

**Councillor Allison Gwynne**  
**Executive Member**  
**Neighbourhood Services**

**Emma Varnam**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Operations and Neighbourhoods**

**Chair of the Place and External  
Relations Scrutiny Panel**

**Councillor Mike Glover**

Dukinfield Town Hall  
King Street  
Dukinfield  
SK16 4LA

Email: [mike.glover@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:mike.glover@tameside.gov.uk)  
Phone: 0161 342 2199  
Ask for: Paul Radcliffe  
Date: 23 January 2019

Dear Cllr Gwynne and Ms Varnam,

### **Community Safety**

I write on behalf of the Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel. Members would like to thank Mr Gregory for attending the meeting of 8 January 2019, at which information was presented on local community safety arrangements.

The initial request for information was made to ensure the Scrutiny Panel is brought up to speed on recent developments; the Council's ability to deliver on statutory responsibilities; the wider partnership; and to gain greater understanding of emerging issues and priorities.

A past review was undertaken in 2017 to explore the 'Approach to Community Safety Partnership Working', with a report presented to Overview (Audit) Panel on 30 July 2018. I am aware of the subsequent organisational and political changes that have taken place since then, which also includes my appointment as Scrutiny Chair at the start of this municipal year.

I would like to thank Cllr Gwynne for the acceptance and support of a past recommendation to ensure activity of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is reported to the Scrutiny Panel on an annual basis. I must also add that panel members were pleased with Mr Gregory's approach to presenting this information and gained reassurances from his personal commitment and ambitions for the partnership.

In order to truly fulfil the 'critical friend' role in supporting the Executive to improve service delivery and outcomes, the work of scrutiny is categorised within two specific areas. These are:

- 'Check and Challenge' undertaken at the formal meetings
- In-depth reviews undertaken by a working group outside of the formal meetings

The 'Check and Challenge' activity is conducted as a decision of the panel, based on the information received, to determine whether a formal response letter is required to communicate positive messages and to raise any concerns with the Executive of the Council.

Having had time to reflect on points raised at the meeting of 8 January 2019, I would now like to share the views of the Panel with you. I do hope this is something which you will find useful and can be used to inform and support future decision making.

It was encouraging and positive to hear that:

- There is a commitment from the Council and partners to further develop and strengthen local community safety arrangements. Promoting the engagement of partners will remain a priority in order for the CSP to effectively provide direction for interventions.
- It was agreed at a recent CSP meeting that Tameside's strategic priorities are to include:
  - Reducing violent crime and domestic abuse
  - Preventing and dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB)
  - Reducing harm caused by drugs and alcohol
  - Preventing the exploitation of children and vulnerable people
  - Improving community confidence and cohesion
- The partnership is to place significant attention to issues that include extremism and the recent emergence of violent crime.
- Greater Manchester Police are soon to introduce a new online reporting system. Panel members recognise a need to raise awareness of this tool and the way it will complement existing contact methods such as calls to '999' and '101'.

I would like to raise your attention to a number of discussion points, which the Panel have deemed appropriate for future monitoring. I have listed the points below.

- There is currently no elected member representation on the CSP. Having made the positive decision to expand membership past the minimum statutory requirement, the Scrutiny Panel would like the partnership to consider benefits to appoint a councillor representative at meetings and/or sub-groups.
- The Panel noted and raised concerns that there is currently no strategy in place for community safety. It was further noted that immediate plans are in place to address this in the short-term. Members commented on the need to deliver a long-term strategy from 2020 onwards and to ensure engagement and consultation requirements are met.
- That the Scrutiny Panel be considered as a formal consultee to support predevelopment stages to the creation of a long-term Community Safety Strategy from 2020 onwards.
- Questions were raised on the partnerships ambitions and ability to increase the engagement that takes place with residents and communities. It was acknowledged that this had reduced over recent years and improvements are required.
- As part of the approach to build greater sustainability and resilience within Tameside communities, the Panel supports a need to reduce the current levels of service reliance. Members are conscious of the resident perception and acceptance of such an approach in asking residents to help themselves and others, and that this will need to be planned and delivered effectively.
- That attention is focused on how to address some of the most challenging behaviour and statistical outliers. An example being the prevalence of alcohol misuse and related harm. The separation of a combined drug and alcohol service to accommodate this

appears appropriate and the Panel wish to be kept informed of the impact on community safety outcomes.

This hopefully provides you with insight to the views of the Scrutiny Panel to support the work of the service and wider partnership. I do not consider this letter to require a formal response but would like to request that information is routinely shared with panel members on the following areas:

- Community safety initiatives
- The consultation and implementation of a short-term Community Safety Strategy
- Methods sought to engage communities and improve local intelligence

If any further clarity is needed on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Mike Glover**  
**Chair – Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel**