

**Written Questions from Mr. Alan Kewley and Responses given following the meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee held 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**

**Q.** “The body presenting its annual report to this Scrutiny Committee is entitled - 'Sheffield Community Safety Partnership', but this currently appears elsewhere on the Council website as 'Sheffield Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership', and previously as a Partnership 'Board'. Is this the same body with different titles, which is confusing ?

**A.** *There is no change of the name of the Partnership Board. It is still the 'Sheffield Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership'. (SSSCP) The terms Community Safety Partnership and Partnership Board used in the report refers to the role of the SSSCP and not the partnership's name.*

*SSSCP is a statutory community safety partnership. There is a responsibility of the six statutory authorities (set out below) to establish under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.*

*The six statutory “responsible authorities”: Police, Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Authority, National Probation Service (high risk offenders), Community Rehabilitation Community (Sodexo, low and medium risk offenders) and Health (Clinical Commissioning Group). Community Safety Partnerships are supported by other partners as arranged locally.*

*The lead authorities are the Police and Local Authority. Community safety partnerships have a duty to tackle reoffending, crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and substance misuse.*

**Q.** Previously, formal meetings of this Partnership (Board) have been publicised on the Council website, and open to members of the public, or community groups, to attend and submit relevant questions, but at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, I understand a decision was made to close its doors to the public forthwith. We've not yet had confirmation of this retrograde step, and I'd request this Scrutiny Committee for clarification.

I understand this decision was made by a show of hands of the members present, so I'd like to know if this statutory Partnership can legally make such a decision between themselves without wider consultation and scrutiny ?

**A.** *The Board took a decision on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 to make meetings private. The members of the Board are entitled to do this as part of the governance procedures and decision making local arrangements.*

*This decision was taken after a partnership review involving all members of the partnership and also looking at the common practice of other community safety partnerships across both South Yorkshire and nationally. The Board is also looking at how it can strengthen public accountability whilst improving its effectiveness in dealing with business.*

*The Board's business often involves considering sensitive and confidential information that requires exclusion of members of the public i.e. the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA). The Board is strengthening its approach to citizen engagement. The aim is to provide increased opportunity for citizens to question, challenge and shape the work of the Board. This will include opportunities through the development of new Priority and Theme Groups structures and VCF representation on these, building on the Community Safety Partnership's work with the Equality Hub network (i.e. Hate Crime Hub Working Group), and by developing new routes of engagement (e.g. digital, neighbourhood and community focussed approaches) that aim to reach a larger number and wider spectrum of people (e.g. collaboration with the current Sheffield City Partnership engagement approach).*

*Examples of this are:*

- The Plan's public launch on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 which saw over 50 people attend*
- An engagement plan will be produced based on the Priority Themes for the partnership as discussed at the launch as set out above.*
- A series of community meetings across the city looking at priority areas of organised crime. The first one on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Manor and Arbourthorne.*
- A consultation group of young people being established by Sheffield Futures with the Partnership led by South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield City Council.*