

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 15 December 2015	14:00	CMR 3, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Head of Corporate Governance

### Membership

Councillors Williams and Perrie (Renfrewshire Council); S Miller (Engage Renfrewshire); S Cruikshank (Forum for Empowering Communities); W Kennedy (North Strathclyde Criminal Justice Authority); R Newbigging (Police Scotland); K Stewart (Procurator Fiscal's Office); F MacKay and K Phillips (both Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); S MacDougall, O Reid, D Hawthorn, E MacLean, D Mair and A Conboy (All Renfrewshire Council); L King (Scottish Children's Reporters Administration); P Nelis (Scottish Fire and Rescue); C Prentice (Victim Support Renfrewshire); and A Dick (West College Scotland).

### Chair

Councillor T Williams

### Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to the customer service centre where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

## **Further Information**

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/agendas](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/agendas).

For further information, please either email [democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk) or telephone 0141 618 7112.

## Items of business

During consideration of the following items of business, the meeting will be open to the press and public.

### Apologies

Apologies from members.

### Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- |   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | <b>Minute of Previous Meeting</b><br>Minute of Meeting held on 2 September, 2015.  | 5 - 12  |
| 2 | <b>Rolling Action Log</b><br>Report by Director of Finance & Resources, Renfrewshire Council.  | 13 - 14 |
| 3 | <b>Safer &amp; Stronger Renfrewshire Amendments to Single Outcome Agreement</b><br>Report by S MacDougall, Director of Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council.  | 15 - 22 |
| 4 | <b>Gender Based Violence Strategy Group and MARAC Update</b><br>Joint report by J Downie, Divisional Commander, Police Scotland and S MacDougall, Director of Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council. | 23 - 26 |
| 5 | <b>CEDAR Programme Update</b><br>Presentation by D Hawthorn, Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice, Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council.   |         |
| 6 | <b>Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland</b><br>Report by J Downie, Divisional Commander, Police Scotland.   | 27 - 50 |
| 7 | <b>Tackling Poverty Commission Update</b><br>Report by S MacDougall, Director of Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council.  | 51 - 54 |

- 8 A Consultation on Working Together for People Who Go Missing in Scotland** 55 - 104  
Report by S MacDougall, Director of Community Resources,  
Renfrewshire Council.
- 9 Community Safety Update** 105 - 112  
Report by S MacDougall, Director of Community Resources,  
Renfrewshire Council.



## Minute of Meeting Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 02 September 2015	10:00	CMR 1, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

### PRESENT

Councillor T Williams; S MacDougall, Lead Officer and Director of Community Resources; D Hawthorn and O Reid (all Renfrewshire Council); S Miller, Engage Renfrewshire; Stephen Cruikshank, Forum for Empowering Communities; W Kennedy, North Strathclyde Criminal Justice Authority; K Philips, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; P Nelis, Scottish Fire and Rescue.

### CHAIR

Councillor Williams, Chair, presided.

### IN ATTENDANCE

CI A Kennedy, Police Scotland; A Walter-Armstrong, Y Khan, D Kerr, Y Farquhar and C MacDonald (all Renfrewshire Council); and A Price (Scottish Community Safety Network).

### APOLOGIES

E MacLean; D Mair; and A Conboy (all Renfrewshire Council); J Downie, Police Scotland; A Dick, West College Scotland; C Prentice, Victim Support; and L King, Scottish Children's Reporters Administration.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made prior to the meeting.

### **1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of A Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board held on 14 May, 2015.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

### **2 ROLLING ACTION LOG**

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

**DECIDED:** That it be agreed that completed action S&S.05.03.15(3) be removed from the Rolling Action Log.

### **3 UPDATE ON TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

Annabelle Armstrong-Walter, Policy Lead (Tackling Poverty, Welfare Reform & Equalities) delivered a presentation setting out proposals to deliver the recommendations made by the Tackling Poverty Commission as set out in the Council's Action Plan. Renfrewshire Council had committed £6M towards the delivery of the Action Plan. Both the Scottish Government and national media were taking a keen interest in progress to deliver positive outcomes.

The presentation gave the background to the development of the strategy and the launch of the report; outlined the timeline that was being followed; highlighted the key messages of the strategy and the priorities; summarised the key principles; and drew special attention to key actions relating to the Safer & Stronger theme.

**DECIDED:**

(a) To thank Annabelle for her presentation; and

(b) To note the presentation.

### **4 DIVERSITY & QUALITY ALLIANCE RENFREWSHIRE GROUP**

Yasmeen Khan and Stephen Cruickshank delivered a presentation which informed the Board of the work of the Diversity and Equality Alliance in Renfrewshire Group (DEAR).

The presentation outlined the aims and purpose of the group; highlighted actions and achievements; the future plans for the group; and the key challenges facing them.

After further discussion it was agreed that the DEAR Group, as a sub-group of the Board, should submit an annual outcome report. This was agreed.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) To thank Yasmeen and Stephen for their presentation;
- (b) That it be agreed that the DEAR Group submit an annual outcome report; and
- (c) That the presentation be noted.

**5 SAFER & STRONGER RENFREWSHIRE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - OUTCOME 4**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources relative to a progress report for Outcome 4 “Renfrewshire citizens are positive, support equality and value diversity to achieve fairness for all within our communities”.

The report highlighted some key areas of progress and the progress against each individual action was detailed within the appendix.

Discussion took place on how information was communicated to the general public; how to gain their trust and how to create confidence in Renfrewshire as a safe place to live and visit. It was agreed that this would be investigated and taken forward through the Culture Bid.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the key areas of progress be noted;
- (b) That it be noted that there are no areas for improvement;
- (c) That it be agreed that the Board undertake a review of the action plan as detailed within the report; and
- (d) That the area of developing plans to promote confidence in Renfrewshire as a safe place to live and work be taken forward through the Culture Bid.

**6 SAFER & STRONGER UPDATE ON YEAR 1 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR REPORTING TO COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources relative to an update on Year 1 Performance Indicators for reporting to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

The report advised that at the Community Planning Partnership Board in June 2015 it was agreed to delegate responsibility for scrutinising the performance of impact measures where the year one performance hadn't been reported to the appropriate thematic board. Five impact measures from the Safer and Stronger Single Outcome Agreement fell within this category:

- Increase % of adults who agree with the statement “I am satisfied with my neighbourhood as place to live”;

- Reduction in the number of teenagers who report being involved in 4 or more delinquent activities in the past 12 months;
- Reduction in the number of teenagers who report having committed 4 or more criminal acts in the past 12 months;
- Increase the perception of secondary school pupils who report their communities are safe places to live (1-4 lower the better);
- Reduction in the number of secondary school pupils reporting that they are living in communities with many problems.

The report advised that an analysis of the progress of the first indicator, Increase % of adults who agree with the statement “I am satisfied with my neighbourhood as place to live” was contained within the report and results from the remaining indicators would be drawn from the second study of need and perception which would be carried out in late 2015/early 2016 using the Social Research Unit epidemiological approach.

The results were likely to follow six weeks after the completion of the survey and would show the change which had occurred since the baseline study which was carried out in late 2011/early 2012.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the update provided on the indicator: Increase % of adults who agree with the statement “I am satisfied with my neighbourhood as place to live” be noted;
- (b) That the position statement of the remaining indicators be noted; and
- (c) That it be agreed that the update be reported to a future meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board.

**7 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources which provided an update on environmental enforcement and improvement activities; protecting vulnerable residents; building safer communities; diversionary activities; the development of the integrated control room and CCTV; and tackling poverty.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

**8 SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE AND POLICE SCOTLAND - TWO YEARS ON**

**(a) SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – TWO YEARS ON**

P Nelis delivered a presentation which outlined the progress made by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service since it came into effect in 2013.

The presentation gave background to the amalgamation; defined the area covered by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; detailed the resources available; highlighted the priorities and the local plan; outlined key areas of performance; and summarised their

engagement and partnership working activities.

Discussion noted that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service partnership working was very effective and very visible. S MacDougall indicated that a lot of good work was being developed on the prevent side and this should continue to be strengthened.

**DECIDED:**

- (i) To thank Paul for his presentation; and
- (ii) That the report be noted.

(b) **POLICE SCOTLAND – 2 YEARS ON**

A Kennedy delivered a presentation which outlined the progress made by Police Scotland since it came into effect in 2013.

The presentation gave background to the amalgamation; summarised the national and local Policing priorities; outlined key statistics; detailed key events that had taken place nationally and locally since the amalgamation; and highlighted new initiatives and projects that were being developed.

**DECIDED:**

- (i) To thank Alison for her presentation; and
- (ii) That the report be noted.

9 **SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME (SOC) STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND - REFRESH**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources relative to an update to Scotland's Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Strategy.

The updated strategy highlighted that a number of key messages would require to be addressed by the Community Safety Partnership; advised that the nature of serious organised crime was changing and would require a broader involvement from a range of services and partners in order to address the situation; and it also had implications for the Prevent approach, which had been focused on Counter Terrorism.

The report noted that 60% of SOC groups were involved in the use of seemingly legitimate businesses with 70% of the groups being located in the West of Scotland. There was evidence that the impact disproportionately affected poorer communities; contributed to social and economic inequalities; and impacted on the elderly population and adult care services and Health services as victims suffered a more rapid decline in health than their non-victim peers.

The report proposed that information be submitted to future meetings of the Board from other service areas and organisations, to raise awareness and share knowledge at a strategic level of how community issues were being tackled and to identify any strategic issues or interventions that could support better practice. Many of the actions would be similar to those being taken forward by the Prevent group as it sought to strengthen community resilience and capacity to prevent the radicalisation of vulnerable people. It

was important that at a strategic level these connections were made and that actions were appropriately assigned to each group to avoid duplication of effort.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the issues highlighted in the updated national strategy be noted:
- (b) That it be noted that the Integrity Group and Prevent Group were being tasked with their self assessment analysis and action plans;
- (c) That it be noted that relevant messages and actions relating to the work arising from the spotlight sessions to the Prevent Action plan would be added as it was developed;
- (d) That it be noted that employees from Regulatory Services would be prioritised for WRAP training to support their work on this agenda; and
- (e) That it be agreed that information be submitted to future meetings of the Board from other service areas and organisations, to raise awareness and share knowledge of how community issues were being tackled and to identify any strategic issues or interventions that could support better practice.

**10 PREVENT - COUNTER TERRORISM**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Community Resources relative to Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which was approved at Westminster on 12 March 2015 and the multi-agency workshop event which took place on 23 June 2015 at Police Scotland's training college in Tulliallan to put both the act and the guidance into context and to develop strategic objectives.

The report advised that the topics discussed at the workshop reinforced the work that was already taking place; emphasised the importance of developing a strategic approach; and highlighted the need to develop connections being made across not only the council, but our partners and the community in order to strengthen community resilience and capacity to prevent the radicalisation of vulnerable people.

It was noted that the Home Office was proposing to allocate a one-off payment of £10,000 to local authorities to cover activity required to deliver on the terms of the duty.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That it be noted that the current internal Prevent Group would expand to include representation from: Police Scotland; Prison Service; Scottish Fire and Rescue; NHS; Capability Scotland; and Further Education Establishments; and
- (b) That it be noted that the Home Office was proposing to allocate additional funding to cover activity required to deliver on the terms of the duty and a report would be submitted to a future meeting on how the funding would be allocated.

**11 SELF ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

A Price delivered a presentation relative to the self assessment which was undertaken by the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board.

The assessment was designed to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses and identify actions to strengthen partnerships.

The scorecard was made up of 6 score sheets covering:

- the Focus and impact of the partnership
- Partnership working
- Strategic coherence
- Planning and Delivery
- Review, reflect, refine
- Capturing performance

The scorecards were scored by Members of the Board and the report, which was tabled, set out the main findings and recommendations for action. It was presented in eight sections: one section for each score sheet together with a section on the overall pattern of average scores and a final section on recommendations.

The Assessment indicated that overall the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board appeared to have a very positive outcome with Focus and Impact and Strategic Coherence both scoring over 4/5. Those that fell below four were Partnership Working and Review, Reflect and Refine.

The assessment identified that many of the process and practices within the Board were working well with only a few areas that scored below the very high benchmark set across most of the categories of the assessment.

The areas where the scores were lower than the benchmark were:

- Partnership Working – Induction
- Capturing Performance – Sharing and Analysing Data Across Services
- Personal Roles – Recognition

## **DECIDED**

(a) That the Board studies the areas for improvement and develop a strategy to address the issues; and

(b) That the presentation be noted.

## **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 26 November 2015 at 10.30am within Renfrewshire House.



**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
SAFER & STRONGER THEMATIC BOARD  
ROLLING ACTION LOG**

**KEY**

Action is on track 

Areas for concern that will impact on completion date if not fixed. 

Action required to bring up to satisfactory level 

Past deadline date and action required. 

Action No.	Action	Action Owner	Status	Expected Date of Completion	Actual Date of Closure	Update & Comments
S&S.02.09.15(4)	<b>Action Plan Progress Report – Outcome 4</b> i) a review of the action plan to be undertaken and led by the Community Planning team with support from Community Resources. Draft action plan to be submitted to a future meeting of the Board for discussion; ii) the area of developing plans to promote confidence in Renfrewshire as a safe place to visit and live be taken forward through the Culture Bid.	Lead Officer/ YF		Future meeting		
S&S.02.09.15(6)	<b>Update on Year 1 Performance Indicators</b> update to be reported to a future meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board.	Lead Officer		23.09.15		
S&S.02.09.15(9)	<b>Serious Organised Crime Strategy for Scotland</b> information be submitted to future meetings of the Board from other service areas and organisations, to raise awareness and share knowledge of how community issues are being tackled and to identify any strategic issues or interventions that could support better practice.	Lead Officer		Future meetings		
S&S.02.09.15(11)	<b>Self Assessment Update</b> Board to study the areas for improvement and develop a strategy to address the issues.	Lead Officer/ YF		Future meeting		





**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Report by:

Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources

## **SAFER AND STRONGER RENFREWSHIRE AMENDMENTS TO SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board has responsibility for coordinating and driving multi-agency activity to ensure that we achieve our long term vision 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'.
- 1.2 The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire element of the Single Outcome Agreement clearly sets out our agreed outcomes together with the one, three and ten year targets for each impact measure.
- 1.3 In a number of areas performance has been particularly good and targets set initially have been met already. The areas affected are:
  - The increase in people who think Renfrewshire is a safe place to live,
  - The reduction in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour,
  - The reduction in the number of crimes of violence,
  - The reduction in complaints regarding vandalism and youth disorder
- 1.4 The Community Planning Partnership Board on 26 June indicated that thematic boards should undertake an exercise to develop and/or amend their existing targets where required. This report highlights those targets which require to be amended for the Safer and Stronger element of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) on the basis of the programme achieved. It also recommends a revision to the impact measure relating to hate crime as the method of data collection by Police Scotland has changed.



## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board

- a) agrees new targets for four impact measures as detailed in section 3.
- b) agrees a new measure, baseline and relevant targets for the existing hate crimes impact measure as detailed in section 4.
- c) agrees that the amendments should be submitted to the Community Planning Partnership Board for approval.

