



To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

On: 26th November 2015

Report by:

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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). 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 16th 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