

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2.	Date:	2nd December 2013
3.	Title:	Centre for Public Scrutiny Support Session 18th November 2013
4.	Organisation:	RMBC – Host Authority

5. Summary

This report provides members of the Panel with a summary of key issues arising from the support session, facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, and held on the 18th November 2013.

6. Recommendations

That the Panel:

- **Notes the key issues as summarised in this report**
- **Considers and agrees the next steps for the Panel.**

7. Proposals and details

The South Yorkshire PCP received confirmation over the summer that the Centre for Public Scrutiny would pay for a number of hours of Expert Adviser time to help with its development needs. All advisers are well-versed, from professional experience, in accountability and governance at local level. These Expert Advisers can provide assistance in a number of areas, such as:

- Work programming, and understanding how work can be prioritised;
- Gathering and triangulating evidence from a variety of different sources;
- Carrying out work within significant resource constraints;
- Engaging with the PCC – developing relationships and understanding the culture of the police, and the Chief Constable’s strategic relationship with the PCC;
- Understanding the wider community safety and criminal justice landscape;
- Skills needed to ask effective questions, and chairing skills.

As a result of this a support session was held on the 18th November, facilitated by the expert adviser, Cath Saltis. A copy of the agenda is attached at Appendix A.

The detailed notes of the session are attached at Appendix B, however, a summary of the issues arising are listed below:

- Scrutiny of budgets is important and needs to be more detailed by the Panel. This will require earlier and regular sight of information from the Commissioner and access to financial/accountancy advice by the Panel.
- Performance management still needs to improve. The Panel would like to develop a performance management framework with the Commissioner. This would include clear, measurable targets, including targets from the district community safety partnerships.
- To request a breakdown of information by local authority from the Commissioner, for example number of police officers in each and movement between them.
- Support for the Panel is important, in addition to the finance issue. Other areas identified included understanding of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner, partnerships to work with (Community Safety Partnerships, Local Authority Scrutiny panels and the Criminal Justice Board).
- Task and Finish groups should be established to facilitate this interagency working and sharing of information. It was suggested that this could be piloted with Domestic Abuse.
- A clear understanding of roles and responsibilities between the partners is required and agreed through protocols.
- Local Authority Scrutiny panels should share work programmes with the PCP to help with the development of South Yorkshire wide priorities
- The Panel needs a work plan based on the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan.

- Pre-meetings, briefings and triangulation of information should be used to make meetings more effective.

The Panel are therefore asked to consider the following next steps:

- Make a request to the Police and Crime Commissioner for timely and regular financial information, including early discussions around the proposed precept
- Set up a task and finish group to look at a performance management framework for the Police and Crime Commissioner. Officer support from both the panel's and the commissioner's perspective to be incorporated.
- Information sheets on key partner agencies to be provided (Jo Sykes already actioning)
- Consider also establishing a task and finish group to look at Domestic Abuse.
- Development of protocols in conjunction with the Commissioner, Community Safety Partnerships, Local Authority Scrutiny Panels and Criminal Justice Board
- Development and approval of a work plan. First draft to be available for the meeting.

8. Finance

There are no immediate financial implications of this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Effective work programming and understanding of the appropriate role for PCPs are both key to avoiding undue risks in carrying out their functions.

Background Papers and Consultation

Contact

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