

Strategy Boards & Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership Strategy Board	16/05/2022
Subject: Safer City Partnership Review	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services, City of London Corporation	For Decision
Author: Valeria Cadena, Community Safety Manager, City of London Corporation	
<div>Summary</div> <p>This report sets out proposed changes to the Safer City Partnership (SCP) and its Terms of Reference. The SCP acts as the Community Safety Partnership in the City of London. It follows a review undertaken in consultation with the Partnership’s Responsible Authorities to ensure that the SCP continues to fulfil the duties and functions set out in legislation.</p> <p>The City Corporation scrutiny arrangements for the SCP’s work are included in this report, setting out the role required of local authorities (through their elected members) to scrutinise Community Safety Partnerships in the local area.</p> <div>Recommendations</div> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the changes to SCP terms of reference• Endorse the future work with the Crime and Scrutiny Committee.	

Main Report

Background

1. In November 2021 the SCP supported the undertaking of a review of the partnership. The City Corporation presented an update to the City of London Common Council to propose that the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee resume activity from 2022. In order to have an operational board where the SCP's Responsible Authorities lead on the delivery of duties placed upon them, and be subject to the scrutiny of elected members for that delivery, the SCP has reviewed the way it works, and has set out its roles and responsibilities in the proposed new Terms of Reference (TOR) 2022.

2. Responsible Authorities form Community Safety Partnerships (previously referred to as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships). In the Square Mile this is known as the Safer City Partnership. The Responsible Authorities are defined in section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as:
 - a. Local authority – City of London Corporation
 - b. Police force – City of London Police
 - c. Police authority – City Police Authority
 - d. Fire and rescue authority – London Fire Brigade
 - e. NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – City and Hackney NHS CCG
 - f. Probation service – National Probation Service, London division.
3. The Responsible Authorities have a legal duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with due regard to the need to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in its area. This duty includes reducing reoffending and combatting substance misuse in the area.
4. Their roles and responsibilities are described in detail in Appendix 1.

Current Position

5. Currently there is no distinction between the SCP Responsible Authorities and the SCP Strategic Board. Furthermore, there are no current arrangements to report to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.
6. The TOR 2022 makes a clear distinction between the two groups and their collaborative work to distinguish between the 'responsible authorities' (statutory partners) and 'invitees' (non-statutory and additional members), in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and associated regulations.
7. The SCP, as described in the legislation, is a body responsible for strategies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. The SCP sets up the strategic direction of community safety in the locality, and appointed representatives need to be senior officers within their organisations, with the power of making decisions. However, at the present time we have a variety of representatives, including elected members.
8. The SCP currently reports on individual organisational activity rather than the partnership as a whole.

Crime and disorder Scrutiny

9. The powers to exercise scrutiny functions to Community Safety Partnerships (the SCP) were given to local authorities by sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 as amended by section 126 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. There have also been regulations passed under section 20 of the Police and Justice Act. These provisions give local

authorities a framework for developing an ongoing relationship between the SCP and scrutiny arrangements.

10. At heart, scrutiny is about accountability. Elected members have a unique place in local decision-making, providing a clear line of democratic accountability between decision-making and the people they serve. The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will enable them to bring their unique perspective to bear on how the SCP are tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and potentially benefit communities everywhere in the Square Mile.
11. The Government guidance on scrutiny¹ defines four fundamental roles that define good scrutiny and underpin scrutiny activity:
 - provides ‘critical friend’ challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers
 - enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard
 - is carried out by ‘independent-minded governors’ who lead and own the scrutiny process
 - drives improvement in public services.
12. From 2022 The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee will resume activity in order to carry out scrutiny as mentioned above to the SCP. The Town Clerk has proposed a 2022 TOR in Appendix 2.

Proposals

13. After consultation, the SCP Responsible Authorities have agreed that the SCP will work as an operational group that reports to, and is scrutinised by the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee. They have proposed an approach that sets out an agreed strategy to fulfil the duties placed on the partnership and utilise the collaborative powers and resources of partners to secure the operational delivery and be accountability for the strategy’s priorities and actions.
14. The main roles and responsibilities of the SCP Responsible Authorities as per the legislation will be to:
 - appoint the members of SCP Strategy Group. The SCP Strategy group and the Responsible authorities will work in collaboration to direct the work of the partnership
 - review the membership annually to ensure that members have the requisite skills and knowledge to exercise their functions
 - prepare an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment to identify Community Safety priorities
 - engage and consult with the community to understand their crime and disorder priorities

¹ Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – England, October 2009.

- prepare, publish, implement, and monitor the progress of a Partnership Community Safety Plan, including reducing reoffending and substance misuse
- govern the review of partnership expenditure
- have information-sharing protocols in place to support effective partnership work through data sharing across partners
- submit an annual report on the SCP Strategy and implementation to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

15. The SCP Strategy Board is to work in collaboration with the Responsible Authorities to prepare an annual partnership strategic assessment, produce a three-year strategy/partnership plan, (refreshed every year), laying out the approach for addressing the priorities highlighted in the assessment. They will also monitor the efficiency of the plan and record its implementation and delivery.

Strategic Implications

16. A three-year strategy will be produced by the SCP Strategic Board, based on the priorities highlighted in the annual strategic assessment. The implementation of the plan will be a collaboration of all members of the SCP Strategic Board.

Implications

17. The committees now represented in the SCP Strategy Board and others named in the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference would be able to nominate a representative to sit on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

18. The elected members who can participate in the SCP Strategy Board meetings will be community representatives appointed by the Community and Children's Committee, or by invitation of the SCP Responsible Authorities.

19. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the SCP Strategic Board will be senior officers of the Responsible Authorities, to be elected by the same group.

20. Only one SCP Strategic Board meeting a year will be a public meeting; all other quarterly meetings will be non-public.

21. The SCP Responsible Authorities and Chairperson will report to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

Conclusion

22. The review of the SCP aims to be in line with the legislation, to improve accountability, collaboration, community impact, good governance, scrutiny and transparency.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – SCP Term of Reference
- Appendix 2 – Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

Valeria Cadena

Community Safety Manager

T: 079 0987 6109

E: valeria.cadena@cityoflondon.gov.uk