

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 28
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Monitoring Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Older People and Community Safety		
Date of Meeting:	8 November 2010		
Report of:	Director of Environment		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This report enables the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor and track progress on the scrutiny recommendations on Older People and Community Safety made to the Executive. The recommendations and update appears as appendix 1 to this report.

1.2 The report will help the Committee to assess the impact and consequences of the scrutiny recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That Members consider the action taken against these recommendations, and provide feedback.
- (2) That the Committee determines whether a further tracking report relating to this scrutiny review is required.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Scrutiny Review

A cross-party working group of Members of the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) comprising Councillors Warren Morgan, Tony Janio and Ian Davey, considered priority issues for scrutiny in October 2008. The group identified the importance of fear of crime

to older people in the City and improved information for older people; as a key issue. This had recently been raised at a Community Safety Forum meeting by the Director of Age Concern.

3.2 Environment and Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee (ECSOSC) subsequently agreed to establish a scrutiny panel on older people and community safety with a remit to investigate:

- To what extent are the views of older people known, regarding community safety?
- Do older people have specific concerns about safety in the community?
- How can older people be helped to feel safer in the community?

3.3 Councillors Mo Marsh (Chairman), Amy Kennedy, David Smart, David Watkins with co-optee from the Older People's Council, John Eyles, served on the Panel.

3.4 The Panel's completed report was endorsed by the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 September 2009 and referred to the Council's Executive.

3.5 Cabinet considered the report on 9 December 2009 and agreed the actions as detailed in the implementation plan. The Scrutiny report and cabinet response were reported to full Council on 28 January 2010

3.6 **Monitoring Scrutiny Reviews**

The usual arrangements for monitoring the outcome of scrutiny recommendations are:

- a) The decision-makers to whom the recommendations are addressed, are asked to submit a formal response to the recommendations normally within two months, including an action plan and timetable for implementation with named contact officers to action the recommendations.
- b) The report of the scrutiny review and response from the decision-makers are then reported together to full Council for information.
- c) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee normally receives a report of progress against the agreed recommendations, six months after being reported to Council.
- d) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee/ will at that stage determine if any further monitoring is required; whether a progress report is required after a further six months or one year. Otherwise the Committee may resolve that no more monitoring is necessary.

3.2 A summary of the Scrutiny Recommendations and progress in implementation appears at Appendix 1 to this report.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Four of the scrutiny panel meetings were advertised as public meetings and provided opportunities for residents of the city to share their views and experiences. Their information was taken into account as evidence. At an early stage the panel invited a range of organisations, including the Older People's Council to give evidence and to respond to questions from panel members. Community Safety Forum meetings provided further opportunities for consultation.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The overall approach is to deliver the recommendations within existing resources. However, the implementation plan (appended) is the mechanism through which any necessary additional resources are identified. Should that be the case, the timescales of implementation will be set accordingly and a commentary included in any future progress reports.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gives the police and local authority an equal duty to reduce crime and disorder and fear of crime and improve community safety. Requirements are also placed upon partners within the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership by this and subsequent legislation and guidance. The scrutiny process and the recommendations further the delivery of these legal provisions.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The implementation of the recommendations will improve the lives of those who are vulnerable either because of older age, disability or ill health. The effect of policies and practices on older people are to be included within the impact assessments for some service areas, including community safety.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Implementation of the recommendations to address the findings of scrutiny will greatly assist in the overall delivery of the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008 -2011 in which a number of sustainability objectives are identified.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The overall purpose of the scrutiny process which is the subject of these reports was to reduce fear of crime, increase understanding of effective action taken by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and to increase the safety of older people.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The recommendations are designed in some cases, to reduce actual risks that may be experienced by older people as well as to re-assure them that are in fact, safer than they perceive. However, reducing fear of crime is in itself of benefit to the welfare of older people and therefore results in risk reduction.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The recommendations will bring benefits for all of those in the city who are over 50 years of age.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Older People and Community Safety and progress against the recommendations.

Documents In Members' Rooms/ Background Documents

None.