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**TO:** Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

**ON:** 15 January 2019

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**REPORT BY:** Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services

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**HEADING:** VANDALISM, YOUTH DISORDER AND PARTNERSHIP INTERVENTIONS

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Council's approach to tackle vandalism and youth disorder has evolved over a number of years. This journey has included the continued review and redesign of services to better meet the needs of the whole community, including young people. Anti-social behaviour is an issue for all communities and all local authorities. It is to be expected that reports of anti-social behaviour will always arise, if only because different people have different expectations about what behaviour is normal and tolerable. On that basis the aim is to avoid significant escalations in reports of anti-social behaviour within a particular community or to prevent patterns of behaviour from arising that might lead individuals to be putting themselves at risk, or mean residents and communities feel at risk from harm or feel they cannot go about their business or lives with a feeling of safety and security.
- 1.2 The creation of Renfrewshire's Community Safety Partnership hub in 2015 has been a major step forward in our approach. It brought key services together under one roof including Public Space CCTV, Investigators, Mediators, Youth Team, Wardens, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland and has supported the ongoing development of the Daily Tasking process. Partnership working has been instrumental in achieving a sustained reduction in vandalism and antisocial behaviour of over 65% from a peak around 5 years ago, with the ability to share intelligence, analyse data and deploy appropriate resources at key times throughout the Renfrewshire area. This includes the deployment of Street Stuff activities into antisocial behaviour hotspot areas. Overall there has been an increased ability to identify issues quickly and move to resolve issues early.

- 1.3 This report highlights some of the key achievements so far that are contributing to a sustained reduction in vandalism and youth disorder and provides information on some of the innovative and holistic partnership initiatives and interventions implemented which have contributed to the sustained reduction.
- 1.4 The creation of Communities, Housing & Planning Services, bringing together the Council's Planning and Housing services; Communities & Public Protection and Community Learning & Development teams, enhances the opportunity to efficiently and effectively support and reinforce the achievements outlined in this report through more flexible working and greater integration of key service areas. A further report outlining how the service plans to maximise the benefits of the integration of these service functions in responding to this agenda will be brought back to a future meeting of this Board.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Board:
- (i) notes the reduction in youth disorder and vandalism being reported to the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership; and
  - (ii) notes the work undertaken by the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership and other partners to tackle and reduce reported incidents of vandalism and youth disorder.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 introduced Antisocial Behaviour Orders for young people aged 12 and above. A review of the Children's Hearing Service also commenced in 2004, which introduced the principle of 'Getting it Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC). GIRFEC is the national approach in Scotland to improving outcomes and supporting the wellbeing of our children and young people by offering the right help at the right time from the right people and services. It supports young people and their parents to work in partnership with services that can help them.
- 3.2 GIRFEC is a safeguarding approach that puts the rights and wellbeing of children and young people at the heart of the services that support them – such as early years services, schools, and the NHS – to ensure that everyone works together to improve outcomes for a child or young person.
- 3.3 Whilst Antisocial Behaviour Orders are available to Councils, this is very much seen as a last resort in Renfrewshire with the principles of GIRFEC being applied to deliver meaningful and sustainable outcomes for young people. Care is taken to avoid the early criminalisation of young people as this has been demonstrated to improve longer term outcomes for young people and for wider society.

3.4 Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership has therefore adopted a balanced approach to raise awareness and address issues of vandalism and youth disorder and has sought to tackle the root causes of anti-social behaviour – not just the symptoms. This approach has a mix of universal provision and support which is enhanced by focused intervention targeted at those that are already involved in concerning activities or behaviours or are seen to be at risk. The approach relies on a number of processes being implemented to fully understand and respond to issues being presented:

- Analysis of Statistical Information & Trends
- Prevention through education
- Early Intervention through the GIRFEC Principles
- Diversion into more meaningful activities and outcomes
- Targeted Initiatives/Enforcement

### 3.5 **STATISTICAL INFORMATION & TRENDS**

3.5.1 Appendix 1 of this report shows a 47% reduction in vandalism and youth disorder incidents reported to Police Scotland over the last couple of years. It also shows a similar reduction in the number of referrals discussed or followed up through the Community Safety Daily Tasking Process of 40% since 2015. The tables also show trends on a monthly and quarterly basis which reflect seasonality including spikes that take place during periods of better weather and holiday periods, but overall the reductions achieved are consistent and sustained.

