



AGENDA ITEM: 9

NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15 December 2014

GOVERNANCE OF THE SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD

Report by Colin Everett, Clerk to the Authority

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform members of the governance arrangements for the Safer Communities Board (SCB).

Background

- 2 At the 6th June 2014 meeting of the North Wales Safer Communities Board members agreed to formally constitute the Board as an advisory committee, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3 This development concludes a lengthy debate, and will clarify the Board's purpose and decision-making powers. It will now transition from being a voluntary partnership to a formally constituted committee.

Information

- 4 The establishment of an advisory committee can be achieved within the legislation as it exists, and would need to incorporate the existing Overview and Scrutiny framework for county-level which CSP's are bound by.
- 5 At the last meeting members agreed that the Board should undertake the following tasks:
 - To commission services funded through specific regional grants
 - Strategic accountability of the North Wales Area Planning Board

- Establishing a common and consistent framework for strategic, tactical and operational delivery at regional, sub regional and local levels through the production of an annual strategic assessment and community safety plan (to be mirrored by a similar approach for youth justice).
 - Identifying shared and/or common priorities in the fields of community safety and youth justice
 - Acting as a formal representative voice to influence the Welsh Government, Home Office and local Policing Body.
- 6 The establishment of the new advisory committee has all partners as equal members with voting rights. It could carry out all of the desired tasks outlined above, with the exception of commissioning (unless explicitly a regional fund) because it could not be given formal delegated authority on behalf of any local authority members.
- 7 An action arising from the June meeting was for all SCB members to formally inform their respective organisations of the Board's new status as an advisory committee.
- 8 The following actions associated with the changes in governance were identified:
- (i) Members to inform their respective organisations and local LSB/ CSP structures of the SCB's new status as an advisory committee.
 - (ii) Establish mechanisms to convey the priorities of the SCB for local and/or sub-regional consideration.
 - (iii) Revision of the terms of reference. A draft version of the terms of reference was considered by members at the 5th November 2014 meeting.
 - (iv) The final requirement was to review the membership of the Board. It is recommended only the Members and officers included in appendix 1 are standing members of the SCB.

- 9 Building on the strengthened status of the SCB, progress is now required to develop a single integrated needs assessment for North Wales. This proposal has already been agreed in principle by members, work will now commence to marry up the strategic assessment, substance misuse and DIP needs assessments. Such an approach will enable the Board to drive the regional Community Safety Plan through setting priorities, based on evidence and intelligence.
- 10 Allied to the development of an integrated needs assessment will be the requirement of a more robust monitoring framework. To this end the Board will need to consider the information required and what their expectations will be in the event of issues arising.
- 11 A further consideration is how the SCB and the Police and Crime Commissioner can mutually support each other, in terms of the alignment of shared priorities and commissioning decisions.

Recommendation

- 12 To note the contents of the report and the forward work plan attached at appendix 2.

Membership of the SCB

Formal members: Formal members are defined as representatives from the statutory partner agencies, as listed in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Elected Members appointed will be expected to have sufficient seniority and experience; officers appointed will be at an appropriate level of seniority to similarly make decisions on behalf of their organisations. Appointees, whether elected members or senior officers, will have full voting rights. The statutory organisations identified by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 are:

- Local Authorities
- Police
- Probation Service
- Fire Service
- Local Health Board

Lead Advisors: At present (as at November 2014) the lead executive advisors are Colin Everett (Chief Executive, Flintshire County Council) and Mark Polin (Chief Constable, North Wales Police)

Standing Professional Advisors: Advisors will be identified to join the Board to provide specialist advice to members. They will not have full voting rights.

Co-opted Members: Co-opted members will be appointed to the Board as required. They will have full speaking rights but not voting rights.

All constituent partner representatives should have sufficient seniority within their organisation to make necessary resource and policy commitments. This requirement is not intended to compromise the independence and decision-making processes of the partner organisations.

Representatives of statutory partners, as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, should be of sufficient seniority to ensure that their organisation fulfil their statutory responsibilities.

Each of the region's local authorities will be required to formally nominate an Elected Member to represent them on the Board. The other statutory authorities will be represented by officers with delegated powers from their respective organisations.

The Board will have the power to co-opt additional members as required, and should consider the representation of other major partnerships in the area.

Table 1: Composition of Membership

Organisation	Number of representatives	Delegation	Voting Right
Anglesey County Council	1	Elected Member	Yes
	1	Chief Officer/ Director	No
Conwy County Borough Council	1	Elected Member	Yes
	1	Chief Officer/ Director	No
Denbighshire County Council	1	Elected Member	Yes
	1	Chief Officer/ Director	No
Flintshire County Council	1	Elected Member	Yes
	1	Chief Officer/ Director	No
Gwynedd County Council	1	Elected Member	Yes
	1	Chief Officer/ Director	No
Wrexham County Borough Council	1	Elected Member	Yes
	1	Chief Officer/ Director	No
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	1	Elected Member (Commissioner)	Yes
	1	Officer Member	No
North Wales Police	1	Officer Member	Yes
North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority	1	Officer Member	Yes
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	1	Officer Member	Yes
Voluntary Sector Representative	1	Officer Member	Yes
Wales Probation	2	Officer Member	Yes (1 vote)
Welsh Government	1	Advisory Member	No
Secretariat: i. Co-ordinator ii. Minute taker	2	Support function	N/A
Total	22		

