

POLICE AND FIRE REFORM

A Collaborative Statement of Good Scrutiny & Engagement

SUMMARY VERSION 1.0 – 6 February 2013



INTRODUCTION

This is a summary of the [full Collaborative Statement](#) published on 17 January as part of the Safer Communities Programme. It is non-statutory guidance for those involved in implementing the [Police & Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012](#). It aims to complement separate guidance on [Single Outcome Agreements](#) and [Best Value](#).

FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

These principles are based on good practice and promote the 'four pillars' of public service reform¹. Following them will promote the broader conditions in which scrutiny and engagement can flourish and help deliver a key aim of reform – to strengthen the connection between the services and the communities they serve.

Principle 1 Focus on outcomes	Principle 2 Understand local conditions and reflect the community voice	Principle 3 Promote joint working to secure better outcomes and Best Value	Principle 4 Provide strategic leadership in order to influence service delivery	Principle 5 Support continuous improvement by providing constructive challenge
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There is a natural, circular flow through the principles and community engagement provides the golden thread connecting them all.

GOOD SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT PRACTICE

Principle 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint priority setting Focus on early intervention and prevention Local plans part of holistic community safety approach Local plans linked to SOA 	Principle 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on people and place Evidence drawn from range of sources Impact of engagement measured & reported on 	Principle 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined CPP landscape Joint tasking & problem solving Local service integration Peer learning Shared use of total resources Joint working on prevention 	Principle 4 Scrutineers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have impartial support/advice do proactive reviews promote prevention promote Best Value encourage collaboration 	Principle 5 Scrutineers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> look for innovative ways to scrutinise use data to drive progress are aware of performance in other areas have training to fulfil their role
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¹ In response to the Christie Commission's recommendations, the Government's public service reform agenda will be built on four pillars: (i) a decisive shift towards prevention; (ii) a greater focus on 'place' to drive better partnership, collaboration and local delivery; (iii) investing in people who deliver services through enhanced workforce development and effective leadership; and (iv) a more transparent public service culture which improves standards of performance.

CHECKLIST QUESTIONS FOR SCRUTINEERS

These checklist questions are designed to help scrutineers in their scrutiny role.

Principle 1: Focus on outcomes		
Questions for scrutineers	Yes/No	Actions/Notes
Are the services focused on short, medium and long term outcomes for diverse communities?		
Do the services use robust evidence to drive local priority setting?		
Do local plans prioritise early intervention and prevention?		
Do you and the services have a clear vision of what legacy you want to leave in your area?		
Principle 2: Understand local conditions and reflect the community voice		
Questions for scrutineers	Yes/No	Actions/Notes
Do the services use an evidence-based approach, underpinned by disaggregated data, to drive improvement in meeting the differing needs of local populations?		
Do the priorities, outcomes and commitments in local plans reflect partners' shared understanding of the needs of the people and places I represent?		
Is it clear how the local plan has been influenced by multimember ward-level community engagement?		
Do the services build the capacity of communities to deliver for themselves in a coordinated fashion?		
Principle 3: Promote joint working to secure better outcomes and best value		
Questions for scrutineers	Yes/No	Actions/Notes
Do partners involved in delivering local plans focus on 'place' as a way of driving better partnership?		
Do I encourage partnership working to generate added value from collective skills, knowledge and resources?		
Is the use of joint tasking and problem solving routine in my area?		
Are opportunities to integrate services at a local level exploited where this supports the delivery of better outcomes and best value?		
Am I building effective relationships and networks with the services and other stakeholders, locally and nationally, to promote peer learning and collaboration?		
Principle 4: Provide strategic leadership in order to influence service delivery		
Questions for scrutineers	Yes/No	Actions/Notes
Am I able to access independent expert support and advice to help me fulfil my scrutiny role?		
Am I involved in establishing what communities need, allowing me to establish priorities?		
Do I regularly make recommendations for service delivery improvements when scrutinising the delivery of local plans?		
Have the service delivery changes I have influenced led to improved outcomes for the people I represent?		
Principle 5: Support continuous improvement by providing constructive challenge		
Questions for scrutineers	Yes/No	Actions/Notes
Do the services report on performance in a way that is clear, concise, balanced and presented in a way that allows me to judge how well they are doing?		
Do I interrogate performance reports and ensure that they highlight areas for development (as well as successes)?		
Do I make recommendations for how to improve performance locally, building on good practice from across Scotland?		