

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM:  
9 (b)

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013

### 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.

#### PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny panel met on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. The following outlines the progress and intention of that meeting.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> September Meeting**

- 4 **Crime Data** The panel identified in May 2013 that certain crime data from Neighbourhood safety teams was not included and that also since street wardens started using the Flair system that their data was not available for inclusion in the areas crime data.
- 5 Consequently, the panel considered that the information being produced may not accurately reflect the issues of crime. The panel recognised that crime had reduced substantially in Middlesbrough and was continuing to reduce with the actions and support from a number of agencies in the partnership.
- 6 However the panel focused on the issue of ensuring all information available was included into the statistics to provide a comprehensive picture of the crime issues and providing the key information for Middlesbrough.
- 7 The panel intends to engage with a neighbouring authority to explore how they address these issues. This involvement with another authority is intended for the next meeting.

### **Additional topic raised at meeting for consideration**

- 8 A proposed topic was raised at this meeting which related to being safe in the community when offenders are placed to undertake work in the local area. The item focused upon the awareness of the local community of their presence and in particular how offenders were monitored and the process for placement. Consequently, it was agreed that this item be brought before OSB for consideration.
- 9 To assist the Board it may be beneficial to have an outline of some key factors relating to this topic. The panel engaged with a representative of Kirklevington Grange prison at its meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to address this very issue and consequently the meeting pursued the item of prisoner placements.
- 10 It was clearly conveyed at that meeting that the prison service has a systematic procedure when considering placing offenders to work in the community. The prison service undertakes this as one step in the path towards rehabilitation. In doing so the offenders are exposed to a full and rigorous risk assessment. The placements are vetted and monitored with regular reviews on their engagement which includes such issues as attitude and contribution. It was also conveyed to the panel that there are certain categories of offender who are not accepted into Kirklevington and are therefore prevented from being placed in the community due to the issue of risk.
- 11 The panel at this time considered the actions of the prison to be robust in ensuring the safety of the local community. The panel also concluded that this process makes a positive contribution to the ex-offenders integration into the community to assist with rehabilitation. A positive barometer of success is the businesses themselves. As any problems or adverse issues with the community would have a negative effect on the business and subsequently their reluctance to take offenders. This is clearly not the case and the panel endorsed the actions of Kirklevington Grange in their endeavours.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**COUNCILLOR FRANCES McINTYRE**

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

1<sup>st</sup> November 2013

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