

Sarwar's safer south

GOVAN MP Mohammad Sarwar is busy working to make the southside a safer place for the local population.

Mr Sarwar has coordinated a series of meetings recently to reassure the public that Pollokshields and its surrounding areas remain as free from the scourge of crime as possible.

In the latest brainstorming session, Sarwar revealed plans to introduce CCTV cameras in the southside on a permanent basis, starting with the presence of a mobile CCTV van.

He said: "Following the arrest of suspects for the tragic death of teenager Kriss Donald, we have worked with Pollokshields Crime Prevention Panel and the police to focus on preventing crime in the area.

"Glasgow's new CCTV camera is the first of what we hope will be several such vehicles across the city that can deter crime and reassure the public in areas such as Pollokshields with no CCTV coverage at present."

A mobile CCTV van was stationed on Maxwell Drive during a meeting last month between politicians, police and the public at St Albert's Primary School.

As a result, a working group has been established to develop a long-term CCTV scheme in Pollokshields — in the meantime the mobile van will be deployed to continue to reassure the public.



Mohammad Sarwar



Glitzy launch of charity

by Laura Coventry

ROSHNI, a new charitable organisation established to help black and ethnic minority children and young people who are victims of abuse, was recently launched at a glitzy evening ceremony in Glasgow.

Glasgow's deputy Lord Provost Christine Devine, South Lanarkshire Provost

Mushtaq Ahmad and other VIPs gathered for a fundraising dinner at the Hilton Hotel to mark the event.

Roshni (meaning 'light' in Urdu) was established by members of the black and ethnic minority community and is the only organisation set up to specifically meet their needs and provide those in need with 'light'.

The charity's director, Ali Khan, manages the organisation, which as well as helping victims of abuse, also introduces them to other support agencies including

Children 1st, NSPCC and Childline Scotland.

Mr Khan explained: "Our main goal is to create awareness to ethnic minority groups about what constitutes abuse and introduce them to services they require and agencies sensitive to cultural and religious issues.

"One issue is about culture, another is issues inside a family. Sometimes accessing information outside a family is difficult, but we can help and offer advice.

"We encourage young people to talk openly about issues affecting them and also advise elders about

what is abuse in the eyes of the law.

"We are there to compliment other support agencies and work in partnership with them."

Already, Roshni has received a funding package of £50,000, which will be distributed over three years.

The charity is keen to recruit more volunteers and attract more financial support to continue training of counselors and maintain the organisation. If you wish to get involved or donate money, drop into Roshni's offices on Albert Road in Govanhill, call Nazia Ali on 0141-433 4344 or visit the website at www.roshni.org.uk.