

**To: POLICE AND FIRE & RESCUE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

**On: 22 MAY 2018**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES**

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**Heading: Consultation, Annual Review of Policing 2017/18 by Scottish Police Authority (SPA)**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 states that the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) must prepare an annual report as soon as practicable after the end of each reporting year. The most recent report was presented to the Scottish Parliament at the end of June 2017 and covers the 2016/2017 financial year.
  - 1.2 Susan Deacon, chair of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) wrote to all Conveners/chairs of scrutiny committees on 26 April 2018 asking for the appropriate Boards to inform the development of the upcoming annual review of Policing (2017/18).
  - 1.3 To this end, the SPA is currently undertaking the review with consultation responses to be returned by Friday 29 June 2018. A copy of the proposed consultation response by Renfrewshire Council to the SPA is attached as Appendix 1 for the approval of the Board.
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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the consultation on the Annual Review of Policing 2017/18 and the request for responses by 29 June 2018.
  - 2.2 Approves the draft response to the consultation detailed in Appendix 1.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 states that the Scottish Police Authority must prepare an annual report as soon as practicable after the end of each reporting year.
  - 3.2 The 2017/2018 Scottish Police Authority annual review will be the fifth since the single Police service came into force in Scotland.
  - 3.3 Renfrewshire Council responds to the review of Police Scotland on an annual basis.
  - 3.4 Police Scotland is a partner in the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership with a Police Sergeant acting as the Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) between Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Council.
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## **Implications of the Report**

- 1. **Financial** – None.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
- 3. **Community Planning**

Our Renfrewshire is safe – closer working with Police Scotland as part of the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership will lead to a safer Renfrewshire and improve the well-being of residents.

- 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. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
  8. **Health & Safety** – None.
  9. **Procurement** – None.
  10. **Risk** – None.
  11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
  12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None.
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**List of Background Papers** – None

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**Author** Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection  
**e-mail:** [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk)



## **Annual Review of Policing 2017/18: local scrutiny input**

**Name of Local Scrutiny Committee:** Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee

### **1. 2017/18, how effective has Police Scotland's support for local scrutiny and engagement with your scrutiny committee been?**

The dedicated Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee has now been in place for a year. Police Scotland are very active in assisting to prepare the agenda and in particular, bringing "spotlight" presentations to the scrutiny group that are topical - a recent example being the deployment of Armed Police Officers to discuss what their role within Police Scotland is. Attendance is always at a high level e.g. Divisional Commander or Superintendent which demonstrates buy in and commitment to the scrutiny process.

### **2. How well do you think your local police plan reflects community priorities?**

The local Police plans are critical to reflecting community priorities and this has been particularly important in Renfrewshire. In particular, the move to the new Policing model on 4 April 2017 was very important to the communities as officers became more visible and this allowed communities to get to know and trust their community Police Officers.

The Local Police Plan (2017 – 2020) was consulted widely and highlighted five key priorities:

- Protecting People at Risk of Harm
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Violence, Antisocial behaviour, disorder and acquisitive crime
- Road safety and road crime
- Counter Terrorism and domestic terrorism

These were identified in conjunction with communities but also align with key Public Protection priorities within Renfrewshire Council and the Community Protection Chief Officers Group.

### **3. How effective do you think Police Scotland's reporting against local priorities been, in supporting your scrutiny?**

Within Renfrewshire, the engagement by Police Scotland K Division senior officers at both our Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny sub-committee and local area committees has been well received by Elected Members and community representatives.

A detailed Police scrutiny report is presented by the Divisional Commander (or deputising Superintendent) at the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee at every meeting. This influences discussion and allows Elected Members present on the committee to question Police performance within the Renfrewshire Area.

