



**Renfrewshire
Council**

**To: HOUSTON, CROSSLEE, LINWOOD, RIVERSIDE AND ERSKINE
LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

On: 24 FEBRUARY 2015

Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Heading: COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION,
PROGRESS UPDATE**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a progress update on some of the activities the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership have carried out in the Houston, Crosslee and Riverside area in quarter 3 (1 October – 31 December 2014). Statistical information has been provided by a number of community planning partners including Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service as well as Community Resources (Community Safety and Wardens Service). The report provides general information on the work of the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership and includes a spotlight focus on a particular area of public protection activity related to tackling Gender Based Violence.
- 1.2 Overall, during quarter 3 levels of recorded crime decreased within the Houston, Crosslee and Riverside area when compared with the same period in the last year.
- 1.3 Youth disorder has increased and this has subsequently increased the number of youth cases that the Community Safety Youth Team is currently managing.
- 1.4 The number of fires recorded remained at a similar low level and is significant achievement during the driest recorded winter ever.

1.5 Street Stuff continues to deliver with total attendance within the LAC area of 1099 participants.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Local Area Committee note the content of this progress update report.

3. Background

3.1 The Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership brings together key resources to tackle and address issues to sustain and maintain safer and stronger communities. The Partnership consists of Renfrewshire Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SF&RS) and other community safety agencies.

3.2 Our Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership long-term vision is that: 'Renfrewshire is known as a safe and tolerant place where residents and visitors enjoy a high level of personal safety and public protection and are free from crime. A culture of fairness, respect and equality exists and vulnerable children and adults are well looked after and protected'

4. Key Areas of Progress

4.1 During this quarter, antisocial behaviour (ASB) decreased Renfrewshire wide from the corresponding period in 2013. However, there are hotspot areas where a higher number of crime and ASB incidents are reported. The Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership has continued to target resources into these hotspots:

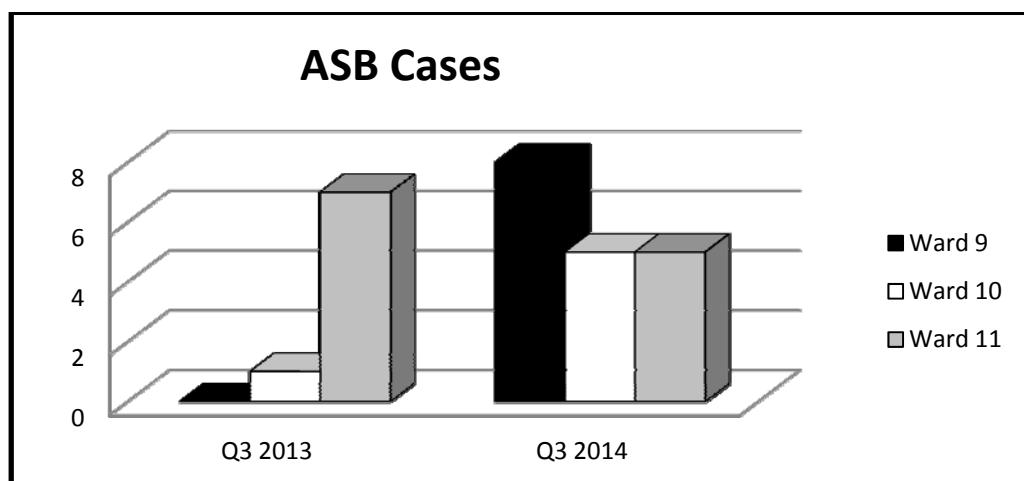
- Within Ward 9, reported incidents of ASB reduced by 15% in comparison to the corresponding quarter of 2013/14. Public Nuisance calls were most prevalent.
- Within Ward 10, reported incidents of ASB increased notably (up 45%, from 66 to 96). As with the previous reporting quarter of this year, this increase continues to remain entirely attributable to an ongoing situation involving several partner agencies, and which accounted for exactly half of all calls within this Ward during the most recent quarter.

