

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

**On: 23 March 2016**

**Report by:**  
**Shona MacDougall, Director of Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council**

### **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; and
- the development of the integrated control room and CCTV.

#### **2. Recommendations**

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

#### **3. Environmental Improvements**

##### **Stalled Spaces**

3.1 Renfrewshire Council has now distributed £20,000 of funding through a grant funding scheme run as part of Stalled Spaces, Scotland, a programme to revitalise town centres and empower communities. This scheme is supported by Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS) who contributed funding of £10,000 to the scheme. In total, nine projects have been successful in their bid for Stalled Spaces funding with all of the

£20,000 having been allocated. The nine projects funded, are working within town centres across Renfrewshire and include:

- Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire (Paisley, West End);
- Paisley West & Central Community Council (Paisley, West End);
- Loud n Proud (Paisley, Town Centre);
- Environmental Training Team (Paisley, Town Centre);
- I Am Me (Johnstone);
- Renfrew Development Trust (Renfrew);
- Kilbarchan Community Council (Kilbarchan);
- Erskine Music & Media (Erskine); and
- STAR Project (Paisley, Love Street).

3.2 Architecture and Design Scotland has indicated that additional funding might be available for further Stalled Space projects and this will be secured, if possible. In the meantime each of the funded projects will report back to the Greener Thematic Board with information on the projects progress and the community use made of the Stalled Spaces.

#### **4. Protecting the Vulnerable**

##### **Training & Employability**

4.1 Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty programme has funded a project to deliver employability traineeships for unemployed residents living in identified poverty areas of Renfrewshire. In December 2015, 14 individuals commenced an eight week training programme which covered: fitness testing; First Aid; Health & Safety; Manual Handling; Civil Contingency awareness; conflict management; a Fire Reach course and work shadowing experience across the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership.

4.2 From the 14 people who participated in the 8 week training course:

- 6 secured traineeships as Special Wardens;
- 4 became Street Stuff coaches;
- 1 person moved on to a college Police diploma; and
- 1 person is now a sessional member of staff with Street Stuff.

- 4.3 The work experience gained through the traineeships and the 8 week training course will enhance the employment opportunities for all participants. As part of the project Tackling Poverty funding will also be used to recruit Special Police Constables. If successful Special Constables will be trained to Police Constable level which will provide them with an opportunity to apply for a permanent position as a Police Constable through the Police Scotland recruiting process.

#### **I am Me/Keep Safe**

- 4.4 The I Am Me project is currently working on a primary school resource covering disability, bullying and exclusion. This material will contain a short film called 'Judged' which focuses on dyslexia with Sanjeev Kohli ('Still Game') playing the role of the head teacher.
- 4.5 The Keep Safe project has received support from the Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland QC who has pledged to support the initiative by making all Procurator Fiscal offices in Scotland Keep Safe places in 2016. This will assist in providing additional access to safe premises for vulnerable people in the community. Three new businesses in Renfrewshire have signed up to the Keep Safe programme. These are: The Old Swan Inn, Paisley; Bar Varia, Braehead; and Royal Bank of Scotland, Moncrieff Street, Paisley.

#### **Managing Street Fundraising in Paisley Town Centre**

- 4.6 In supporting Paisley First's bid for Purple Flag status, Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership has been working in partnership with Paisley First and the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA) on a Site Management Agreement to control fundraising and business selling in Paisley Town Centre. The Site Management Agreement will:
- Delineate the location in which fundraisers may work;
  - Specify how many fundraisers may attend;
  - Specify which days of the week fundraisers may attend (i.e. allowing only one fundraiser to attend at any one time possibly three or four times a week); and
  - Include various other criteria and stipulations, such as whether a non-fundraising team leader is allowed to be present.
- 4.7 The Public Fundraising Regulatory Association would be responsible for the administration of the Site Management Agreement once it is in place including resolving any breach within an hour and administering financial penalties for more serious breaches or an accumulation of minor breaches. Work is progressing towards an implementation date of June 2016.

## **5. Building Safer Communities**

### **Youth Disorder Initiative**

- 5.1 Following evidence received at daily tasking, a multi agency initiative was set up, in January 2016, to tackle youth disorder in Paisley Town Centre. The Youth Disorder Initiative was delivered by Police Scotland and supported by the Renfrewshire Wardens Service and Youth Teams. Achievements thus far include:
- a male being apprehended for being in possession of drugs;
  - 17 young people were identified and subsequently visited at home, in the presence of their parents, by Youth Officers; and
  - Intelligence from Warden CCTV bodycam in the High Street captured youths asking adults to buy cigarettes for him.
- 5.2 Street Stuff has also delivered diversionary activities within Paisley town centre to assist the Initiative. Following this success, a similar approach has been established in Linwood and Erskine.

### **Best Bar None**

- 5.3 Best Bar None is an accreditation scheme which aims to raise safety standards and recognise best practice in the licensed trade. Six of the eight nominees from this year's Renfrewshire Awards scheme have been nominated for the Best Bar None Scotland Awards 2015-16. The number of nominees from Renfrewshire is on a par with that received by several of the cities in Scotland, and reflects the high standards now being achieved by the licensed trade in Renfrewshire.
- 5.4 Winners will find out whether they have been successful at the Awards Ceremony at Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow on Thursday 24 March 2016. Our shortlisted venues are:
- Bishopton Inn Hotel - Best Bar;
  - Bar Varia - Best Independent Bar;
  - Lord of the Isles - Best Pub;
  - Fantoosh - Best Nightclub;
  - Bar Varia - Best Use of Innovation; and
  - Hamishes' Hoose - Heart of the Community

## **6. Diversionary Activities**

### **Street Stuff**

- 6.1 The Street Stuff programme continues to be delivered throughout Renfrewshire. To date a record 30,000 plus attendances have been reported for the core programme in 2015/16. Funding received from Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Programme has contributed to this success and has allowed Street Stuff to extend its programme to include after-school sessions in the Shortroods and Gallowhill areas during the period January-March 2016. There has been an average of 100 young people per week participating in these activities. As part of the extended programme of activities, all young people who have attended the programmes have received a hot meal. Similar extended sessions are now being rolled out in other communities across Renfrewshire.
- 6.2 Street Stuff has also benefited from Tackling Poverty funding through the purchase of an additional two new Youth Buses. The buses are kitted out with the latest gaming equipment similar to that found in 'the box' project. The Buses provide more flexibility in terms of their ability to reach a wider geographical area within Renfrewshire. Work is underway to identify new locations for the Youth Buses including those areas which have previously not had a Street Stuff presence.
- 6.3 Street Stuff is working with Engage Renfrewshire to formally recognise through the Saltire award, those young people who regularly undertake volunteering activities. 15 young people have signed up with 3 having already undertaken over 200 hours of volunteering.
- 6.4 The Street Stuff programme continues to work in partnership with the University of the West of Scotland. There are currently 8 Social Work students on observation placements at Street Stuff. This includes 4 first year students researching poverty and the role Street Stuff plays in identifying the needs of young people. A further 4 second year students are carrying out research on partnership working and are using the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership model to demonstrate the support young people receive through engaging with the Street Stuff programme.

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

- 7.1 The new Community Safety Hub & Integrated Control Room at Mill Street, Paisley was officially opened by the Leader of the Council on 27 January 2016. Now that the facility is up and running attention will be focussed on the best way to bring forward new services to maximise the benefits of the Hub and the information sharing and partnership working it promotes.

## **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.

- 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.

## **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.

**Author:** 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)