

AGENDA ITEM: **8b**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

10th MARCH 2009

**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 its meeting of 10th February 2009.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 **Victims of Crime** – The scrutiny panel met on 25th February when it met with the Magistrates Courts service regarding their practices and procedures to cater for the needs of victims and their actions which aim to protect the victim and witnesses from intimidation and harassment. The panel obtained valuable information and detail regarding the services provided by the Magistrates Court, which has assisted the panel with their understanding of how victims and witnesses are treated when they are required to attend court.
- 4 The panel recognised that when a victim or a witness is required to attend court this can provide an environment, which can be uncomfortable and daunting to a victim. Consequently the panel considered it would be beneficial

to visit the court to see the layout and how this complies with the 2006 code. Also the panel believed that a visit to the Crown Court would provide panel members with the opportunity to compare and contrast the two courts in their design and operation. It is anticipated that this visit will take place on the 9th March 2009.

- 5 The panel has also requested that they meet with representatives of the Youth Offending team, which will provide the panel with information and detail relating to young people. It is anticipated that these representatives will attend the panel meeting scheduled for 8th April and the Panel will be addressing the information derived from the court visit at their meeting of 18th March 2009.

COUNCILLOR PERVAZ KHAN

CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

27th February 2009

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