



GUIDANCE BETWEEN THE DESIGNATED SCRUTINY BOARD AND THE SAFER ARUN PARTNERSHIP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to clarify and provide common understanding of how the scrutiny of crime and disorder in Arun should be carried out. Legislative regulations¹ and good working practices have influenced this guidance, which interested parties may revise by mutual agreement in order to continually improve the scrutiny process. The aim is to allow all parties to ensure that scrutiny of the Arun district Community Safety Partnership remains a positive process.

The legislation requires local authorities to have in place a Crime and Disorder Committee which is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the work of its local Community Safety Partnership, known in Arun as the Safer Arun Partnership. This provides a platform for holding the Safer Arun Partnership and its responsible authority members to account, whilst enhancing the role of local communities in reducing crime and disorder. In Arun, the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee has been designated the Crime and Disorder Committee for this purpose.

The responsible authorities required to participate in the Safer Arun Partnership include:-

- Sussex Police
- Arun District Council
- West Sussex County Council
- West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service
- National Health Service

2. Legislative provision

There are a number of key provisions set out within the regulations that guide the scrutiny of community safety partnerships. These are:-

- i) Every local authority is required to have in place a Crime and Disorder Committee with the power to review and scrutinise, and make reports and recommendations, regarding the work of its local community safety partnership.
- ii) Crime and Disorder Committees must meet at least once a year.
- iii) Responsible authorities must provide such information as required by the Crime and Disorder Committee within the timescales identified in the request.
- iv) Crime and Disorder Committee can request the attendance of a representative of a responsible authority in order to answer questions in relation to the discharge of

¹ The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 (S.I.2009/942) and the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/616).

its functions as part of the community safety partnership, on the provision of reasonable notice of the meeting date.

- v) Where any recommendations are made by the Crime and Disorder Committee, the identified responsible authorities must respond in writing within 28 days.
- vi) Crime and Disorder Committees can co-opt additional members to serve on the committee to add value and expertise to the committees work. Co-opted members can include any person except a member of the local authority's executive

3. The principles of community safety scrutiny

- a) The scrutiny of community safety partnerships is intended to be positive, objective, and constructive. It should acknowledge good practice and recommend improvements where it feels these would be of benefit. The scrutiny process should seek to add value to improve public services.
- b) When conducting scrutiny reviews, it should be acknowledged that the role of reducing crime and disorder is a shared responsibility of a number of statutory services and this collective response should be considered by the Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee.
- c) Both officers and members of the organisations involved in the Community Safety Partnership should, at all times during the scrutiny process, be treated with respect and courtesy as should representatives of community groups and members of the public.
- d) Key partner agencies must be willing to share data and intelligence relating to the delivery of community safety strategies and services, and to undertake any duties that are reasonably expected of them to enable effective scrutiny to be carried out.
- e) Crime and disorder scrutiny will be open and transparent.