## 3. Revised targets

- 3.1 Since the development and publication of the Community Plan, good progress has been made against the impact measures of the Safer and Stronger element of the SOA. For 4 of the impact measures, performance has exceeded both the 3 and 10 year targets. This means that the year 3 and 10 targets for these measures now require to be revised. The measures affected are shown below with proposed revisions to the targets. A summary of the proposed changes are contained in Appendix 1.

Impact Measure	Baseline 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Current Targets	
				Year 3	Year 10
Increase in the percentage of adults agreeing that Renfrewshire is a safe place to live. <b>(2023 – 25% increase)</b>	41%	83%	80%	45%	66%
<b>Performance update:</b> There has been a significant increase in the percentage of adults agreeing that Renfrewshire is a safe place to live. The percentage has doubled from the 41% baseline in 2012/13. As a result of this trend it is proposed to reset the baseline for this indicator from 2013/14 and apply the following revisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the 3 year target from 45% to 83%,</li> <li>• Increase the 10 year target from 66% to 86% (5% increase from revised baseline)</li> </ul>			<b>Revised Baseline 2013/14</b>	<b>Revised Targets</b>	
				<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>



Impact Measure	Baseline 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Current Targets		
				Year 3	Year 10	
Reduction in the number of reported incidents of antisocial behaviour. <b>(2023 – 30% reduction)</b>	19,149	15,361	12,177	16,277	13,404	
<b>Performance update:</b> Since the baseline was established in 2012/13, the number of reported incidents of antisocial behaviour has decreased from 19,149 to 12,177 in 2014/15. The year 3 target was exceeded in both 2013/14 and 2014/15 and the year 10 target was exceeded in 2014/15. Due to this trend it is proposed to apply the following revisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the 3 year target from 16,277 to 11,489,</li> <li>• Reduce the 10 year target from 13,404 to 9,575 (50% reduction from baseline)</li> </ul>	<b>Revised Targets</b>					
	<b>Year 3</b>		<b>Year 10</b>			
	<b>11,489</b>		<b>9,575 (50% reduction )</b>			

Impact Measure	Baseline 2011/12	Actual 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Current Targets	
					Year 3	Year 10
Reduction in the number of crimes of violence. <b>(2023 – 30% reduction)</b>	416	297	300	255	375	333
<b>Performance update:</b> Since the baseline was established in 2011/12 there has been a significant reduction in crimes of violence. The number has reduced from 416 to 255 in 2014/15. This has meant that both the year 3 and year 10 targets have been exceeded in each year since 2012/13. As a result of this trend it is proposed to apply the following revisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the 3 year target from 375 to 252,</li> <li>• Reduce the 10 year target from 333 to 208 (50% reduction from baseline)</li> </ul>	<b>Revised Targets</b>					
	<b>Year 3</b>		<b>Year 10</b>			
	<b>252</b>		<b>208 (50% reduction )</b>			



Impact Measure	Baseline 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Current Targets	
			Year 3	Year 10
Reduction in the number of complaints regarding vandalism and youth disorder. <b>(2023 – 10% reduction)</b>	3,075	2,627	2,921	2,767
<b>Performance update:</b> Since the last revision to this impact measure in 2014 there has been a further significant reduction in vandalism and youth disorder. In 2014/15 the number of complaints decreased from 3,075 to 2,627. This has meant that both the year 3 and year 10 targets have been exceeded. As a result of the 2013/14 performance it is proposed to apply the long term 25% reduction target from this point.			Revised Targets	
			Year 3	Year 10
			2,614 (15% reduction)	2,306 (25% reduction)

## 4. Revised Impact Measure

- 4.1 Since the Year 1 progress was reported to the thematic board in June 2014 there has been a change to the way that hate crimes are measured by Police Scotland. Previously the performance measure sought to achieve a reduction in the number of hate crime incidents which is the current SOA measure. Police Scotland now seeks to measure hate crime by achieving a specific detection rate for hate crime and offences. As a consequence of this change it is proposed that this measure should be revised. The table below provides a revised impact measure definition, a suggested baseline figure and an appropriate target for Year 3 and Year 10.

Impact Measure	Baseline 2012/13	Actual 2013/14	Actual 2014/15	Targets		
				Year 1	Year 3	Year 10
Increase in the detection rate for hate crime and offences. <b>(2023 – 20% increase)</b>	74%	83%	86%	N/A	86%	89%

## 5. Background

- 5.1 Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership is committed to ensuring that our resources are deployed wisely to achieve best value. An open and rigorous performance culture has been embedded with the partnership and promotes our collective responsibility for achieving our outcomes. Clear accountability and reporting is an important aspect of our approach.
- 5.2 The Renfrewshire Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023 was approved by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board on 12 June 2013 and



was subsequently 'signed off' by the Minister for Local Government and Planning in August 2013.

- 5.3 Following this the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board was established and has responsibility for coordinating and driving multi-agency activity to ensure that we achieve our long term vision 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'.

- 5.4 The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire element of the Single Outcome Agreement clearly sets out our agreed outcomes together with the one, three and ten year targets for each impact measures.

- 5.5 At its meeting on 24 June 2015, the Community Planning Partnership Board agreed that thematic boards should undertake an exercise to develop and/or amend existing impact measure targets. This report highlights those targets which require to be amended for the Safer and Stronger element of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

## **6. Resources**

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.

## **7. Prevention**

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

## **8. Community Involvement/Engagement**

The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

For more information about the report, please contact Colin Grainger, Planning and Performance Manager, Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council on 0141 618 7199



## Appendix 1: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire - Revised Impact Measures November 2015

Impact Measure	Performance Baseline Data	Year 1 Target	Year 3 Target	10 Year Target (2023)
<b>Outcome 1: Renfrewshire is known as a place where people living, working or visiting feel safe and secure</b>				
Increase in the percentage of adults agreeing that Renfrewshire is a safe place to live	83% — 2013/14	N/A	83%	87%
<b>Outcome 2: Our communities live their lives safe from violence and antisocial behaviour and have a responsible approach to accessing and using alcohol</b>				
Reduction in the number of reported incidents of antisocial behaviour	19,149 — 2012/13	N/A	11,489	9,575
Reduction in the number of crimes of violence	416 — 2011/12	N/A	252	208
Reduction in the number of complaints regarding vandalism and youth disorder	3,075 — 2013/14	N/A	2,614	2,306
<b>Outcome 4: Renfrewshire citizens are positive, support equality and value diversity to achieve fairness for all within our communities</b>				
Increase in the detection rate for hate crime and offences.	74% — 2012/13	N/A	86%	89%





**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Joint Report by:

Jim Downie, Divisional Commander, Police Scotland and

Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources

**Gender Based Violence Strategy Group & MARAC Update**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update for the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board on the changes to the coordination and chairing of the Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which will now be chaired by Police Scotland and Coordinated by the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership.

**2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Board notes the proposed changes to the operational roles and procedures of the Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.

**3. Gender Based Violence Strategy Group & MARAC Update**

- 3.1 The overarching aim of the Renfrewshire Gender Based Violence (GBV) Strategy Group is working together for the elimination of all forms of violence and abuse against women and children. This includes protection, prevention, provision, participation and partnership working.
- 3.2 A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a multi agency victim-focused meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety.
- 3.3 These meetings are 4 weekly and up until August this year have been chaired by ASSIST, a specialist domestic abuse advocacy and support service focused on reducing risk and



improving the safety of victims of domestic abuse. ASSIST is managed by Community Safety Glasgow (CSG) a charitable partnership between Glasgow City Council and The Scottish Police Authority. At the last MARAC meeting in August, ASSIST notified all relevant members that they were no longer in a position to continue resourcing and convening MARAC meetings and partners would need to make their own arrangements for MARAC processes in future if they want the meetings to continue.

- 3.4 The Renfrewshire Safer and Stronger Action Plan highlights Renfrewshire Council's commitment to supporting the roll out of ASSIST and to establishing an active and effective Renfrewshire MARAC. The meetings in Renfrewshire have been particularly successful, well attended by all key representative organisations and delivering effective oversight and support on this agenda.
- 3.5 A meeting was arranged on 15 September attended by Dorothy Hawthorn (Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice) and Oliver Reid (Head of Public Protection), the coordinators for MARAC and DCI Fil Capaldi to discuss a solution to continue the provision and resourcing of MARAC within Renfrewshire – and ideally to develop and build on the MARAC approach in future as part of the wider public protection agenda. Following this meeting a report was submitted to the Community Safety and Public Protection Steering Group on the next steps and it was agreed that MARAC would form part of the Public Protection agenda and continue to feed into the Gender Based Violence Steering group.
- 3.6 Maxine Hendry, within Community Resources will take on the role as Coordinator, with additional administrative support being identified to assist her in the role, and Police Scotland will Chair the meetings, starting from the next scheduled meeting in November. ASSIST will offer a transitional support to Maxine in taking on the MARAC co-ordination processes starting from the beginning of October and additional training for relevant officers will be sourced. Woman's Aid have also agreed to continue with the support they currently provide around accommodating the monthly MARAC meetings.
- 3.7 Once these transitional arrangements are in place, it is proposed that the future of MARAC will be included in the review of public protection arrangements being taken forward within Community Resources to ensure that the appropriate linkages are being made across the wider public protection agenda.
- 3.8 There is also still some work to be done to ensure that the service is handling all of the cases that might be expected within Renfrewshire. Current estimates are that the required level of service within Renfrewshire would indicate that around 310 cases per year would be handled by the MARAC. At present around 260 cases per year are being referred.



3.9 Additional briefings will be provided as the service transitions across to the Community Safety Partnership.

#### **4. Background**

4.1 Within Renfrewshire the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board leads on the delivery of the outcomes and targets in the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement to tackle violence against women.

4.2 Locally the multi-agency partnership is represented at the Gender Based Violence Strategy Group. The group's work plan has been refreshed to ensure the community planning priorities are the focus for the group and a number of key actions are being taken forward with the aim of ensuring that all forms of violence and abuse against women and children are eliminated.

#### **5. Resources**

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.

#### **6. Prevention**

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

#### **7. Community Involvement/Engagement**

The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

For more information about the report, please contact Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council on 0141 618 7352, [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk)





**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Report by:

Jim Downie, Divisional Commander, Police Scotland

**Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland**

**1. Summary**

1.1 The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland went live across Scotland on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. This report highlights the main elements of the new Scheme.

**2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Board

a) Notes the content of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland and disseminates and promotes the scheme as appropriate through their organisation.

**3. Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland**

3.1 The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland provides a formal mechanism for potential victims, their family members, or another concerned member of the public or professional body (e.g. Police Scotland, Social Work, Advocacy Services, Womens Aid etc.) to make enquiries about an individual who they are in a relationship with or is in a relationship with someone they know, and there is a concern that the individual may be abusive towards their partner.

3.2 It provides Police Scotland with a way of disclosing information about a partners abusive past with their potential victims and gives people at risk of Domestic Abuse the information they require to make an informed decision on whether to continue in the relationship.

3.3 The scheme operates two entry pathways that may lead to a disclosure being made: 'Right to Ask' and 'Power to Tell'.

3.4 'Right to Ask' is modelled closely on the well-established 'Keeping Children Safe' process. It is triggered when a member of the public makes a direct



application to Police Scotland for information about an individual whom they suspect may have a history of violent or abusive behaviour towards a previous partner.

3.5 'Power to tell' is triggered when Police Scotland receive indirect information or intelligence about a person thought to be at risk and where, after appropriate checks are made, judge that a disclosure should be made to safeguard that person. 'Power to Tell' applications will be based on information on alleged offending by a potential Domestic Abuse perpetrator that is received from:

- Partner agencies
- Intelligence sources
- Either a potential perpetrator or person thought to be at risk coming into contact with police as part of their routine operational duties

3.6 Explanatory leaflets and posters outlining the process and how to make an application are attached in Appendix 1.

#### **4. Background**

4.1 The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland went live following a successful six month pilot in Aberdeen and Ayrshire Police Divisions which was overseen by a project board comprising of Police Scotland, Scottish Government, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Advocacy Services representatives. Consultation was made with Divisional Domestic Abuse leads at the Force Domestic Abuse Forum and Force Domestic Abuse working group throughout the six months and on conclusion of the pilot the recommendation was that the scheme is rolled out across Scotland.

#### **5. Resources**

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.

#### **6. Prevention**

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

#### **7. Community Involvement/Engagement**



The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

## **Appendix 1**

Marketing information from Police Scotland



# WORRIED

that your partner could be abusive?



The new Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland gives you the **right to ask** the police if your partner has a history of domestic abuse.

No one should feel unsafe in a relationship.

Find out more:

[www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe

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# Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland



## Keeping People Safe from Domestic Abuse

This leaflet is for you if you are concerned that someone you know may be in a relationship and is at risk of domestic abuse.



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe

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# Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland

The aim of this scheme is to give members of the public a formal mechanism to make enquiries about an individual who they are in a relationship with or who is in a relationship with someone they know, and there is a concern that the individual may be abusive towards their partner.

If police checks show that the individual has a record of abusive behaviour; or there is other information to indicate the person you know is at risk, the police will consider sharing this information with the person(s) best placed to protect the potential victim.

The police will discuss your concerns with you and decide whether it is appropriate for you to be given more information to help protect the person who is in the relationship with the individual you are concerned about.

The scheme aims to enable potential victims to make an informed choice on whether to continue the relationship, and provides further help and support to assist the potential victim when making that informed choice.

## Who can ask for a disclosure?

A disclosure under this scheme is the sharing of specific information about an individual with the person making the application or a third person for the purposes of protecting a potential victim from domestic abuse.

- Anyone can make an application about an individual who is in a relationship with another person and where there is a concern that the individual may harm the other person;
- Any concerned third party, such as a parent, relative, neighbour or friend can make an application not just the potential victim; however:
- A third party person making an application would not necessarily receive information about the individual concerned. It may be more appropriate for someone else to receive the information, such as the potential victim or another person who is best placed to protect the potential victim.

## Step One - How do I make an application?

It is important to remember that anyone can make an application to the police about an individual who is in a relationship with another person and there is concern that the individual may present a risk of harm to their partner.

### Contacting the police

There are a number of different ways you can contact the police:

#### You can

- go 'online' to [www.scotland.police.co.uk](http://www.scotland.police.co.uk);
- visit a police office;
- phone 101 the non emergency number for the police; or
- speak to a member of the police on the street

If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm to someone, or it is an emergency, you should always call 999.

## **Step Two: Initial contact with the police**

When you contact the police, a police officer or member of police staff will take details from you of what prompted your enquiry and the nature of your relationship with the potential victim and their partner.

They will also ask you when and where it is safe to make contact with you again.

You will also need to give your name, address, date of birth and other details. At a later stage, you will need to provide proof of your identity.

The police will run some initial checks based on the information you have provided and conduct an initial risk assessment.

The purpose of these checks is for the police to establish if there are any immediate concerns.

These checks will not be undertaken while you are present.

If when speaking to the police you report a crime has taken place - for example, if you say that you have witnessed someone hit their partner, then the police may investigate this as a crime and may arrest the partner.

