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**To: PAISLEY NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**On: 11 FEBRUARY 2016**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

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

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides a progress update on some of the activities the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership has carried out in the Paisley North area in quarter 3 (1 October – 31 December 2015). A number of partners have provided statistical information, including: Police Scotland; Scottish Fire & Rescue Service; and Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership. The report includes information on:

- Paisley North community safety statistics;
- environmental enforcement and improvement activities;
- protecting vulnerable residents;
- building safer communities;
- diversionary activities;
- the development of the integrated control room and CCTV;
- the work related to tackling Gender Based Violence.

1.2 Overall, during quarter 3 levels of recorded crime decreased within the Paisley North area when compared with the same period in the last year.

1.3 Street Stuff continues to be delivered across the local area with total attendance within the LAC area of 2120 participants. Levels of vandalism and

youth disorder remain low, but slightly above levels achieved in the same quarter last year. An up to date Street Stuff timetable can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.

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## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of this progress update report.
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## **3. Focus on Paisley North**

- 3.1 During this quarter, the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership has continued to target resources into hotspot areas where the highest numbers of crime and antisocial behaviour incidents were reported:
- Overall within Ward 3, antisocial behaviour and disorder decreased by around 10% during the most recent reporting period. Nearly two-thirds of all complaints during the quarter were identified as either Public Nuisance or Disturbances, with the highest tariff street remaining as New Street – the same as in the last reporting period. Peak days/times were directly linked to the night-time economy - Saturday mornings between 0001hrs and 0300hrs.
  - Within Ward 4, antisocial behaviour calls/complaints increased slightly, by around 8%, in comparison to the corresponding quarterly period last year. The highest tariff complaint type was Disturbance, followed closely by Public Nuisance, both of which comprised more than 60% of all ASB-related calls.
- 3.2 Within Ward 3, an increase was noted in reported incidents of vandalism, rising by slightly less than one-quarter from 42 incidents to 52. Serious Violent crime remained at the same level as the corresponding quarterly period last year, whilst reductions were noted within Minor Assault and Drug Crimes. It is likely that the Festive Programme for Paisley Town Centre, which included provision of a Safe Bus and Taxi Marshalling at three separate locations, contributed to these reductions (see section 5 below). A repeat location was identified for Vandalism in the area of the War memorial/Gilmour Street, with peak days/times identified as Fridays and Saturdays between 1700hrs and 2200hrs.

- 3.3 Within Ward 4, increases were noted within Serious Violent Crime (rising by 5 incidents to 18), and Vandalism, which increased by around one-half, whilst Drug crime reduced by around 15%. There were no obvious patterns or repeat locations/victims within either Violent Crime or reported Vandalisms; however peak days/times for Vandalism incidents were identified on Thursday and Friday evenings between 1900hrs and midnight.
- 3.4 The partnership will continue to target individuals responsible within this local area to reach sustainable solutions providing support where necessary to both victims and perpetrators.