- There has been an increase of around 11% in reported ASB incidents within Ward 11 during the most recent quarter. As with Q2 of 2014/15, the highest tariff area remains Park Mains, where the majority of calls related to Public Nuisance, with peaks days/times identified as Fridays and Saturdays between 7pm and midnight.

4.2 During this quarter, increases were noted in Drug Crime and Vandalism within both Wards 9 and 11. Slight increases in drug crime remain consistent with both the wider Renfrewshire and National picture, whilst it was also noted that the increases in vandalism within Wards 9 and 11 were very small (both Ward areas increasing by 3 incidents during the reporting period).

Crime Type	Q3 2013/14			Q3 2014/15			Change		
	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11
Serious Violent Crime	5	1	3	4	-	1	↓	↓	↓
Minor Assault	20	7	9	13	5	5	↓	↓	↓
Drug Crime	5	4	6	13	1	10	↑	↓	↑
Disorder and ASB	175	66	105	148	96	117	↓	↑	↑
Vandalism	14	8	14	17	8	17	↑	↔	↑

4.3 During October to December 2014, the number of ASB cases referred to ASIST & the Youth Team increased significantly in Ward 9 & 10. There is no obvious reason for this rise as ASB overall is decreasing Renfrewshire wide. So the increased ASB in this LAC area appears to be due to more reporting by residents rather than more ASB.



4.4 In the same quarter, 16% of all complaints to Community Resources (Community Safety) were related to Dog Fouling which continued to be the

most common complaint. Our response to these complaints was 637 community safety patrols and the following actions:

Dog Issues dealt with by actions	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11
Dog Warden Visit/ Patrol	2	0	2
Dog fouling sign erected	4	7	1
Dog returned to owners	2	3	1
Animal Education	1	0	0
Dog taken to SSPCA	0	0	1
Visit re out of control dog	3	4	16
Warning letter issued	1	0	1
Monitoring visit (DCN)	3	1	3

4.5 The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service recorded no change in the number of fires in this LAC area, during the period from October to December 2014. There was only 3 fires in each category - Fires involving domestic property, Secondary fires and Deliberate fire setting. This was a significant achievement because we had the driest recorded winter ever which automatically increases the likelihood of more fires.

4.6 The SF&RS has implemented bonfire resilience arrangements in partnership with Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland to help prevent and reduce the number of unauthorised bonfire sites in Renfrewshire. Joint working arrangements were implemented over the bonfire season to reduce the risk to fire crews and fire related anti social behaviour. These arrangements included:

- Sharing community intelligence reports regarding neighbourhood hotspots, problem premises and fly tipping locations across Community Policing Teams, Neighbourhood Management Teams, Community Wardens and Public Space CCTV centres as part of local Tasking Coordinating & Action Planning arrangements.
- Distributing leaflets and letters to high activity areas. Housing Services also issued letters to target areas with increased bin fires.
- Undertaking safety talks along with Police Scotland and local wardens in Renfrewshire schools. In total 24 secondary schools and all S1 pupils across Renfrewshire were covered.
- Issuing press releases to all local media, including free papers and third sector bulletins highlighting the need for vigilance and safety.
- Targeting local fire setters in partnership with ASIST though the Young

Fire-Setters intervention project.

- Introducing a newly created SF&RS Liaison Officer post to improve communication with partners within Local Authority areas at community safety meetings including MATAC (multi agency tasking and coordination) and Hub meetings.

4.7 While the weather was very mild and dry throughout Renfrewshire for a period of around 2 weeks leading up to Bonfire Night - which would normally have led to increased incidents – the days themselves, Tuesday 4th - Thursday 6th November, and for a few days from the weekend before, the weather changed to strong winds and much wetter conditions. There was no significant fire incident recorded during the Bonfire Night period.

4.8 The Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership's main diversionary project is Street Stuff. This project has now been operating across Renfrewshire for the last 6 years and continues to contribute significantly towards reductions in youth disorder and antisocial behaviour.