If the police believe that someone is at risk and in need of protection from harm, they will take immediate action.

No disclosure of information will take place at this stage unless it is necessary for the immediate protection of the potential victim.

## **Step Three: Face to face meeting to complete the application**

Depending on the outcome of Step Two, you may then be required to participate in a face to face meeting with the police. This meeting will be to establish further details about your application in order to assess any risk and for you to provide proof of your identity. This should comprise of a photo ID and another form of ID (if photo ID is not available, the police will consider other forms of ID).

The forms of ID that could be used are:

- Your passport
- Your driving licence
- Some other trusted form of photo identification
- Your birth certificate (including authorised extract copies)
- A household utility bill (council tax, water, gas, electricity)
- A bank statement

These documents must be originals. Unfortunately copies cannot be accepted.

The police will use this meeting to gather more information from you about the nature of the relationship between the person you are concerned about and their partner. They may also ask for further information from you on why you have made an enquiry under this scheme.

The police will run more detailed checks and speak to other agencies including Social Work Services and Prison Service, based on the information you give them.

They will work as quickly as possible to complete the checks but, depending on the circumstances, some checks may take longer for the results to be received by the police.

It is envisaged that the maximum time that it will take to complete the whole process, including these and the disclosure of information if decided necessary, is 45 days.

The police will act immediately if at any point they consider the potential victim to be risk and in need of protection from harm.

## **Step Four: Multi-agency meeting to consider disclosure**

The police will meet with relevant partner agencies (such as Social Work Services, Prison Service, Domestic Abuse Advocates/Advisors) to discuss the information that you have given them, along with additional information the police may have received from the checks they have run, and any relevant information from the agencies they have talked to.

The multi agency meeting will then decide whether any disclosure is lawful, necessary and proportionate to protect the person you are concerned about from their partner. If they decide to disclose information, they will decide who should receive the information and set up a safety plan tailored to the potential victims needs to provide them with help and support.

## **Step Five: Potential disclosure**

What kind of information you might be given

If the checks show that the individual you are enquiring about has a record for violent offences or there is other information that indicates there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police may disclose this to the person who is most able to protect the victim.

It should be noted that details about a person's previous convictions are treated as confidential and information will only be disclosed if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

If the checks do not show that there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police will tell you that. This may be because the individual does not have a record of violent offences or there is no information held to indicate they pose a risk of harm to the potential victim. Or it may be that some information is held on the individual but this is not sufficient to demonstrate a pressing need for disclosure.

It may be the case that the individual you are asking about is not known to the police for violent offences or there is insufficient information to indicate they pose a risk of harm to the potential victim, but they are showing worrying behaviour. In this case, the police or other support agency will work with you to protect the potential victim and can provide advice and support.

## **The Police- Power to Tell**

Under the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland, you may receive a disclosure even if you have not asked for one. That is because, if the police receive information about the person you know which they consider puts that person at risk of harm of domestic abuse by their partner, then they may consider disclosing that information if you are the best placed person to protect the victim.

The decision to disclose information when you have not asked for a disclosure will be made by the multi agency meeting, and the disclosure will only be made if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

### **Important note**

You should be aware that police checks or any disclosures made are not a guarantee of safety. The police will give you advice on how to protect the potential victim and how to recognise the warning signs of domestic abuse. They will also make sure you are aware of what local and national support is available.

After you are given information

Can I tell my family and friends about this? I really need to talk to someone.

If you do receive information from the police it should be treated as confidential. It is only being given to you so that you can take steps to protect the potential victim. You must not share this information with anyone else unless you have spoken to the police, or person who gave you the information, and they have agreed with you that it will be shared.

Subject to the condition that the information is kept confidential, you can;

- Use the information to keep the potential victim and yourself safe;
- Use the information to keep any children involved in the situation safe;
- Ask what support is available;
- Ask for advice on how to keep yourself and others safe.

The police may decide not to give you information if they think that you will discuss it with others. However, the police will still take steps to protect the potential victim and yourself if there is a risk of harm.

The police may take action against you if the information is disclosed without their consent, which could include civil or criminal proceedings. You should be aware that it is an offence (under Section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998) for a person to 'knowingly or recklessly obtain or disclose personal data without the consent of the data controller' which in this case is usually the police.

If no disclosure is made but you still have concerns and want further information about protecting someone from domestic abuse, there is action you can take for the future.

The police can provide you with information and advice on how to protect someone from abusive behaviour and how to recognise the warning signs of domestic abuse. There are also a number of specialist services and organisations providing information about domestic abuse, how to spot it and how to work with the authorities to intervene.

## Support helplines

You can contact Police Scotland on **101**

In an emergency always ring **999**

If you would like additional help and support on domestic abuse then you can contact any of the following national helplines:

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline - **0800 027 1234**

Rape Crisis Scotland - **08088 01 03 02**

Men's Advice Line - **0808 801 0327**

Abused Men in Scotland - **0808 800 0024**

**[www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/advice-information](http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/advice-information)**

You can also ask the police for information on specialist services and organisations that exist where you live.

# Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland



## Keeping People Safe from Domestic Abuse

This leaflet is for you if you are in a relationship and are worried that your partner may have been abusive in the past.



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe

 @PoliceScotland  PoliceScotland

# Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland

## What is the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland?

The aim of this scheme is to give you a formal mechanism to make inquiries about your partner if you are worried they have been abusive in the past.

If police checks show your partner has a record of violent behaviour; or there is other information to indicate that you may be at risk from your partner, the police will consider sharing this information with you.

The scheme aims to help you to make a more informed decision on whether to continue a relationship, and provides further help and support to assist you when making that choice.

## Who can ask for a disclosure?

A disclosure under this scheme is the sharing of specific information about your partner with either you or a third person for the purposes of protecting you from domestic abuse.

- You can make an application about your partner if you have a concern they may harm you;
- Any concerned third party, such as your parent, relative, neighbour or friend can also make an application if they are concerned about you;
- However, a third party person making an application would not ordinarily receive information about your partner. It may be more appropriate for someone else to receive the information, such as you, or a person in a position to protect you from the abuse.
- Information will only be given to someone who is in a position to use the information to protect you from the abuse.

## Step One - How do I make an application?

Contacting the police

There are a number of different ways you can contact the police:

### **You can**

- go 'online' to [www.scotland.police.co.uk](http://www.scotland.police.co.uk);
- visit a police office;
- phone 101 the non emergency number for the police; or
- speak to a member of the police on the street

If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm to someone, or it is an emergency, you should always call 999.

## **Step Two: Initial contact with the police**

When you contact the police, a police officer or member of police staff will take the details of what prompted your enquiry and the nature of your relationship with your partner.

They will also ask you when and where it is safe to make contact with you again.

You will also need to give your name, address, date of birth and other details. At a later stage, you will need to provide proof of your identity.

The police will run some initial checks based on the information you have provided and conduct an initial risk assessment.

The purpose of these initial checks is for the police to establish if there are any immediate concerns.

These checks will not be undertaken while you are present.

If when speaking to the police you allege a crime against your partner - for example, you tell them that your partner has hit you, then police will investigate this as a crime and may arrest your partner.

No disclosure of information will take place at this stage unless it is necessary to provide immediate protection to you.

If the police believe that you are at risk and in need of protection from harm, they will take immediate action.

## **Step Three: Face to face meeting to complete the application**

Depending on the outcome of Step Two, you may then be required to participate in a face to face meeting with the police. This meeting will be to establish further details about your application in order to assess any risk and for you to provide proof of your identity. This should comprise of a photo ID and another form of ID (if photo ID is not available, the police will consider other forms of ID).

The forms of ID that could be used are:

- Your passport
- Your driving licence
- Some other trusted form of photo identification
- Your birth certificate (including authorised extract copies)
- A household utility bill (council tax, water, gas, electricity)
- A bank statement

These documents must be originals. Unfortunately copies cannot be accepted.

The police will then use the meeting to gather more information from you about the nature of the relationship between you and your partner to help the police decide if you are at risk of domestic abuse.

The police will run checks and speak to other agencies including Social Work Departments and Prison Service, based on the information you give them.

They will work as quickly as possible to complete the checks but, depending on the circumstances, some checks may take longer for the results to be received by the police.

It is envisaged that the maximum time that it will take to complete the whole process, including these and the disclosure of information if decided necessary, is 45 days.

The police will act immediately if at any point they consider you to be risk and in need of protection from harm.

## **Step Four: Multi-agency meeting to consider disclosure**

The police will meet with relevant partner agencies (such as Social Work Services, Prison Service, Domestic Abuse Advocates/Advisors) to discuss the information that you have given them, along with additional information the police may have received from the checks they have run, and any relevant information from the agencies they have talked to.

The multi agency meeting will then decide whether any disclosure is lawful, necessary and proportionate to protect you from your partner. If they decide to disclose information, they will decide who should receive the information and set up a safety plan tailored to your needs to provide you with help and support.

## **Step Five: Potential disclosure**

What kind of information you might be given

If the checks show that your partner has a record of violent offences or there is other information that indicates there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police may disclose this information to you or to a person who is more able to protect you.

A person's previous convictions are treated as confidential and the information will only be disclosed if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

If the checks do not show that there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police will tell you that. This may be because your partner does not have a record of violent

offences or there is no information held to indicate they pose a risk of harm to you. Or it may be that some information is held on your partner but this is not sufficient to demonstrate a pressing need for disclosure.

It may be the case that your partner is not known to the police for violent offences or there is insufficient information to indicate they pose a risk of harm to you but they are showing worrying behaviour. In this case, the police or other support agency can work to protect you by providing advice and support.

## **The Police- Power to Tell**

Under the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland, you may receive a disclosure even if you have not asked for one. That is because, if the police receive information about your partner which they consider puts you at risk of harm of domestic abuse, then they may consider disclosing that information to you.

The decision to disclose information when you have not asked for a disclosure will be made by the multi agency meeting, and the disclosure will only be made if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

### **Important note**

You should be aware that police checks or any disclosures made are not a guarantee of safety. They will, however, make sure you are aware of what local and national support is available.

After you are given information

Can I tell my family and friends about this? I really need to talk to someone.

If you receive information, it should be treated as confidential. It is only being given to you so that you can take steps to protect yourself. You must not share this information with anyone else unless you have spoken to the police, or person who gave you the information, and they have agreed with you that it will be shared.

Subject to the condition that the information is kept confidential, you can;

- Use the information to keep yourself safe;
- Use the information to keep any children involved in the situation safe;
- Ask what support is available;
- Ask for advice on how to keep yourself and others safe.

The police may decide not to give you information if they think that you will discuss it with others. However, the police will still take steps to protect you if you are at risk of harm.

The police may take action against you if the information is disclosed without their consent, which could include civil or criminal proceedings. You should be aware that it is an offence (under Section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998) for a person to 'knowingly or recklessly obtain or disclose personal data without the consent of the data controller' which in this case is usually the police.

If no disclosure is made but you still have concerns and want further information about protecting yourself, there is action you can take to protect yourself in the future.

The police can provide you with information and advice on how to protect yourself and how to recognise the warning signs of domestic abuse. There is also a number of specialist services and organisations providing information about domestic abuse, how to spot it and how authorities work to intervene.

## Support helplines

You can contact Police Scotland on **101**

In an emergency always ring **999**

If you would like additional help and support on domestic abuse then you can contact any of the following national helplines:

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline - **0800 027 1234**

Rape Crisis Scotland - **08088 01 03 02**

Men's Advice Line - **0808 801 0327**

Abused Men in Scotland - **0808 800 0024**

**[www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/advice-information](http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/advice-information)**

You can also ask the police for information on specialist services and organisations that exist where you live.



**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Report by:

Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources

### **Tackling Poverty Commission Update**

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update for the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board on some of the work being carried out to tackle poverty in Renfrewshire arising from the recommendations contained in the Tackling Poverty Commission report.
- 1.2 Community Resources is leading on three projects within the Tackling Poverty agenda:
  1. Delivery of an enhanced breakfast club provision within key areas,
  2. The recruitment of young people into roles as Special Constables and Special Wardens,
  3. The expansion of the current StreetStuff programme.
- 1.3 A project team has been established for each of the three projects with a wider Project Board taking place every three weeks to review progress against key milestones. In addition to ensuring that appropriate governance arrangements are in place, the project lead for each of the projects will report to the wider Tackling Poverty Project Boards on a monthly basis.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board
  - a) notes the content of this progress update report.
  - b) requests further updates on progress be brought back to future meetings.

#### **3. Additional Breakfast Club Provision**

- 3.1 An enhanced breakfast club provision is being developed and will run within a number of key locations in parallel with the existing breakfast club provision.
- 3.2 The objectives of the project are:
  - To ensure that children and young people have access to nutritional food and advice as part of a wider curriculum,



- To provide access to information and opportunities for parents and children, that they otherwise would not have,
- To demonstrate the links and relationship between food, culture, health and the environment,
- To help develop a child's relationship with food from a health benefit perspective.

3.3 The programme will commence in January 2016.

#### **4. Introduction of Special Wardens and Special Constables**

4.1 The Council and Police Scotland have been working on a partnership approach that will provide training and development and temporary employment for up to 16 young people in Renfrewshire as Special Constables or Special Wardens. Young people will be employed for up to 11 months and will receive a range of training and development opportunities that they might not otherwise be able to access.

4.2 The objectives of the project are:

- Improved social inclusion and access to facilities for young people, who otherwise would not be able to experience the services provided by the programme,
- Volunteering and employability opportunities to support community safety in key locations,
- To better equip young people for future employment opportunities which may arise.

4.3 Both posts have been advertised and an information day was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015. A 6-8 week employability course will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 with successful candidates commencing full employment at the end of the employment programme in March 2016.

#### **5. Expansion of Street Stuff Programme**

5.1 Street Stuff is a youth engagement programme which seeks to interact with children and young people in their own communities, through the deployment of mobile resources, including football pitches, youth bus and shipping containers with various equipment (games consoles, dance mats, exercise equipment) to areas where low level offending and anti-social behaviour is taking place. Street Stuff is staffed by professional coaches who are employed by St Mirren Football Club.

5.2 The objectives of the project are:

- Improved social inclusion and access to facilities for children, who otherwise would not be able to experience the services provided by the programme,
- Provision of nutritional food and education around healthy eating and healthy lifestyles,
- The deployment of activities in areas chosen to increase the range of positive destinations for young people and close the attainment gap across Renfrewshire.



- 5.3 The expanded programme commenced during the October School Holidays in the Gallowhill and Glenburn areas. Football and dance camps were delivered between 10am and 3pm each day with lunch being provided. A full programme of activities has also been scheduled for the festive period which will also include food.
- 5.4 An extended weekly programme commenced on week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Shortroods and Gallowhill Community Centres 4pm – 6.30pm with Football, Dance and Box activities and the provision of a hot meal. Activities and suitable locations in Linwood, Johnstone, Foxbar and Glenburn are also being developed.
- 5.5 Two additional youth buses have been sourced to support the expanded programme this year. The first bus will be operational by the end of November and 2<sup>nd</sup> by the end of December 2015.

