

**To: PAISLEY SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**On: 14 FEBRUARY 2017**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

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**Heading: COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION,  
PROGRESS UPDATE**

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 This report provides a progress update on activities the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership carried out in the Paisley South area in quarter 3 (1 October – 31 December 2016). A number of partners have provided statistical information, including: Police Scotland; Scottish Fire & Rescue Service; and Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership. The report includes information on:

- Paisley South community safety statistics;
  - Environmental enforcement and improvement activities;
  - Protecting vulnerable residents;
  - Building safer communities;
  - Diversionary activities;
  - A spotlight on gender based violence.
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## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of this progress update report.

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### 3. Focus on Paisley South

- 3.1 The table below details the number of reports of incidents in the Paisley South Local Area during Quarter 3, 2016/17 (October to December 2016). The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership continues to target resources into identified hotspot areas.

Incidents Reported	Q3 2015/16		Q3 2016/17	
	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 5	Ward 6
Serious Violent Crime	2	4	5	5
Minor Assault	15	15	15	8
Drug Crime	11	5	12	8
Disorder and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) (number of calls)	218	208	198	202
Vandalism	24	19	22	17

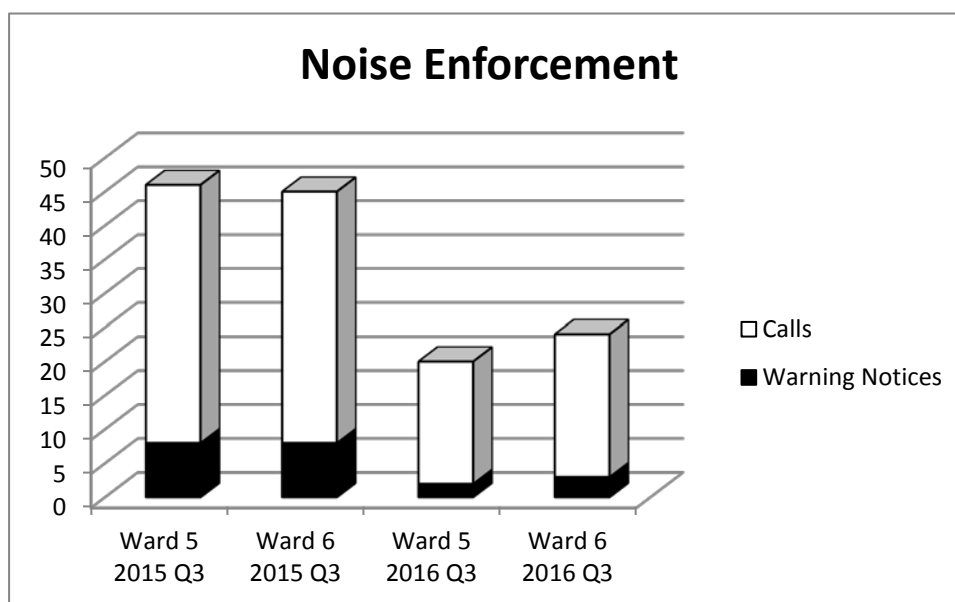
- 3.2 Ward 5: An increase was identified within serious violent crime, rising from two incidents to five, whilst there was a very slight increase of one single incident within drug crimes. For the incidents of serious violent crime, there were two robberies and three serious assaults however nothing to link any of these incidents. Due to the very low number of these types of incidents, there were no geographic hotspots identified and no obvious peak timebands.
- 3.3 Ward 6: A very slight increase was noted with regard to serious violent crime (increased by one incident in comparison to the corresponding quarter of 2015/16). Three of the five incidents were identified as serious assaults, with two of these occurring on Durrockstock Road, however there were no further geographic or temporal links established and no obvious link between victims.
- 3.4 There was also a very slight increase of three recorded incidents of drug crime, rising to eight incidents overall during Q3 of 2016/17. Seven of these crimes were for possession of user-amounts of cannabis, whilst the other was also related to cannabis use but involved possession with intent to supply. This again highlights the value of actionable drugs intelligence, with 1.5kg of herbal cannabis recovered during this latter incident. Overall crime and disorder incidents recorded within Paisley South LAC remain at a reduced level in comparison to the corresponding quarters of previous years.

#### **Renfrewshire Wardens' Antisocial Behaviour Calls**

- 3.5 90 antisocial behaviour calls were received by the Renfrewshire Wardens' service for the Paisley South LAC area during October to December 2016 which is a slight decrease compared to the corresponding period in 2015. 903 patrols took place within the Paisley South LAC area, many in response to these calls. The antisocial behaviour calls made to the Wardens help the Community Safety Partnership to respond to and direct resources across Renfrewshire.

### Noise Enforcement

- 3.6 During October to December 2016, the number of calls to the Noise Team decreased by nearly half in both wards. The number of warning notices issued has also reduced which corresponds to the decreased calls. Early intervention joint working with community safety partners has ensured that problem households are identified quickly before escalating into serious noise issues. This significantly helped to reduce calls in between October and December 2016.



## 4 Environmental Enforcement and Improvements

### Vehicle Emissions Testing

- 4.1 This bi-annual event took place on 15-16 November 2016. Community Safety wardens, working in partnership with Licensing Officers and Police Scotland, carried out emissions testing on light vehicles entering the Air Quality Management Area in Paisley town centre. 514 vehicles were tested (including 22 taxis and private-hire vehicles), with 5 fails resulting in the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices to the drivers. There were also 6 warnings issued as a result of minor defects.