At the Local Area Committees, the relevant Community Safety Police Inspector/Sergeant attends to update on local issues. There are 5 Local Area Committees within Renfrewshire and this significant commitment by Police Scotland gives comfort to residents, Community Councils and Elected Members that they have representatives that know the area and the problems therein. This is a perfect way for communities to understand Police priorities, but similarly for Police Scotland to clarify what is causing the communities concern. This two-way dialogue is a good example of scrutiny working as it should.

This close relationship also allows all Police information to be produced as part of regular Community Safety updates and highlights on-going partnership working.

**4. What are the top three things about policing in your area which you think are working really well?**

- Having Police Scotland and the Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) intrinsically embedded within the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership is critical for Daily Tasking and ensuring an early intervention approach to benefit the communities of Renfrewshire.
- The introduction of the revised Community Policing model has been successful and very well received by communities
- The aligning of priorities and strategies are critical to ensure the partnership works. This ensures that partnership resources can be deployed effectively to successfully tackle common issues e.g. anti-social behaviour where youth related incidents of anti-social behaviour are currently at an all time low.

**5. What are your top three priorities for improvement?**

Renfrewshire Council works very closely with Police Scotland therefore there is currently nothing that we would look to change, however, in relation to the scrutiny process there will be an increased focus on outcomes rather than simply statistics to allow a greater understanding for the scrutiny board of the issues and successes locally.

**6. Are there any examples of good practice in your local area you want to highlight? Please provide details below.**

Renfrewshire Council has a close and very positive working relationship with Police Scotland as an active and engaged partner in Community Planning; on the Public Protection Chief Officer Group; Adult Protection and Child Protection Committees and the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Hub. With regards to the Community Protection Chief Officer Group, the Terms of Reference highlight that Police Scotland (Divisional Commander) is part of the core membership and on occasion the Divisional Commander has assumed the Chair of the meeting in the absence of the Chief Executive of the Council.

Police Scotland also provides a dedicated resource within the Community Safety Hub to allow quick and proactive liaison on all Community Safety issues. This Officer is part of the Daily Tasking process that brings together key partners including Housing, Social Work,

Adult Services, Children Services and Scottish Fire and Rescue as well as Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Council.

The involvement of Police Scotland is particularly important in the innovative and sector leading work that is being led by the Division on projects including Building Safer and Greener Communities and the Grey Space Group.

To ensure joint working at a strategic level, the Police Scotland Divisional Commander meets with the Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive and the Director of Environment & Communities on a monthly basis to discuss issues that have occurred and any planned joint working in the coming month.

There are a number of areas of partnership working to highlight within the Renfrewshire Council area and are similar to what was provided last year as they are still pertinent:

### **Daily Tasking**

This partnership approach gets all key services (Police, Fire, Council, Mental Health, Housing, Adult Services, Social Work) together on a daily basis (9.30am) to review and allocate all incidents that have taken place in Renfrewshire within the past 24 hours. The Police Scotland Sergeant that acts as the LALO brings every relevant Police case report to tasking on a daily basis. The cases are referred to the service that can best assist with the problem and the processes supports early intervention and prevention. This process has been seen as an exemplar of best practice, with many other Councils and other public Services coming to see the Daily Tasking process in operation. The close partnership working allows cases to be resolved before they escalate to a higher level. If a partner can take away an action and resolve it, this leads to improved results for all partners. The process has supported a reduction in key youth crimes and anti-social behaviour of over 65% in vulnerable communities.

### **Building Safer and Greener Communities**

A lot of work has also been taken forward locally by the Community Safety Partnership. Police Scotland Youth Volunteers have been active in the Renfrewshire area, and Police Scotland is taking the lead role in the Building Safer Greener Communities partnership approach which is linked directly to the national Building Safer Communities strategy to reduce victims of crime and victims of unintended harm across Scotland. To meet these demands, a multi-agency tasking group was introduced in Renfrewshire to develop the principles set out in the Building Safer Communities National Strategy. The aims are to reduce victims of crime and unintentional harm through multi-agency interventions in key communities. The project is Chaired and driven by Police Scotland with all partners feeding into 2 weekly meetings to focus on particular areas of need as identified by Police Scotland and the Community Safety Partnership analyst.