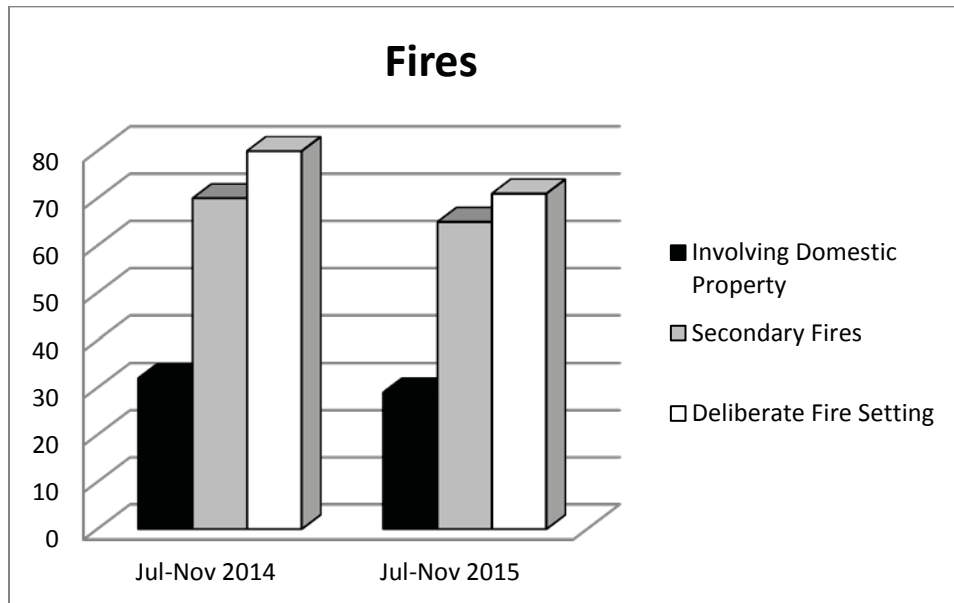
| Crime Type            | Q3 2014/15 |        | Q3 2015/16 |        | Change |        |
|-----------------------|------------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                       | Ward 3     | Ward 4 | Ward 3     | Ward 4 | Ward 3 | Ward 4 |
| Serious Violent crime | 8          | 13     | 8          | 18     | ↔      | ↑      |
| Minor Assault         | 64         | 79     | 56         | 79     | ↓      | ↔      |
| Drug Crime            | 88         | 182    | 62         | 155    | ↓      | ↓      |
| Disorder and ASB      | 478        | 449    | 429        | 483    | ↓      | ↑      |
| Vandalism             | 42         | 46     | 52         | 69     | ↑      | ↑      |

- 3.5 During October to December 2015, 13% of all complaints to Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership (Community Resources) were related to Dog Fouling, again the most common complaint. 1617 community safety patrols were undertaken in Paisley North LAC area with a number of targeted interventions, however it continues to be the case that catching irresponsible owners at the point that dog fouling occurs remains very challenging:

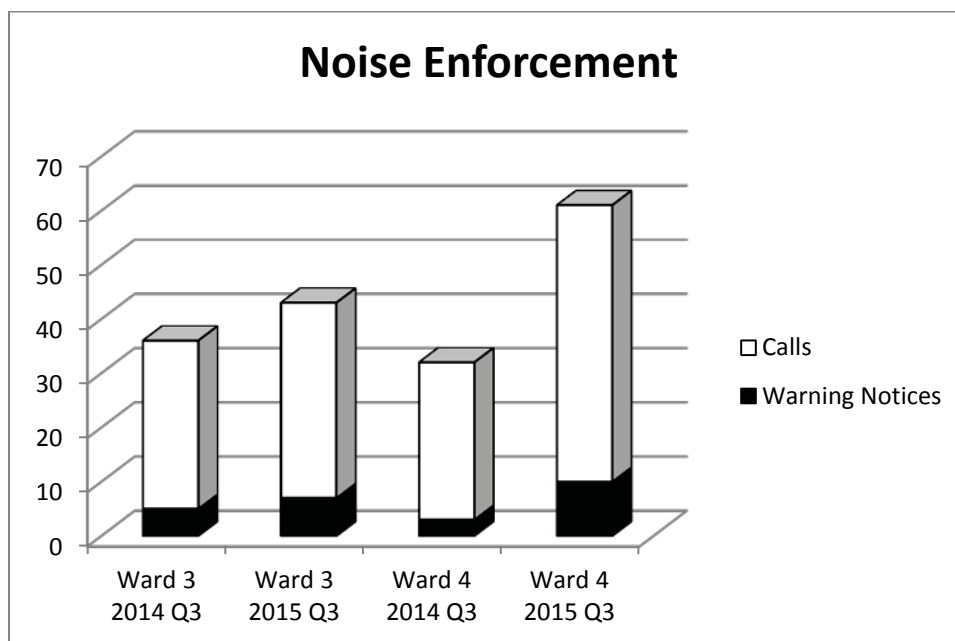
| Dog Issues dealt with by actions | Ward 3 | Ward 4 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Dog Warden Visit                 | 6      | 7      |
| Dog fouling sign erected         | 1      | 7      |
| Dog taken to SSPCA               | 0      | 3      |
| Visit re out of control dog      | 13     | 27     |
| Warning letter issued            | 1      | 3      |
| Monitoring visit (DCN)           | 16     | 11     |
| Dog Fouling Leaflet Delivered    | 1      | 1      |

- 3.6 The issue of dog fouling has been raised at national forums and the Scottish Government has just approved legislation that will double fines for owners of dogs caught fouling from £40 to £80. This will take effect from 1 April 2016.
- 3.7 The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service recorded a decrease in the number of fires in this LAC area from July to November 2015. The Scottish Fire and

Rescue Service has been working in partnership with several agencies on initiatives which have helped to reduce fires during this period (See section 6).



