

AGENDA ITEM: **9b**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

18th December 2007

COMMUNITY SAFETY and LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the progress made to date by the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the actions of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel since the last update which was presented to this Board at the previous meeting.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 **Teenagers Hanging Around** - The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel held a meeting on the 24th October 2007. At this meeting the Panel received information from Teesside University.
- 4 The representative from the University outlined the results of a programme titled "Snakes and Ladders" which addressed the issue of disconnected youth. This also looked at the issue of underclass and the impact on young people.

- 5 With regard to ASB the University had not found any strong connection between young people hanging around the streets and Anti Social Behaviour. Their findings brought out that hanging around is simply just something young people do and that reference to major concerns are considered to be overly exaggerated.
- 6 The University concluded in that Hanging Around the Streets is a symptom of a larger problem, which includes the, lack of employment, opportunity, looking to the future, and building of family's etc. Generally, the links between hanging around and ASB are generally greater with older people than they are with the young.
- 7 The next meeting of The Panel was on the 14th November where the Panel received information from the Youth Service and also from the Executive Member who's portfolio includes young people.
- 8 The Panel met again on the 5th December to discuss the issues the Panel wanted to reflect in their final report on Teenagers Hanging Around which would be presented to OSB. The Panel also addressed their next subject, which will focus on Speed Cameras. At this meeting the Panel established their Terms of Reference and the Lines of Enquiry. The intention is to hold a half-day meeting where Members can receive the information from the invited sources at the one occasion.

COUNCILLOR SHAMAL BISWAS

CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background paper was used in the preparation of this report: -

10th December 2007

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