



To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board
On: 23 March 2016

Report by:
Inspector Stuart Thomson, Police Scotland

Choices for Life, Paisley Event, 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update for the Renfrewshire Safer & Stronger Thematic Board on the Choices for Life, Paisley Event, 2016. Choices for Life is an innovative diversionary and educational initiative aimed at raising awareness amongst young people, aged 11-18, about the dangers of substance use and misuse in relation to smoking, alcohol and drugs. It also offers online safety and advice on how to deal with negative peer pressure.
- 1.2 The Choices for Life brand and associated products have been designed in conjunction with young people throughout Scotland as well as partners in Young Scot, as well as Health and Education. The program is supported by Police Scotland, with Force engagement facilitated by the Specialist Crime Division, Safer Communities.
- 1.3 The interactive website, www.choicesforlifeonline.org, is one of the main strands of the initiative and gives access to a host of useful and factual information through dramas, facts and competitions. The information is not only aimed at young people but is a useful resource for parents, carers, teachers and youth workers.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes the content of this report.



3. Background

- 3.1 Since its inception, Choices for Life has become increasingly community focused. Police Scotland, along with Community Planning partners, has hosted a number of community based Choices for Life events in communities throughout Scotland.

4. Programme for 2016

- 4.1 This year, the Choices for Life, Paisley Event will take place on Wednesday 23 March, 2016 at St. Mirren Football Club's 2021 stadium. It will be attended by 200 second year pupils from the four Paisley secondary schools; Glenniffer High School, Paisley Grammar School, St Andrew's Academy and Castlehead High School.
- 4.2 The day will be split into two identical sessions: 100 pupils in the morning and 100 in the afternoon. There will also be participation by a small number of pupils from Kibble School and Mirren Park School.
- 4.3 For this year's event there will be a focus on new psychoactive substances (NPS). The event will have inputs from Police Scotland, Fire and Rescue, Renfrewshire Council ASSIST, NHS, RADAR and St Andrews Ambulance.
- 4.4 The event is led and run by Police Scotland with funding comes from the national "Choices for Life" programme.

5. Resources

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

6. Prevention

- 6.1 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

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

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