

**To: HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY POLICY BOARD**

**On: 23 August 2016**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

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**Heading: PUBLIC PROTECTION, OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides an update for the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board on recent activities carried out in relation to public protection, including information on:

- environmental enforcement and improvement activities;
  - protecting vulnerable residents;
  - building safer communities;
  - diversionary activities;
  - the development of the Community Safety Hub and Integrated Control Room.
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## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Housing & Community Safety Policy Board notes the content of this progress update report.

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## **3. Environmental Enforcement and Improvements**

### **3.1 Rapid Response Team**

The Rapid Response Team has been undertaking daily environmental enforcement patrols within Paisley town centre and the wider Renfrewshire area. Strong links have been established with local businesses and community groups working together to address environmental issues affecting specific areas. Work is ongoing to support local businesses

and trades in disposing of trade waste responsibly. Whilst reported incidents of flytipping have not increased overall in the past year, it is clear that the majority of incidents now relate to flytipping of trade and business waste and this is focus for investigation and enforcement by the Community Safety partnership. Since April 2016 the team have:

- Carried out over 200 investigations of environmental crime including flytipping, backcourt dumping, trade waste, litterbins, flyposting, graffiti and street litter
- Issued 7 Section 34 Notices and 2 FPNs for littering issues;
- Uplifted and disposed of over 4 tonnes of waste.

### 3.2 **Community Clean Ups**

The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership continue to support community groups and school pupils to do their bit for Renfrewshire by providing the interested groups with litter pickers, graffiti removal kits and by arranging uplift of any rubbish collected. 21 litter picks / clean ups were conducted in Renfrewshire during March-June 2016. Renfrewshire Community Safety partnership are looking to increase this number and are looking for all interested groups to get in touch to discuss any activity and assistance required..

### 3.3 **Noise Action Week**

Noise Action Week took place on 23-28 May 2016 to raise awareness of noise. Noise Action Week was co-ordinated by Environmental Protection UK who assist the work undertaken by professionals in noise management. The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership supported the initiative by sending messages via social media to highlight noise legislation, enforcement action and services provided by the Community Safety Partnership. In May 2016, the service received 108 noise complaints that are being followed up.

## 4. **Protecting the Vulnerable**

### 4.1 **Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference**

The Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process has been established within Renfrewshire since October 2015. Safe Lives, the domestic violence charity, will carry out a full evaluation once MARAC has been operational for 12 months however an interim review of referrals has been carried out with the overview highlighting:

- 4 of the referrals have been suitable for the perpetrator to be referred to the Multi Agency Tasking & Coordinating meeting (MATAC);
- In the 77 referrals to MARAC, there have been 98 children discussed, with appropriate actions being taken from the meeting to safeguard the children from further harm;
- Of the 98 children discussed within the process, 30 were of pre-school age, 48 were Primary school age, 16 Secondary school age, 3 aged 16-18 and 1 aged over 18;
- From the 77 referrals, 100% are where domestic abuse occurred within a male and female relationship.

- 4.2 Renfrewshire has already been recognised by Safe Lives as having developed a solid foundation around the introduction of MARAC and Safe Lives has been recommending the approach as a good practice model to other Local Authorities. Currently Renfrewshire are assisting East Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council to help them establish their own MARAC, sharing good practice and ensuring useful continuity of working practices throughout the Police division locally.
- 4.3 **I Am Me/Keep Safe**  
The I Am Me project was a key speaker at the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Services Hate Crime Conference in Glasgow in March 2016. I Am Me promoted their new teaching and training resources, showing clips from their Primary School Resource films to an audience of around 300 people. The Chief Constable and Lord Advocate both highlighted I Am Me / Keep Safe in their speeches.
- 4.4 The I Am Me CineBus was launched on the 13th July 2016. The bus will be used to raise awareness of Disability Hate Crime by showing films within schools and to groups across Scotland. This mobile cinema/theatre is supported by Renfrewshire Council and will be made available for Community Safety events locally. The bus was donated by Stagecoach and funded through the Keys to Life Development Fund.
- 4.5 The Keep Safe initiative works in partnership with Police Scotland and is supported by the Crown Office. The latest Renfrewshire premises to sign up to Keep Safe are Blend Coffee, Hamishes Hoose, Yorkshire Building Society and Gilmour Street Train Station. There are currently over 140 Keep Safe premises across Renfrewshire. The initiative also operates in Edinburgh, Inverclyde, Borders and Dumfries and Galloway and is in the process of being adopted in the three Ayrshire Councils, East Dunbartonshire, Aberdeen, Dundee and Perth & Kinross.
- 4.6 **Private Rented Housing Improvements**  
As reported to the last meeting of the Housing & Community Safety Policy Board on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016, new powers introduced by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 are being used to deal with private sector landlords who are not maintaining the physical condition of their property. Landlords who do not meet appropriate standards and conditions can be reported to the Private Rented Housing Panel who can impose sanctions and require that the property condition is improved. This is key to improving the standards of accommodation within the private rented sector - especially accommodation used by the most vulnerable members of our community. There is a disproportionate degree of disrepair in the private rented sector relative to other types of housing tenure, especially for residents affected by poverty and this has been recognised by the Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy which has funded the appointment of a temporary enforcement officer to work specifically in relation to this agenda.
- 4.7 **No Substitute for Life**  
The 5<sup>th</sup> annual No Substitute for Life 7-a-side football tournament was held in Ferguslie Park Sports Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016. It brings the community together to raise awareness of suicide, and the services and support available to people in crisis. It also challenges stigma. The annual event established by a local Ferguslie resident raises awareness of the issue from personal experience of losing close friends to suicide. The No Substitute for Life

tournament was supported by Street Stuff activities and attended by hundreds of footballers and supporters on the day.

