

**EXTRACT FROM SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MINUTES –  
16 FEBRUARY 2015**

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

Chief Superintendent Phil Davies (South Wales Police) and Chris Sivers (Director of People) attended to provide a progress report on Safer Swansea Partnership Performance and answer questions.

A presentation was given which encompassed:

- Focus on Priorities;
- Safer Swansea Priority;
- Reducing Violent Crime;
- Healthy Nightlife;
- Domestic Abuse;

The Chief Superintendent stated that the manner in which crime is recorded had been changed. Previously, crime was reported and investigated before then being recorded. Now crime is recorded as soon as it is reported. With this ethical crime recording process higher levels of crime can be expected, however there has not been a big increase in recorded crime.

He referred to recent crime figure analysis, and certain hot spots e.g. burglaries around student areas. He referred to the Police's ongoing efforts at education and awareness raising and reiterated that Swansea is a safe place, and different to other parts of the UK.

The committee praised the recent award of a Purple Flag award, recognising the excellent management of the city centre night time economy, and congratulated all involved in this achievement.

In response to Member questions, the Chief Superintendent stated that:

- The Help Point facility based at the Strand has been very successful in promoting a healthy nightlife and similarly the drop off zone has helped enable issues to be dealt with there and then and away from the centre.
- Car theft had reduced – attributable largely to more sophisticated car security systems. Additionally, CCTV in Swansea is very good. Whilst car crime has reduced, growth in other areas of crime, such as cyber crime had increased.
- Although drug trafficking was down significantly (down 24.6%) the Police are never complacent about drugs which underlie a lot of criminality. Organised crime groups are on the Police radar and a proactive approach is taken to dealing with the problem. Drugs will always be prevalent in

Swansea. However, the Police are proactive in working with the drugs agencies.

- The Police concentrate on Class A drug usage as this is still a problem area. A recent night-time operation using a drug itemiser machine in the City Centre tested 400 people, 100 of which were positive for Class A Drugs. 25 individuals were caught in possession of cocaine, which tends to be taken as recreational drug.
- In relation to Cumulative Impact, the Policy has been positive and enabled the Authorities to have some control in attracting the right businesses to contribute to the night time economy. It had been very effective and provided the responsible authorities the power to challenge licenced premises coming into the City. He reiterated that the policy was not about being anti-business but trying to prevent an increase in problems associated with the drinking culture.
- Crime in Gower is highest in the summer months but is not a year long issue. It is important that the resources are allocated to the correct areas at the right times. Whilst statistics have increased, it was small compared to other parts of the City.
- PACT meetings are useful as one form of public engagement and Police Officers are encouraged to get involved, however in order to be successful there must be a collective view on issues.
- All agencies are included in information sharing. Whilst there have been previous difficulties with the Health Authority in respect of patient confidentiality, they are now fully engaged. Early prevention at the front end does ease the pressure on accident and emergency services.
- The purple flag accreditation had been successful. However, the challenge now was to ensure that it is sustained.
- The Police engage in prevention work in relation to community cohesion and race crime and Swansea does not have high levels in this respect. However, tensions can increase on the lead up to an election.

In response to Member questions regarding, domestic abuse, the Director of People stated that:

- She would circulate details of the new one stop shop to all Councillors.
- 5000 cases of domestic violence a year were recorded by the Police, demonstrating a clear problem. There are many more cases which are not reported to the Police. Swansea does have significant challenge (far higher than that recorded with comparable neighbours) with domestic violence as opposed to abuse.
- Some work has been done with Cardiff University indicating a correlation between levels of domestic violence increasing when major sporting events take place.

It was suggested that the Safer Swansea Partnership could work with the Economic & Social Research Council in order to better understand the problem and incidence of domestic violence/abuse in Swansea and get some detailed analysis on why it is relatively high in Swansea compared to other cities.

Looking ahead the Chief Superintendent informed the committee of a restructure / review of policing in Swansea and stated that he would be happy to provide a presentation to Councillors on the current service and structure in the area in order to gather views to enable the best service to be provided. The Chair suggested that the Chief Superintendent could utilise the opportunity to make a presentation to Council at the appropriate time.

The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Phil Davies and Chris Sivers for the informative presentation and was pleased to see progress in a number of key areas.

**RESOLVED** that the Director of People circulate details of the Domestic Violence 'One Stop Shop' to all Councillors.