3.5.2 The analytical information presented in this format and scrutinised on a regular basis allows partners to target resources accordingly and ensure that key community engagement and safety messages are delivered at the right time and in the right localities.

### 3.6 **PREVENTION/EDUCATION**

3.6.1 Prevention and education is instrumental in ensuring the safety of young people and in changing attitudes and behaviour. Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership has developed a number of educational programmes at different levels working with young people to raise awareness of issues that may affect them and more importantly what to do about it and where to seek help.

#### **Primary 6 pupils – Safe Kids**

3.6.2 Safe Kids is an annual interactive educational programme involving Renfrewshire's Community Safety Partners, delivering messages relating to a range of safety issues to every Primary 6 pupil in Renfrewshire. The aim of Safe Kids is to reduce the number of accidents involving young people, promoting positive behaviour and reducing risk taking behaviour. Safe Kids has been running for over 20 years and was most recently delivered at St Mirren's Paisley 2021 Stadium during February - March 2018. Workshops are designed to be interactive and short in length (10-12 minutes) to enable partners to communicate a range of vital messages in subject areas that can be difficult to discuss in the classroom. Workshops are reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure that any new issues affecting our

communities are captured in this interactive experiential learning event. Workshops this year included: antisocial behaviour; alcohol and drug awareness; internet safety; fire safety; railway safety; litter & dog fouling; dealing with Emergency situations; learning about what it means to be a child in care, how it feels, and how to help and Street Stuff.

### **P7 & S1 Talks**

- 3.6.3 Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership reinforce the messages delivered at the annual Safe Kids event for all P7 and S1 pupils speaking about different types of Antisocial Behaviour, causes and the consequences for the young people involved and the impact this type of behaviour has on the wider community. Anti-Bullying talks are also delivered jointly with Community Police targeted at S1 pupils.
- 3.6.4 'Choices for Life' is a Police Scotland initiative aimed at raising awareness amongst young people aged 11-18, about the dangers of smoking, alcohol and drugs as well as online safety and advice on how to deal with negative peer pressure. In Renfrewshire this initiative targets S2 pupils and again reinforces the safety messages delivered through Safe Kids and talks to P7 and S1. All partners are involved in the initiative which has assisted in breaking down barriers with young people as well as showing how partners work together to help and support young people.
- 3.6.5 Unfortunately, as is the case across Scotland, drugs, including psychoactive substances (Legal Highs) have had an impact on young people in the Renfrewshire area to the extent that a young male lost his life in 2017. In response to this incident, partners came together to deliver a short presentation to young people closest to this incident in age - raising awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol and the impact that they can have on lives. This approach was followed up with a similar input to parents again raising awareness of the dangers, knowing what to look out for and where to get help if required.

### **Fireworks and Fire Safety**

- 3.6.6 Firework talks are held with all S1 pupils in Renfrewshire just before Guy Fawkes Night. The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service highlight safety around fireworks and the injuries that can be sustained especially with upcoming events such as the Halloween Festival, Bonfire night and Christmas Lights being switched on. The Youth Team highlight the working partnership with the Fire service, Police Scotland and Wardens in identifying youths involved in Anti-Social Behaviour then visiting youths involved. The police explain the legal side including charges that can be picked up and the consequences of getting involved in fireraising. Young people identified as being at risk of carrying out fire raising, or having been involved, are encouraged to participate in week long Firereach courses. The course hosted by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service along with other Community Safety Partners work with the young people to raise awareness of the dangers and impact that this behaviour has on communities. Follow up visits and activities continue after the course to steer them into more positive destinations.

