
Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services
10th September 2009

Report of the Chief Executive

The arrangements for the overview and scrutiny of safe and sound, Dudley's Community Safety Partnership.

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the committee of the potential arrangements for the committee to exercise its oversight and scrutiny function of safe and sound, Dudley's Community Safety Partnership.

Background

2. All committee members have received a copy of the Home Office Guidance Document relating to this matter.
3. The frequency of Committee meetings to exercise these functions are at the discretion of the committee, subject to a minimum of one per year.
4. The Chief Executive acknowledges that the legislation is intended to ensure that all Councils, including two tier areas, exercise a dedicated overview and scrutiny function, and that Dudley Council already complies with the spirit and letter of these regulations. The committee currently meet six times per year, and considers matters germane to the safe and sound board at every one of those meetings.
5. The additional powers granted by these regulations allow the Committee to call before it senior representatives of any of the safe and sound board, and to ask them to provide any relevant information.

Finance

6. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

Law

7. Sections 19 - 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, (as amended by Section 126 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007), and the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 set out the statutory framework and powers of the Local Authority in relation to the scrutiny of the functioning of responsible authorities which form part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Equality Impact

8. This report is in accordance with the council's equality and diversity policy.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that:-
 - the information contained in the report be noted.
 - no significant changes are made to the existing committee structure, work programme or meeting frequency.
 - the committee consider adopting a standing agenda item whereby at the end of each committee meeting members debate and decide if they wish to request the attendance of any safe and sound board member or the provision of any information at the following committee meeting.
 - the Chief Executive, as chair of the safe and sound partnership, attends the committee meeting immediately after the publication of the annual performance summary document, having tabled a report containing the details of that performance and of the following year's plan.

John Polychronakis

John Polychronakis
Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Dawn Hewitt
Telephone: 01384 818215
Email: dawn.hewitt@dudley.gov.uk