- 3.8 During October to December 2015, the number of calls to the Noise Team increased in both wards but significantly in Ward 4. The number of Warning Notices issued also increased corresponding to the rise in calls, again, within Ward 4 these had significantly escalated. Improved partnership working with Police Scotland and extending the Noise Team service from 2am to 4am has led to more live incidents being addressed. This approach is proving that the early intervention approach does work.
- 3.9 The Community Safety Partnership takes the issue of noise and noise nuisance very seriously. The focus is primarily on noise nuisance affecting residential properties. People are advised to talk to their neighbour, or the person causing the noise where possible in the first instance. It is recognised that this can be difficult and people can be reluctant to get involved. Mediation services are available to help in these circumstances. If there is an ongoing problem people are advised to keep a 'noise diary' and log the date and times when there are problems. Dialogue with Police Scotland is also taken into consideration in assessing cases to determine the appropriate action required at the daily tasking meetings.
- 3.10 Community Safety Officers can come out and observe the situation. However, it should be noted that the Community Safety Officers are unable to take enforcement action without evidence or having witnessed the incident. Where a situation is ongoing officers will work with the complainants to collate the evidence required to allow appropriate action to be taken.



- 3.11 The table below shows that calls to Police Scotland relating to vandalism & youth disorder have increased this quarter but overall remain at a low level compared to historical figures.

| Vandalism & Youth Disorder |            |            |          |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Ward                       | Q3 2014/15 | Q3 2015/16 | % Change |
| 3                          | 59         | 61         | 3%↑      |
| 4                          | 41         | 57         | 39%↑     |

- 3.12 Within Ward 3, there was a very slight increase of two in the number of reported Vandalism & Youth Disorder incidents in comparison to the corresponding quarter last year. There were no obvious peak days, however a peak time was identified between 1800hrs and 2100hrs. Youth Team staff conducted additional interventions specifically targeting youths at the McDonald's restaurant on High Street, whilst there has also been a Street Stuff presence on Wednesday evenings, both of which have contributed positively to youth engagement within the Town Centre area. Overall the reduction in incidents seen in December of this period following the interventions put in place, demonstrates the effectiveness of an evidence based reactive service approach, when dealing with issues such as youth related antisocial behaviour.
- 3.13 Within Ward 4, reported Vandalism & Youth Disorder incidents increased from 41 to 57 (39%). A repeat location was identified at Linwood Road (six separate incidents, two of which related to youths climbing on the roof of the carwash), whilst a repeat complainer was identified on Candren Road. There was no obvious peak day, however a peak time was identified between

1700hrs and 2200hrs. The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership is working with the complainers to identify and action where necessary.

- 3.14 The table below shows Street Stuff activity and attendances in the Paisley North LAC area from October to December 2015:

| Venue               | Sessions | Attendance |
|---------------------|----------|------------|
| Seedhill Football   | 8        | 58         |
| Shortroods Football | 33       | 338        |
| Shortroods Box      | 13       | 166        |
| Shortroods Dance    | 13       | 171        |
| St Mirren FC        | 60       | 1270       |
| Underwood Lane      | 22       | 117        |
| Total               | 149      | 2120       |

- 3.15 Funding from this LAC in 2015/16 has allowed Street Stuff to deliver extra sessions in local areas. Street Stuff now provide 22 sessions over 6 days per week in the winter months in the Paisley North LAC area. Previously in 2014 it was only 10 sessions over 5 days per week. The Street Stuff timetable attached as Appendix 1 shows the locations and dates of activities being delivered from January to March 2016 across Renfrewshire New areas are currently being explored for additional activities to be delivered over the next few months and the timetable will be updated accordingly and published online.