## **6. Background**

- 6.1 A Tackling Poverty Steering Group has been set up which comprises senior officers across the Council and Community Planning Partners. This group will meet quarterly and will drive the delivery of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan. Tackling poverty is a long-term aspiration, and cannot be achieved in the next two years. The focus of our Strategy and Action Plan will be to build a more robust evidence base for the anti-poverty impact of the work we are already doing, and to test the new approaches recommended by the Commission. This will allow us to produce a long-term, evidence-based and sustainable approach to tackling poverty in 2017. The Community Planning Partnership will report annually on its progress implementing Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission's recommendations and the success of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.
- 6.1 In addition to leading on the projects above, Community Resources play a key role in other tackling poverty projects such as Private Landlords and Money Advice.

## **7. Resources**

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.

## **8. Prevention**

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

## **9. Community Involvement/Engagement**

The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

For more information about the report, please contact Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council on 0141 618 7352, [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk)





**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Report by:

Director of Community Resources

**A consultation on working together for people who go missing in Scotland**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Scottish Government are currently carrying out a consultation on working together for people who go missing in Scotland. The consultation will inform the development of a National Missing Persons Strategy which is structured around four key objectives of Prevent, Respond, Support and Protect. A full copy of the Strategy document and consultation is included as an appendix to this report.
- 1.2 This paper sets out some of the key issues and challenges for the Community Planning Partnership in supporting and protecting missing people and their families or those at risk of going missing and preventing them from coming to harm.
- 1.3 There are established and key roles for Health & Social Care and Police Scotland that are well understood by members of this group and that link closely to the Adult Protection and Child Protection agenda led by an independent Chair. This report highlights a wider range of measures that contribute to and compliment the well established methods of response to people who go missing in Renfrewshire or are vulnerable to going missing.
- 1.4 The views in this report are based on information received in response to the initial consultation exercise, carried out with the support of the Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee. The response from the Community Planning Partnership will include these and the responses discussed at the engagement event held in Renfrew Town Hall on 23 November. Participants at the session included: Andrew Lowe the independent chair of the Adult and Child Protection Committees; Peter MacLeod, Director of Children's Services and member of the national forum developing the strategy on people who go missing in Scotland; and representatives from the Scottish Government.



1.5 Agreement is sought from the Safer & Stronger Thematic Board that a response be submitted on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership reflecting the key points set out in this report and agreed by the convener to meet the timescales set out by the Scottish Government. A copy of the full response submitted will be brought back to the next meeting of the board for information.

## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board:

- a) approves the general messages and approach to responding to the consultation set out in this report.
- b) agrees that the final consultation is submitted by the Director of Community Resources and the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Chair of the Safer & Stronger Thematic Board.
- c) requests a copy of the final response be brought back for the information of the Board.

## 3. National Overview

3.1 In Scotland more than 30,000 missing persons cases are handled by Police Scotland every year. Although most people are found or return safe and well, going missing can indicate underlying issues and vulnerabilities. Missing people are also at more risk of harm or exploitation.

3.2 In particular there are recognised links between going missing and child sexual exploitation, trafficking, mental health, and other issues such as domestic abuse and family breakdown. There are wider links to be made to the Prevent agenda and to Serious Organised Crime as well as forthcoming changes including the introduction of the 'Named Person' as part of the GIRFEC agenda.

3.3 The draft Strategy contains a clear definition and is focussed on 4 key objectives:

- **Prevent** measures reduce the number of missing persons incidents,
- **Respond** appropriately to incidents,
- **Support** missing people and their families, and
- **Protect** vulnerable people to reduce the risk of harm.

3.4 The definition of a missing person included in the draft strategy is:

"Anyone whose whereabouts are unknown and:

- where the circumstances are out of character;
- or the context suggests the person may be subject to harm
- or the person is at risk of harm to themselves or another"

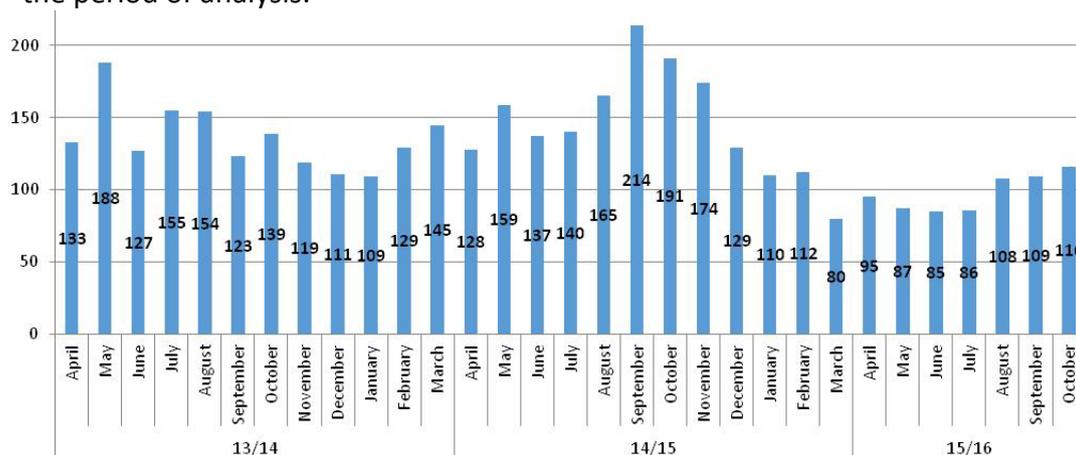


#### 4. Renfrewshire’s local missing persons context

4.1. The Renfrewshire picture in relation to missing persons is outlined below:

- On average there are 1,685 missing persons reported in Renfrewshire each year, equating to 6% of the Scottish average,
- There were 9.9 missing person incidents per 1,000 population in 2014/15, well above the Scottish rate of 6.2,
- 64% of missing person incidents involved children and young people, similar to the national figure,
- Almost one in three incidents (31%) involved repeat missing persons, again similar to the national figure.

4.2 The following table displays the breakdown by month and Financial Year for all Missing Person incidents reported in Renfrewshire on the Police Scotland Storm database during the period of analysis:



4.3 Factors that may contribute to Renfrewshire having a higher incidence of missing persons compared to Scotland include the fact that in Renfrewshire we have a number of residential units and supported accommodation housing vulnerable adults and children. The specialist nature of some of these units often includes people from out with the Renfrewshire area. Similarly we also have health facilities providing services for people with mental health and addictions, from a wider catchment than Renfrewshire alone.

4.4 As can be seen, figures in 2015/16 have so far shown a reduction compared to previous years which is positive, and may reflect the success of some of the interventions that have already been put in place to tackle this issue.

#### 5. Renfrewshire’s approach

5.1. Renfrewshire has in place a range of existing provision and approaches in relation to the missing person agenda. On a formal level agencies and organisations with a key



responsibility for individual protection, including adult and child protection services, Health services and Police Scotland have robust and effective formal and informal procedures in place to carry out their duties. However, they also work with a number of partners across Renfrewshire to deliver additional early intervention and diversionary activities which have a strong focus on the four objectives of the strategy and can reduce harm to people going missing. Some examples are included below, and others are likely to feature within the final consultation response:

- Children's Services have an existing "missing" project which has been identified as an example of best practice in the strategy - Safer Choices involving Barnardo's, Police Scotland and Social Work which supports a range of approaches to assess and identify risk including risks of Child Sexual Exploitation; training for staff; and development work in schools. It operates to support activity across all of the objectives of the draft strategy.
- StreetStuff provides a range of activities for young people, is easily accessible and provides a safe haven for potentially vulnerable young people. The service promotes a sense of community and increases connections among young people and knowledge of their individual experiences and whereabouts. They have built a strong rapport with young people in local communities who then feel comfortable about sharing and discussing concerns. On occasion children that are missing first turn up at StreetStuff activities – or are located through the network of peers who attend these services. The service plays a critical role in preventing, responding to and supporting young people that might otherwise go missing in Renfrewshire, or come to harm.
- Potentially vulnerable individuals and groups are discussed at Daily Tasking, attended by a range of partners. These include, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, NHS, and relevant services from Renfrewshire Council. These meetings are an opportunity for partners to exchange information in relation to people with the potential to go missing. Where there are reported incidents of missing persons, cases are discussed at Daily Tasking and shared with partners. Information is exchanged, including photographs where possible, among agencies to respond rapidly and to deploy appropriate resources in response to the missing persons incident (The Wardens service, StreetStuff and the Youth Team, CCTV etc).
- ROAR works in partnership with older people and with local communities to build community capacity, improve health and wellbeing, maximise independence and reduce the impact of social isolation – all of which contribute to the prevent and support objectives of the national strategy in particular.
- The Wardens service and Youth Team help to build a sense of community by being present and active in local communities, building knowledge of local issues and being visible and accessible to local residents. As a result they can provide a useful link between local communities and other more formal interventions agencies and are particularly effective in supporting Police Scotland in response to a missing person enquiry. They also work directly with young people to achieve a sustainable change in behaviour, diverting them into more meaningful activities.



- Using their local knowledge CCTV operatives play a pro-active role in the identification of vulnerable people who have the potential to go missing. Based in the Community Safety Hub they are also linked in with Police Scotland and the wardens service to respond to cases of missing persons.
- Keep Safe, which is linked to the I Am Me disability and hate crime charity, works with a network of local businesses to create safe places for disabled, elderly and vulnerable people when out in the community – these should become a network which will support people within the community preventing them from going missing.

## **6. Key Messages**

6.1. Taking forward, and building on the work noted above will require a continued focus on effective partnership working and a clear ability to make effective links between strategies , legislation and work on the ground and comments that are being made and initially received reflect this approach:

- GIRFEC and the role of the named person will need to be an embedded part of Renfrewshire’s response to the missing person agenda.
- Recognition needs to be given to addiction services within the strategy and also to adults with learning disabilities that may not be in care or presenting with autism.
- In particular the communication needs of vulnerable adults and other issues associated with capacity will need to be considered and supported - particularly during return interviews.
- Success will rely on raising awareness and training for all partners and on agencies being comfortable with sharing information. Best practice would be to join up the risk assessment process across all agencies rather than operating independently.
- It is important that the strategy refers to all relevant policies – for example the Unseen Child Policy.
- Challenges will relate to linking the strategy effectively with existing policies and making sure that they are effective and in line with each other - also ensuring a joint and consistent approach for all organisations and disciplines that maximises the resources and capacity available across all partners.
- In terms of equalities, there is no current reference to migrants and children and adults with learning disabilities and the additional support and communication needs that they might have.

6.2. It is intended that the response to the consultation will include these points as relevant and others that will arise as the consultation concludes – including from the engagement event held on 23 November 2015.



- 6.3. Overall therefore, early indications are that local partners are generally supportive of the direction of travel set out in the consultation document – in particular the definition set out and the 4 objectives.
- 6.4. The local Community Planning Partnership response and implementation of the strategy once agreed will plan to build on the existing good practice and develop further a local framework to address the four national objectives of the National Missing Persons Strategy. To ensure a coordinated approach, the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board will take a lead role in developing the local framework.

## **7. Background**

- 7.1 The Scottish Government's National Missing Persons Strategy was launched on 27 August 27, 2015.
- 7.2 The aim of the strategy is to reduce the harm related to people going missing. It provides a framework for how organisations can work together to improve outcomes, and seeks to raise the profile of the issues connected with going missing.
- 7.2 The Strategy recommends that there is a nationally agreed definition of 'missing':  
'Anyone whose whereabouts are unknown and:
- Where the circumstances are out of character; or
  - The context suggests the person may be subject to crime; or
  - The person is at risk of harm to themselves or another'
- 7.3 Following the completion of the consultation process, the Scottish Government aim to implement the revised strategy in 2016.

## **8. Resources**

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.

## **9. Prevention**

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

## **10. Community Involvement/Engagement**

The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

For more information about the report, please contact Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council on 0141 618 7352, [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

# A consultation on working together for people who go missing in Scotland

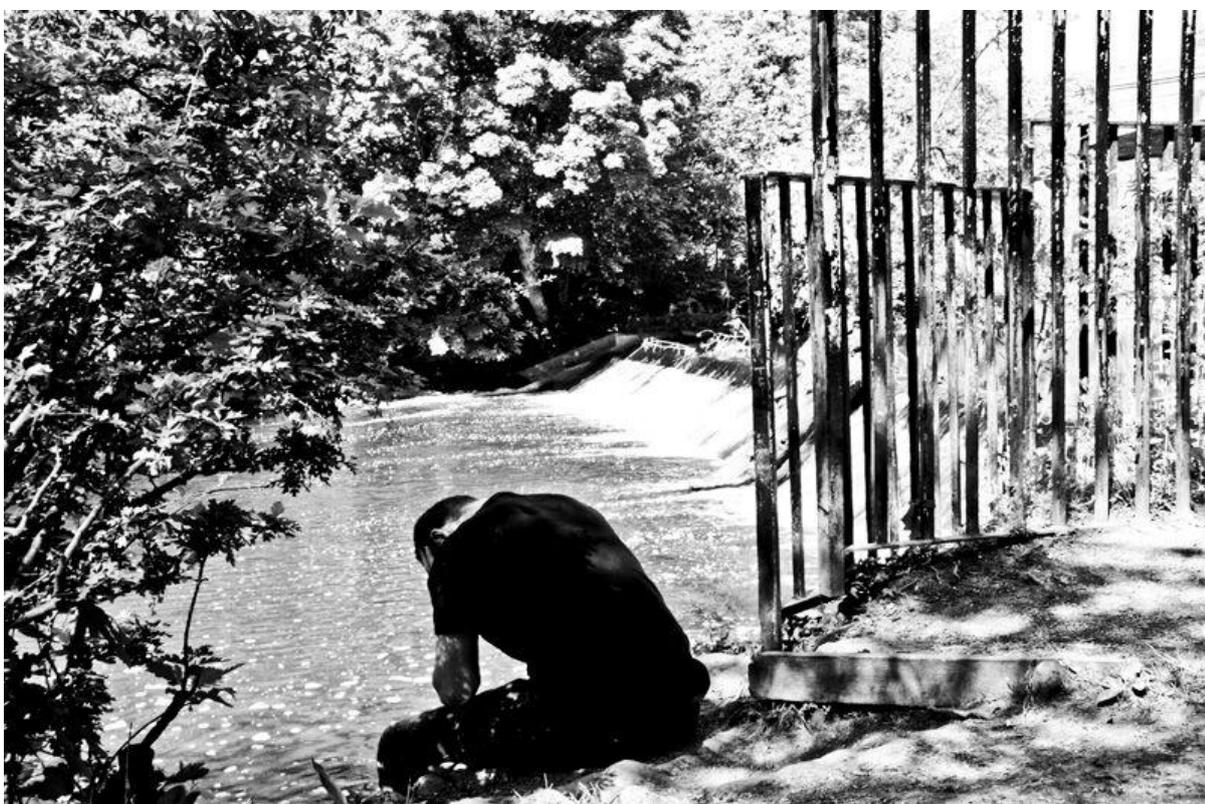


Image is courtesy of the Geographies of Missing People

**August 2015**

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\*All quotes courtesy of Geographies of Missing People

## Consultation questions

Comments on all sections of the draft Strategy are welcome. In particular we are grateful for your response to any or all of the following questions.