The table below shows Street Stuff activity and attendance in the Houston, Crosslee and Riverside LAC area from October to December 2014:

Venue	Sessions	Attendance	
		Football	Box
Bargarran	70	679	394
Inchinnan PS	7	26	
Total	77	705	394
Total Attendance		1099	

4.9 The table below shows the calls to Police Scotland relating to vandalism & youth disorder.

Vandalism & Youth Disorder			
Ward	Q3 2013/14	Q3 2014/15	% Change
9	17	26	53%↑
10	10	10	↔
11	14	21	50%↑

Increases were noted in incidents of Vandalism and Youth Disorder (VYD) within both Wards 9 and 11, whilst overall numbers remained static within Ward 10. Within Ward 9, the increases were attributed to an increase in youth disorder specifically in the area of Napier Street, Johnstone (entrance to Morrison's Supermarket), whilst the increase already highlighted in overall ASB and Disorder for the Park Mains area of Erskine has been reflected in increased VYD within this area also. Most of the perpetrators have been

identified, these youths will now be monitored by the Community Safety Youth Team until they are not involved in any ASB incidents for 3 months.

- 4.10 The Street Stuff timetable attached as Appendix 1 shows the locations and dates of activities that are being held during January to March 2015 across Renfrewshire.
- 4.11 During October 2015, as a warm-up for the traditional Street Stuff Friday night session at St Mirren's indoor dome, young players received an instructional talk on the dangers of misusing fireworks. The talk was delivered by Police Scotland, SF&RS and Renfrewshire Council. The young footballers were also joined for the session by players from St Mirren's Junior Academy.
- 4.12 In December, Street Stuff won 2 awards at the 2014 Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Police Divisional Recognition Awards. Stephen Gallacher, Street Stuff Manager won the 'Partnership' category and Morgan Friel, a sessional worker and volunteer, won the 'Young Person' category. Both won their awards for making a real contribution to 'keeping people safe' in their local area.
- 4.13 During the Christmas holidays, Street Stuff hosted a festive football programme for girls and boys aged 10-18 at the St Mirren's indoor dome. There were 9 sessions of football in the evenings from 23rd December to 3rd January which were attended by over 400 young people.

5. General Activities

- 5.1 The Your Home, Your Street, Our Community event was held at Paisley Town Hall on 27 October. This 1-day event was designed by Community Resources to showcase services whose aim is to make the area "safer, stronger and greener". 700 residents attended and were able to walk through a series of home, garden and street model exhibits, receiving expert information and advice on their journey. Advisers included Renfrewshire Council, Police Scotland, SF&RS and other Community Safety agencies.
- 5.2 Workshops were also attended by local school children to explore various issues around staying safe such as 'Alcohol & Drugs' and 'No Knives Better Lives'. The University of West of Scotland filmed the event to create a promotional video which will be used for public information and to promote future events. An evaluation of the event is being collated and a report will be prepared detailing findings, however initial responses were extremely positive. Once the evaluation is completed, it is anticipated that this event will be rolled out to other Town Halls and community facilities at a local level.

5.3 In November 2014, Renfrewshire Wardens Service undertook a 2 day Vehicle Emissions patrol in Paisley town centre in partnership with Police Scotland. Police Officers were responsible for pulling over the vehicles from traffic. The wardens checked whether vehicle emissions were within the legal requirements. 332 vehicles were tested including 17 taxis / private-hire vehicles, only 5 failed and were issued with £60 fixed-penalty notices. The police also immediately impounded a vehicle with no insurance, and another car was identified with no valid MOT.

5.4 During October to December extra Renfrewshire Wardens patrols were in operation at a number of key events including Paisley Halloween Festival, Bonfire Night and Christmas Lights Switch On events in Paisley, Johnstone, Renfrew and Linwood. Paisley Lights Switch On was especially busy with 32,000 people in attendance. Here wardens provided a community safety role that included a lost children area. Wardens also identified several unofficial bonfires which were removed by StreetScene services before the 5th November. On Bonfire Night itself, wardens with bodycams were based at fire stations to provide back up to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service when on call outs.