### **The Street**

- 3.6.7 Young people identified as being involved in antisocial behaviour and other types of disorder are taken to “The Street” in Hamilton. The project, which was developed by Regen:fx Youth Trust with support from South Lanarkshire Council, uses gritty, hard hitting live action and effective youth work to challenge young people and make them consider their own actions and potential consequences. Issues such as knife crime and gang violence, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual health, domestic violence and vandalism are key areas that the Street project presents to the group of young people on their journey through a virtual street that has been created in an industrial unit in Hamilton street.
- 3.6.8 Youth groups and individuals are invited to walk along the street where they will witness a series of events they may recognise from their own lives or communities. All of the actors are young people from the Lanarkshire area who have themselves been affected in their own lives or communities by the issues covered.
- 3.6.9 By asking the young audience to experience the street and witness the aftermath of antisocial activities, which happen in streets throughout the region, the project aims to encourage young people to realise the consequences of potentially harmful and destructive behaviour and show through experience, the intimidation and fear that communities can feel.
- 3.6.10 The experience is immediately followed by an hour-long workshop with youth workers who will help the young people discuss the events they have just watched. They will explore thoughts and feelings about what they have witnessed and identify alternate options at crucial decision points during the scenes.

### **I Am Me & Keep Safe**

- 3.6.11 I Am Me is a community project which works in partnership with Police Scotland to raise awareness of Disability Hate Crime. In 2017/18, I Am Me toured Renfrewshire primary schools delivering a comprehensive programme which raised awareness of disability, bullying and hate crime. Over 10,000 children have participated in the programme which has been designed to complement the curriculum for excellence and a progressive lesson plan is available for each school year (from P1-P7). Feedback from around 2,500 participants highlights that 98% of participants have enjoyed the I Am Me visit, and that following the visit 99% know bullying is wrong and 94% would tell an adult if they, or someone else was being bullied.
- 3.6.12 Keep Safe works in partnership with Police Scotland and a network of local businesses to create ‘Keep Safe’ places for disabled, vulnerable, and elderly people when out and about in the community. Keep Safe is extending across Scotland, with 14 local authorities actively rolling out the initiative. There are now 614 Keep Safe places across Scotland, including 127 in Renfrewshire. The Keep Safe Ambassador programme is also going from strength to strength and now has 128 High School Ambassadors, 70 Police Scotland Youth Volunteer Ambassadors, 35 Ambassadors with a learning disability and 50 Keep Safe Ambassador trainers across Scotland.

### 3.7 EARLY INTERVENTION

#### **Daily Tasking**

- 3.7.1 The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership has a daily tasking meeting which reviews community safety incidents that have occurred over the past twenty-four - forty-eight hours. This collaborative partnership approach enables information sharing and pooling of resources to tackle antisocial behaviour and other issues throughout Renfrewshire. Daily tasking had a very successful year with regular attendance of all key partners and the processing of over 5,000 referrals.

#### **Early Intervention Screening Group (EISG)**

- 3.7.2 Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) is a national framework for working with young people of 8 – 17 years who have been involved in offending behaviour. Its purpose is to divert these young people away from statutory measures, where appropriate, and respond to the charge in a timely manner. This means that children and young people who have committed offences (with the exception of those who have committed offences of a serious nature) will be diverted from referral to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and referred to the early and effective intervention process.
- 3.7.3 Early and effective intervention is about partnership and focuses on multi-agency working. Social work coordinates the multi-agency process for Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, which includes Community Safety, Education, Police Scotland, Youth Services and other key partners to get the best possible outcome for young people.
- 3.7.4 The approach aims to prevent reoffending in line with key GIRFEC values and principles. These recommend that practitioners in all agencies who are working with children, young people and their families facilitate a pathway for help. Sharing information across organisations helps identify young people's needs and risks at the earliest stage to allow quick action. Of particular focus are the needs and risks contributing to, or arising from, offending behaviour or other concerns about their behaviour and wellbeing.
- 3.7.5 The action taken might include referring to an agency for support, providing direct interventions, or coordinating a multi-agency discussion to make sure the best outcome is delivered for the young person.

#### **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference**

- 3.7.6 A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a multi-agency victim focused meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety. In 2017/18, 100 cases were referred to MARAC where the victims had been identified as being at risk of serious harm and in consideration of these cases 145 children were discussed.