### **Purpose**

Our aim is to reduce the harm related to people going missing. This Strategy provides a framework for how organisations can together improve outcomes, and seeks to raise the profile of the issues connected with going missing.

Q1. What are your views on the proposed Purpose of the Strategy?

### **Definition of Missing**

It is recommended that there is a nationally agreed definition of 'missing':

'Anyone whose whereabouts are unknown and:

- Where the circumstances are out of character; or
- The context suggests the person may be subject to crime; or
- The person is at risk of harm to themselves or another'

Q2. Are we right to have a national definition?

Q3. What are your comments on the proposed definition above?

### General Questions:

Q4. What **works well** in the Strategy?

Q5. What could we **do better or differently** in the Strategy?

Q6. What will be **vital to the implementation and success** of the Strategy?

Q7. Do you see any **challenges** to implementation of the Strategy?

Equality considerations:

The Scottish Government wants to ensure that all members of society are treated equally. As part of this, we need to understand how different people and groups are affected by our policies and consider this when developing our strategies.

Q8. What issues are raised by this strategy for people with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation)?

Q9. Are there likely to be any negative implications as a result of the strategy, particularly regarding children's wellbeing?

Q10. Are there any other equality issues we should consider?

Commitments:

The Strategy proposes eight commitments structured around four Objectives: Prevent, Respond, Support and Protect. Each Objective has two Commitments and a number of [Supporting Actions](#).

<p><b><u>Objective 1: Prevent</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment 1: Prevention planning takes place for vulnerable individuals and groups.</li><li>• Commitment 2: Local partnerships include 'missing' within their priorities</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Objective 2: Respond</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment 3: Information about missing people is exchanged between agencies</li><li>• Commitment 4: Risk assessments are used consistently by agencies responding when someone goes missing.</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Objective 3: Support</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment 5: Return interviews are provided to young people and adults after returning from being missing.</li><li>• Commitment 6: People are signposted to the appropriate support available.</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Objective 4: Protect</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment 7: Awareness is raised of the issue of going missing</li><li>• Commitment 8: Links to wider risks are highlighted in training and guidance</li></ul>

Q11. What are your views on the proposed Objectives and Commitments?

Q12. What are the challenges to delivering these Objectives and Commitments?

Q13. What are your views on the Supporting Actions and are there any additional actions that would support delivery of the Strategy?

# A consultation on working together for people who go missing in Scotland

## What is the purpose of this Strategy?

Our aim is to reduce the harm related to people going missing.

**This Strategy provides a framework for how organisations can reduce that harm by working together, and seeks to raise the profile of the issues connected with people going missing.** It doesn't propose to create new systems alongside those that already exist, but to ensure that the prevention and handling of missing incidents is incorporated within these existing systems.

In delivering this, the Strategy is focussed on four main objectives:

- **Preventative** measures reduce the number of missing persons incidents.
- **Responding** appropriately to incidents.
- **Supporting** missing people and their families.
- **Protecting** vulnerable people to reduce the risk of harm.

This Strategy proposes a number of commitments that underpin each of those four objectives.

## Contribution to National Outcomes

Reducing the harm related to people going missing in Scotland will contribute to many of the National Outcomes in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, including:

- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it.
- We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsible to local people's needs.

## Contribution to Local Outcomes

These national outcomes are reflected in local authorities' Single Outcome Agreements, Community Safety priorities, and within Police Scotland's purpose – to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

## The scale of missing incidents in Scotland – some key facts

### what can the evidence\* tell us about missing people?

Over **30,000** missing incidents are reported each year

However, many missing incidents are never reported to the police

**64%** missing incidents involve children and young people

who goes missing?



Around **1 in 3** missing incidents are repeat missing incidents

### why do people go missing?

Missing people are often **distressed and vulnerable**, and going missing can be a **sign of harm**

An estimated **40%** of people with **dementia** will go missing

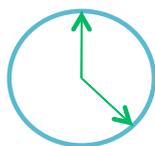
Up to **70%** of **sexually exploited young people** will runaway



Studies show that many adults who go missing have **mental health issues**

Going missing has a **serious impact on missing people and their families.**

### what happens when people go missing?



Most missing people **return or are found within 48 hours**

**1 in 12** are hurt or harmed

**1 in 100** are found dead

**1 in 6** young runaways end up **sleeping rough or with strangers**

### what works to support missing people?

**Prevention planning** can help reduce the risk of vulnerable people going missing

Providing **return interviews** to people who have been missing can help identify harm

\*The **data available is not definitive** and missing people is a **complex** and **wide-ranging** issue.

## What are the implications of people going missing in Scotland?

With over 30,000 incidents of people going missing reported each year, and an unknown number of unreported cases, the scale of “missing” in Scotland is considerable. It is a complex and wide ranging issue and the number of organisations involved, both local and national, is extensive. At a practical level, the high number of missing persons incidents means that the cost to these organisations in time and resources is high.

**Missing persons incidents reported** range from concerned parents reporting that a young person is late in returning home after a night out, to serious offences where criminality is involved such as abduction, trafficking or murder.

In some instances people choose to leave their lives and make a new start, which they have the right to do.

**Most people are found or return safely within 48 hours.**

**Going missing can be symptomatic of hidden issues.** In many cases the underlying cause of going missing is some form of distress, including family breakdown, substance abuse, domestic abuse, bereavement, bullying, exploitation, sexual abuse, and mental health problems.

**Sexual exploitation** can put young people at risk of running away, and running away makes young people particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation, for example at parties with older peers or adults, or through a survival strategy when rough-sleeping. When exploitation is already occurring, a perpetrator might encourage a young person to run away to be with them, and in some cases running away is a consequence of a disclosure about sexual exploitation.

Going missing can also indicate **forced marriage or human trafficking**. The link between going missing and child trafficking will be explored in the Scottish Government’s new Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy.

A high proportion of people who go missing have a **mental health problem**, most frequently depression and anxiety. Adults are more likely to die while missing than children, and are at higher risk of suicide.

Young people who regularly go missing can be an **indicator of poorer future outcomes in life**; for example, they are more likely to be homeless later in life.

**Missing is a cause of harm, both to the missing person and to their families and friends.** Whilst missing, people may put themselves in dangerous positions, which may lead to them becoming the victims of crime, or they may resort to criminality to survive. For the families and friends left behind, there will be fear and worry, and for some there will also be practical concerns such as financial or domestic arrangements.

## What can we do to reduce the risk of harm?

This Strategy is structured around four objectives that reflect the ‘journey’ of a missing incident – **Prevent, Respond, Support and Protect** – and beneath each objective two commitments have been identified, although some will cut across different objectives. Our aim is that through the framework this Strategy provides, partners will collectively agree to delivering change by signing up to those commitments that are relevant to them. Some partner organisations may already be delivering these.

**‘Missing’ is a very complex issue without a single solution**, and a National Missing Persons Strategy alone cannot solve the range of underlying causes of distress that lead to someone going missing, nor can it prevent criminal acts. It links though to a range of national strategies, legislation, guidance and approaches on the associated issues, such as the existing Child Protection Guidance, the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, the Adult Support and Protection Act, the National Dementia Strategy, and the Children’s Hearing Act ([Annex 1](#) provides a more detailed list.)

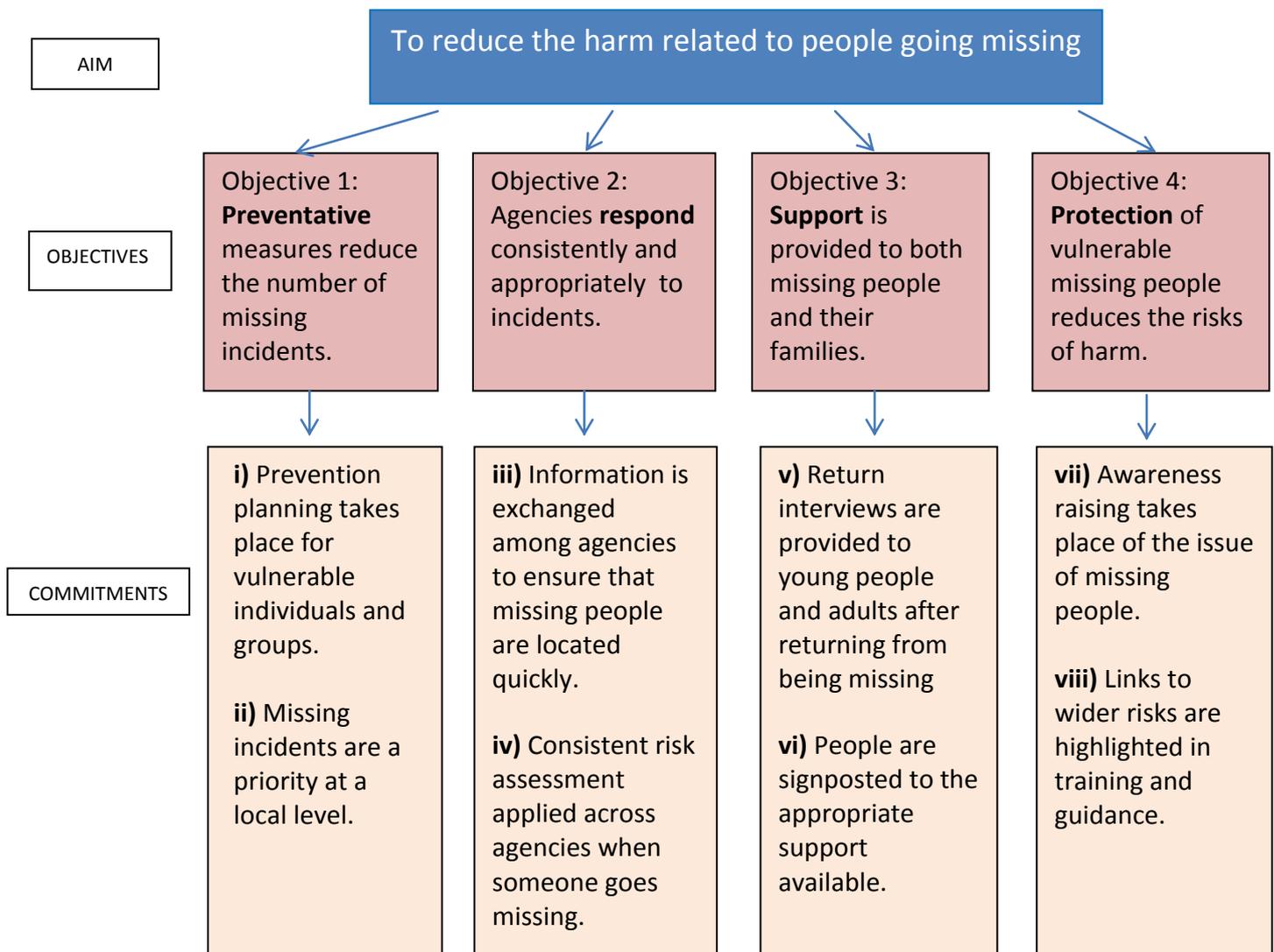
**The Strategy doesn’t propose to create new systems alongside those that already exist, but to ensure that the prevention and handling of missing incidents is incorporated within them.**

This Strategy can **raise the profile of the scale of ‘missing’ in Scotland and the vulnerabilities of those who do go missing**. It can also provide a national focus for bringing consistent good practice to all aspects of handling incidents, including prevention, the response by an agency if someone does go missing, and the support and protection available to those affected.

A range of organisations are involved in missing person incidents – depending on the circumstances, these may include **local authority social work departments, Police Scotland, housing departments, hospitals, care homes for the elderly, children’s homes, schools, or a range of third sector organisations**. Many incidents go unreported to the police, but may be known to other agencies.

**Working successfully in partnership is, therefore, critical in tackling the harm related to people going missing**, whether it is by sharing information, jointly prioritising ‘missing’ as an issue, or sharing the same terminology or approach to risk assessment. Such a multi-agency approach is key to many other existing national initiatives such as the integration of health and social care, and Scotland’s GIRFEC approach (Getting It Right for Every Child) with its focus on professionals working together in the best interests of the child or young person. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 will put GIRFEC on a statutory footing across Scotland from August 2016. Similarly the Adult Support and Protection Code of Practice stresses the need for cooperation and collaboration among agencies.

## Four Objectives – Prevent, Respond, Support and Protect



Most of the eight commitments within this Strategy require action at both a national and local level. They don't seek to impose new requirements on local authorities and their partners, but rather look at what can be done within existing resources and through multi-agency partnerships. Given that local circumstances and existing arrangements vary, they are not prescriptive about how the commitments should be delivered, but rather suggest what might be achieved.

The commitments are compatible with recommendations made by HM Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland about the handling of missing persons incidents, and with work underway by Police Scotland and its partners to develop joint protocols about their respective roles and responsibilities when someone in their care goes missing.

## Objective 1: Prevent

*'I was only allowed half an hour time out from the ward. So I thought if I went down in my slippers, if I buggered off they wouldn't know I was gone and half an hour would give me a good start' (Adam).*

### Background

Though we cannot solve the many different causes of why someone might go missing, there are ways in which we can help reduce the likelihood, and in particular prevent repeat incidents. The National Crime Agency's analysis of UK missing persons incidents during 2012/13 shows that approximately 38% of all cases reported to the police are repeat incidents, and that children are more likely to go missing on multiple occasions.

Proactively identifying and then supporting vulnerable individuals is key. By understanding and then addressing the reasons why someone goes missing, there is scope to help prevent similar occurrences. With an understanding of the broader local circumstances, combined with a wider understanding supported by this Strategy, the causes of why people go missing can be better tackled.

In some instances, the risks of going missing can be reduced or prevented altogether. Prevention may take different forms, such as care homes for the elderly taking simple measures to help prevent people with dementia wandering and getting lost; or early mediation and support being provided to a young person's family when they are at crisis point. This might include referral to the Reporter where it is thought that compulsory measures of supervision may be required for a child or young person.

There are also strong links across the other three objectives of the Strategy to preventative activity. For example raising awareness of the risks of going missing (commitment 7), providing return interviews (commitment 5), and accessing support which is available (commitment 6).

#### **Case Study: [Shelter's](#) 'Safe and Sound' project**

Safe and Sound is an award winning project in Dundee which provides support to young people and their families in helping young runaways to return and stay in the family home. The project's goals are to promote and enhance skills which can reduce risks for young people at risk of homelessness, and to improve communication and conflict resolution through family mediation.

The service – which is a partnership between Shelter Scotland and Relationships Scotland Family Mediation Tayside and Fife – has prevented homelessness amongst some of the most vulnerable young people in the community through supporting over 200 young people and their families since its launch in July 2012.

Police Scotland are working with partners to develop sample Protocols which can be put in place with agencies about incidents of children missing from care, patients who go missing from NHS hospitals, and care home residents with dementia who go missing. These include recommendations for Prevention Plans to be created and the preventative activity which can be taken.

A relatively small number of locations in each local authority area - such as care homes or hospitals - see a disproportionately high number of missing persons incidents, often due to repeat cases. Through building a local picture of who goes missing and where from, an understanding can be built of what 'missing' means in that area. Local agencies can together build an assessment of the local 'missing' picture to identify these locations (see Commitment 3) which can support understanding of underlying issues.

