

AGENDA ITEM:	11 b
--------------	------

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

<p><b>COMMUNITY SAFETY and LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL</b></p> <p><b>PROGRESS REPORT</b></p>
---

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

### PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 **Coroners Service.** The last meeting of the panel was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 when it received evidence from a representative of CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young). The panel was appraised of the experiences encountered in dealing with the Coroners Service in Middlesbrough and the concerns the organisation has regarding the depth of analysis of cause of death and conclusion of an inquest for young people.
- 4 The Panel also received information from the University regarding the report commissioned by the Police in 2008, which looked at the Coroners Service.

- 5 Unfortunately the people leading this research and production of the report have subsequently left the University and that, as the University did not retain a copy of the report. Therefore the representative of the university was unable to provide information regarding the depth of enquiry and issues raised during that research.
- 6 The panel also wanted engagement with CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) to gain a measure of the number of people who had approached CAB regarding the delays in conclusion of Inquests and how this may have affected the family emotionally and financially. However, the CAB sent information indicating that they had not had any approaches regarding the issue of delayed inquests.
- 7 The next meeting is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> November and the panel is endeavouring to secure the attendance of the reporter who had undertaken the research and has produced press articles on the Coroners Service

**COUNCILLOR FRANCES McINTYRE**

**CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE  
SCRUTINY PANEL**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

4<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Contact: Peter Clark  
Senior Scrutiny Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.  
Telephone: 01642 729 708 (direct line)