

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 8 (b)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

3 February 2015

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

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. The panel met on 8 January 2015 to consider the Council's processes for holding events within the Town. There had been a perception that the recent health and safety checks that had been put in place, following national guidelines, were too bureaucratic and that this may deter people from holding events in Middlesbrough.
3. The panel found that the paperwork was necessary to ensure all the health and safety elements of planning an event were checked especially in the light of the Dreamscape tragedy in County Durham.
4. The panel received information about the process, including copies of the paperwork and details of the Safety Advisory Group. The panel heard that currently it was the Council's policy that the Safety Advisory Group only considered applications for events taking place on Council land or Council events. However, subsequent national guidance had discouraged Safety Advisory Groups from having a limited remit and encouraged them to consider all events.
5. It was highlighted that Cultural Services had a limited amount of capacity, with 1.5 full time equivalent staff, but this was currently under review.
6. Members were keen to gather further information in relation to the operation of the Safety Advisory Group arrangements are being made for Panel Members to attend a future meeting.
7. The panel will be meeting on 11 February to receive an update on Domestic Violence (DV), including information on levels of DV and recent developments in this area since the end of the DV strategy in March 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

**COUNCILLOR FRANCES MCINTRYE
CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

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