### **Commitment 1: Prevention planning takes place for vulnerable individuals and groups.**

For vulnerable children and adults, person-centred planning to support and safeguard their wellbeing is built in to existing frameworks. The GIRFEC approach, and the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, ensures that Child's Plans are put in place when targeted intervention is required to meet a wellbeing need, and in some instances going missing may be a trigger to having a Child's Plan first put in place. For vulnerable adults, support and protection case conferences take place and for those in care, Placement Plans are put in place.

Within this context, when agencies undertake assessments of vulnerable people's support and care needs, planning for the prevention of missing incidents should be built into this process. Such planning should make an early judgement about whether they are likely to go missing, the consequent risks, and actions identified which might reduce that likelihood. This applies equally to a young person arriving in a care setting, an asylum seeker trafficked into Scotland, a person with dementia moving into a care home, or a patient with mental illness being admitted to hospital. The actions taken will differ according to the person and circumstance, but the principle remains the same.

Where possible, the vulnerable person (or their parent/carer) should have an opportunity to contribute to the assessment and their views taken into consideration. The assessment should include whether there have been previous incidents of going missing and what the triggers were, the likelihood of any exploitation or harm coming to them, any external influences which may be a 'pull' factor, a judgement about the likelihood of a missing incident, and what actions will be taken in the event that they do go missing.

An early assessment also provides an opportunity to provide links to wider support that may be available, and to provide advice about the implications of going missing. Information can also be captured that might be used by police in a search situation.

Wider prevention planning for groups of people can also be developed. This might for example take the form of targeting people within key locations, or providing information to young people about the support available to them, using educational materials in school (see also commitment 7), or providing families of people with dementia with information about how to prevent a missing incident.

## **Commitment 2: Missing incidents are a priority at a local level.**

Because going missing is an indicator of other distress or harm, increasing the profile of missing incidents at a local partnership level supports the wider support systems already in place. Through better data sharing and intelligence held by a range of agencies, local partnerships can build and maintain an oversight of the scale of nature of missing incidents in the local area, which will then inform preventative activity.

Police Scotland can provide local analysis of their incident data showing the pattern of incidents including location, time, and who is going missing. This can be combined with other sources such as local authorities' information on missing incidents from care homes, or third sector organisations' intelligence on un-reported missing, in order to build a rich picture of who goes missing, from where, and why.

The importance of this partnership approach is already established by both Child and Adult Protection Guidance which stresses the importance of collaboration and of multi-agency working. Establishing a local framework allows agencies to best safeguard vulnerable people in their area, and to jointly tackle the issue.

Local circumstances will differ, but existing structures such as Community Planning Partnerships or Community Safety Partnerships might provide a suitable forum to drive this forward, and both harm prevention and the protection of vulnerable people will often already be reflected in local Single Outcome Agreements in different ways. This could be taken forward through the following:

- Development of local strategies - using this national Strategy as a framework - which set out the commitments made and how these will be actioned by partners at that local level.
- At an operational level, regular liaison between key organisations – bringing together Police Scotland's Divisional missing persons lead with social work, child and adult protection committee leads, NHS, third sector partners, education and housing.
- Identification of a Missing Persons 'champion' within the partnership.

**'Prevention' objective - Summary of supporting actions**

Scottish Government	Coordinate development of sample prevention planning
Local authorities	Lead partner in local multi-agency partnerships Ensure prevention planning takes place for children and adults in care Local Protocols agreed with Police Scotland regarding children missing from care, and people with dementia going missing from care
NHS Health Boards	Ensure prevention planning takes place for patients at risk of going missing Local Protocols agreed with Police Scotland Partner in local multi-agency partnerships
Police Scotland	Provides local analysis and data for partners about missing incidents Lead partner in local multi-agency partnerships Coordinate development of Protocols regarding children missing from care, NHS patients going missing, and people going missing from care homes
Local partnership	Includes 'missing' as a priority at strategic level, for example Community Planning Partnership or Community Safety Partnership Local Missing Persons Strategy developed Champion for 'missing' identified Identifies target groups for preventative activity Operational partnership group established with Police Scotland, Local Authority leads, NHS leads and third sector.

## Objective 2: Respond

*'I was thinking 'how long will it be before they report me missing?' 'Cause my bus, I left there about half past one and my bus didn't leave till 6 o'clock and I'm not normally out all day so I thought they might think something is up.*  
(Agnes)

*'I kept thinking if I go get on a bus somewhere half the buses now have CCTV, so they'll know where I'm going. So that's why I started walking. No one will know where I'm going, they can't follow me' (Trish).*

### Background

When someone goes missing, the response to that incident is critical. A judgement needs to be made about the most appropriate response through sound risk assessment. Both the police and the reporting agencies (when involved) need to have an agreed position on the point at which other agency involvement is appropriate. In some circumstances it may be appropriate for agencies to judge a person in their care is 'absent' rather than missing. Examples include a young person staying out later than an agreed time, but where the care worker is aware of their location, in communication with them, and has no concerns about their wellbeing.

Where a decision is made to inform the police, the reporting professionals and the police need to have a mutual understanding about the language that is being used around that risk level, so they can act appropriately. Information needs to be shared so that there is sufficient intelligence to locate that person as quickly as possible.

Three Protocols are being developed by Police Scotland and its partner organisations that agree the response taken by agencies involved in three different circumstances:

- Looked-after children who go missing from residential or foster care.
- Adults who go missing from care homes in Scotland.
- Patients who go missing from NHS Care in Scotland.

Each of these Protocols will include prevention planning but importantly also the different roles and responsibilities of agencies when someone goes missing.

### **Case Study: Child Rescue Alert**

The [Missing People](#) charity, the National Crime Agency and Groupcall operate a Child Rescue Alert system, which sends out alerts when a child has been abducted or their life is thought to be at risk. Texts or emails are sent to people who have signed up to receive the alerts. [www.childrescuealert.org.uk](http://www.childrescuealert.org.uk)

The system is based on the 'Amber Alerts' pioneered in the USA after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman was abducted and murdered in Texas in 1996. In Europe, the Netherlands have adopted this system and over two million people are registered to receive an Alert message.

### **Commitment 3: Information about missing people is exchanged among agencies.**

Appropriate and proportionate information-sharing is important in several respects – in the handling of live cases, in building a picture of someone’s history and vulnerabilities, and in understanding local patterns. This commitment builds on both the first and second commitments – about prevention planning, and on taking a partnership approach – and is important in undertaking risk assessments (commitment 4).

At present, missing persons incidents which are reported to the police generate a ‘Risk and Concern’ form, which is then shared with partners. A range of agencies may hold important information which can be used to ensure an appropriate response is made in the event someone goes missing. This might for example be about health issues, previous instances of going missing, or concerns about abuse or exploitation, which will have been captured in their prevention plans (commitment 1).

Where child protection concerns are raised, there are existing processes which require joint information sharing, intelligence gathering and decision making between police, the local authority and other core agencies. The Children and Young People Act makes available a Named Person for children from 0–18, or older if still in school. The Named Person will have a key role in ensuring that information about a child or young person’s wellbeing is appropriately recorded and shared when there are concerns about a missing incident. Local Authorities will want to ensure that the guidance they provide to Named Persons and Lead Professionals includes information on that role.

In some instances, third sector organisations will also have information which can provide a further angle, for example about a history of a young person running away from home which has not been reported to the police. Similarly, different agencies may compile their own data about missing incidents which should be shared/aggregated. For example incidents where young people go missing from care are currently reported to the Care Inspectorate.

Adopting the local partnership approach described in commitment 2 – particularly at an operational level – builds communication channels between agencies, and provides a forum within which such information can be appropriately shared. Local partnerships will need to establish an appropriate information sharing protocol to enable working together, as there can be a number of barriers within processes or systems to effectively sharing information including data protection responsibilities around handling sensitive and personal information.

#### **Commitment 4: Risk assessments are used consistently by agencies responding when someone goes missing.**

At present a range of different methods of assessment are used by agencies to determine the level of risk when someone goes missing. Police Scotland use 'low', 'medium' or 'high'; other agencies who are involved in incidents such as people going missing from care homes or hospitals may use other labels such as 'green', 'amber' or 'red'. It is important that professionals in different settings need to be able to communicate clearly to each other, and ensure that the most appropriate action is taken. Local partnerships will want to consider how agencies are applying risk assessments to ensure a common understanding, and where appropriate agree a joint risk assessment takes place.

More fundamentally, there is at times a mismatch between definitions of 'missing'. This has been highlighted by a report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland about local policing in Aberdeen City which recommends the development of common partnership definitions for missing people that can be agreed and adopted by multi-agency partners across Scotland. The Scottish Government will take forward this work to reach consensus on what 'missing' means.

At times someone's absence may be assessed as being such low risk that they can be treated as 'absent' rather than missing, and so there is no need to engage with the police unless circumstances change. Examples include situations where a young person in care does not return at the agreed time, but care staff know where they are and have no concerns about their well-being.

**'Response' objective - Summary of supporting actions**

Scottish Government	Promote Child Rescue Alert across Scottish organisations Coordinate an agreed definition of 'missing' with partners
Local authorities	Local protocols agreed with Police Scotland regarding children missing from care, and people going missing from care Clear guidance for Named Persons/Lead Professionals on their role when children go missing/or at risk of going missing
NHS Health Boards	Local protocols agreed with Police Scotland about incidents where patients go missing
Police Scotland	Coordinate development of Protocols regarding children missing from care, NHS patients going missing, and people going missing from care homes
Local partnership	Operational partnership group establishes information sharing protocol/agreement Coordinates understanding of risk assessment across agencies

### Objective 3: Support

*He made it very easy for me to relax a little and talk to them and we spoke about other things that helped. I think that all has to contribute to my getting better' (Sophie).*

*'Everybody wants you to explain yourself and I couldn't. For days afterwards I was still the same so, you know, it was on the verge sort of 'I can still walk out' I still threaten it' (Trish).*

#### Background

Going missing is both a symptom and a cause of distress – for missing people, and for their friends and families. It is important that those who are affected by missing incidents are provided support at what is often a crisis point. This support may be needed at different stages – while someone is missing, or on their return when the underlying causes of going missing might still be present.

In some cases those underlying issues are already being addressed; a young person may already be under Child Protection for example, or an adult already identified as at risk of harm under the Adult Support Protection Act. But for other people – such as children running away from home for the first time - going missing may be the first indication that there are problems. In those circumstances it is important that there is an opportunity to identify those issues, and then signpost people to the appropriate support available. There can be both 'push' and 'pull' factors at play when someone goes missing – they may be running away from something, but equally they may be running towards something.

The Children's Hearings System is designed to protect vulnerable children and young people. Where the Reporter considers compulsory measures of supervision may be necessary to keep a child or young person safe, either from themselves or others, the case will be referred to the Children's Panel to make a decision on the most appropriate measures to be taken. In some circumstances, the risks associated with going missing may be the trigger which leads to the Hearings System being used.

People who go missing are at risk of rough sleeping or making other risky decisions about where to spend the night. The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 provides local authorities with powers to provide short-term refuge for children or young people who appear to be at risk of harm and who request refuge. At present there is no dedicated emergency accommodation available for young people in Scotland.

For the families of those who are missing, practical information is available from the National Missing Persons Bureau which has developed a range of factsheets. The Missing People charity (see case study below) also provides support services across the UK including a free 24/7 helpline.

Where a person is missing for a long-time there can be practical implications for family members, such as having to manage finances such as mortgages. In

Scotland the Accountant of Court can grant Judicial Factors 'in loco absentis', which provide control over the missing persons' affairs, including finances. These powers are rarely used, which could indicate a lack of awareness, which this Strategy can help address.

**Commitment 5: Return interviews are provided to young people and adults after returning from being missing.**

Speaking with people after they return is an important way of understanding the reasons why they went and any harm they may have come to, or still be at risk of. They can then be directed to the appropriate support available, and information which is gathered from them can inform the prevention of a repeat incident.

The benefits of providing return interviews are widely recognised. Currently the provision of return interviews varies substantially depending on local circumstances. Sometimes a local authority service such as Housing will carry out an interview for its own purposes, but may not share the information gathered more widely. In Aberdeen and Fife, Police Scotland has officers whose specific role is to carry out informal interviews, who have developed considerable expertise. In other areas, third sector organisations including Barnardos and Shelter provide an interview service on behalf of the police or local authority.

The Children and Young People Act makes available a Named Person for children from age 0–18, or older if still in school. In some cases the Named Person may be the appropriate individual to speak to the child on their return, or to signpost the child or family to another service for this support. Where a child is looked after, or has a Child's Plan due to other wellbeing needs, the Lead Professional will have the key role in coordinating support for the child.

Local circumstances differ, as do individual cases, so it may not be appropriate for there to be a uniform method of delivering interviews, nor a single organisation to deliver them. The Scottish Government will coordinate the development of good practice guidance and examples that draw out the areas key to providing successful interviews. In broad terms, return interviews should ask about:

- the reasons for going missing
- what happened, including where they went, and who with
- any harm experienced
- what could help prevent them going missing again.

Appropriate support should be provided, for example, through the attendance of a caregiver or communication aids, and contact information for the interviewer should be given so that follow up contact and support can be sought. Information gathered should be shared with the agencies concerned including police, local authority, and the Named Person or Lead Professional if a child in care. Disclosures that are made about criminality or harm should be actioned accordingly. Where children are being interviewed, the Scottish Government Guidance on Joint Investigative Interviewing of Child Witnesses should be referred to.

## **Two Case Studies: Return Interviews**

In **Aberdeen City, Police Scotland** has a dedicated return-interview officer who is based in a Community Safety Hub. The trained officer reviews missing person cases involving young people and identifies where a return interview is needed. The officer works out of uniform and arranges meetings in a location where the interviewee can be comfortable and best supported. She proactively provides support and builds relationships where possible, not only with the young person concerned, but directly with local care homes. As a result she has successfully broken down the barriers which can sometimes exist between young people and the police.

The **Safer Choices service in Renfrewshire** is a partnership established in 2012 between Barnardo's Scotland and Police Scotland to reduce incidents of young people going missing from home and care, and reduce the risk of sexual exploitation and other crime. The service provides a rapid response to problems such as disengagement from school and offending, and provides return interviews after a young person returns from being missing. The interviews identify the trigger points to help develop effective coping mechanisms. They also help young people manage risky situations identify the support available to them, and assess the risk of harm and the likelihood of any future episodes of missing from home or care.

The impact has been a reduced frequency and duration of missing incidents, an increase in young people's understanding of the risks and how to keep themselves safe. Barnardo's approach to return interviews is to ensure they are effective in both information gathering and providing an opportunity for the young person to talk about the circumstances of the missing episode from their own perspective.

## **Commitment 6: People are signposted to the appropriate support available**

Because going missing touches on a wide range of issues in people's lives, there will often be a range of local voluntary organisations that may be able to offer support to people with specific needs. There are also larger national organisations who offer their services across the country, such as Missing People, Barnardos, the Samaritans, and Shelter Scotland. Police Scotland have, for example, been working with Missing People so that they can better signpost people directly to the support that they offer to families and missing people.

