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

**On: 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

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**Heading: RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP  
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 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.
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## **2. Recommendations**

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

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## **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**

3.3 Community Resources has 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 National Road Safety Week and to highlight the issues of engine idling. The National Road Safety Week is an event coordinated by the UK road safety charity, Brake. Three primary schools, Auchenlodment Primary, St Peter's and St Mary's Primary, where engine idling and unsafe parking issues had been identified, were targeted for intervention. Banners highlighting the issues relating to 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. This action supported wider activities relating to road safety carried out at schools across Renfrewshire.

### **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**

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.

4.6 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**

### **Building Safer Communities - Renfrewshire Multi-Agency Tasking Group.**

- 5.1 Following discussions with Police Scotland and at the Community Safety and Public Protection Steering Group the monthly Community Safety 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
- 5.2 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

- Environmental Improvements
- Community Capacity Building.

5.3 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 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

Phase 4 - Lifetime Management

5.4 The Group is currently being established and will operate throughout 2016/17 (financial year) using the additional capacity delivered by the Tackling Poverty Special Wardens and Special Constables programme with the intention of engaging with between 6 and 8 communities during this time.

### **Best Bar None**

5.6 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.

5.7 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.

5.8 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.

5.9 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

5.10 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

5.11 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 and the Gallowhill and Glenburn areas. Activities including: football; table tennis; a FIFA tournament; and dance. 1,120 young people attended with 889 receiving hot food. This was a significant increase from previous years as the attendance of young people participating was more than double. 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. Representatives from the Scottish Government have been 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.

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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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**Author** Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection  
**Tel:** 0141 618 7352  
**e-mail:** [oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk)