

AGENDA ITEM: 11b

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

7th APRIL 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 March 2009.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 **Victims of Crime** – The scrutiny panel met on 18th March when it addressed and reviewed its findings from visiting both the Magistrates Courts and Crown Court. The panel appreciated these are very busy Courts and that the Crown Court had specific areas where witnesses or victims can wait without the fear of intimidation etc. The Magistrates Court is an older structure and the Court service has made a number of alterations to change the interior. This is to provide separate rooms for witnesses and while some aspects are still under development the panel could see that specific changes have been introduced and also that some changes continue to be implemented.

- 4 The panel wants to gain an understanding of how the youth are affected and cared for as victims and will receive information / evidence from a representative of the Youth Offending Service at its next meeting scheduled for 8th April. The Panel have also reference the Safer Middlesbrough Partnership and that there are indications that progress in assisting victims of crime may not be as strong as it is in other areas of its work. Consequently the panel wanted to engage with a representative from the partnership regarding this and understands this may also be the Youth Offending Service. Consequently the panel will address this issue at its meeting.

- 5 **Traffic calming outside Schools.** _ the panel had made a recommendation which emerged from its Speed Camera report that a survey of various traffic calming measures outside schools be undertaken and presented to the panel. The Executive provided a direction that Members of the panel visit a range of schools to observe the issues. Consequently, the panel is meeting the appropriate officer at its meeting of 8th April to discuss any present changes and also any initiatives currently awaiting implementation regarding the traffic calming and therefore the subsequent safety of school children. Following this meeting the panel will undertake a visit to certain schools and also look at information available for the calming of traffic outside all schools.

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: -

26th March 2009

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