

To: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY POLICY BOARD

On: 24 January 2017

Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Heading: Consultation, Annual Review of Policing 2016/17 by Scottish Police Authority (SPA)

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 states that the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) must prepare an annual report as soon as practicable after the end of each reporting year. The most recent report was presented to the Scottish Parliament at the end of June 2016 and covers the 2015/2016 financial year.
 - 1.2 For the upcoming review and report (2016/17), the SPA is keen to bring forward the annual review process to ensure the views of current local authority scrutiny board members are sought prior to the local government elections in May 2017.
 - 1.3 To this end, the SPA is currently undertaking the review with consultation responses to be returned by 15 February 2017. A copy of the proposed consultation response by Renfrewshire Council to the SPA is attached as Appendix 1 for the approval of the Board.
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2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board:
 - (i) Notes the initial consultation on the Annual Review of Policing, 2016/2017 as requested by the Scottish Police Authority has been brought forward with responses requested by 15 February 2017.
 - (ii) Agrees the draft response to the consultation detailed in Appendix 1.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 states that the Scottish Police Authority must prepare an annual report as soon as practicable after the end of each reporting year.
 - 3.2 The 2016/2017 Scottish Police Authority annual review will be the fourth since the single Police service came into force in Scotland.
 - 3.3 Renfrewshire Council responds to the review of Police Scotland on an annual basis.
 - 3.4 Police Scotland is a partner in the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership with a Police Officer permanently located within the Community Safety Hub to allow a close working relationship.
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Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** – none
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
- 3. **Community Planning**
 - Community Care, Health & Well-being** – closer working with Police Scotland as part of the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership will lead to a safer Renfrewshire and improve the well-being of residents.
 - Safer and Stronger**- close liaison with Police Scotland will ensure coordinated planning and response by the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership leading to a safer and stronger Renfrewshire.
- 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 & Safety** – none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** - none

List of Background Papers None

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Annual Review of Policing 2016/17 feedback form

Name of Local Authority: Renfrewshire Council

1. To what extent are you satisfied with policing's engagement with communities and with the local authority since April 2016, on local priority setting?

Renfrewshire Council has a close and very positive working relationship with Police Scotland as an active and engaged partner in Community Planning; on the Public Protection Chief Officer Group; Adult Protection and Child Protection Committees and the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Hub.

With regards to the Public Protection Chief Officer Group, the Terms of Reference highlight that Police Scotland (Divisional Commander) is part of the core membership and on occasion the Divisional Commander has assumed the Chair of the meeting in the absence of the Chief Executive of the Council.

Police Scotland also provides a dedicated resource within the Community Safety Hub to allow quick and proactive liaison on all Community Safety issues.

This Officer is part of the Daily Tasking process that brings together key partners including Housing, Social Work, Adult Services, Children Services and Scottish Fire and Rescue as well as Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Council.

The involvement of Police Scotland is particularly important in the innovative and sector leading work that is being led by the Division on projects including Building Safer and Greener Communities and the Grey Space Group, both highlighted as best practice in Section 4.

To ensure joint working at a strategic level, the Police Scotland Divisional Commander meets with the Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive and the Director of Community Resources on a monthly basis to discuss issues that have occurred and any planned joint working in the coming month.

The Divisional Commander is also involved in wider Council activities including, for example the 2021 City of Culture Bid Partnership Board and the Tackling Poverty Commission.

2. To what extent do you consider that Police Scotland's local reporting against these priorities over the course of 2016/17, has been effective in supporting your scrutiny of local policing?

The visibility and transparency of senior officers within Police Scotland when reporting against local priorities is excellent when it comes to the scrutiny committee and other key Community Planning and Council Boards. To improve further, it would help if key statistical information could be collated and passed to stakeholders e.g. Renfrewshire Council Data Analyst quicker to allow the collation of effective and clear joint reports and responses. This would allow stakeholders to report the same data and information more consistently.

To give a specific example, the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership report in quarters as to performance, however, Police collated statistics for quarter 2 (July – September) are not collated and released until the end of November. To ensure up to date information is passed to appropriate committees, it would help if the data/information could be released quicker.

3. To what extent do you think that Police Scotland's engagement with your scrutiny committee during 2016, and support for local scrutiny processes, has been effective?

Within Renfrewshire, the engagement by Police Scotland K Division senior officers at both our scrutiny committee and local area committees has been well received by Elected Members and community representatives.

