

Strong Communities Select Committee

**Crime and Disorder
Scrutiny Training**

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Background

Police and Justice Act 2006 :

Required local government scrutiny to ensure Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) fulfil their responsibilities for tackling crime, disorder and substance misuse in their locality

(Sections 19, 20 & 21 of the Police & Justice Act 2006)

Role of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Statutory partnership (created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, developed via Police Reform Act 2002 and the Police and Justice Act 2006) to... **develop and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder.**

The 'responsible authorities' must **jointly agree and deliver community safety priorities...**

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

- ✓ Local Authority
- ✓ Police Force
- ✓ Police & Crime Commissioner
- ✓ Fire and Rescue Authority
- ✓ The Local Health Board
- ✓ Probation

CSP Requirements

- ✓ To prepare an annual strategic assessment identifying the crime and community safety priorities in the area
- ✓ Produce an annual 3-year partnership plan to address those priorities
- ✓ Undertake community consultation
- ✓ Share information across the CSP

Role of Local Authority as a CSP partner...

“To carry out all its functions with due regard to the need to prevent crime and disorder”...

- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Social Services
- ✓ Child Safeguarding/welfare
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Alcohol Licensing

Role of Police as a CSP partner...

- ✓ Upholding the law fairly and firmly
- ✓ Preventing crime
- ✓ Pursuing and bringing to justice those who break the law
- ✓ Protecting, helping and reassuring the community
- ✓ Being seen to act with integrity, common sense and sound judgement

Role of the PCC as a CSP partner...

Police Authority ~ abolished November 2012, duties passed to an elected Police and Crime Commissioner...

- ✓ Develop the Police and Crime Plan
- ✓ Direct local policing priorities and budgets
- ✓ Liaise closely with local agencies
- ✓ Hire/fire the local Chief Constable

(Scrutiny of PCC ~ via Police and Crime Panel)

Roles of Fire and Rescue as a CSP partner...

The Fire Authority ~ a committee of Councillors...

- ✓ Fire safety education in schools & community
- ✓ Road safety – reducing collisions/deaths
- ✓ Emergency planning
- ✓ Positive mentor/role model for young people

Roles of Local Health Board as CSP partner...

Critical partners in relation to community safety...

- ✓ Tackling misuse of alcohol, drugs & substances, commissioning and providing appropriate drug/alcohol services...
- ✓ Supporting victims of domestic violence...
- ✓ Working with partners to prevent problems occurring in the first place e.g. alerting Police to premises where injuries occur...

Roles of Probation as a CSP partner...

Works closely with the Prison Service, health services and local authority housing and social services...

- ✓ Protect the public
- ✓ Reduce re-offending
- ✓ Provide punishment to offenders
- ✓ Ensure offenders are aware of the effect of their crimes on the community
- ✓ Rehabilitate offenders

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny...

Partners have a long history of working together on community safety...

- ✓ Scrutiny has a clear role to oversee the delivery of joint responses on community safety
- ✓ Scrutiny's should focus on the strategic delivery of the partnership, not on the operational activities of individual partners

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny...

How Scrutiny can make a difference...

- ✓ Using their experience, knowledge and community intelligence, scrutiny can shape neighborhood direction...community safety ~ integral to neighborhood management...
- ✓ Scrutiny can assist the partnership in building a connection with local people and resolving issues of local concern...

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny...

Scrutiny in practice...

- ✓ **Contribute to strategy** ~ provide evidence / intelligence from the community...
- ✓ **Hold to account** ~ question the partnership about their roles, responsibilities, activities...
- ✓ **Scrutinise performance** ~ examine good and poor performance to identify lessons learnt and share good practice...

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny...

Things to consider...

- ✓ Fear of crime and anti-social behavior is high on the political agenda ~ scrutiny can provide evidence to substantiate / dispel perceptions...
- ✓ Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) enables members to raise anti-social behavior and substance misuse matters with the committee, which can then decide whether to investigate further

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny...

Key things to remember...

- ✓ This committee can scrutinise the work of the CSP and the partners who comprise it **only insofar as their activities relate to the partnership itself...**
- ✓ Scrutiny is more effective in **focusing on a policy issue**, rather than on a single organisation...

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny...

Key things to remember...

- ✓ The duty to scrutinise the CSP's functions rather than partners per se enables the focus to be placed on policy and finding solutions...
- ✓ The committee's role is to be a 'critical friend', providing **constructive challenge at a strategic level**, rather than adversarial fault-finding at an operational level...

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny...

Future Scrutiny Plans:

- ✓ Consider the CSP's plan "Safer Monmouthshire", highlighting any concerns relating to the performance of partners in ensuring community safety....
- ✓ Identify issues of specific concern...decide who to invite...what questions to ask to gather the evidence to make recommendations...