### 3.8 **DIVERSION**

- 3.8.1 Diversion is crucial, to the long-term sustainability of reduced antisocial and associated behaviour in the Renfrewshire area. In the early stages of our journey to tackle youth disorder, young people identified a key reason for getting involved in this type of behaviour was that there was nothing for them to do and/or they couldn't afford to attend clubs/activities being delivered in their communities. The development of effective diversionary programmes that offer genuine opportunities for constructive involvement in activities that benefit individuals and communities is a key element in keeping levels of reported anti-social behaviour lower.

#### **Street Stuff**

- 3.8.2 The Street Stuff programme continues to be delivered throughout Renfrewshire and will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2019. Over the past year the programme has continued to deliver activities and has recorded 31,218 attendances during 2017/18 including the provision of over 5,000 healthy meals. Nearly 80% of sessional workers on the programme are former participants and a number of volunteers have delivered over 200 hours of voluntary work, supporting their personal development and training and enhancing their employment potential.
- 3.8.3 Four young coaches from the Street Stuff programme have been working on the development of a Mini Chefs project to build on the Tackling Poverty initiative already being delivered during school holidays. The new programme aims to have a more sustainable outcome, teaching young people how to cook a healthy meal on an affordable budget.

#### **Go-fitba**

- 3.8.4 Street Stuff, in partnership with the Scottish Football Partnership, UEFA foundation has been delivering a 12-week football activity programme to young people from Glencoats primary on a Friday evening. Part of this process was learning about healthy eating and included the provision of a healthy meal provided by the Council's catering team. The young people also attended Hampden Park for a photo shoot, meeting new friends from other parts of Renfrewshire. The programme has been successful with new programmes being developed for 2018/19.

#### **Team Up to Clean Up**

- 3.8.5 The Team Up to Clean Up campaign was launched in October 2017 as part of the Council investment into Environment & Place and has undertaken a programme of gully cleaning, street sweeping and the removal of obsolete signage.
- 3.8.6 New Team Up to Clean Up branding has been promoted across Renfrewshire. Communities use branded posters and fliers to advertise events and increase attendance. A welcome pack has been created for first time organisers and a Team Up to Clean Up Facebook page has been created in response to requests from community groups for a platform to enable information sharing and offers of support. The page currently has over 500 members and grows daily. Community clean-ups are promoted and their efforts are celebrated on the page..

- 3.8.7 Schools have been strong supporters of the Team Up to Clean Up approach. Children and Young People have been involved in the campaign with educational talks being carried out in schools and nurseries with follow up litter picks being done. Street Stuff has also played their part with equipment being stored on each of the five buses with young people getting involved in tidying up the areas where activities are taking place. This was recognised in April 2018 when they received the 'Hero of the Month' award with Keep Scotland Beautiful. It is hoped that getting children and young people involved at the early stages of their life will help change behaviours with fewer people dropping litter and more taking pride in the areas in which they live.

### 3.9 INITIATIVES/ENFORCEMENT

- 3.9.1 From time to time reports of anti-social behaviour spike in a particular area. Social Media has played a part in this with young people arranging to meet initially for drinking sessions with the impact being sheer volume of young people gathering in an area causing noise, vandalism and anti-social behaviour. These issues are discussed at the daily tasking partnership meeting with appropriate partners and initiatives being implemented to respond in a co-ordinated way, quickly and effectively.

#### **Locality Based Initiatives**

- 3.9.2 With increasing anti-social behaviour in the Shortroods area, Renfrewshire Community Safety Youth Team worked jointly with the Community Police, conducting joint patrols over 4 nights. Young people identified as being involved in the anti-social behaviour were visited and 11 were charged with offences relating to the vandalism of buses. CCTV footage was also reviewed to assist in identifying the youths involved. Following this intervention normal bus services to the community which had been suspended, were resumed.
- 3.9.3 Similar approaches have also been carried out in the Johnstone, Erskine, Foxbar, Glenburn, Linwood and Ferguslie areas of Renfrewshire with issues of vandalism, anti-social behaviour (including drug taking and underage drinking) and water safety featuring high on the agenda.
- 3.9.4 This approach will continue to be implemented with appropriate referrals made to the relevant groups and appropriate support measures being put in place to change behaviour.

