

SUBJECT: CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY: COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

MEETING: PUBLIC SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 12th October 2026

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide the Public Services Scrutiny Committee with a clear overview of its statutory role, responsibilities and limits when scrutinising crime and disorder matters, with particular reference to the activities and performance of the Community Safety Partnership, and to support a focused follow-up discussion with the Chief Constable of Gwent Police on outstanding community safety matters in Monmouthshire.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Public Services Scrutiny Committee:
- Scrutinises how the neighbourhood policing model and resources are contributing to the Monmouthshire Community Safety Partnership and community safety matters.
 - Agrees any requests for further information and makes any recommendations to the Council, the Community Safety Partnership collectively, or individual partners who comprise the Community Safety Partnership (as per paragraph 3.12).
 - Refers any matters falling outside the Committee's statutory remit to the organisation or accountability body with the appropriate responsibility, for example, the Police and Crime Panel.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 **Statutory framework.** Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, together with the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, require the Council to designate a crime and disorder scrutiny committee. The Public Services Scrutiny Committee fulfils this role. It may review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the responsible authorities' discharge of their crime and disorder functions and may make reports or recommendations to the Council and relevant community safety partners.
- 3.2 **Community Safety Partnership.** The Community Safety Partnership is the statutory multi-agency partnership through which the responsible authorities jointly assess local crime and community safety need, agree priorities and coordinate action. Its core responsibilities include preparing a strategic assessment, maintaining a partnership plan, consulting and engaging communities, sharing relevant information and

delivering joint responses to crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reoffending.

- 3.3 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Gwent Police have distinct but complementary roles in improving community safety. The CSP, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, provides the strategic framework through which partner agencies collectively assess local need, identify priorities, share information and coordinate activity to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and other community safety risks. Its focus is on prevention, partnership working and achieving improved outcomes for communities through a multi-agency approach.
- 3.4 By contrast, operational policing remains the responsibility of the Chief Constable and includes decisions relating to patrols, investigations, enforcement activity, arrests and the deployment of police resources. While these operational decisions sit outside the CSP's remit, there is significant overlap through neighbourhood policing and problem-solving activity. Police contribute intelligence, data, expertise and operational delivery to support CSP priorities, while the CSP provides the partnership structures, strategic direction and local context that help shape collective responses to emerging community safety issues. As such, scrutiny of the CSP should focus on partnership effectiveness, delivery against priorities and outcomes for residents, rather than operational policing decisions.
- 3.5 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) operate across Gwent, each adopting governance and delivery arrangements that reflect local needs, priorities and community safety challenges. While all CSPs share the same statutory responsibilities and partner requirements under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the structures and mechanisms through which these duties are discharged may vary between local authority areas. CSPs are intended to provide strategic leadership for community safety and should be comprised of senior representatives from the responsible authorities, with the authority and influence to drive partnership working and collective decision-making.
- 3.6 Over the past three years, the Monmouthshire CSP has experienced challenges associated with changes in statutory representation and partner attendance. While this is not unique to Monmouthshire and reflects challenges experienced elsewhere, it has affected continuity of leadership, the development of long-term strategic relationships, and the maintenance of momentum at a partnership level. Despite these challenges, the CSP's operational sub-groups have continued to deliver against the partnership's statutory responsibilities and wider legislative duties. This has been supported by strong multi-agency relationships at an operational level, enabling partners to maintain effective collaboration, information sharing and problem-solving activity across key community safety priorities.
- 3.7 **What the Committee may scrutinise.** The Committee should act as a constructive "critical friend" to the partnership. It may examine whether the partnership's strategic assessment is evidence-based; whether priorities and the partnership plan respond to local need; how effectively partners work together and share information; whether collective resources and interventions are delivering intended outcomes; how the partnership engages communities; and how agreed actions and recommendations are implemented. It may contribute to strategy development, review performance by exception, undertake focused reviews, invite relevant representatives to give evidence, request information within a reasonable timescale and consider a councillor call for action on a qualifying local crime and disorder matter.

