

## **Appendix B:** **SY Police and Crime Panel – support session**

**Held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013, Rotherham Town Hall**

### **In Attendance**

Councillor Ralph Sixsmith (BMBC)  
Councillor Nikki Sharpe (SCC)  
Councillor P Schofield (DMBC)  
Caroline Martin (DMBC)  
Alan Carter (Co-optee)  
Councillor Joe Blackham (DMBC)  
Councillor Terry Sharman (RMBC)  
Jacqueline Collins (RMBC)  
Christine Majer (RMBC)  
Councillor Pat Bartlett (DMBC)  
Deborah Fellowes (RMBC)  
Kash Walayat (Co-optee)  
Talib Hussain (SCC)  
Matthew Boland (SCC)  
Councillor Roger Davison (SCC)

Cath Saltis (specialist advisor, CfPS)

### **Apologies:**

Councillor Jahangir Akhtar (RMBC)  
Councillor Harry Harpham (SCC)

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Councillor Terry Sharman, Acting Vice Chair, introduced everyone to the meeting, outlining the purpose of the session. He welcomed new members to the Panel – Councillor Sharpe and Alan Carter. He also welcomed to the meeting representatives from the Scrutiny functions across the four districts, including the Chair of Doncaster's Scrutiny function Councillor Schofield.

### **Overview of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**

Cath Saltis presented this information to bring all up to speed with the roles and responsibilities of both the Commissioner and the Panel. The issue of the level of power for the Panel, particularly with regard to sanctions regarding complaints was discussed. It was noted that the Panel may only take steps to informally resolve complaints. It was agreed that the most powerful role the Panel has is to monitor the performance of the Commissioner in delivering the Police and Crime Plan.

## **Challenges for Police and Crime Panels**

Issues discussed included:

- Access to financial advice for effective scrutiny of budgets
- Lack of targets in the Police and Crime Plan
- Need to work up smart targets/ performance management framework
- Local Authority based targets should be clearly identifiable in there
- Panel need to see the complete picture and the breakdown across local authorities – the Commissioner should be asked to provide this
- Concern about the moving of resources between local authorities.

## **Workshop – reviewing the first year:**

Smaller groups discussed what has worked well, what hasn't worked so well and what improvements could be made around three key functions; the annual report, budget/precept setting, Police and Crime Plan.

Issues arising from this discussion:

- Panel has met its statutory obligations for the first year
- Need to develop a clearer role and purpose
- Targets and performance management required
- Precept needs to be expressed as a %
- Travelled a long way and starting to ask the right questions
- Does the Chief constable need to start attending?
- Support for new members is required

## **Partnerships and protocols**

It was agreed that a description of the key partners would be useful for Panel members – community safety partnerships, Scrutiny Panel and the Criminal Justice Board. (JS and DF to action)

What would we want from them?

- Assistance with setting realistic targets
- Issues that cut across the authorities e.g. domestic abuse, adult safeguarding
- Assistance with resources
- Support for Task and Finish groups
- Use of information for triangulation
- Sharing of scrutiny work plans and priorities
- Assistance with sub regional priorities

The relationship should be two way and open and transparent – protocols should be agreed. It was also agreed that Domestic Abuse could be a pilot for a Task and Finish group approach.

Task and Finish Groups were felt to be a good way forward for the Panel to tackle a work programme. It was also agreed that pre-meetings, briefings and triangulation of information and data would better prepare the Panel for the

scrutiny role. Handouts were received and discussed around effective scrutiny and questioning skills. The Panel should also look at areas of policy they think the Commissioner should concentrate on.

It was agreed that a draft work plan should be developed for discussion at the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December.