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## 4 Environmental Enforcement and Improvements

### Rapid Response Team

- 4.1 A Rapid Response Team was created in October to support the Work of Community Wardens and StreetScene operatives throughout Renfrewshire, primarily in town centres. The team comprises a Warden working with 2 recruits from the Employability Hub and acts as a monitoring service for environmental issues affecting communities. This includes monitoring high footfall areas to ensure commercial and domestic waste are correctly presented for uplift and that businesses have adequate arrangements in place for uplift and storage of waste.
- 4.2 Since being introduced, the team has been involved in the following activities:
- Removing small level waste/flytipping from town centres;
  - Delivering programmed uplifts in partnership with waste services;

- Working with StreetScene and Community Service to ensure larger waste and flytipping items are removed; and
- Working with local business/residents to ensure waste is presented correctly.

### **Environmental Training Team**

4.3 Community Resources has been working in close partnership with the Environmental Training Team (ETT). The ETT is a local enterprise company which provides opportunities for local residents to volunteer in local projects in their community. It also provides training placements in a variety of skills such as gardening activities, painting and joinery. ETT has agreed to target areas of land identified by Community Resources which are; overgrown or in need of a tidy up, are outwith a regular maintenance schedule, and have been the subject of complaints by the community. Over recent months, ETT volunteers have been involved in the following activities:

- Cutting back shrubs and picking litter at Hammills Walkway;
- Clearing graffiti from utility boxes in the Paisley BID area, and photographing the 'tags' to support Police Scotland in identifying perpetrators;
- Carrying out litter picking and weeding at the car park to the rear of the old Arnotts building;
- Carrying out extensive litter picking, weeding and cutting back of shrubs at the old TA building on Paisley High Street; and
- Assisting a residents' group in Anderson Drive, Renfrew with general litter picking and weeding in the area.

4.4 At the last Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board ETT successfully bid for Stalled Spaces funding to carry out improvements including the installation of benches and planters at 2 sites in Paisley town centre - one beside the Hammills and the other at the corner of St James' Street and Moss Street.

### **4.5 Emissions Testing**

Renfrewshire Wardens carried out a 2 day vehicle emissions patrol in Paisley town centre in October in partnership with the Council's licensing section and Police Scotland. Tests were carried out on 273 vehicles, of which 7 failed and were issued with £60 fixed-penalty notices. A further 32 taxis and private-hire vehicles were inspected with 4 failing the emissions test resulting in an immediate suspension of their license.

### **4.6 Road Safety Week**

Renfrewshire Wardens launched a school safety initiative in November 2015 as part of the campaign to support National Road Safety Week and to

highlight the issues of engine idling. The National Road Safety Week is an event coordinated by the UK road safety charity, Brake. Three primary schools, Auchenlodment Primary, St Peter's and St Mary's Primary, where engine idling and unsafe parking issues had been identified, were targeted for intervention. Banners highlighting the issues relating to engine idling and dangerous parking were erected outside these schools and wardens patrolled during key times to reinforce the messages. Information was also communicated through the Council website and local media. This action supported wider activities relating to road safety carried out at schools across Renfrewshire.

### **Trading Standards**

- 4.7 Trading Standards continue to work with importers and retailers of self balancing scooters (commonly known as Hoverboards). The Team is working in partnership with the UK Border Force, to detain shipments of unsafe goods upon entry to the UK. Retail premises are also being visited to ascertain whether these items are being sold, and carry out checks to ensure their safety. This work has received UK wide press coverage.
- 4.8 The Trading Standards Team continue to work closely in partnership with Police Scotland and other relevant partners to conduct targeted interventions to disrupt suspected criminality and to support legitimate businesses. Recent work includes:
- Execution of warrants on local businesses suspected of consumer fraud or using high pressure sales to target vulnerable consumers;
  - Intelligence gathering on counterfeit goods and new psychoactive substances;
  - Supporting the newly established Pubwatch meetings in Paisley; and
  - Delivering licensed premises training events.

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## **5 Protecting the Vulnerable**

### **5.1 Festive Safety Campaign**

Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership delivered a Festive Safety Campaign in Paisley town centre which included:

- an increased focus on Paisley town centre by Renfrewshire Wardens;
- additional patrols by police officers;
- taxi marshals at the County Square rank on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay;



- Street Pastors assisting party-goers.