At a local level, frontline practitioners need to be able to quickly signpost people to sources of support, and local partnerships may need to undertake scoping exercises of the support available.

### **Case Study: Missing People charity**

Missing People is a UK charity that provides a free, confidential 24/7 helpline offering practical and emotional support for missing children and adults and for the families left behind. A new national #SaySomething Reporting Helpline has been launched in 2015 which young people can use to report concerns about sexual exploitation and get support. All Missing People's services are delivered by experienced and accredited staff and volunteers and can be accessed for free by calling or texting 116 000, or emailing [116000@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:116000@missingpeople.org.uk). The charity also provides a wide range of online information and guidance for missing people, for families left behind and for professionals at [www.missingpeople.org.uk](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk)

Missing People also provide a publicity appeal service to gather vital information from the public when someone is missing and considered to be vulnerable. With consent from the police and the family, they disseminate a tailored publicity appeal through 120,000 social media followers, national and local media partners, and a national network of digital advertising billboards. They are also able to offer commissioned services such as return interviews and follow-up support for children and adults after a missing incident.

### **'Support' objective - Summary of supporting actions**

Scottish Government	Raise awareness of Judicial Factors Coordinate development of return interview guidance and reporting
Local authorities	Ensure adults and young people receive a return interview Review the provision of emergency accommodation for young people
NHS Health Boards	Ensure patients receive a return interview
Police Scotland	Highlight support available to those affected by missing incidents
Local partnership	Review local third sector support services available
Wider partners	Third sector organisations build awareness of support services available

## Objective 4: Protect

*'I got there they started to inhale heroin and I have never ever seen that before. I didn't know where I was, they locked the front door and they wouldn't let me out. Then I ended up jumping out the window trying to get away' (Jasmine).*

### Background

As described above, many people who go missing are already vulnerable, and whilst missing they are at increased risk of harm and criminality. People can put themselves at risk by staying with strangers, and becoming victims of crime or exploitation. The links between going missing and sexual exploitation, trafficking, forced marriage and abuse are widely recognised. Recent research has highlighted that children and young people experiencing gang involvement and going missing are at particular risk of sexual exploitation and serious violence.

The commitments below seek to ensure that the risks related to going missing are highlighted to professionals, those at most risk, and more widely to the public.

### **Commitment 7: Awareness is raised of the issue of going missing**

To many people, both professionals and the public, the scale of 'missing' in Scotland is a surprise, and the links with vulnerabilities and harm are sometimes unknown. By raising the profile of missing, this Strategy can help build a better awareness of those who are at risk of going missing, and of the risks that they in turn face. For those people who are not connected to services or agencies but are in distress, it is important that their families, friends and colleagues may be alert to the signs. For the range of professionals who may be involved while someone is experiencing difficulties, it is important that they too are alert to the likelihood of them going missing.

The Scottish Government will ensure that, where appropriate, messaging about 'missing' is included in wider public campaigns – for example those about trafficking, sexual exploitation, or mental health. We will give this Strategy maximum impact through an implementation strategy, a national online presence, and by continuing to build links with partner organisations tackling 'missing'.

At a local level, awareness raising can be included within local strategies (see commitment 2) by local partnerships, and key groups or locations targeted. It is important that awareness is raised amongst young people about the risks of running away, and that both adults and children are aware of how to get help if they are thinking about going missing.

## **Commitment 8: Links to wider risks are highlighted in training and guidance**

Issues such as child sexual exploitation and human trafficking are being tackled through legislation and national action between Scottish Government and partners, and it will be important that these make reference to 'missing' being a possible signifier of harm. The guidance being developed to support the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 will also, where appropriate, need to reference this, as will future programmes of learning and development opportunities for those working in the care sector.

There will also be a wide range of existing relevant guidance and training for professionals, at both a national and local level. Some of this already references the links with going missing – such as the National Guidance for Child Protection described below. There are also some materials which are specifically relevant to going missing – for example training materials on Young Runaways prepared by the Scottish Coalition for Young Runaways, and an e-learning package developed by Police Scotland about handling missing incidents. The Scottish Government will work with these partners to explore how these materials might be updated as appropriate and used more widely as a resource by agencies. Local partnerships can identify opportunities for shared learning and training to develop local relationships and shared understanding.

### **Case Study: National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland – Children and Young People who are Missing**

The national child protection guidance sets out a national framework to help shape local child protection practices and procedures. It aims to improve the way all professionals and organisations work together to give children the protection they need, quickly and effectively at the earliest possible stage. It also highlights the shared responsibility of agencies and services have for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare.

Sections 618-625 of the guidance covers children missing from statutory services, home or from care, and describes their vulnerabilities and the possible causes of going missing. “Local areas should consider a strategic multi-agency collaborative framework, including relevant third sector agencies and independent schools, to support individual agency procedures for responding to, and tracking, missing children. Collaborative inter-agency and cross-boundary working is crucial in missing children situations. Guidance needs to be clear on specific procedures to be followed for those missing from home and those missing from care, as agencies have specific statutory responsibilities in respect of children missing from local authority care.”

**'Protect' objective - Summary of supporting actions**

Scottish Government	Ensure messages about the risks of going missing are included in relevant national guidance and training Identify opportunities to includes message in wider public campaigns Review existing national training materials Support development of education resources
Local authorities	Ensure messages about the risks of going missing are included in relevant local guidance and training
NHS Health Boards	Ensure messages about the risks of going missing are included in relevant guidance and training
Police Scotland	Explore opportunities to share learning resources such as e-learning package
Local partnership	Identify opportunities for shared learning and training

## Summary of supporting actions

	1. Prevention	2. Response	3. Support	4. Protection
<b>Scottish Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate development of sample prevention planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Child Rescue Alert across Scottish organisations</li> <li>Coordinate an agreed definition of 'missing' with partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of Judicial Factors</li> <li>Coordinate development of return interview guidance and reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure messages about the risks of going missing are included in relevant national guidance and training</li> <li>Identify opportunities to include message in wider public campaigns</li> <li>Review existing national training materials</li> <li>Support development of education resources</li> </ul>
<b>Local authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead partner in local multi-agency partnerships</li> <li>Ensure prevention planning takes place for children and adults in care</li> <li>Local Protocols agreed with Police Scotland regarding children missing from care, and people with dementia going missing from care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local protocols agreed with Police Scotland regarding children missing from care, and people going missing from care</li> <li>Clear guidance for Named Persons/Lead Professionals on their role when children go missing/or at risk of going missing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure adults and young people receive a return interview</li> <li>Review provision of emergency accommodation for young people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure messages about the risks of going missing are included in relevant local guidance and training</li> </ul>
<b>NHS Health Boards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure prevention planning takes place for patients at risk of going missing</li> <li>Local Protocols agreed with Police Scotland</li> <li>Partner in local multi-agency partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local protocols agreed with Police Scotland about incidents where patients go missing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure patients receive a return interview</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure messages about the risks of going missing are included in relevant guidance and training</li> </ul>

<p><b>Police Scotland</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides local analysis and data for partners about missing incidents</li> <li>• Lead partner in local multi-agency partnerships</li> <li>• Coordinate development of Protocols regarding children missing from care, NHS patients going missing, and people going missing from care homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate development of Protocols regarding children missing from care, NHS patients going missing, and people going missing from care homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight support available to those affected by missing incidents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to share learning resources such as e-learning package</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local partnership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes 'missing' as a priority at strategic level, for example Community Planning Partnership or Community Safety Partnership</li> <li>• Local Missing Persons Strategy developed</li> <li>• Champion for 'missing' identified</li> <li>• Identifies target groups for preventative activity</li> <li>• Operational partnership group established with Police Scotland, Local Authority leads, NHS leads and third sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational partnership group establishes information sharing protocol/agreement</li> <li>• Coordinates understanding of risk assessment across agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review local third sector support services available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for shared learning and training</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wider partners</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third sector organisations build awareness of support services available</li> </ul>	

## **Implementation**

[A full implementation plan will be developed taking into account responses received to this Consultation.]

## **Annex 1: Related legislation, strategies, guidance and approaches**

<p><b>Legislation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill</li> <li>• Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014</li> <li>• Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014</li> <li>• Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007</li> <li>• Homelessness (Scotland) Act 2003</li> <li>• UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991)</li> <li>• Equality Act 2010</li> <li>• Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011</li> <li>• Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Offences Bill</li> </ul>	<p><b>Approaches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting it Right for Every Child (2012)</li> <li>• Regional Housing Options Hubs</li> <li>• Scottish Government Building Safer Communities Programme</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policies and strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health Strategy for Scotland (2012-15)</li> <li>• Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group Workplan</li> <li>• Suicide Prevention Strategy 2013-16</li> <li>• National Dementia Strategy 2013-16</li> <li>• Reshaping Care for Older People</li> <li>• Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan</li> <li>• Keys for Life Learning Disability Strategy for Scotland</li> <li>• Child Poverty Strategy 2014-17</li> <li>• Preventing Offending: Getting it right for Children and Young People 2015-2020</li> <li>• Equally Safe: Scotland’s strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls (2014)</li> <li>• Human Trafficking Strategy</li> <li>• Equally Well (2008)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Options Guidance</li> <li>• National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014)</li> <li>• Getting our Priorities Right (2013)</li> <li>• Children Missing from Education Service</li> </ul>

## **Annex 2: Data and research on ‘missing’**

National Crime Agency. Missing Persons: data and analysis 2012/13

Stevenson, O. Parr, H. Woolnough, P. Fyfe, N. (2013). *Geographies of Missing People: Processes, Experiences, Responses*. (Glasgow: The University of Glasgow).  
<http://www.geographiesofmissingpeople.org.uk/>

Home Office: Missing Children and Adults, a Cross-Government Strategy (2011)

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland: Local Policing+ Inspection of the Approach to Missing Person Investigations in Aberdeen City Division (2015)

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults and the APPG for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. (2012) *Report from the Joint Inquiry Into Children Who Go Missing From Care*.

APPG Inquiry: *Support for Families for Missing People, Report with recommendations* (2011)

Home Office. *The Missing Persons Taskforce: A report with recommendations for improving the multi-agency response to missing person incidents*. (2010)

Public Petitions Committee Report on tackling child sexual exploitation in Scotland, Scottish Parliament (2014)

Shelter Scotland: Running away and future homelessness – the missing link? (2011)

Missing People information and statistics factsheets;  
<http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/about-us/about-the-issue/information-statistics/75-missingfamilies2.html>

Police Scotland – Missing People Standard Operating Procedure and Aide Memoire

The Children’s Society: Still Running 3 (2011)

## **Annex 3: Developing the Strategy**

From the outset, development of this strategy has been through collaboration. Both a Working Group and a Steering Group were formed by the Scottish Government in 2014 to take this work forward, with membership drawn from a range of stakeholders including Police Scotland, academics, charities such as Missing People, Shelter Scotland and Barnardos, local authority representatives and organisations including the Mental Welfare Commission. The expertise of a wide range of partners has been vital, including the National Missing Persons Bureau and the Home Office, and we will continue to rely on partnership working across agencies, at local and national levels.

Early in 2015 a Proposition Paper provided stakeholders with a draft of the Strategy to get their views on the proposals. The feedback received to this, including from young people affected by running away, then informed further drafting.

### **National Missing Persons Steering Group**

Members are drawn from a cross section of sectors, including voluntary organisations, local authorities, private care sector, Police Scotland, Health, and Scottish Government. The Group's remit is to provide a critical steer, expert knowledge and advice, and to help make connections between the diverse range of cross-cutting issues.

### **Scottish Government Missing Persons Working Group**

Members are drawn from Scottish Government policy leads on a range of relevant issues, including child protection, homelessness, elderly care, and education. Police Scotland's Missing Persons Unit also attend, and academics from the Geographies of Missing People project.

## **A consultation on working together for people who go missing in Scotland**

### **1. Purpose of this consultation**

This consultation seeks views from individuals and organisations, across sectors, on how we can protect vulnerable people and reduce the harm associated with going missing in Scotland. It has been produced by the Scottish Government, with input from a wide range of partners.

### **2. Responding to this consultation paper**

Responses should reach us by **30 November 2015**. Earlier responses would be welcome.

Please complete your response using the online system at <http://www.gov.scot.Consultations/Current> or send your response with the completed **Respondent Information Form** (see below) to:

[WorkingTogether@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:WorkingTogether@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Or:

Katherine Byrne  
Safer Communities Directorate  
Scottish Government  
1WR St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

If you have any queries then please contact us on 0131 244 4626.

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>.

## **Handling your response**

We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete the consultation online at <http://www.gov.scot/Consultations/Current> or complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would, therefore, have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

## **Next steps in the process**

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, the consultation will be made available to the public in the Scottish Government Library and on the Scottish Government consultation web pages. You can make arrangements to view responses by contacting the SG Library on 0131 244 4552. Responses can be copied and sent to you, but a charge may be made for this service.

## **What happens next?**

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us reach a decision on the questions contained in the consultation. We will analyse responses to support the completion of the strategy, which will be published in 2016.

## **Impact Assessments**

This consultation will allow us to gather information and evidence to inform the development and subsequent publication of the required Impact Assessments.

## **Comments and complaints**

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact details above.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

**Please Note** this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

**1. Name/Organisation**

Organisation Name

Title Mr  Ms  Mrs  Miss  Dr  Please tick as appropriate

Surname

Forename

**2. Postal Address**

Postcode	Phone	Email

**3. Permissions - I am responding as...**

**Individual** / **Group/Organisation**   
 Please tick as appropriate

**(a)** Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

**Please tick as appropriate**

Yes  No

**(b)** Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

**Please tick ONE of the following boxes**

**(c)** The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

**Please tick as appropriate**

Yes  No

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

**or**

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

**or**

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

**(d)** We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

**Please tick as appropriate**

**Yes**

**No**



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**w w w . g o v . s c o t**

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Edinburgh  
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If you have any queries then please contact us on 0131 244 4626.

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>.

## **Handling your response**

We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete the consultation online at <http://www.gov.scot/Consultations/Current> or complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would, therefore, have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

## **Next steps in the process**

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, the consultation will be made available to the public in the Scottish Government Library and on the Scottish Government consultation web pages. You can make arrangements to view responses by contacting the SG Library on 0131 244 4552. Responses can be copied and sent to you, but a charge may be made for this service.

## **What happens next?**

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us reach a decision on the questions contained in the consultation. We will analyse responses to support the completion of the strategy, which will be published in 2016.

## **Impact Assessments**

This consultation will allow us to gather information and evidence to inform the development and subsequent publication of the required Impact Assessments.

## **Comments and complaints**

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact details above.

## RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

**Please Note** this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

### 1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Title Mr  Ms  Mrs  Miss  Dr  Please tick as appropriate

Surname

Forename

### 2. Postal Address

Postcode	Phone	Email

### 3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual / Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

**(a)** Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

**Please tick as appropriate**

Yes  No

**(b)** Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

**Please tick ONE of the following boxes**

**(c)** The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

**Please tick as appropriate**

Yes  No

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

**or**

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

**or**

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

**(d)** We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

**Please tick as appropriate**

**Yes**

**No**

## Consultation questions

Comments on all sections of the draft Strategy are welcome. In particular we are grateful for your response to any or all of the following questions.

