



**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 3rd February 2015**

**Report by:**

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**Building Safer Greener Communities – Multi Agency Approach**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 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 to carry out structured multi agency interventions in key communities to help them build capacity to resolve issues affecting the area in which they live.
- 1.2 Police Scotland have come forward to the Community Safety and Public Protection Steering Group suggesting the adoption of a multi agency tasking approach that they have successfully implemented in a number of communities with positive results. All other partners have agreed to support Police Scotland in this approach and have agreed to participate, allocate and focus resources as required.
- 1.3 The group will identify geographical areas with vulnerabilities and problems that could be addressed by a multi-agency approach – including high numbers of victims of crime and victims of unintentional harm. Over a six week period the group, made up of relevant Community Planning Partners, will work together to make improvements in the local community with a view to building long term community capacity.
- 1.4 The proposed model will support a number of key priorities currently being taken forward by Community Planning Partners, including:
  - **Protecting the Public** - Renfrewshire to be a safe place for its residents and businesses and be a place where the most vulnerable in our communities

are protected and have strong advocates to support them. This will be achieved by continuing to take a strong lead role on adult and child protection across Renfrewshire and working with our partners to ensure programmes such as this are addressing violence and criminal behaviour in our communities.

- **Reducing the level and impact of Poverty** – To enable those living in poverty in Renfrewshire to have the power to break out of poverty and access all the opportunities and options open to others. The diversionary activities deployed as part of this approach will ensure that access is available to all.
- **Supporting and Sustaining people into employment** - We have established successful approaches to attracting and developing employment opportunities and supporting local people to seek lasting and well paid employment within Renfrewshire.
- **Building Capacity in our Communities** – We want to work with partners and community groups to develop and manage sustainable and vibrant local communities, promoting a place based approach and support community groups to develop and undertake environmental improvement projects.

1.5 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, and
- Environmental Improvements.

1.6 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 where there is evidence of need 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, and

Phase 4 - Lifetime Management

- 1.7 The Group will access and coordinate the relevant partner resources required to tackle the issues identified in each area. The group will be established during January 2016 and will operate throughout the 2016 – 17 financial year using the additional capacity delivered by the Tackling Poverty Special Wardens and Special Constables programme to focus on key tackling poverty communities and town centres. The intention is to engage with between 6 and 8 communities during 2016/17, starting in March 2016 when the Special Wardens and Special Constables will be in place during the 2016/17 financial year.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board
  - a) agrees the adoption of the approach as recommended by Police Scotland.
  - b) notes the content of this report and that further update reports will be presented to the Board as the approach is implemented.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The proposed multi agency tasking group will be led by Police Scotland with the support of the Council and other key partners. The group will co-ordinate interventions in targeted communities in a phased approach during a 6 week period.

### **Phase 1 - Weekend of Action**

- 3.2 A high-visibility, high-impact multi-agency enforcement operation takes place in advance of implementation of the approach. Phase 1 will involve all relevant partners including Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, Registered Social Landlords, Trading Standards, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), Benefits Investigation and Taxi Licensing.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that local media will deliver a number of features highlighting the positive work and outcomes of the campaign with the high profile launch helping to galvanize the local community and demonstrate that all agencies and partners are committed to improving the area.

### **Phase 2 - Community Engagement/ Enforcement**

- 3.4 Representatives from partner agencies and the local community will work together to identify areas of a particular locality which are in need of improvement. A variety of methods of communication will be utilised, including leaflet drops, websites and social media.
- 3.5 Phase 2 is key to the success of the campaign and will be supported through the introduction of an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA). Elected Members, Community residents and partner agencies will be invited to identify key environmental issues such as vandalism, fly tipping, dog fouling and poor lighting. An EVA Action Plan including photographs, issues, preventative suggestions and detailed actions will be collated and used to ensure effective follow up action is taken.
- 3.6 Elected members and other key community leaders and champions will be briefed about the initiatives taking place in their areas. They will act as an important conduit between the communities and partner agencies, ensuring that community concerns are fully articulated and providing reassurance that partnership action plans are followed through and long-term engagement is sustained.
- 3.7 The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership will carry out home visits to youths identified as being involved in antisocial behaviour and crime.

### **Phase 3 - Diversionary Activities**

- 3.8 The deployment of diversionary activities such as StreetStuff and volunteering opportunities such as work with the Environmental Training Team will provide local people with opportunities to be involved in the development and improvements within their local community. Identified Environmental Improvements will be implemented in hotspot areas in an effort to make them less attractive for groups involved in antisocial behaviour.

### **Phase 4 - Lifetime Management**

- 3.9 The long term management and sustainability of the interventions will be considered from the outset and will include working with key groups within the community to assist them in taking ownership of improvements that have been implemented.

3.10 Evaluation of similar projects delivered by Police Scotland in other areas has demonstrated a number of positive outcomes, including:

- Reduced victims of serious violent crime;
- Fewer admissions at Accident and Emergency;
- Fewer families requiring support from social services/education;
- Fewer criminal injury claims.
- Increased satisfaction in the community with where they live and increased feelings of safety

3.11 The multi agency approach will be embedded within the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership with the approach being evaluated within each local community to identify areas of success and where improvements can be made.

3.12 Further update reports on the approach in specific communities and interventions will be brought back to future meetings of the board.

#### 4. **Resources**

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

#### 5. **Prevention**

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

#### 6. **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.

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