5.2 A Safe Bus service was also provided by the Partnership and was supported by the ambulance service at New Street on 11, 12, 18, 19 & 31 December from 9pm until 3am. The Safe Bus assisted members of the public who were injured, felt threatened or needed safety advice. It also provided flip flops, sweets, bottled water, a phone charging facility and emergency blankets for those affected by colder weather. From the table below it can be seen that 194 people presented at the Safe Bus during this period. Statistics for the period show that antisocial behaviour and related disorder within Ward 3 decreased by around 10% during this period in comparison with the previous year. It is likely that the Festive Campaign contributed to these reductions.

**Recorded Numbers Visiting the Safe Bus**

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Male<br/>Visiting<br/>Bus</b> | <b>Female<br/>Visiting<br/>Bus</b> | <b>Total<br/>Visiting<br/>Bus</b> |
|---------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11/12/15      | 10                               | 20                                 | 30                                |
| 12/12/15      | 10                               | 34                                 | 44                                |
| 18/12/15      | 12                               | 25                                 | 37                                |
| 19/12/15      | 11                               | 23                                 | 34                                |
| 31/12/15      | 15                               | 34                                 | 49                                |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>58</b>                        | <b>136</b>                         | <b>194</b>                        |

### **Missing Persons**

- 5.3 The Scottish Government has recently carried out a consultation on developing a strategy for working together for people who go missing in Scotland. Locally the Safer & Stronger Thematic Board was tasked with co-ordinating a response on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership which was submitted to the Scottish Government on 10 December. The consultation process was supported by the Adult Protection Committee and Child Protection Committee and included the views of partners discussed at a stakeholder engagement event held in Renfrew Town Hall on 23 November.
- 5.4 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. 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.

5.5 On average there are 1,685 missing persons reported in Renfrewshire each year, equating to 6% of the Scottish average. 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.

- Children's Services has an existing "missing" project - 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 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, which provides 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.
- ROAR (Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire) 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 proposed national strategy.

5.6 These examples, and others were referenced in the response submitted on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership which was generally supportive of the direction of travel set out in the consultation document – in particular the development of an agreed definition of people who are missing.

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## **6. Building Safer Communities**

### **Building Safer Communities - Renfrewshire Multi-Agency Tasking Group**

- 6.1** Following discussions with Police Scotland and at the Community Safety and Public Protection Steering Group the monthly tasking process is being developed into a Renfrewshire Multi-Agency Tasking Group. This will develop the principles set out in the Building Safer Communities National Strategy of reducing victims of crime and reducing victims of unintentional harm.
- 6.2** The new Multi-Agency Tasking Group in Renfrewshire will focus on addressing specific needs in communities including tackling:
- Domestic Violence
  - Antisocial Behaviour;
  - Drug/Alcohol abuse;
  - Youth Disorder;
  - Vandalism;
  - Litter/Dog Fouling;
  - Violence
  - Licensing and Enforcement activities
  - Environmental Improvements
  - Community Capacity Building.
- 6.3** While the detail of the approach has still to be finalised, in broad terms, an evidence based action plan will be developed to tackle issues relating to each area using the EPIC approach of Enforcement, Prevention, Intelligence and Communication. This will be carried out in 4 phases:
- Phase 1 – Weekend of Action
  - Phase 2 – Community Engagement/Environmental Visual Audit and Enforcement
  - Phase 3 – Diversionary Activities
  - Phase 4 – Lifetime Management
- 6.4** The Group is currently being established and will operate throughout the 2016 – 17 (financial year) using the additional capacity delivered by the Tackling Poverty Special Wardens and Special Constables programme with the intention of engaging with between 6 and 8 communities during this time.