#### **Invest in Renfrewshire**

- 3.9.5 Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership has been working closely with Invest in Renfrewshire to educate and employ young people through their Traineeship Programme. Approximately 12 young people have come through an employability and traineeship programme with a 75% success rate of moving on to employment within the Wardens, CCTV and Street Stuff Services. Street Stuff has also progressed a trainee on to a Modern Apprenticeship funded by the Tackling Poverty Commission fund.



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## **Implications of the Report**

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

**Renfrewshire is safe** – The work undertaken by the Renfrewshire Community Partnership and other partners has reduced the incidences of vandalism and youth disorder reported. This has led to Renfrewshire feeling safer.

4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

(a) 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** – Not applicable

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## **List of Background Papers**

None

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OR/MC  
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**Author:** Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection.  
**Email:** [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

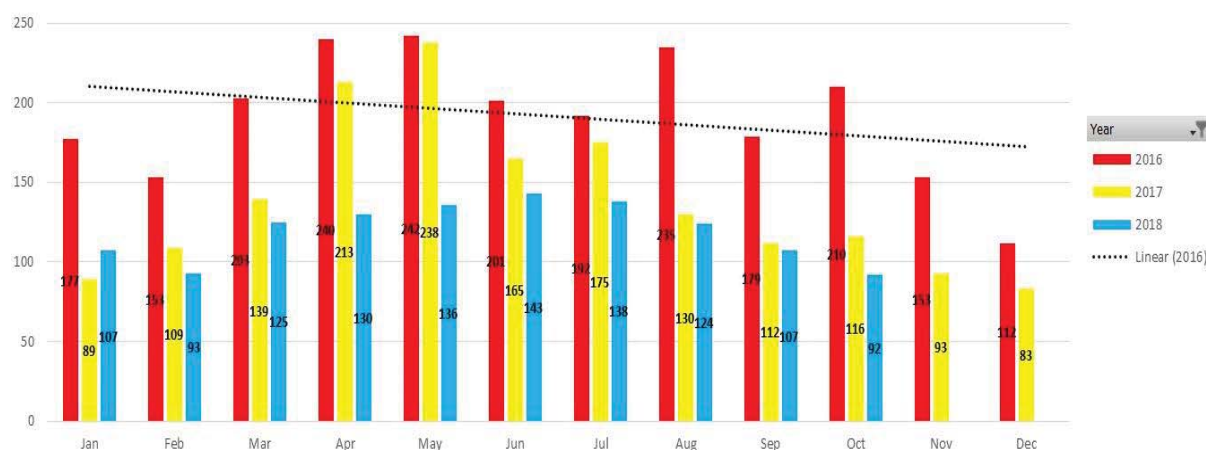


## Vandalism and Youth Disorder Statistical information

Number of complaints regarding Youth Disorder referred through the Community Safety Hub from April 2015 – March 2018 has reduced by 40%.

Performance Indicator	Frequency	Annual Total 15/16	Annual Total 16/17	Annual Total 17/18	Q1 16/17	Q2 16/17	Q3 16/17	Q4 16/17	Q1 17/18	Q2 17/18	Q3 17/18	Q4 17/18	Q1 18/19
Number of complaints regarding youth disorder referred through the Community Safety Hub	Quarterly	599	747	358	259	215	128	145	169	50	86	53	88

Number of Vandalism and Youth Disorder complaints to Police Scotland January 2016 – October 2018 has reduced by 47%



Month	2016	2017	2018	Total
Jan	177	89	107	373
Feb	153	109	93	355
Mar	203	139	125	467
Apr	240	213	130	583
May	242	238	136	616
Jun	201	165	143	509
Jul	192	175	138	505
Aug	235	130	124	489
Sep	179	112	107	398
Oct	210	116	92	418
Nov	153	93	-	246
Dec	112	83	-	195
<b>Total</b>	<b>2297</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>5154</b>