed working protocol attached as an appendix to this report
 2. Ask officers to report this agreement back to the Police and Crime Panel as appropriate
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Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel – Joint Working Protocol Proposal

1. Context

- 1.1. The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee fulfils the role of the statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee for Sheffield.
- 1.2. The Police and Crime Panel was established with the statutory function to scrutinise and hold to account the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire.
- 1.3. The Sheffield representatives on the Panel are:
 - Cllr Harry Harpham (Chair of the Police and Crime Panel)
 - Cllr Roger Davison
 - Cllr Talib Hussain
 - Cllr Roy Munn

2. Joint working protocols

- 2.1. The Chairs of the four Crime and Disorder committees were invited to a meeting of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel in March 2014 to discuss potential joint working protocols and ways to share information. Cllrs Sheila Constance and Sioned-Mair Richards represented Sheffield's Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee at the meeting.
- 2.2. The meeting agreed a draft working protocol to formalise joint working arrangements be developed; and it would brought to the Police and Crime Panel and the four Crime and Disorder Committees for consideration and agreement. This draft is attached as an appendix to the report.
- 2.3. The working protocol has been agreed by the Police and Crime Panel at its meeting on 18th July 2014. Each of the Crime and Disorder Committees have now been asked to consider this draft and agree it for finalisation.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1. The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:
 1. Consider and agree the proposed working protocol attached as an appendix to this report
 2. Ask officers to report this agreement back to the Police and Crime Panel as appropriate

Appendix A: Draft working protocol for South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel and the four South Yorkshire Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees.

Background to Local Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees

Provisions in the Police and Justice Act 2006 extended the remit of local authorities to scrutinise crime and disorder functions and as of April 2009 each Council has been required to designate a Scrutiny Board to act as their 'Crime and Disorder Committee.'

'Crime and Disorder Committees' have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made (or action taken) by the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the 'responsible authorities' that comprise it, but only with regards to activities which relate to the Partnership itself.

Impact of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Although the Act did not change the legal remit of local authority Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees, they will not have the power to directly scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner because he/ she will not be a 'responsible authority' on the CSP.

Under previous arrangements the Scrutiny Committees could scrutinise the South Yorkshire Police Authority. The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel will carry out part of the role previously exercised by Local Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees.

Working Together

This document outlines the agreement between the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel and the four South Yorkshire Local Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committees (CDCs) to work together in the following ways

1. Panel Meetings

- 1.1 CDC Chairs will, at the very least, be invited to meetings of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel on an annual basis to engage in an open discussion about the impact of the Commissioner in each district
- 1.2 Should serious concerns arise during the year, the Panel may ask one or more CDC Chairs to attend additional Panel meetings and provide their perspective on the issue under consideration.
- 1.3 CDC 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 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.
- 2.2 CDCs 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.
- 2.3 CDCs 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 South Yorkshire.

3. Regular Exchange of Information and Intelligence

- 3.1 The four CDCs will each complete an annual briefing note for use by all Panel Members to support them in assessing the impact of the Commissioner across South Yorkshire.
- 3.2 All completed briefings notes are to be formally approved by the CDC Chair before submission.
- 3.4 Unless a request is made to the contrary, all submissions will be circulated to the other CDCs in South Yorkshire to allow comparisons and further linkages to be made.
- 3.5 CDCs will be encouraged to play an active role in developing and adapting the themes covered within the briefing note.
- 3.7 The briefing note will, at the very least, relate to:
 - The findings of any relevant investigations carried out at the local level
 - Plans for any future investigations at the local level which may be of interest or relevance to the Panel and/ or other CDCs in South Yorkshire.
 - Any concerns the CDCs 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 CDCs may also choose to arrange regular verbal briefings with the Panel Members representing their authority on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

4. Co-ordinating Work Programmes

4.1 CDCs will submit the latest iteration of their work programmes along with their annual briefing notes.

4.2 These work programmes will then be circulated to the four CDC lead officers to help identify linkages across their work programmes and will also be used by the host authority (RMBC) to identify linkages between the work of the CDCs and the Panel.

4.3 In cases where the CDCs are due to carry out investigations that are likely to be of interest to the Panel, the Panel may request a short briefing note summarising the results of these investigations.

4.4 Where one or more of the CDCs are due to investigate the same issue the Panel may decide to carry out the investigation at a sub-regional level on behalf of all four CDCs or in conjunction with them.

4.5 If the Panel identifies an issue for concern which relates to only one of the South Yorkshire districts, the relevant CDC may be asked to lead on the resultant investigation with support from a Panel Member from that authority.

4.6 CDCs will be notified of such a request from the Panel at the earliest possible opportunity and the Panel recognises that the CDC response to these requests will be dependent on the availability of resources at that time.

4.7 Equally, the Panel's ability to lead on investigations on behalf of the CDCs will be resource and work load dependent.

5. Aligning Membership

5.1 Where possible, at least one Panel Member will sit on each CDC to ensure the Panel has a detailed understanding of local issues as well as the skills necessary to effectively scrutinise the Commissioner.

5.2 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 CDC and as such will contribute to CDC meetings and investigations as and when required and subject to existing workload pressures.

Endorsement

These principles have been endorsed by:

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