### **Best Bar None**

- 6.5 Best Bar None is a Scheme which raises standards and rewards excellence for those venues that attain the Award standard. This is delivered at a local level by partnerships between the industry, local authorities and Police. Community Resources' Trading Standards & Licensing Team are responsible for the local co-ordination and assessment of the scheme.
- 6.6 Best Bar None Awards are based on core national standards relating to the five licensing objectives, which are:
- preventing crime and disorder,
  - securing public safety,
  - preventing public nuisance,
  - protecting and improving public health, and
  - protecting children from harm.
- 6.7 This year's scheme attracted 13 applicant venues from across Renfrewshire. Assessments of the applicant premises took place during October and November 2015, and premises were scored against national guidelines. A panel of judges reviewed the applications in December 2015, and awarded all 13 premises either a "Gold" or "Silver" Award. Judges also decided on overall category winners, as well as allocating specialist awards to deserving venues. There were no premises with a score which attracted a "Bronze" Award, which shows an overall improvement on last year.
- 6.8 Our 5 venue category winners are:
- Best Pub - Lord of the Isles
  - Best Independent Pub - Hamishes' Hoose
  - Best Bar - Bishopton Inn Hotel
  - Best Independent Bar - Bar Varia
  - Best Nightclub – Fantoosh
- 6.9 Our 3 specialist award winners are:
- Best Use of Innovation - Bar Varia
  - Best Public Health Initiative - Old Swan Inn
  - Heart of the Community - Hamishes' Hoose
- 6.10 All 8 category or specialist award winners have been nominated for the Best Bar None Scotland Awards to be held at Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow in late March 2016. The paper shortlisting process will take place at the end of January 2016, and shortlisted venues will be subject to an additional assessment visit in early February 2016.

## **7. Diversionary Activities**

### **7.1 Street Stuff**

The Street Stuff programme has been fully active throughout Renfrewshire. Recorded attendances for the core programme in the year to date for 2015/16 have already exceeded the totals for 2014/.15. Additional funding received from the Tackling Poverty Programme has enabled an extension to the activities offered including:

- An October week school camp in the Gallowhill and Glenburn areas, where an average of 100 young people per day participated in activities including: football; The Box; and dance, and they also received a healthy hot meal.
- A dance display, for parents and friends, was held at the end of the week with an audience of more than 100 in attendance.
- A Festive programme was held over the Christmas and New Year holiday with a range of activities focused on the Dome facility at St Mirren and the Gallowhill and Glenburn areas. Activities including: football; table tennis; a FIFA tournament; and dance. 1120 young people attended with 889 receiving hot food. This was a significant increase from previous years as the attendance of young people participating was more than double. Similar extended sessions are now being rolled out in other communities.
- After-school sessions have been introduced in the Shortroods and Gallowhill areas, where an average of 100 young people per week have had the opportunity to participate in activities and receive a hot meal. Similar extended sessions are now being rolled out in other communities.

7.2 Although at a very early stage in the development of the extended programme, on the basis of the success so far StreetStuff is on track to meet its target of doubling attendances in the period up to March 2017.

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

7.3 The construction of the new Community Safety Hub and Integrated Control Room at Mill Street, Paisley was completed and delivered on time in September 2015. The first two phases of employee moves are now complete with the Investigations, Mediation and Youth Teams based within the Community Safety Hub. In addition the core Wardens' Service is being

tasked from the facility. It is proposed that the phasing of employee moves will be completed by early 2016.

### **Review of Strategic Police Priorities**

- 7.4 The Scottish Government has recently announced its intention to review the Scottish Police Priorities with an aim to strengthen the community focus of policing. They are seeking to provide members of the public, communities, local police scrutiny committees and other stakeholders with the opportunity to be engaged in developing these new priorities.
- 7.5 The programme will consist of two stages. The first will be an open discussion, intended to capture ideas around what Scotland wants and expects of its police service and will run up to the end of January 2016. Representatives from the Scottish Government have been invited to attend the next meeting of the Safer & Stronger Thematic Board to take part in this part of the process.
- 7.6 The results of this discussion process will be fed into a formal national consultation exercise during the first part of 2016. It is intended that a formal Council response be submitted to this consultation and a further report will be brought back to the Housing and Community Safety Board at that time.
- 7.7 The Scottish Government is keen to capture as wide a range of responses as possible from all communities and are encouraging comments and engagement through Community Councils, residents and neighbourhood groups and through social media channels. Responses are welcomed on either an individual or organisational basis. This information is being forwarded to all Local Area committees to raise awareness of the consultation and its proposed format and timescale.