North Wales Safer Communities Board – 2014/5 Work Programme, Version 3 (October 2014)

Number	Priority	Outcomes	Actions	Update	Lead Officer(s)
1.	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	People are more confident, and aware, to report domestic abuse and sexual violence offences	Progressing the recommendations of the 10,000 Safer Lives Project for the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 out of 3 of the 11 minimum standards have been progressed to Welsh Government satisfaction which are Service User Groups/Engagement and Domestic Abuse Workplace Policies. Re: workplace policies – plans to extend to private and third sector. As part of this initiative the National Training Framework will be out for public consultation soon (awaiting date from WG). ▪ WG are currently looking to procure a provider for the delivery training and local service providers have been approached across Wales. ▪ Going forward, the priorities (which will be formally communicated through a letter to the regional collaboration lead mid Oct) are DA Champions and Information Sharing. ▪ Some of the Minimum Standards may not be feasible and WG are currently seeking Domestic Abuse Co-ordinators views on this, e.g. overarching complaints procedure and a nominated complaints advocate. 	Chair of the North Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Forum
		Young people are aware of the nature and implications of sexual violence, and where to access support	Formulating initiatives in conjunction with core aims and objectives of the All Wales Strategy and local Domestic Abuse action plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The North Wales non mandatory programme for perpetrators of DA, Choose2Change have secured NWP and PCC funding until March 2015. ▪ A 'Domestic Abuse Doesn't Discriminate' campaign is being proposed by WG to educate the public in relation to the various types of abuse and is to publicise directly to marginalised groups that they are not alone. 	Chair of the North Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Forum

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tender for the All Wales Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Helpline (to be renamed 'Live Fear Free' possibly) has been launched on the Sell2Wales website. 'Cat's Paw' theatre productions are being delivered across North Wales to raise awareness and educate young people (years 9 and 10) re sexual violence. 	
		Deal effectively first time with high risk cases of domestic abuse through successful MARAC intervention	Develop a framework for assessing the effectiveness of MARAC's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG have developed an all Wales draft MARAC action plan to link operational and strategic actions with national actions to improve the overall performance of MARACs. This Plan has been sent to all areas for comment and feedback is currently being collated by WG. 	Chair of the North Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Forum
			Develop regional approach to undertaking Domestic Homicide Reviews through the development of a regional toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gwynedd CSP have arranged a reflective practice session on 30th October 2014. Lee Robinson will be presenting a report on this matter at November 2014 SCB meeting. 	Chair of the North Wales Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Forum
2.	Acquisitive Crime	Identify locally emerging trends in relation to acquisitive crime and develop targeted and appropriate responses to those trends	Review and evaluate local IOM action plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Delivery Plan has been developed which follows on from the All Wales Reducing Re Offending Plan. We are currently undertaking a review again this plan to identify current strengths and areas for further development. Regional Tool Kit is in the final stages of Sign off from the IOM Cymru Board, a similar exercise will be undertaken as above to bench mark against this document. A scoping exercise is currently being undertaken to develop the WISDOM element of the IOM Scheme. This is being undertaken by NPS and North Wales Police. 	Chair of the North Wales IOM Board
		Jointly address those who cause the greatest harm in our communities			

3.	Anti-Social Behaviour	Support high risk and repeat victims of anti-social behaviour	Assess the effectiveness of our current ASB tasking processes to ensure we are supporting high risk and repeat victims of ASB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk Assessment process now fully embedded from Initial contact through to case disposal focussing on risk. ▪ ASB tasking is fully functional across the region with robust Partnership Management. ▪ Problem Solving database initiated which will be able to be shared across agencies <p>Region ASB Performance YTD</p> <p>Environmental -48.5% Nuisance - 0.2% Personal -24.9% Total -12.5%</p> <p>Repeat Callers continue to fall currently -14% (August 2014 compared to August 2013)</p> <p><u>Planned Activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formalise process to assess outcome against activity utilising Statistical Process Charts. ▪ Fully Implement and utilise new ASB legislation ▪ Develop as a Welsh region Hate Crime MARAC. 	Community Safety Superintendent
		Providing appropriate interventions to locally identified anti-social behaviour problems in our communities			

4.	Substance Misuse	Improving availability and quality of education, prevention and treatment services and related support, with the emphasis on the relationship between alcohol, drugs and crime.	Effective regional Commissioning Strategy to be developed and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An substantive APB support team model has been agreed and is being progressed by the commissioning manager- this ensures wide geographical coverage and clear division of work which should support partners ▪ New methods of communications are being established so that clear messages are provided with regard APB work and progress ▪ A project to enhance service user involvement is well underway ▪ Performance Management frameworks are being progressed ▪ A full Estates strategy is underway to ensure Capital monies can be directed effectively and based on clear need ▪ A programme to address reducing the demand of alcohol on Public services across the region is being set up 	Chair of APB Executive
5.	Governance and Administration	Effective terms of reference for the SCB	Review terms of reference to reflect the SCB's governance arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft terms of reference have been prepared, to be considered at November 2014 meeting. 	Chair of the SCB
		SCB priorities are evidenced and annually reviewed	Preparation of the Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Strategic Assessment for 2014 will be presented at the November 2014 meeting 	Chair of the SCB