

North Yorkshire County Council**15 February 2012****Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee****Chairman's Statement****Community Safety**

- 1 Our Committee meeting last month focussed on community safety arrangements in the county.
- 2 We discussed the work of Referral Panels and reparation projects in North Yorkshire. These arrangements are concerned with preventing young people aged 10-17 years from re-offending after they have pleaded guilty to their first-time offence. In essence the panel takes the lead in drawing up a contract with the offender to make them become aware of, and take responsibility for, the consequences of their actions. We were pleased to hear that victims can participate in the process by attending the panel or having their views represented. We were also heartened to hear about the central role that volunteers play in the process to help prevent young people from getting into more serious trouble. Volunteers are both panel members and trained supervisors overseeing the reparation projects.
- 3 The annual update of the York & North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum provided us with the opportunity to examine how the priority areas in the Community Safety Agreement were being addressed, and future challenges for community safety partnership working. The Forum has undertaken two pieces of work recently looking at the internal arrangements of the Forum and the sustainability of community safety partnership working across the Force area. Both were driven by across the board reductions in grant funding from 2011/12 and the possibility of no funding being available from 2013/14 due to the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner arrangements. The outcomes of the reviews were:
 - o a reduction in the number of Forum meetings but with more targeted agendas;
 - o closer working with the district-based Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), in particular with the CSP Chairs, to allow the CSPs to be more effective in fulfilling their role as the local delivery groups for the Forum; and
 - o agreement to take on the statutory duty to conduct domestic violence homicide reviews, on behalf of the CSPs in the county.
- 4 Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) exist in North Yorkshire, as elsewhere in the country, to ensure that relevant agencies combine effectively to take all reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of serious harm to the public from sexual, violent and other potentially dangerous offenders such as terrorists. The Committee was provided

with an overview from the Probation Trust of how these arrangements work in North Yorkshire. In March 2002 (after the first year of the MAPPA arrangements were introduced) there were 414 MAPPA eligible offenders in North Yorkshire and York of which 212 were registered sex offenders. By March 2011 this had increased to 579 MAPPA eligible offenders of which 456 were registered sex offenders. The overall increase, however, is largely down to the cumulative total of sex offenders registered with the Police. Clearly the formalised information sharing that the MAPPA arrangements provide is invaluable for our safety.

Libraries

- 5 Overview and scrutiny of the library service has now transferred to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Our focus in the short to medium term will be to monitor the development and progress towards self-sufficiency of the community-led libraries; the Home Library & Information Service; and the Supermobile. An initial progress report on the re-organisation of libraries overall will be presented to the Committee in March.

One Council

- 6 The pace of the One Council programme is now gearing up, with the detailed Implementation Plans due to be finalised by the end of this month and the overall programme plan to be approved in March. Our Task Group will be meeting on 8th February and 5th March to monitor progress and provide challenge where necessary.

County Councillor Liz Casling Chairman

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall
Northallerton
3 February 2012
Background Documents: Nil