A detailed Police scrutiny report is presented by Divisional Commander Jim Downie at the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board (HACS) at every meeting. This influences discussion and allows Elected Members present on the committee to question Police performance within the Renfrewshire Area.

At the Local Area Committees, the Community Safety Police Sergeant attends to update on local issues. There are 5 Local Area Committees within Renfrewshire and this significant commitment by Police Scotland gives comfort to residents, Community Councils and Elected Members that they have representatives that know the area and the problems therein.

This close relationship also allows all Police information to be produced as part of the Community Safety update and highlights on-going partnership working.

4. Are there any examples of good practice in your area, or suggestions for future improvement, that you would like to share?

Some possible examples could include:

- *Partnership initiatives to improve services and outcomes, and strong community engagement programmes*
- *Local reporting practices or information provision which committee members have found particularly helpful*
- *Anything you think it would be helpful to share with other committees*

There are a number of areas of partnership working to highlight within the Renfrewshire Council area:

Daily Tasking

This partnership approach gets all key services (Police, Fire, Council, Mental Health, Housing, Adult Services, Social Work) together on a daily basis (9.30am) to review and allocate all incidents that have taken place in Renfrewshire within the past 24 hours. The Police Scotland Officer that is located within the Partnership Hub brings every relevant Police case report to tasking on a daily basis. The cases are referred to the service that can best assist with the problem and the processes supports early intervention and prevention. This process has been seen as an exemplar of best practice, with many other Councils and other public Services coming to see the Daily Tasking process in operation.

The close partnership working allows cases to be resolved before they escalate to a higher level. If a partner can take away an action and resolve it, this leads to improved results for all partners. The process has supported a reduction in key youth crimes and anti-social behaviour of over 75% in vulnerable communities.

Building Safer and Greener Communities

A lot of work has also been taken forward locally by the Community Safety Partnership. Police Scotland Youth Volunteers have been active in the Renfrewshire area, and Police Scotland is taking the lead role in the Building Safer Greener Communities partnership approach which is linked directly to the national Building Safer Communities strategy to reduce victims of crime and victims of unintended harm across Scotland.

To meet these demands, a multi-agency tasking group was introduced in Renfrewshire to develop the principles set out in the Building Safer Communities National Strategy.

The aims are to reduce victims of crime and unintentional harm through multi-agency interventions in key communities.

The project is Chaired and driven by Police Scotland with all partners feeding into 2 weekly meetings to focus on particular areas of need as identified by Police Scotland and the Community Safety Partnership analyst.

In 2016, Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland went into Ferguslie and Gallowhill (2 areas at the top of the SIMD statistics) to assess what the community felt were issues and to put in place interventions to make improvements within both areas.

MARAC

The establishment of the Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in October 2015 was to bring together all partners and key stakeholders.

The MARAC is chaired by Police Scotland, facilitated by Renfrewshire Council and is a collaboration of all agencies that have an input into domestic violence.

The 4 weekly meetings are conducted on a case by case basis to reduce the potential for domestic violence to both the victim and the perpetrator.

The Renfrewshire MARAC has been extremely successful with the learnings and development being used by other local authorities as an exemplar of good practice.

The Renfrewshire MARAC has brought together key local services including a number of Council services such as Community Safety, Development & Housing Services, Social Work, Education and Community Justice as well as key partner agencies including, NHS, Police Scotland, and Woman's Aid. The meetings are designed to;

- o Share information to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims and their children,
- o Determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or the general community,

- o Construct and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm,
- o Reduce repeat victimisation,
- o Improve agency accountability,
- o Improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic violence cases, and
- o Agencies to take ownership of tasks to help contribute to the safety around the victim and their household family.

In a single meeting, the MARAC combines up to date risk information with a timely assessment of a victims needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic violence case; victim, children, perpetrator and agency workers.

At a MARAC meeting, high risk cases are discussed with a very brief and focused information sharing process. This is followed by the creation of an individualised multi-agency action plan which is put into place to support the victim and to make links with other public protection procedures.

Issues relating to children such as conflict over child contact, pregnancy and perception of harm to children are key indicators of risk in the domestic abuse risk assessment process. Thus a substantial number of victims who become MARAC cases have children.

Police Scotland and other bodies are now referring all the cases to MARAC who fulfil the MARAC criteria. Police Scotland chair MARAC and also MATAC which has a focus on perpetrators of crime and is closely aligned to MARAC.

