

Appendix 1 – Extract of Committee Minutes, 8 April 2019



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Council Chamber - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 8 April 2019 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillor M H Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillors

C Anderson
L S Gibbard
E T Kirchner
G J Tanner

Councillors

M Durke
D W Helliwell
W G Lewis
W G Thomas

Councillors

E W Fitzgerald
P K Jones
S Pritchard

Statutory Co-opted Member

A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Members

P M Black
C A Holley

P R Hood-Williams
J W Jones

Also Present

Councillor June Burtonshaw
Councillor Mary Sherwood

Cabinet Member for Better Communities (Place)
Cabinet Member for Better Communities (People)

Officers

Amy Hawkins
Adam Hill
Kate Jones
Martin Jones
Joanna Maal
Brij Madahar
Debbie Smith
Jane Whitmore

Adult Prosperity and Well-being Manager
Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Resources
Democratic Services Officer
Chief Superintendent
Chief Superintendent
Scrutiny Team Leader
Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Partnership & Commissioning Manager

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): T J Hennegan
Statutory Co-opted Member(s): D Anderson-Thomas

137 **Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Partnership.**

Chief Superintendent Martin Jones (South Wales Police) attended to provide a progress report on Safer Swansea Partnership and answer questions. The Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Resources, the Partnership and Commissioning Manager and the new Chief Superintendent, Jo Maal, were also present in support of the work of the Community Safety Partnership. The Chief Superintendent referred

to changes in the leadership which would see Jo Maal and Adam Hill take on the responsibility to Co-Chair the Safer Swansea Partnership. He also talked about how the focus of Community Safety partnerships and policing had changed over the past ten years, with a far greater focus on victims of crime, and vulnerability, which required changes in approach and tactics from all partners.

A presentation was provided which included the following:-

- Safer Swansea Partnership:
 - Partnership Vision
 - Partnership Purpose
- Strategic Priorities
- Key Activities and Achievements in:
 - Safe, Confident and Resilient Communities
 - County Lines and Substance Misuse
 - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
 - Evening & Night Time Economy
 - Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring
- Performance and Crime Statistics
- Existing and Emerging Challenges

The Chief Superintendent referred to recent negative press about High Street and acknowledged the challenges in that area. He discussed community safety activities and referred to the regeneration of High Street and improvement in the pipeline.

The Chief Superintendent reported that vulnerability was a key issue and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) had now been established for street vulnerability and sex workers. This approach was working well and had seen some people turn their lives around. They had also been looking at good practice from other regions.

There had been better co-ordination and awareness on County Lines as well as some successful work on better information flow between partners, leading to quicker action. The challenge was to focus on the demand base for drugs and focus on users. The Substance Misuse Area Planning Board were meeting regularly and focussing on more outreach based efforts and getting more people into treatment. There was discussion around the efforts to raise issues about County Lines into the education system, so pupils, parents and teachers were aware of the threat / risks.

Achievements in relation to tackling Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence were shared – with the focus on problem solving at the earliest opportunity of intervention. Close links between the Partnership and Safeguarding Boards were highlighted.

Excellent work had been carried out in respect of the evening & night time economy and this needed to be replicated in Uplands, whose night time economy was growing.

Race was still the highest reported hate crime and work still needed to be done to encourage the reporting of these crimes. Restorative justice had been quite successful in this area. The Partnership were also aware of tension around Brexit across the UK and this was being monitored locally.

With reference to Crime Statistics, it was noted that there had been an increase in robberies, drug trafficking and rapes.

Amongst challenges outlined to the Committee was organised crime, as Swansea had seen a spate of dwelling burglaries. Operations carried out have seen the number of cases drop and a lot of work had been done with the victims. The challenge of doing more with less resources was also stressed by the Chief Superintendent, challenging partners to share responsibility and do things differently.

The Cabinet Member for Better Communities (People) noted that Diverted Giving was being reviewed and the outcome of the review would be available soon. She also thanked the Chief Superintendent for all his work on the partnership, and spoke positively about its development and effectiveness, with good links to the Public Services Board.

The Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Resources highlighted the good work ongoing with transformation of High Street and Wind Street and noted that Students brought a lot to the City and had significantly contributed to the Purple Flag Award. It was essential that they felt safe in Swansea. He also commented on the positive energy and passion within the Partnership to tackle problems. He acknowledged the need to provide more reassurance to the public and work on making Swansea a safe place to live, work and visit.

The Partnership and Commissioning Manager highlighted the focus on early intervention.

Chief Superintendent, Jo Maal, stated that she would be continuing the good work of the Chief Superintendent, Martin Jones, on his departure and was looking forward to working with the Council in the coming years.

Members asked a variety of questions which centred around the following topics:

- Effectiveness of PACT meetings and other ways of engagement and information sharing with local Councillors
- Concerns over the 101 reporting system and public confidence in it
- Limited powers of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) – need to review/increase
- Training / Information on County Lines and training provided to schools – also consider how the effectiveness of the training could be monitored
- High Street – the need to resolve problems given it is a key gateway to the City

The Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Resources and the Chair thanked Chief Superintendent, Martin Jones, for all his work and commitment, and wished the new Chief Superintendent, Jo Maal, well in taking over the roll. The Partnership and

Commissioning Manger was also thanked for her work particularly work done on domestic violence.