### **Review of Strategic Police Priorities**

- 7.8 Police Scotland is reviewing its Annual Policing Plan for 2016/2017 and have sought the views of key stakeholders on the proposed plan which has been developed with a focus on the themes of Localism; Prevention; Collaboration; Equality and Participation.
  - 7.9 Proposals for 2016/2017 are consistent with and develop the work set out in the current Police Plan. There were no obvious or significant gaps that should cause concern to Members of the Local Area Committee.
  - 7.10 The Housing & Community Safety Policy Board approved the Council's response on the 26th January 2016.
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## **8. Public Protection Spotlight – Gender Based Violence**

8.1 The term ‘gender based violence’ was first defined by the United Nations in 1993. This international agreed definition is still used today and helped to create the Scottish Government’s definition:

- Gender-based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

8.2 Violence against women has its roots in gender inequality (1 in 3 women worldwide will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner, ex partner or stranger). However, this does not mean that all acts against a woman are gender based violence, or that all victims of gender based violence are female.

8.3 Renfrewshire’s Gender Based Violence Strategy Group is an inter-agency strategic partnership responsible for the overview of gender based violence. The group plan to achieve a 15% reduction in the number of reported incidents of domestic abuse. In 2015, the Gender Based Violence Strategy Group focused on several key actions:

- Investigating and delivering opportunities to expand educational programmes within schools and communities and to build the capacity of staff, teachers and members of the community to equip them to respond appropriately;
- Developing a programme which encourages people to challenge attitudes and inappropriate behaviour (Bystander approach);
- Continuing to provide support for Renfrewshire Reconnection;
- Strengthening the system of identification of children experiencing domestic abuse to include those not involved in the criminal justice system;
- Increasing the awareness of support and services available to children and young people;



- Expanding the sensitive enquiry approach and providing appropriate support and training to staff who work with children and young people;
- Providing support for networks for groups/individuals who are covered by the nine protected characteristics.

- 8.4 In recent years, anti domestic violence media campaigns and reporting strategies have been giving victims of violence the confidence to report and providing mechanisms for third parties to also report incidences of violence. This has led to an upwards trend in reporting of domestic violence which corresponds to the national trend and is viewed generally as a positive first step in being able to target and respond to Gender Based Violence. In Apr-Aug 2015, 920 residents in Renfrewshire were reported victims of domestic violence which is 7.4% drop compared with the corresponding period last year. This is the first sign of a decreasing in several years which suggests that the reporting of domestic violence may now be starting to plateau out.
- 8.5 Responding to incidents of domestic abuse involves a number of multi agency partners including the police, social work, ASSIST (Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information, Services Together) and the Children's Reporter. Following an incident of domestic abuse to which the police have responded, onward referrals are routinely made to social work in respect of child care concerns and to ASSIST in respect of concerns for the victim's well being. 2964 referrals of domestic abuse with a child in the household were received by Social Work during 2014/15. Police Scotland make up approximately 84% of referrals at present. The Social Work Department will make inquiries into these referrals and if necessary investigate concerns received. There are a range of interventions available to support women and children who are subject to gender based violence. These include Renfrewshire Women and Children First and Renfrewshire Reconnection (Renfrewshire Council), Renfrewshire Rising, Renfrewshire Women's Aid, ASSIST and Barnardos.
- 8.6 16 Days of Action is an international campaign started by the United Nations to draw attention to violence against women. Renfrewshire Council worked with local and national community and volunteer groups to create a variety of events for our version of 16 Days of Action. Renfrewshire's campaign began on 25 November with The Reclaim the Night procession to signal an end to violence against women. Hundreds of residents attended the procession which started at University of the West of Scotland at 6pm. The candlelight march progressed through the streets of Paisley to finish at the Town Hall. A wreath was laid at the memorial and a two minute silence held in support of those affected by violence against women.