CONTEST/Prevent

The Renfrewshire multi-agency CONTEST/Prevent Group has continued to meet regularly with very strong attendance from all partners including the Health Board, Ambulance Service, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, local Further and Higher Education services and Prison Service. A significant focus has been on the development of training and awareness raising activities, including the development of a shared training prospectus and examination of options for e-learning awareness raising packages. The local Police division are providing significant support to this multi-agency partnership meeting which is attended by representatives from National Police Divisions.

Grey Space Group

Significant work has been taken forward led by Police Scotland at a Divisional level to develop the "Grey Space" Community Cohesion Group.

This group exists to promote inter community discussion; cascade information; provide a forum to update the wider community to altering population dynamics; to monitor community tension; and to come together to provide support, across the region, in the event of a crisis situation developing.

The membership has been specifically broad, and now includes the Catholic Church; Church of Scotland; local mosque; Buddhist community; West of Scotland Racial Equality Council; LGBT+; Polish Community; West College Scotland; University of West of Scotland (including corporate and student body and academic research staff); the 'I Am Me' Disability awareness charity; 'Create' Paisley Youth Group; NHS; and both Renfrewshire and Inverclyde local authorities. The group is now beginning to evolve and act as a sounding board that can provide useful information that reflects some of the pressures faced by key communities and has particularly highlighted concerns relating to the Brexit vote arising in some communities as worth monitoring on an ongoing basis.

Barnardo's Safer Choices

In January 2013, Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland established a tri-partnership approach with Barnardo's Scotland to deliver a support service for young people who go missing from home or care and may be at risk of sexual exploitation. The Barnardo's Safer Choices: Missing Service commenced in March 2013 and directly engages with young people to offer support and contribute to the overall assessment of risk. The Safer Choices: Missing Service assesses the risk of a young person's involvement in child sexual exploitation using the Barnardo's Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF). Referrals from Police Scotland are shared with Barnardo's via a secure email facility

Child Protection Coordinators

Police Scotland has established two posts as dedicated 'Child Protection Coordinators' who are both based within the Concern Management Hub at Renfrew Police Office. They act as the key people for reviewing, researching and sharing of information regarding all vulnerable young missing persons, youth offending, Early & Effective Intervention (EEI) and police attendance at screening groups. These officers have developed excellent lines of communication with local authority children's houses, Scottish Children's Reporters Authority, Barnardos, and social work, thus enabling early sharing of information and the identification of any children potentially at risk of sexual exploitation.

5. How would you describe your local scrutiny committee?

- **Dedicated Policing or Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee**
- **Scrutiny committee with remit to scrutinise wider range of services**
- **Community Safety Committee**
- **Community Planning Partnership Sub Committee**
- **Full Council**
- **Other – please describe**

The main local scrutiny committee for Renfrewshire Council is the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board, however, papers can be presented to other groups as detailed below. This would best fit the description “Scrutiny committee with remit to scrutinise wider range of services”.

However, reports from Police Scotland and Community Safety are also be presented to:

- Local Area Committees (all 40 Elected Members)
- The Community Planning Partnership Board
- Public Protection Chief Officers Group
- The Community Planning Safer and Stronger Thematic Board

6. How many elected members are regularly involved in the scrutiny process?

The Housing and Community Safety Policy Board is the main area of scrutiny for Police Scotland within Renfrewshire Council and consists of 15 Elected Members.

However, reports from Police Scotland and Community Safety are also be presented to:

- Local Area Committees (all 40 Elected Members)
- The Community Planning Partnership Board (2 Elected Members)
- The Community Planning Safer and Stronger Thematic Board (2 Elected Members)

In essence, the Police Scotland reports have the opportunity to reach all Elected Members in Renfrewshire Council on a regular basis and can build shape strategic and Council wide operational decisions on issues and individual operations in local Committees.

7. Is there any additional information or feedback you would like to offer?

Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland have an excellent working relationship and a trust that allows a close working relationship. This is highlighted in the responses above.

Police Scotland is committed to the partnership working with the Divisional Commander being part of Council life activities including, for example

:

- Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Board;
- 2021 Partnership Board;
- The Champions Board; and
- The judging panel for the Chief Executive Awards.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback and information.

Responses should be sent to

SPACommunityAccountability@spa.pnn.police.uk by Wednesday 15th February 2017.