- 3.8 **Parameters and limits.** The statutory remit is to scrutinise the Community Safety Partnership and the functions of its constituent bodies only insofar as those activities relate to the partnership. The Scrutiny Committee is not a substitute governing body for any partner and should not seek to direct operational policing, investigate individual cases, determine complaints, revisit live investigations or hold a partner to account for matters unrelated to the partnership. The statutory guidance advises that questions should be framed around strategic priorities, partnership contribution, outcomes, assurance and improvement rather than individual operational decisions. It also states that information requests must be relevant and proportionate; information should be depersonalised and should not prejudice legal proceedings or current or future operations.
- 3.9 **Other accountability mechanisms.** Individual partners remain accountable through their own statutory and governance arrangements. The Police and Crime Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of policing functions, including through the Public Accountability and Assurance Board; the Gwent Police and Crime Panel scrutinises and supports the Commissioner. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services independently inspects police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy. Police complaints and conduct matters follow the applicable police complaints route, including independent oversight where relevant. The local authority is accountable through its executive, full Council, scrutiny, audit and external audit arrangements; the health board, fire and rescue authority and probation services are accountable through their respective boards, oversight bodies, inspectorates and complaints processes. Where an issue relates only to one organisation, the Committee should identify and, where appropriate, refer it to the body with the direct mandate to act.
- 3.10 **Context for this meeting.** The Police and Crime Commissioner attended the Public Services Scrutiny Committee on 28 October 2025. This meeting is a follow-up to consider outstanding concerns relating to community safety in Monmouthshire with the Chief Constable of Gwent Police. The discussion should distinguish between matters relevant to Gwent Police's contribution to the Community Safety Partnership and matters falling within the Chief Constable's operational responsibility or the Commissioner's separate statutory accountability role.
- 3.11 **Focus for scrutiny.** Members may wish to test what has changed since 28 October 2025; how the outstanding concerns are reflected in the CSP's priorities and delivery arrangements; what action is being taken collectively, including by Gwent Police as a partner; what outcomes, milestones and risks are being monitored; how communities are being informed and involved; and what further partnership action or assurance is required. Any recommendations should be specific, evidence-based, directed to the appropriate organisation or partnership.
- 3.12 **Where recommendations may be directed.** The Committee may make reports or recommendations to the Council about the discharge of crime and disorder functions. Where recommendations affect community safety matters, they may also be directed to the Community Safety Partnership collectively or to one or more responsible authorities - including the Council, Gwent Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and probation services - provided the matter concerns that body's functions or contribution within the Partnership. Copies should be sent to every partner affected by the recommendation. A relevant partner should respond within 28 days, or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter, setting out the action it proposes to take; the Committee should then agree how implementation will be monitored.

- 3.13 If a concern relates solely to an individual organisation's wider or operational functions, rather than its Partnership role, the Committee may record the concern and refer it to the body with the direct accountability mandate - for example, the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Chief Constable's exercise of policing functions, the Gwent Police and Crime Panel for scrutiny of the Commissioner, or the relevant partner's board, complaints process, regulator or inspectorate.

4.0 EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 4.1 Through the examination of policies, strategies and service performance, scrutiny provides independent challenge and assurance that decisions have considered the needs of people with protected characteristics, helped identify any unintended adverse impacts, and promoted fair and equitable access to services. Scrutiny also supports the sustainable development principle by challenging report authors, and therefore decision-makers, to take a longer-term view and involve communities in shaping services in line with the council's commitment to work with and alongside communities. As a result, scrutiny strengthens transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 To ensure that the Council discharges its statutory crime and disorder scrutiny responsibilities effectively, that the Community Safety Partnership is subject to proportionate democratic challenge, and that outstanding local concerns are considered through the correct accountability route.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTEES:

Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – Wales (Welsh Assembly Government Circular 001/2010). [300110crimeeng.pdf](#)
Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009. [The Crime and Disorder \(Overview and Scrutiny\) Regulations 2009](#)
Police and Justice Act 2006, sections 19 and 20. [Police and Justice Act 2006](#)
Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner: Accountability and Assurance Board
[Accountability & Assurance Board | Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner](#) and
Police and Crime Panel information [Home - Gwent Police and Crime Panel Gwent Police and Crime Panel](#)
[Minutes of Public Services Scrutiny ~ 28th October 2025.docx](#)

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Field Code Changed