

**EXTRACT FROM SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MINUTES –**  
**17 FEBRUARY 2014**

**99** **CRIME & DISORDER SCRUTINY - PROGRESS ON SAFER SWANSEA**  
**PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE. QUESTIONS TO CO-CHAIRS:**

Chief Superintendent Julian Williams (South Wales Police) and Reena Owen, Corporate Director (Environment) provided information on the performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership (SSP) to enable the Committee to carry out its role as the authority's Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

Members' noted the background of the SSP and the progress that had been made over the last ten years. The main headlines were a 45.4% reduction in crime and an 80% reduction in car theft.

The SSP had been active in developing approaches to the night time economy, the latest successful campaign had included the 'One Punch Ruins Lives' which had been undertaken over the Christmas period. Good partnership working with the Police and a wide range of agencies including street pastors and volunteers from drug agencies had made this operation and others a success.

Key challenges existed as a result of the reduction in funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner. As a result the SSP were looking at more effective ways of working involving community initiatives.

While other areas such as theft, burglary and domestic violence had a reported increase, this was as a result of raised awareness and people being encouraged report crimes. Violent crime had slightly increased specifically in the night time economy, where there had also been reports of sexual offences.

The SSP were required to produce a Strategy for the next 3 years of operation and would work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that the strategy would be reflective of all priorities.

The Police and Crime Commissioner were keen to do more work in respect of domestic abuse. Wales has high figures of domestic abuse and a project was being developed to put resources to a more effective use at an earlier stage to prevent crimes occurring.

Additionally, the recent high number of historic cases regarding sexual offences had seen an increase in reporting crimes of this nature

The SSP had been successful in being chosen as one of twenty pilot areas to examine violence against the person with Home Office Innovation Fund for money to support the pilot.

Whilst information sharing meetings had been undertaken with the Health Board, there was still missing health data from A&E.

Members discussed the relationship between the Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Committee's role in so far as it is the designated crime and disorder committee. Members stated that they would like an input into the 3 year strategy prior to agreement.

It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner had attended the SSP and had seconded an officer to regularly attend each meeting.

Discussions focussed around:

- The differing ways police forces measure and record serious sexual offences and rape;
- Statistics regarding the age profile/gender and causes of domestic violence;
- The use of alcohol treatment centres;
- Concern regarding the rise in domestic violence, although it was noted that this was largely due to confidence in report crimes in the first instance;
- The impact of domestic violence on children;
- The work of the Western Bay Anti Human Trafficking Forum.