Since 2016, the project has visited 3 areas and completed appropriate action plans. These areas were Ferguslie, Gallowhill and Erskine, with lessons being learned and implemented for the next target area. The programme is always improving to improve areas both in the short and long term.

## **MARAC**

The establishment of the Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in October 2015 was to bring together all partners and key stakeholders. The MARAC is chaired by Police Scotland, facilitated by Renfrewshire Council and is a collaboration of all agencies that have an input into domestic violence. The 4 weekly meetings are conducted on a case by case basis to reduce the potential for domestic violence to both the victim and the perpetrator. The Renfrewshire MARAC has been extremely successful with the learnings and development being used by other local authorities as an exemplar of good practice. The Renfrewshire MARAC has brought together key local services including a number of Council services such as Community Safety, Development & Housing Services, Social Work, Education and Community Justice as well as key partner agencies including, NHS, Police Scotland, and Woman's Aid. The meetings are designed to:

- Share information to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims and their children,
- Determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or the general community,
- Construct and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm,
- Reduce repeat victimisation,
- Improve agency accountability,
- Improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic violence cases, and
- Agencies to take ownership of tasks to help contribute to the safety around the victim and their household family.

In a single meeting, the MARAC combines up to date risk information with a timely assessment of a victims needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic violence case; victim, children, perpetrator and agency workers. At a MARAC meeting, high risk cases are discussed with a very brief and focused information sharing process. This is followed by the creation of an individualised multi-agency action plan which is put into place to support the victim and to make links with other public protection procedures. Issues relating to children such as conflict over child contact, pregnancy and perception of harm to children are key indicators of risk in the domestic abuse risk assessment process. Thus a substantial number of victims who become MARAC cases have children. Police Scotland and other bodies are now referring all the cases to MARAC who fulfil the MARAC criteria. Police Scotland chair MARAC and also MATAC which has a focus on perpetrators of crime and is closely aligned to MARAC.

## **7. What would you like to see the SPA to do more of, to help you in your role and to support better local outcomes?**

As detailed above, partnership working and scrutiny is working well within Renfrewshire. It may be of assistance for the SPA to ensure this is replicated across other Divisions to ensure there is consistency for all local authorities.



## About your local scrutiny arrangements

### 8. How would you describe your local scrutiny arrangements for policing?

- **Dedicated Policing or Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee or Sub Committee**
- **Scrutiny committee looking at wider range of services**
- **Community Safety Committee / Community Planning Sub Committee**
- **Full Council**
- **Political lead and strategic discussion at full council or committee, and local discussion at area / neighbourhood level**
- **Other – please describe**

The main local scrutiny committee for Renfrewshire Council is a dedicated Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board. However, papers can be presented to other groups for additional scrutiny as detailed below.

- Local Area Committees (covering all 43 Elected Members)
- The Community Planning Partnership Board
- Community Protection Chief Officers Group

### 9. How many elected members are regularly involved in your local scrutiny process?

The Police and Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee is the main forum for scrutiny of Police Scotland within Renfrewshire Council and consists of 6 elected members. It should be noted that attendance is on a rolling basis where Elected Members can be chosen from the wider Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board which consists of 15 Elected Members. As noted above in addition to this there is the opportunity for all local elected members to be involved in scrutiny at the Local Area Committees

### 10. Is there any additional information or feedback you would like to share?

Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland have an excellent working relationship and a trust that allows a close working relationship. This is hopefully portrayed and highlighted in the responses above.

**This response -**

**This response will inform the Annual Review of Policing, and local examples and comments will be included within the Review document.**

Yes – Renfrewshire Council and the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee are happy for these comments to be included within the review document.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback and information.

Responses should be sent to - [SPACommunityAccountability@spa.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SPACommunityAccountability@spa.pnn.police.uk) by Friday 29th June 2018.