### **Purpose**

Our aim is to reduce the harm related to people going missing. This Strategy provides a framework for how organisations can together improve outcomes, and seeks to raise the profile of the issues connected with going missing.

Q1. What are your views on the proposed Purpose of the Strategy?

### **Definition of Missing**

It is recommended that there is a nationally agreed definition of 'missing':

'Anyone whose whereabouts are unknown and:

- Where the circumstances are out of character; or
- The context suggests the person may be subject to crime; or
- The person is at risk of harm to themselves or another'

Q2. Are we right to have a national definition?

Q3. What are your comments on the proposed definition above?

### General Questions:

Q4. What **works well** in the Strategy?

Q5. What could we **do better or differently** in the Strategy?

Q6. What will be **vital to the implementation and success** of the Strategy?

Q7. Do you see any **challenges** to implementation of the Strategy?

Equality considerations:

The Scottish Government wants to ensure that all members of society are treated equally. As part of this, we need to understand how different people and groups are affected by our policies and consider this when developing our strategies.

Q8. What issues are raised by this strategy for people with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation)?

Q9. Are there likely to be any negative implications as a result of the strategy, particularly regarding children's wellbeing?

Q10. Are there any other equality issues we should consider?

Commitments:

The Strategy proposes eight commitments structured around four Objectives: Prevent, Respond, Support and Protect. Each Objective has two Commitments and a number of [Supporting Actions](#).

<p><b><u>Objective 1: Prevent</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment 1: Prevention planning takes place for vulnerable individuals and groups.</li><li>• Commitment 2: Local partnerships include 'missing' within their priorities</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Objective 2: Respond</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment 3: Information about missing people is exchanged between agencies</li><li>• Commitment 4: Risk assessments are used consistently by agencies responding when someone goes missing.</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Objective 3: Support</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment 5: Return interviews are provided to young people and adults after returning from being missing.</li><li>• Commitment 6: People are signposted to the appropriate support available.</li></ul>
<p><b><u>Objective 4: Protect</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commitment 7: Awareness is raised of the issue of going missing</li><li>• Commitment 8: Links to wider risks are highlighted in training and guidance</li></ul>

Q11. What are your views on the proposed Objectives and Commitments?

Q12. What are the challenges to delivering these Objectives and Commitments?

Q13. What are your views on the Supporting Actions and are there any additional actions that would support delivery of the Strategy?





**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Report by:

Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources

### **Community Safety Update**

## **1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides an update for the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board on recent activities carried out by Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, including information on:

- environmental enforcement and improvement activities;
- protecting vulnerable residents;
- building safer communities;
- diversionary activities;
- the development of the integrated control room and CCTV.

## **2. Recommendations**

That the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board note the content of this progress update report.

## **3. Environmental Enforcement and Improvements**

### **3.1 Keep Scotland Beautiful - Dog Fouling Fortnight (30 September - 13 October 2015)**

Recent research carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) found that almost 70% of people rated dog fouling as the item on our streets which bothered them most. 64% of KSB campaign supporters also said they encountered dog fouling while carrying out Clean Up events this year. The KSB campaign Dog Fouling Fortnight aims to provoke support from the public in tackling the issue of dog fouling in communities. To support this national campaign the Wardens Service provided high visibility support, utilising existing resources and staff, to highlight the issue, including:



- CCTV vehicles focussed on parks or near open ground and at dog fouling hotspots identified by local knowledge and statistical information;
- Wardens distributed 'Know the Law' dog fouling leaflets and provided advice to dog walkers and residents within local parks and Town Centres.
- Partnership working with Police Scotland and StreetScene staff in sharing information for follow up enforcement or informal educational action.

### 3.2 **Town Centre Initiative and Rapid Response Team**

A dedicated town centre Rapid Response Team, comprising of 2 trainees and 1 warden has been developed and is currently being piloted within Paisley Town Centre. This small & dedicated team will provide a focus on domestic and trade waste issues arising in Town centre locations by providing information and advice to residents and businesses. They will also undertake enforcement activities where necessary. This team will support activities currently undertaken by Wardens, EHOs and waste supervisors to ensure that principally trade waste (but also domestic waste) is appropriately presented for collection.

In addition, the team will report issues relating to street cleaning, flyposting and graffiti in the area and will remove, and where possible take enforcement action to detect and deter flytipping.

### 3.3 **Environmental Training Team (ETT)**

The Environmental Training Team (ETT) have carried out a number of activities within Paisley Town Centre & surrounding areas in recent months, including;

- Clearing litter at the Hammills Walkway , the monitoring and maintaining on a monthly basis;
- Painting railings at Bridge Street car park at Mill Street/Cotton Street;
- Painting of Utility Cabinets within the Bid area in Paisley Town Centre.
- The undertaking of a graffiti survey ( 'Tag the Tag') of the town centre within the Paisley First/Business Improvement area and thereafter carry out graffiti removal works in conjunction with StreetScene.
- Clean up of various gap sites through 'Stalled Spaces' funding

### 3.4 **Vehicle Emissions Testing**

This bi-annual event is took place on 28 and 29 October 2015. Community Safety wardens working in partnership with Police Scotland carried out emissions testing on light vehicles entering the Air Quality Control Management Area in Paisley town centre.



During a similar initiative in March 2015, 229 vehicles were tested and 8 failed resulting in the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices to the drivers.

### 3.5 **Litter and Antisocial Behaviour Initiative, Renfrew**

Renfrew Community Council previously raised issue of litter and antisocial behaviour generated by the pupils from local high schools at lunchtimes and after school in 2014. A variety of shops in the Town Centre offer hot foods which pupils use regularly. Confrontations with pupils and the local community happen on occasion. Many of the pupils were under 16 and therefore could not be subject to a Litter Fixed Penalty Notice. The Community Safety Partnership together with local schools put an action plan in place:

- Renfrew High School designed correspondence through the schools Eco group which is pupil led.
- The Community Safety Youth Team addressed school assemblies regarding pupils' behaviour outside school grounds.
- Two Wardens patrolled the local area on planned weeks of action.
- These Wardens challenged unacceptable behaviours they observed involving pupils and captured the interaction using body worn video. Footage was forwarded to the schools for follow up action.

## 4. **Protecting the Vulnerable**

### **Seedhill Educational Awareness Initiative**

4.1 Through analysis of complaints received by Community Safety from both residents and elected members it became apparent that the Seedhill area was identified as a hotspot area for antisocial behaviour and environmental issues. In September, the Community Safety Partnership introduced a multi agency Educational Initiative in the area. The initiative was designed to deliver information around reporting of antisocial behaviour / environmental issues and giving general advice on home safety prevention, health and wellbeing. The initiative was run on the 9-11 and 14-16 September 2015 from noon to 4pm:

- The Safe Bus was located at a different street in the Seedhill area everyday of the initiative. NHS Health and Improvement practitioners and the wardens were available at the bus to give advice. The NHS distributed leaflets covering a range of health topic and gave advice to the local residents on cancer, falls and prevention and nutrition. NHS children service practitioners promoted the current "active children eating smart" (ACES) and advised of the importance of



healthy eating and the benefits of physical activities (age group 5 – 15 year olds). The Wardens Service promoted community safety and offered local residence assistance on antisocial behaviour, environmental issues, parking and estate management issues.

- The Seedhill area has a mixed tenure, which is predominantly owned by Williamsburgh Housing Association. All tenements were visited by officers. A perspex information holder was erected to the front & back close doors at McKerrell Street and Seedhill Road as a trial and will hopefully be rolled out to the rest of the area. This allowed residents easy access to all relevant information within their building.
- Housing Officers carried out door to door visits to speak directly with tenants to identify hotspot areas including dog fouling. These visits focused on furnishing residents with information on services available to them to address these issues.
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Officers carried out fire home safety checks to the identified vulnerable adults from the Housing providers and offered fire prevention advice.
- Community Services promoted advice and literature to local residents about the restorative justice service.
- Waste Advisers provided information on segregation of waste to prevent contamination of domestic and recycle wheelie bins providing food bags where required and offering assistance to residence around bin sharing services.

4.2 Following on from the initiative, a satisfaction survey was carried out to determine its the impact. Early feedback shows that the initiative was a successful. For example, the Safe Bus was well attended by residents seeking advice on all 6 days of the initiative.

#### **Scottish Community Mediation Network Event**

4.3 In November 2015, the Scottish Community Mediation Network was hosted at the newly opened Renfrewshire Community Safety Hub. The Network was established in 1990 to raise the profile of mediation and to act as a professional body for mediators in Scotland. It also maintains the Scottish Mediation Register and provides access to quality assured mediation services.



4.4 Twenty mediation practitioners from across Scotland attended the event which was opened by Renfrewshire's Community Safety Hub Manager, Maxine Hendry who highlighted the important role that mediation has within the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership. The main speakers on the day were the Network's Director, Graham Boyack, who provided an update on the Network's activities and Liz Law from the Landlord Tenants Mediation Service. The event also discussed issues relating to homelessness and young people and changes to the current accreditation scheme for mediation.

#### **Keep Safe**

4.5 Keep Safe works in partnership with Police Scotland and a network of local businesses to create 'Keep Safe' places for disabled, vulnerable, and elderly people when out and about in the community. People can access these premises to seek assistance and help if they feel lost, confused, scared, in danger, or have been the victim of a crime. The Keep Safe initiative is currently running in Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, and Dumfries & Galloway, and is being rolled out across Scotland in partnership with other Local Authorities. In Renfrewshire, we have signed up 8 new Keep Safe places: Williamsburgh Housing Association, Intu Braehead, Salvation Army - Erskine, Engage Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire Carers Centre, Bluewater Dentist, Mistylaw Medical Centre, and the RSPB Visitor Centre.

### **5. Building Safer Communities**

#### **5.1 Stalled Spaces**

Stalled Spaces Scotland is an initiative managed by Architecture & Design Scotland (A&DS) on behalf of the Scottish Government to tackle vacant and derelict land sites. Following the submission of an application to A&DS, Renfrewshire Council was awarded £10,000. This award was matched via funding available from the Council's 2015/16 Local Green Network budget.

5.2 Community groups within Renfrewshire have been invited to apply for funding to tackle vacant and derelict land sites within their local communities. Applications are open for grants of between £250 and £5,000, although it is anticipated that the majority of awards will be for approximately £2,000. A&DS stipulate that 75% of funding must be within town centre locations, and emphasise that projects must be of a temporary nature. Examples of projects include growing grounds, art displays or theatre performances.



- 5.3 Almost half of the Stalled Spaces funding has already been allocated to four community groups:
- (i) Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire (ROAR): £2,400 sought for a vacant plot beside the West End Community Centre. The vacant site has been subject to fire raising and antisocial behaviour. ROAR is looking to restore the site to enable use by the local community.
  - (ii) I Am Me Scotland: £2,000 sought for a filming project on a derelict mill site in the Johnstone area which has been subject to fire raising and youth disorder.
  - (iii) Loud n Proud, Paisley: £2,007 sought for a series of pop up interactive music events in un-used space in the centre of Paisley.
  - (iv) Paisley West and Central Community Council: £1,900 for the clearance and improvement of two derelict sites.

Renfrewshire Council and Engage Renfrewshire are currently working with a number of other organisations on their applications.

- 5.4 Information on how to apply for a grant is given on the Renfrewshire 2023 website ([www.renfrewshire2023.com](http://www.renfrewshire2023.com)). Applications are judged by the Greener Thematic Board on a rolling basis.

## 6. Diversionary Activities

### Street Stuff

- 6.1 In August 2015, the annual international match between Street Stuff and Football Beyond Borders London was held at St Mirren Park. The London team comprised of young people experiencing difficulties in school. The match was organised by the Scottish Football Partnership and Football Beyond Borders (an international organisation that uses the sport to engage with young people). The Street Stuff team are scheduled to play a return match in London next year at the Football Beyond Borders tournament.

### Dance Sessions Extended Renfrewshire wide

- 6.2 The University of the West of Scotland's 2014 evaluation report of Street Stuff identified that girls wanted more choice in the activities available from the programme. In response, Street Stuff piloted a new dance class in January 2015. In September, Street Stuff rolled out the dance format to other LAC areas due to its popularity.



A dance display was held in Glenburn Community Centre on the 16<sup>th</sup> October with young people from Glenburn and Gallowhill with over 100 parents in attendance. Plans are now underway in preparation for a Christmas dance display with young people from all over Renfrewshire.

### **Girls Development Programme**

6.3 Street Stuff with 'St. Mirren in the Community' started a new football initiative in September 2015, the Girls Development Programme. This initiative creates more choice for girls and gives them an opportunity to enhance and develop their footballing skills. The classes are every Wednesday for girls in the age groups of 8-10 and 11-14.

### **6.4 Restorative Justice at Douglas St Nursery**

The Community Safety Youth Team arranged for two young people who had been involved in ASB and vandalism at Douglas St Nursery to participate in a restorative justice task at the Nursery. Both volunteered to complete tasks such as cleaning and weeding garden/play areas and planting. They engaged well during their visit and were very respectful to nursery staff. They learned of the importance of the nursery to the children and the families of the surrounding Community and how much the children enjoyed the outdoor space.

## **7. Integrated Control Room & CCTV System**

7.1 The construction of the new Community Safety Hub & Integrated Control Room at Mill Street, Paisley was completed in September 2015. A programme has been developed for the moves of employee groups that will be based in the new facility, from Clark Street and Renfrewshire House, with the moves planned in 3 phases between late September and December 2015. Trade Union and employee briefing sessions have been arranged in advance of the moves to provide employees with all required information before moving to their new location. Multi-agency daily tasking meetings are now held there, with the hub staff, CCTV operators and Police Scotland operatives being located within the facility.

## **8. Background**

8.1 Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership is made up of services provided by Investigators, Youth Team, Noise Enforcement, Mediation, Wardens and CCTV. The Partnership is operationally managed within Community Resources and works in close partnership with other Council services, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to form the Community Safety Hub within Renfrewshire House.



8.2 Street Stuff is the Safer Renfrewshire Partnership's primary diversionary project with partners including Renfrewshire Council, St. Mirren Football Club, Engage Renfrewshire, Police Scotland, and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. Street Stuff delivers diversionary activities for young people in antisocial behaviour hotspots throughout Renfrewshire. This includes street football, and five 'Boxes' (mobile containers with games consoles; music and other activities aimed at young people). In addition, there is access to stadium facilities at St. Mirren including professional gym equipment, table tennis and an indoor dome pitch. Activities are programmed and targeted to take place in key areas where evidence shows that diversionary activities will help to reduce youth antisocial behaviour. In 2014-15, over 25,000 young people have participated in Street Stuff events.

## 9. Resources

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.

## 10. Prevention

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

## 11. Community Involvement/Engagement

The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

For more information about the report, please contact Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council on 0141 618 7352, [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk)