

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – 13th July 2017
Public Questions

Question from Mr Webb to Portfolio Holder for Culture, Tourism & the Economy: Cllr Ann Holland

Question 1

“In February monthly performance the aim to minimise the 10 different types of crimes which shows Southend Council is going to miss the expected target outcome but is better this month than in 2016 – What does the portfolio think are the key recommendations that will have a wider impact from the Southend Community Safety Partnership on minimising the 10 crimes, especially violent crimes and meeting are targets for each month in 2017?”

Answer

The current monthly performance report on BCS crime figures (the 10 different crime types) is undergoing a review. The new performance framework will capture wider crime data to reflect a more informed picture of how police and partners are performing – rather than solely relying on these crime types. So ASB and numbers of arrest for example, plus conviction rates, are likely to be included in the revised MPR editions for 17/18.

Furthermore, Southend CSP recognises the increase in certain crime types. A number of internal reviews are about to be undertaken, these include a review of Southend CSP, including its structures, performance management, and importantly how it tackles current and or emerging priorities, a review of the newly established multi agency Community Safety Hub based at Southend Police Station, plus a review of how as a Partnership, we manage and respond to ASB incidents.

It is hoped that the outcome of these reviews will refocus resources and staff – and provide a better response to areas which are causing some concern to us – this includes violent crime.

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Question 2

“What does the portfolio holder think are the advantages and disadvantages for Southend Council for having their own PCSO and how many PCSO will be, how much will this cost and how will this be funded for how long?”

Answer

Although PCSO's are employed by Essex Police, in some localities across Essex (and nationally), local authorities support Police with PCSO costs (salaries for example). As such, some of these authorities have a voice (albeit a limited one) as to their deployment (e.g. where and when within the area, PCSO's are deployed for example).

Southend Borough Council has not presently, any ambition to employ or financially support PCSO's. The matter has been discussed on previous occasions but it was deemed not viable on the grounds that the Council funds the entire cost of the substantive CCTV network in Southend, of which the police use and benefit from on a daily basis, more so than the Council does. There is no cost to them nor do we seek funding support from them to run this service.