



To: Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

On: 14 May 2015

Report by:

Director of Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

1. Summary

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

- environmental enforcement and improvement activities;
- protecting vulnerable residents;
- building safer communities;
- diversionary activities;
- the development of the HMICS Scrutiny Plan; and
- the development of the integrated control room and CCTV.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board note the report.

3. Environmental Enforcement and Improvements

Emissions Testing

3.1 In March, Renfrewshire Wardens undertook a 2 day Vehicle Emissions patrol in Paisley town centre in partnership with Police Scotland. Police Officers were responsible for pulling over the vehicles from traffic. The wardens checked whether vehicle emissions were within the legal requirements. Of the 229 vehicles tested, only 8 failed and were issued with £60 fixed-penalty notices. The Council's licensing section also inspected 34 taxis / private-hire vehicles, with 3 notices issued for various defects, all related to vehicles licensed outwith Renfrewshire. All drivers tested were given a Greener Renfrewshire Vehicle 'Don't Be An Idler' information



leaflet and an explanatory letter. The police reported 1 driver for an overweight load, issuing also a £100 fine and 3 points for a tyre below minimum tread.

Fly-tipping Initiatives

- 3.2 Significant progress has been made on 2 sites within Renfrewshire to combat fly tipping. The first, a secluded site off Auchenlodment Road, Johnstone has been a frequent fly-tipping area for several years. Enforcement patrols and CCTV cameras have had short term impact but ineffective in sustaining longer term improvements. Identifying perpetrators has been challenging and over time the scale of fly tipping has increased significantly. In March, a multi agency initiative led by the Wardens Service was set up to resolve the problem. Working with the landowner, the Forestry Commission, and the Community Service team, the site was cleared of over 5 tonnes of material, including asbestos roofing, bathroom suites, kitchen cupboards & worktops, over 160 tyres and assorted garden & building waste. A fence and sign to secure the site has also been erected in order to deter future fly tipping. The other site, West Ferry Car Park in Langbank, was also a fly-tipping area. Again a multi agency project was set up. The Community Service Unit cleared the site convincing the landowner, Transport Scotland, to fill in all the potholes. Currently Langbank Community Council is in discussions with the landowner on the future use of the land.

Clean Up Scotland

- 3.3 Keep Scotland Beautiful run a “mass-engagement” campaign called Clean Up Scotland. Its aim is to make Scotland the cleanest country in Europe. Renfrewshire Council is committed to supporting this campaign. ‘Do Your Bit’ events are run on a regular basis encouraging the public to look after their own communities, with activities including litter picking and community clean ups. In the near future, Community Resources will be contacting all schools, nurseries, other council services, community councils, office complexes, town centre businesses, housing associations and community groups inviting them to coordinate a community clean up. The service will support any participating groups by supplying litterpicking equipment and arranging uplift of the rubbish collected.

Noise Action Week

- 3.4 Noise Action Week 2015 is 18-23 May. Here local authorities, housing providers and mediation services work to raise awareness of noise. Noise Action Week is co-ordinated by Environmental Protection UK who work year round supporting the work of professionals in noise management. It is supported by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and Environmental Protection Scotland. The Community Safety Partnership will support the initiative by delivering a ‘roadshow’ focused on domestic and commercial noise. This roadshow will travel to a different LAC area each day during the Noise Action Week. Noise Enforcement Officers will be available to give advice to the public on noise issues.

4. Protecting the Vulnerable

I Am Me/Keep Safe

- 4.1 During March, I Am Me launched a new training pack and DVD film which are available as a free resource to schools and groups. At the official launch at the Showcase Cinema, Paisley, the film was premiered with over 300 guests attending



including the Provost, Lord Advocate and Deputy Chief Constable as the main speakers. The I Am Me project / Keep Safe has won several awards including, most recently the Wider Partnership Award and the People's Choice Award from the Scottish Community Safety Network. It is now being rolled out across Scotland.

- 4.2 I Am Me is a community project which works in partnership with Renfrewshire Council, Police Scotland and PACE Theatre Company, to raise awareness of disability hate crime. Linked to this project Police Scotland has also been developing a 'Keep Safe' initiative which works with local business owners to create safe areas for people who may feel vulnerable when in the community. Central to the project is a bespoke drama produced by PACE. Since 2013, this hard hitting performance has been delivered to around 7000 people, including High Schools, disability groups, staff groups, the police training college and the Scottish Parliament. A softer version, designed for primary school children has been delivered to around 4000 children.

Safe Kids

- 4.3 The 'Safe Kids' programme was delivered throughout the month of March at St Mirren Park. All P6 pupils in Renfrewshire (almost 2000 young people) attended workshops where they received important personal safety lessons and crime prevention advice. Issues covered included personal safety in the home, antisocial behaviour, internet safety, environmental crime, fire safety, drugs and alcohol awareness and the use of CCTV. This annual community safety educational event has now been run successfully for over 10 years. Overall, as a result of programmes of this type, incidents of youth related antisocial behaviour continue to decline year on year, with more than a 75% reduction over the past 6 years. This reduction and interactive approach has significantly helped us achieve our community plan outcomes under the key themes of 'A Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire' and 'Children and Young People'.

