



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

**On: 3rd February 2015**

**Report by:**

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**Community Safety Update**

**1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides an update for the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board on recent activities carried out by Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, including information on:

- environmental enforcement and improvement activities;
- protecting vulnerable residents;
- building safer communities;
- diversionary activities;
- the development of the integrated control room and CCTV;
- the Review of Strategic Police Priorities.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board note the content of this progress update report.

**3. Environmental Enforcement and Improvements**

**Rapid Response Team**

3.1 A Rapid Response Team was developed in October 2015 to support the Work of Renfrewshire 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.

3.2 Since being introduced the team have 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
- Working with local business/residents to ensure waste is presented correctly.

### **Environmental Training Team (ETT)**

3.3 Community Resources have 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
- Assisting a residents group in Anderson Drive, Renfrew with general litter picking and weeding in the area.

3.4 At the last Community Planning Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board on 9th November 2015 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.

## **Emissions Testing**

- 3.5 Renfrewshire Wardens carried out a 2 day vehicle emissions patrol in Paisley town centre in October 2015 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.

## **Road Safety Week**

- 3.6 Renfrewshire Wardens launched a school safety initiative in November 2015 as part of the campaign to support Road Safety Week and to highlight the issue of engine idling. The initiative will run from November 2015 to the end of February 2016. To date five primary schools, where engine idling and unsafe parking issues had been identified, have been targeted for intervention. Banners highlighting the issues of 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.

## **Trading Standards**

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 The Trading Standards Team continue to work closely in partnership with Police Scotland and other relevant partners to undertake 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
  - Delivering licensed premises training events

## **4. Protecting the Vulnerable**

### **Festive Safety Campaign**

4.1 Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership delivered a Festive Safety Campaign during December 2015 / early January 2016 within 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.

4.2 A Safe Bus service was also provided by the Partnership and was supported by the ambulance service. The Safe Bus being located at New Street on 11, 12, 18, 19 & 31 December 2015 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 Visiting Bus</b>	<b>Female Visiting Bus</b>	<b>Total Visiting 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**

4.2 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

Renfrewshire Community Planning Safer & Stronger Thematic Board was tasked with co-ordinating a response on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership. This was submitted to the Scottish Government on 10 December 2015. 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 2015.

- 4.3 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 (Counter Terrorism) agenda and to the Integrity Agenda (Serious and Organised Crime) as well as forthcoming changes including the introduction of the 'Named Person' as part of the GIRFEC agenda.
- 4.4 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 have 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 Community Safety Partnership Daily Tasking meetings, which provide 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.

- 4.5 These examples, and others were referenced in the response submitted on behalf of Renfrewshire 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.

## **5. Building Safer Communities**

### **Fire Reach Programme**

- 5.2 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 October and November 2015. Overall, as a result of programmes of this type, the number of fires attended by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service across Renfrewshire continues to reduce.

### **Best Bar None**

- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.

- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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
- 5.7 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
- 5.8 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.

## **6. Diversionary Activities**

### **Street Stuff**

- 6.1 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 2015 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 for 2015/16 was held over the Christmas and New Year holiday with a range of activities focused on the Dome facility at St Mirren, where an increased number of young people from previous years participated in activities including: football; table tennis; a FIFA tournament; and dance, and they also received a healthy hot meal. There were 1,120 recorded attendances throughout the festive period which was almost double the recorded attendances for the same event last year. 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.

6.2 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.

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

7.1 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.

## **8. Review of Strategic Police Priorities**

8.1 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.

8.2 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. It is intended that representatives from the Scottish Government will be invited to attend the next



meeting of the Safer & Stronger Thematic Board to take part in this part of the process.

- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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.

## **9. Background**

- 9.1 Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership is made up of services provided by Investigators, Youth Team, Noise Enforcement, Mediation, Wardens and CCTV. The Partnership is operationally managed within Community Resources and works in close partnership with other Council services, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to form the Community Safety Hub.
- 9.2 Street Stuff is the Safer Renfrewshire Partnership's primary diversionary project with partners including Renfrewshire Council, St Mirren Football Club, Engage Renfrewshire, Police Scotland, and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. Street Stuff delivers diversionary activities for young people in antisocial behaviour hotspots throughout Renfrewshire. This includes street football, and five 'Boxes' (mobile containers with games consoles; music and other activities aimed at young people). In addition, there is access to stadium facilities at St Mirren including professional gym equipment, table tennis and an indoor dome pitch. Activities are programmed and targeted to take place in key areas where evidence shows that diversionary activities will help to reduce youth antisocial behaviour. In 2014-15, over 25,000 young people

## **10. Resources**

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

## **11. Prevention**

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

## **12. 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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