

**Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 12 January 2021**

**Written question from Simon Avery of Seaview:**

“The CSP report is missing a key element that needs to be urgently addressed in order to give all young people the best possible chance to thrive in a safe environment. It does not list academy trusts, schools or colleges as statutory partners, supporting partners or action groups in doing so it appears to overlook the role that schools play in potentially reducing crime and antisocial behaviour by:

1. Limiting the practice of exclusions
2. Earlier identification of SEN

There’s a direct relationship between school exclusions and rising youth knife crime. ADHD and ASD are also acknowledged risk factors for criminal behaviour. Last year we saw two major knife incidents in Ryde and Cowes with children as young as 14 involved.

Given the evidence and significant impact on community safety, what measures could be implemented so the CSP incorporates a stratagem to reduce school exclusions and facilitate the earlier diagnosis of SEN?”

**Response**

*The CSP is made up of statutory partners as mentioned in the assessment, schools do not form part of that statutory arrangement, however they are linked in with a number of work streams and, as quite rightly stated within the question, do play a role in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.*

*With this in mind the partnership have increased its working relationship with schools over the last 2 years and involve them in aspects of work where possible. For example, through the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funded interventions where two education establishments are able to refer young people into tailored interventions. More recently local schools have had the opportunity for external education intervention around knife crime and exploitation, which has been positively received by young people, teachers and parents. These are just are just two examples.*

*It is important to note that although there is a link between school exclusions and a likely increase in ‘risk taking behaviour’ or involvement in the criminal justice system, knife possession or knife crime is not an overriding result of an exclusion. It is often due to a number of external factors and/or adverse childhood experiences that can lead to an individual or young person being involved in this type of activity.*

*The Safeguarding Childrens Partnership run an education subgroup, chaired by the schools improvement manager, who regularly review attendance and exclusion data. The attendance and exclusion data also forms part of the Performance and Quality Assurance Group (PQA). The link has been made between community safety and the aforementioned group and SEN Team.*