5. Building Safer Communities

Choices for Life

- 5.1 A 'Choices for Life' Open Day was held at the Tannahill Centre, Ferguslie Park on 24 March 2015. Around 150 children from schools in the Paisley area were entertained by various theatre and community groups and got the opportunity to take part in active workshops and diversionary opportunities. Young people can often find themselves under intense peer pressure to take drugs, drink alcohol or become involved in antisocial behaviour. This event provided young people with information and knowledge about such issues so that they can make informed decisions with the end result helping them make positive lifestyle choices. Led by Police Scotland, and the Community Safety Partnership a number of other partners contributed to ensure the event was successful, including Street Stuff, Ferguslie Park Housing Association, Ferguslie League of Action Group, Kibble Works, Ferguslie Community Group, Shape Up Educational Charity and the Princes Trust. A further, similar event is being planned to take place in Johnstone.

Stalled Spaces

- 5.2 The Stalled Spaces project has now been launched with information about how it will be run agreed at the last meeting of the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board. The scheme is being promoted on social media and in the press and Engage



Renfrewshire is already working with a number of community groups to support them as they develop applications for suitable projects. In order to provide additional information about the project, a number of events are being arranged by Engage Renfrewshire to be held in May 2015 and these will include support and input from Architecture and Design Scotland who are administering the scheme at a national level. The first applications will be considered at the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board in June 2015 if groups are ready to present their proposals at this time. Applications are open to community groups for grants of between £250 and £5,000, but it is anticipated that the majority of awards will be for less than £2,000. The aim is to fund around 7-10 projects across several communities using vacant and derelict spaces in town centres on a temporary basis to support community growth and improvement. Projects can be funded for any temporary use of the space for growing, artistic expression or other creative uses (i.e. garden, growing grounds, Play Park, arts project, events, etc).

6. Diversionary Activities

Street Stuff

- 6.1 Street Stuff launched a new dance class at St Peter's Primary School in Glenburn to improve girls' attendance at the award-winning activity programme. Some girls had been attending the indoor football but said they were also interested in dancing. Street Stuff listened to the girls' ideas and introduced a pilot dance class. The new dance sessions are attracting more than 40 extra young people a night, this is in addition to the regular high turnout for indoor football. The dance classes are now so popular that, on some evenings, there are more girls than boys participating at Street Stuff in St Peter's Primary School.
- 6.2 Street Stuff is bringing back the Youth Bus due to popular demand. The bus, kitted out with gaming equipment similar to 'the box', will provide more flexibility in terms of reaching wider areas of Renfrewshire as well as supporting the council's 'Do Your Bit' campaign. The new bus will be on the street in time for the summer programme of activities.
- 6.3 Street Stuff contributed as part of the Integrated Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Renfrewshire. The visit was led by the Care Inspectorate with support from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland. The inspectors visited Street Stuff in February, where they saw the programme in action, engaging/interacting with young people. The inspectors attended the official launch of the Midnight Leagues at St Mirren Park, visited the Gallowhill box and St Peter's Primary School for indoor football and dance sessions.

Brighter Renfrewshire Alcohol Awareness Week (BRAW)

- 6.4 Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership will host an alcohol awareness week, known as BRAW (Brighter Renfrewshire Alcohol Awareness Week). BRAW aims to promote and highlight sensible drinking messages to support and encourage people to make positive choices about alcohol use. Renfrewshire's first BRAW Week will take place on 15 – 19 June 2015. Constituted community groups, services and schools in Renfrewshire will be invited to apply for funding (maximum £500) to host an event or activity within their organisation during BRAW week. To support this event we are currently



exploring employing the safe bus at Barshaw Park Gala Day. The safe bus was previously utilised at New Street over the 2014 Festive period.

- 6.5 Street Stuff will also be supporting BRAW in June 2015 by delivering key safety messages to young people at their venues and participating in the Showcase Street event being organised for 19 June in Paisley Town Centre.

7. Integrated Control Room & CCTV System

- 7.1 Since the last update report in January 2015, the construction works of the new integrated control room at the former District Court building in Mill Street, Paisley have commenced, with a formal photo call and press launch taking place during March. In addition to the replacement of all of the existing public space cameras on the network, which has now been completed, a further 10 cameras are due for installation across Renfrewshire and discussions are at an advanced stage with the contractor to progress the delivery of this part of the CCTV project in line with the agreed timetable. Improved mobile camera functionality will be provided through the replacement of the mobile CCTV vans used within the wardens. Upgraded software and functionality is already available to the control room operators through the improved system, which is producing images of a much higher quality than was previously possible. The CCTV system will continue to operate from Mill Street Police station until completion of the new integrated control room.

8. HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2015-16

- 8.1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS) has a statutory role to report on the state, effectiveness and efficiency of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. HMICS is in the process of developing their Scrutiny Plan which identifies their planned inspections for 2015/16. So far there are no specific inspections planned in the Renfrewshire area, however a number of national HMICS inspections are highlighted in the recent report from the Local Area Network of joint inspection bodies outlining their planned inspections. Depending on the detail of where these national inspections will focus there is a possibility that some inspection work will be carried out within the local police divisions.

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 within Renfrewshire House.
- 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 have participated in Street Stuff events.

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