

Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board

17 August, 2016

Summary of Matters Considered

Report of the Chair, Councillor Crompton

The Scrutiny Board met on 17 August, 2016 and the following items were considered. I have selected the main points of the discussion which I feel members of the Council will be particularly interested to know more about. For more detail, a copy of the minutes is available on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) via the Council's website at <http://cmis.sandwell.gov.uk/cmis5/>

1. Update from the Chair of the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board

Chief Superintendent Matthew Ward, Chair of the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board attended the meeting to provide an update on the work of that Board.

The Safer Sandwell Partnership has two roles – it is the community safety partnership for Sandwell and it also functions as the Police and Crime Panel for the borough. The Board is made up of representatives of a range of partner organisations including West Midlands Police, the Council (including elected member representation), West Midlands Fire Service, health partners, the National Probation Service and voluntary sector organisations.

The Scrutiny Board received the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board Community Safety Strategy Plan 2015-2018. The Plan set out the strategic priorities of the community safety partnership which are:-

- Prevent and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour;
- Protect and support the most vulnerable victims;
- Promote community cohesion, and prevent terrorism and radicalisation;

- Prevent and reduce re-offending;
- Prevent and reduce domestic abuse and support victims;
- Prevent and reduce harm caused by alcohol and drugs.

The Plan also gave an update on various aspects of crime and community safety including the work of the dedicated Sub-Groups that work to deliver on the strategic priorities. Members asked for future updates to be focussed on specific areas of the work of the Board, for example substance abuse, anti-social behaviour, mental health and youth offending. It was also felt that the performance indicators used to measure the impact of the work of the Board would be useful information for the Scrutiny Board.

The Anti-Social Behaviour trigger was raised, however the Scrutiny Board felt that there was a lack of awareness amongst members. This needed to be improved to ensure that the trigger was accessed for suitable cases.

Members noted the See Something, Do Something campaign that was designed to increase people's confidence in knowing how to make a report where they were concerned that abuse or neglect was taking place. The Scrutiny Board suggested that this should be the topic for a training session for councillors.

It was suggested that the Scrutiny Board could conduct visits to various Police services to help understand policing in Sandwell. It was identified that the non-emergency Call Centre, mental health triage service and the custody suite in Oldbury are key facilities and services for members to visit.

2. Work Programme 2016/17

The Board agreed to further consider its work programme once the visits referred to above have been completed.

**Councillor Crompton
Chair of the Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny
Board**