- 8.7 Other 16 Days of Action events included the delivery of several awareness courses throughout Renfrewshire to improve the public's understanding and encourage community activism of the issue. These included - Understanding Child Sexual Abuse, Gender Based Violence - A Community Issue, Why is Child Sexual Abuse and homelessness an issue?, Understanding Gender Based Violence and The Purple Tear Drop Campaign - 'Human trafficking- At what cost?'
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## **9. Background**

- 9.1 The Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership brings together key resources to tackle and address issues to sustain and maintain safer and stronger communities. The Partnership consists of Renfrewshire Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and other community safety agencies.
- 9.2 Our Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Partnership long-term vision is that: 'Renfrewshire is known as a safe and tolerant place where residents and visitors enjoy a high level of personal safety and public protection and are free from crime. A culture of fairness, respect and equality exists and vulnerable children and adults are well looked after and protected'.
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## **Implications of this Report**

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

**Safer and Stronger** – The activities set out within this report contribute to ensuring that Renfrewshire is a safe and tolerant place where residents and visitors enjoy a high level of personal safety and public protection, are free from crime and vulnerable children and adults are well looked after and protected.

**Greener** –Activities set out in this report contribute towards developing the quality of the environment of Renfrewshire in a sustainable way ensuring it is clean, green and safe for all residents and visitors.

4. **Legal** – none.

5. **Property/Assets** – none.
6. **Information Technology** – none.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** – The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.
8. **Health And Safety** – none.
9. **Procurement** – none.
10. **Risk** – none.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.

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**List of Background Papers - none**

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|                                   | Renfrew & Gallowhill   | HCRLE   | Paisley South  | Paisley North  | Johnstone & the Villages  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Monday</b><br>6.30pm 9.30pm    |  | <u>Our Lady of Peace PS</u><br>Football + Youth Bus                             |  | <u>Beechwood Centre</u><br>Football only   | <u>Howwood PS</u><br>Dance only   |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>6.30pm 9.30pm   | <u>Gallowhill CC</u><br>Dance + The Box<br><u>Gallowhill PS</u><br>Football only | <u>Linwood HS</u><br>Football only<br><u>Bargarran PS</u><br>Football + The Box | <u>Glennifer HS</u><br>Football only<br><u>Lochfield Marshes</u><br>Youth Bus Only |  | <u>West Johnstone Campus</u><br>Dance only<br><u>McMaster Centre</u><br>The Box only    |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>6.30pm 9.30pm |  |   | <u>St Paul's PS</u><br>Dance Only  | <u>Williamsburgh PS</u><br>Football Only<br><u>Paisley Town Centre</u><br>Youth Bus Only | <u>Wallace PS</u><br>Football Only  |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>6.30pm 9.30pm  | <u>Kirklandneuk PS</u><br>Dance + Youth Bus                                      |   | <u>Bushes PS</u><br>Dance + Football   |  | <u>West Johnstone Campus</u><br>Football only<br><u>McMaster Centre</u><br>The Box only |
| <b>Friday</b><br>6.30pm 9.30pm    | <u>Gallowhill PS</u><br>Football + The Box                                       | <u>Bargarran PS</u><br>Football + The Box                                       | <u>St Peter's PS</u><br>Football Only<br><u>Glenburn CC</u><br>Dance Only          | SMFC<br>TT 6:30pm-8:00pm<br>Football 8:15pm-10:15pm                                      | <u>Kilbarchan TC</u><br>Youth Bus Only  |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>5.30pm 8.30pm  | <u>Gallowhill PS</u><br>Football + The Box                                       | <u>Bargarran PS</u><br>Football + The Box                                       | <u>Skye Cres</u><br>Youth Bus Only   | <u>SMFC – Indoor</u><br>Airdome<br>Football Only   |   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>2pm – 4pm        | <u>Gallowhill CC</u><br>Football only  |   |  | SMFC<br>Indoor Airdome<br>Football Only  |   |

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|                                   | Renfrew & Gallowhill                    | HCRLE | Paisley South   | Paisley North                            | Johnstone & the Villages |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------|---|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b><br>3:30pm-6:00pm    |   |       |   | <u>Beechwood CC</u><br>Dance + Youth Bus |                          |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>3:30pm-6:00pm   | <u>Gallowhill CC</u><br>Dance + The Box |       |   |  |                          |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>3:30pm-6:00pm |   |       |   | <u>Beechwood CC</u><br>Dance + Youth Bus |                          |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>3:30pm-6:00pm  | <u>Gallowhill CC</u><br>Dance + The Box |       |   |  |                          |
| <b>Saturday</b>                   |   |       | <u>Glenburn CC</u><br>Dance + Youth Bus<br>(under review) |  |                          |

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