## **5. Building Safer Communities**

### **5.1 Operation Monarda**

The Trading Standards and Licensing Team supported the Police Scotland led bi-annual “Operation Monarda” campaign to tackle doorstep crime. Roadstops were undertaken on arterial routes throughout Renfrewshire, to disrupt and deter rogue traders. Suspected traders were stopped by Traffic Police and drivers were challenged to provide their identities. Contract paperwork was checked and advice and guidance was issued where required. Teams consisting of officers from Trading Standards and Police Scotland also patrolled known doorstep crime “hotspot” areas and tradespeople undertaking work on people’s homes were challenged to ensure compliance with consumer protection legislation. Positively, no rogue traders were found in the course of this work and traders who were subject to challenge welcomed this approach to regulating their business sector and protecting and supporting legitimate businesses.

### **5.2 Daily Tasking Review**

The Community Safety Hub holds a daily tasking meeting to review community safety incidents which have occurred over the past twenty-four hours and tasks them to the relevant partners. This collaborative partnership enables information sharing and pooling of resources to tackle antisocial behaviour and other issues throughout Renfrewshire. In September 2015, a positive evaluation highlighted that Daily Tasking was a very successful joint working partnership approach which now processes over 5,000 referrals per year. This is supported by regular attendance of all key partners including the Health and Social Care Partnership and particular benefits have been seen in supporting earlier interventions in instances where individuals are particularly vulnerable for example due to Mental Health problems.

### **5.3 Spring / Summer events**

During April-August 2016, the Community Safety Partnership including wardens, CCTV and Street Stuff have been supporting key spring/summer events throughout Renfrewshire. This included major national events like the British Pipe Band Championship and Colourfest 2016, the dance festival at Braehead. In addition, they also attended more local events such as Paisley Food Festival, Sma Shot Day, The County Grand Orange Lodge Parade, Building Safer Greener Communities events in Ferguslie Park, local gala days and the Armed Forces Day at Paisley Abbey. The wardens provided the Safe Bus with the lost kids location and the CCTV vehicle at many of these events. Meanwhile, Street Stuff was in attendance at the family orientated events like the gala days, providing football and dance activities for young people to participate in.

### **5.4 The Fire Reach programme**

The Fire Reach programme is delivered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Community Safety Youth Team. The course targets young people who have come to the attention of the Community Safety Hub through their involvement in fire related offences. This intensive one week course focuses on raising the awareness of participants about the impact of deliberate fire raising and antisocial behaviour and promotes team building. The

last 2 courses took place during May and June 2016 with 24 young people participating. The number of deliberate fires attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service across Renfrewshire is higher in 2016 so far when compared to 2015. As a result the Partnership has increased the number of Fire Reach courses to tackle this issue.

## **6. Diversionary Activities**

### **6.1 Street Stuff**

The Street Stuff programme continues to be delivered throughout Renfrewshire and continues to go from strength to strength. To date over 13,000 attendances have been recorded at core activities with around 170 attendances per day at summer holiday activities. Street Stuff's annual Football Festival was held at the Paisley 2021 Stadium during May. Young people aged between 10 and 16 years old lived out their dream by competing in 5-a-side games on the main pitch at the Paisley 2021 Stadium. To coincide with the football, Street Stuff's first Dance-Clubbercise class was delivered in the Stadium's new supporters' lounge. Both events were free which helped to increase the total number of participants to a record attendance of 375 on the night.

- 6.2 Street Stuff Dance has introduced free Cheerleading classes for all abilities every Wednesday from 6-8pm at Paisley 2021 Stadium. These classes are for anyone aged 8 to 18, giving young people the opportunity to learn new routines, tricks, make new friends and have fun. Last season the Cheerleaders led out the teams for a few games and will be a key feature for the coming football season backing St Mirren team in every Championship home match.

- 6.3 Over the summer, Street Stuff has been working with young people to develop 2 new buses to be added to their programme of activities with particular links to the Partnership bid for City of Culture, Paisley 2021. 300 young people have been consulted on what they would like to see on the buses with activities including; music, DJ decks, song writing, recording, media, broadcasting, and production as well as traditional gaming scoring high on the list. In addition, young people are working with Street Threads to design the overall wrap combining Street Stuff & Paisley 2021 branding with images of new activities that will be available board. The new buses will be introduced during the autumn/winter programme.

### **6.4 Linwood Community Sponsorship initiative**

Police Scotland and the Community Safety Youth Team embarked in a new joint working diversionary project with a group of young people from Linwood in an attempt to address low-level crime such as vandalism and disorder. A group of Linwood teenagers took part in a three week golfing course at the Castle Golf range in Johnstone, through thanks to funding from the Police Mutual Assurance Society 'Force for Good' Community Sponsorship initiative. Each youth was individually coached by a PGA teaching professional with a final competition where everyone was presented with a certificate for displaying a variety of skills. The programme allowed Community Safety Partnership officers to engage with young people to discuss the importance of community values.

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## **Implications of this Report**

1. **Financial** - none.
2. **HR and Organisational Development** – none.
3. **Community Planning**

**Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire** – The Community Safety Partnership contributes towards Renfrewshire being a safe and secure place for those living, working or visiting the area, using intelligence led joint tasking arrangements. It addresses antisocial behaviour & crime and supports youth diversionary and education programmes.

**A Greener Renfrewshire** – Through tackling environmental crime, community safety activities supports a cleaner and more attractive Renfrewshire.

**Renfrewshire forum for Empowering Communities** – Engaging with communities and encouraging voluntary work to improve the local area.

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 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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