



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 May 2021

### Crime & Disorder Scrutiny – Safer Swansea Partnership

<b>Purpose</b>	The Scrutiny Programme Committee is the authority's designated Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee. In discharging this role, this is the Committee's annual session focusing on the performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership, looking at partnership priorities, activities, and impact. This covering report contains advice and information to assist the Committee.
<b>Content</b>	Lead representatives from both South Wales Police and the Council, who are involved in the joint-chairing arrangement for the Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group, will attend to present information and take questions on the work of the Safer Swansea Partnership.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question the Safer Swansea Partnership representatives on relevant matters</li><li>• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Cllr Alyson Pugh, Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities Cllr Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy & Service Transformation
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Adam Hill – Deputy Chief Executive
<b>Report Author:</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Cridland

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is designated as the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee under the Police & Justice Act 2006. The Committee must meet at least once a year. The scrutiny of the local Community Safety Partnership forms a significant part of this role.

1.2 The Community Safety Partnership for Swansea is the Safer Swansea Partnership. It works to reduce crime and disorder, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in Swansea. Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for working with other local agencies and organisations to produce annual strategic assessments, identifying the crime and community safety priorities in the area, and an annual 3-year rolling plan, laying out the approach for addressing those priorities.

### **1.3 Strategic Priorities**

1.3.1 With reference to the current Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021, the Partnership is focussed on working together to make Swansea a safer, more cohesive and confident place to live, work and to visit.

1.3.2 The agreed strategic priorities for the Safer Swansea Partnership are:

- Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)
- Substance Misuse
- Stronger Communities
- Evening and Night Time Economy
- Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring

These priorities are complemented by two over-arching themes:

- Reassurance Communication - effective reassurance provided at every available opportunity to help change perceptions of crime, reduce fear of crime, and promote positive outcomes of Safer Swansea.
- Community Engagement - improving the way partners engage with members of the public to build relationships based on trust and respect.

1.4 Although it plays a critical role, community safety is not just about the police. It involves a wide range of people and organisations, contributing to address crime and its causes. Many of the factors that can affect levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and offending are the responsibility of the local authority, such as housing, education, social services, child safeguarding / welfare, planning, and alcohol licensing. The role of scrutiny is to scrutinise the partnership as a whole.

- 1.5 The Safer Swansea Steering Group is the management and leadership group for the Safer Swansea Partnership where all key decisions are made on behalf of the Partnership. It provides leadership on the Safer Swansea strategy and liaison with the Police and Crime Commissioner on funding and strategy, and monitors overall progress against Partnership objectives. There is a joint chairing arrangement for the Steering Group, between South Wales Police and Swansea Council.
- 1.6 The Police, Council, Fire, Health and Probation Service, along with many other organisations and charities, work together to address community safety issues, and make the City a safer place with less crime. It is recognised that making communities safer and stronger cannot be achieved by one agency alone and success at partnership working will lie in significant reductions in crime.
- 1.7 The membership of the Steering Group consists of key representatives from statutory partners and other organisations with an interest and influence in community safety issues.

Statutory Members include:	Other Members include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Wales Police</li> <li>• City &amp; County of Swansea</li> <li>• ABMU Health Board</li> <li>• National Probation Service</li> <li>• Mid &amp; West Wales Fire and Rescue Service</li> <li>• Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police and Crime Commissioners Office</li> <li>• Elected Member responsible for Community Safety</li> <li>• Western Bay Safeguarding Board</li> <li>• Welsh Ambulance Service</li> <li>• HE/FE Representation</li> <li>• Public Health Wales</li> <li>• Third Sector representation</li> <li>• Others to advise as needed</li> </ul>

Further information can be found at [www.swansea.gov.uk/saferswansea](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/saferswansea)

## 2. Questions on Safer Swansea Partnership Performance

- 2.1 The focus of crime and disorder scrutiny is on the examining the work and performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership, and not any single organisation.
- 2.2. Following the presentation of information by Safer Swansea Partnership representatives about the work of the Partnership, the Committee will have the opportunity to ask questions. Broadly speaking the Committee will want to explore what has been done, how well it has been done and what impact that has made, e.g.

- what are the headlines
- key activities and achievements / progress against strategic priorities
- effectiveness of the partnership working
- relevant performance and crime statistics (including trends / comparisons elsewhere)
- evidence of improvement and impact made
- key challenges ahead and plans to tackle these

2.3 The following representatives will attend in support of Partnership activities:

- Chief Superintendent Trudi Meyrick, South Wales Police
- Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive, Swansea Council
- Superintendent Mark Brier, South Wales Police
- Paul Thomas, Community Integration & Partnership Manager, Swansea Council

2.4 The Committee will also invite the Cabinet Member(s) with community safety responsibilities to contribute to the session. The Safer Swansea Partnership is relevant to the work of Councillor Alyson Pugh (Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities) and Councillor Andrea Lewis (Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy & Service Transformation, and Joint Chair of Swansea Public Services Board).

2.5 This session follows from the Committee's previous meeting on crime and disorder in April 2019 (see extract of minutes at **Appendix 1**). The annual session planned for April 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic.

2.6 The following written material has been provided by the Safer Swansea Partnership to support the discussion:

- Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021 (**see Appendix 2**)
- Presentation Slides (see **Appendix 3**)

2.7 It is up to the Committee to determine future engagement in crime and disorder scrutiny and how best to incorporate the scrutiny of the Safer Swansea Partnership into the overall scrutiny work programme.

### **3. Legal Implications**

3.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this covering report.

### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this covering report.

**Background papers:** Welsh Government Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – Wales, Implementing Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (Welsh Assembly Government Guidance Circular No: 001/2010)

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Extract from Minutes of Scrutiny Programme Committee 8 April 2019

Appendix 2 – Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021

Appendix 3 – Presentation Slides