5.5 In December, the Festive Safety Campaign in Paisley town centre was implemented – this included:

- Additional patrols by police officers;
- An increased focus on the town centre by the Renfrewshire Wardens. The wardens also carried out their normal duties including operating CCTV vans, and issuing fixed penalty notices;
- The reintroduction of Taxi Marshals on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay at the County Square rank;
- A safe bus accompanied by a paramedic vehicle, which was at New Street on 12, 13, 19 & 20 of December from 8pm until 4am. A police officer, warden and paramedics were available at the bus for anyone who was injured, felt threatened or needed safety advice. People under the influence of alcohol regularly attended the safe bus. In general, they were well-behaved and accepted health & safety advice (i.e. drank available bottled water, recharged their mobiles allowing them to phone taxies, etc). An evaluation of safe bus is currently being produced but early indications are that this is a successful initiative that should continue.

- Street Pastors were also available to help, including directing people to the safe bus.

5.6 In December 2014, the Community Safety and Wardens Services improved their operating hours to allow them to better tackle antisocial behaviour when complaints are most prevalent. Renfrewshire Wardens now operate:

New hours of work	Monday – Thursday	Friday & Saturday	Sunday
Summer	8am - 11pm	8am - 12midnight	12am – 11pm
Winter	8am - 10pm	8am - 12midnight	11am – 10pm

- The 'Out of Hours' Noise Enforcement service has also been extended on Friday & Saturday nights from 2am to 4am.
- Youth Officers have changed their working pattern to allow them to work evenings to directly support the Wardens Service and the Street Stuff programme. This allows them to work when youth disorder complaints are at their peak.

5.7 More details on these extended services can be viewed in the Housing & Community Safety Policy Board Report, considered on 20 January 2015.

6. **Public Protection Spotlight – Gender Based Violence**

6.1 Public Protection covers issues such as Hate Crime, Gender Based Violence, Adult Protection, Child Protection and the Management of Violent and Sexual Offenders. In this report we will highlight a different area of Public Protection every quarter. In this edition, we will focus on the issue of Gender Based Violence (GBV). The term 'gender based violence' was first defined by the United Nations in 1993. This international agreed definition is still used today and centres on violence that targets individuals or groups on the basis of their gender.

6.2 This is mainly violent acts carried out by men, where women and children are victims. Violence against women encompasses but is not limited to physical, sexual and psychological violence including: domestic abuse; rape; sexual assault; childhood sexual abuse; stalking; sexual harassment and intimidation; commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution, trafficking and pornography; dowry related violence; female genital mutilation; forced and child marriages; and 'honour' crimes. Violence against women has its roots in gender inequality. However, this does not mean that all acts against

a woman are gender based violence, or that all victims of gender based violence are female.

6.3 Renfrewshire's Gender Based Violence Strategy Group is an inter-agency strategic partnership responsible for the overview of gender based violence. The group plan to achieve a 15% reduction in the number of reported incidents of domestic abuse. In 2014, the GBV Strategy Group focused on several key actions:

- Creating a gender based Violence Network Forum to develop specific areas of work;
- Investigating opportunities to expand educational programmes within schools and communities;
- Developing a programme which encourages people to challenge attitudes and inappropriate behaviours (bystander approach)
- Expanding the sensitive enquiry approach and providing appropriate support and training to staff who work with children and young people.

6.4 In 2013, 2276 residents in Renfrewshire were reported victims of domestic violence, a 44% increase from 10 years ago when 695 residents reported an incident of domestic violence. Reporting of domestic violence has been trending upwards in recent years which corresponds to the national trend. This is most likely due to more reporting rather than an increase of domestic violence. Anti domestic violence media campaigns and reporting strategies have been giving victims of violence the confidence to report and providing mechanisms for third parties to also report incidences of violence.

6.5 Responding to incidents of domestic abuse involves a number of multi agency partners including the police, social work, ASSIST (Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information, Services Together) and the Children's Reporter (SCRA). Following an incident of domestic abuse to which the police have responded, onward referrals are routinely made to social work in respect of child care concerns and to ASSIST in respect of concerns for the victim's well being. 2849 referrals of domestic abuse with a child in the household were received by Social Work during 2013/14. Police Scotland make up approx 82% of referrals at present. The Social Work Department will make inquiries into these referrals and if necessary investigate concerns received. There are a range of interventions available to support women and children who are subject to gender based violence. These include Renfrewshire Women and Children First and Renfrewshire Reconnection (Renfrewshire Council), Renfrewshire Rising, Renfrewshire Women's Aid, ASSIST and Barnardos.

6.6 16 Days of Action is an international campaign started by the United Nations to draw attention to violence against women (1 in 3 women worldwide will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner, ex partner or stranger). Renfrewshire Council worked with local and national community and volunteer groups to create a variety of events for our version of 16 Days of Action. Renfrewshire's campaign began on 25 November with The Reclaim the Night procession to signal an end to violence against women. Hundreds of residents attended the procession which started at West College Scotland at 6pm. It progressed through the streets of Paisley to finish at the Town Hall.

6.7 Other 16 Days of Action events included, Renfrewshire Women's Aid Open Day, Black & Ethnic Minority Women Workshop and Beechwood Women and Arts Group Coffee Morning. The 16 day campaign ended with a men's march, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. Here, men walked a mile in red high heels to raise awareness to stop rape, sexual assault and gender based violence.

Implications of this Report

- 1. Financial** – none.
- 2. HR & Organisational Development** – none.
- 3. Community Plan/Council Plan**

Safer and Stronger – Community Safety Services activities and outcomes contribute to making Renfrewshire a Safer and Cleaner place to live.

Greener – Community Safety Services contribute toward improving the air quality of Renfrewshire through vehicle Idling initiative.
- 4. Legal** – none.
- 5. Property/Assets** – none.
- 6. Information Technology** – none.
- 7. Equality & Human Rights** – The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.

8. Health And Safety – none.

9. Procurement – none.

10. Risk – none.

11. Privacy Impact – none.

List of Background Papers

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STREET STUFF

Timetable 19th Jan 2015 to 31 Mar 2015

	Renfrew & Gallowhill	HCRL	Paisley South	Paisley North	Johnstone & the Villages
Monday 6.30pm 9.30pm				<u>Beechwood Community Centre</u> <u>The Box</u> <u>Mossvale PS</u> <u>Indoor Football</u>	<u>Thom PS – Indoor Football</u>
Tuesday 6.30pm 9.30pm	<u>Gallowhill Community Centre</u> <u>The Box + Football</u> <u>St Catherine's PS</u> <u>Indoor Football</u>		<u>St Peter's PS</u> <u>Indoor Football + Dance</u>		<u>McMaster Centre - The Box</u> <u>West Johnstone Campus – Indoor Football</u>
Wednesday 6.30pm 9.30pm		<u>Our Lady of Peace</u> <u>Indoor Football + Dance</u>		<u>Williamsburgh PS</u> <u>Indoor Football</u>	
Thursday 6.30pm 9.30pm				<u>Beechwood Community Centre</u> <u>The Box</u> <u>Mossvale PS</u> <u>Indoor Football</u>	<u>McMaster Centre - The Box</u> <u>West Johnstone Campus – Indoor Football</u>
Friday 6.30pm 9.30pm	<u>Gallowhill Community Centre</u> <u>The Box + Football</u> <u>St Catherine's PS</u> <u>Indoor Football</u>	<u>Bargarran PS – Indoor Football</u> <u>Bargarran PS - The Box</u>	<u>St Peter's PS</u> <u>Indoor Football + Dance</u>	<u>St Fergus PS – Indoor Football</u>	
Saturday 5.30pm 8.30pm	<u>Gallowhill Community Centre</u> <u>The Box</u> <u>St Catherine's PS</u> <u>Indoor Football</u>	<u>Bargarran PS – Indoor Football</u> <u>Bargarran PS - The Box</u>		<u>St Fergus PS – Indoor Football</u>	<u>Thom PS – Indoor Football</u>

Safer and stronger Renfrewshire