## 5 Protecting Vulnerable Residents

### I Am Me/Keep Safe

- 5.1 I Am Me/Keep Safe is raising awareness of Disability Hate Crime by showing films within its CineBus. This mobile cinema/theatre is continuing its tour of the Primary Schools of Renfrewshire and the community groups of Scotland raising awareness of Keep Safe. During October-December 2016, the CineBus attended:
- 2016 Ability Fest – an annual event which offers unique benefits to the disabled community, employers and support organisations in Glasgow;
  - Keep Safe National Launch at Tulliallan Police College;
  - Ayr Communities Day;
  - Down's Syndrome Scotland national conference;

- Popular local locations and events like Soar @ Intu Braehead, Equality Week at Renfrewshire House, Youth Services event in Paisley Town Hall and Adult Support and Protection Conference in Johnstone Town Hall.

5.4 I Am Me/Keep Safe won the 2016 Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 'Invest in Renfrewshire' category at the prestigious (ROCCO) awards night on 18th November. I Am Me/Keep Safe continues their prize winning form in the ROCCOs having previously won the 'Community Champion' award in 2015.

## **6. Building Safer Communities**

6.1 The Building Safer Greener Communities Multi Agency Tasking Group has recently been working in Gallowhill. To date, 142 surveys have been completed, the majority being through Social Media. The main areas of concern the community wanted partner agencies to address were: Drugs, Violent Crime, Vandalism, Speeding and Dog Fouling. The Partnership has been working closely with the Community over the last few months to address the concerns raised with a number of actions completed.

6.2 Actions completed cover a number of themes including:

- Community Engagement – Working with all stakeholders including the general public, community groups, local schools, voluntary organisations, public services and businesses.
- Enforcement - High Visibility Patrols conducted by Police Scotland and wardens.
- Clean up of environmental hotspot areas including fly-tipping and graffiti removal.
- Home Security – Improving bogus caller and door step crime awareness by giving advice to targeted groups;
- Personal Safety - Delivering community safety messages on drug & alcohol awareness, bullying, health and well-being to youths and elderly groups including signposting of activities such as Street Stuff.
- Internet Safety – Providing advice and guidance on cyber crime / scams, financial harm and social media awareness.
- Road Safety - Road safety campaign at local schools.
- Housing - Guidance and support to tenants experiencing difficulties managing property.

6.3 The partnership will continue to work with the Gallowhill community and will apply relevant lessons learned as we introduce similar projects in other areas of Renfrewshire.

### **Purple Flag**

6.4 Paisley First submitted its application for Purple Flag status in October 2016, with a formal presentation and assessment carried out by the Association of Town and City Management on the 9th December 2016.

6.5 On 10 January 2017 Paisley First were advised that their bid for Purple Flag status had been successful. This independent assessment confirms that Paisley meets or

surpasses standards of excellence in managing the evening and night time economy. Achievement of the award supports the Paisley Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and the City of Culture 2021 Bid. The award recognises the work of the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership and key services and initiatives that operate in the town centre.

#### **Autumn and Winter Events, 2016**

- 6.6 During October to December 2016, Community Resources and in particular Amenity Services and the Community Safety Partnership (including wardens, CCTV and Street Stuff) have been supporting various autumn/winter events throughout Renfrewshire.
- 6.7 This included Paisley Halloween Festival, Paisley Fireworks Spectacular, Bonfire Night, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday events throughout Renfrewshire, Reclaim the Night March and Christmas Lights Switch On events in Paisley, Johnstone, Renfrew and Linwood. Amenity Services undertook pre and post activities for each event. The wardens provided additional patrols, the Safe Bus, lost kids location and the CCTV vehicle at many of these events. This was critical especially at large scale events like at Halloween and Paisley Lights Switch On where over 10,000 and 30,000 people were in attendance respectively. Meanwhile, Street Stuff assisted by Walk the Plank (event production organisation) coached girls and boys in rehearsals to participate in the Halloween parade.

### **7. Diversionary Activities**

#### **Street Stuff**

- 7.1 The Street Stuff programme has been fully active throughout Renfrewshire. Recorded attendances for the core programme in the year to date for 2016/17 have already exceeded the totals for 2015/16. To date, in 2016/17, 32,024 attendances have been at core activities with over 100 attendances per day during the October school week and Christmas/New Year festival holiday activities.
- 7.2 The Street Stuff festive programme for 2016/17 offered a range of activities which included Street Stuff favourites: football; table tennis; a FIFA tournament; and dance. However, new activities were introduced this year to support the Paisley 2021 City of Culture bid and encourage people to get involved in culture, unlocking the area's creative potential. The new activities included Plate & Glass design creation, Gingerbread cake design, Photography Workshop, a Talent Show and Stop motion workshop. There was also a Christmas Dinner / Party with a DJ to celebrate the festivities. Hot meals were served to over 500 young people who attended the festive programme.
- 7.3 Street Stuff continues to deliver core night-time activities throughout the week. Additional activities were delivered in each of the 5 LAC areas in Renfrewshire - Paisley 2021 Stadium, Bargarran, Glenburn, Linwood and Gallowhill as part of a wider partnership approach responding to youth disorder and underage drinking in the area.

- 7.5 The table below shows Street Stuff activity and attendance in the Paisley South LAC area from October to December 2016:

Venue	Attendance
Skye Cres	257
Glenburn	452
Lochfield Marshes	114
Durrockstock	346
Total	1169

- 7.6 Funding from this LAC in 2016/17 has allowed Street Stuff to deliver extra sessions in local areas. In total Street Stuff has provided 6 sessions over 5 days per week in the winter months in the Paisley South LAC area.

(Details of Street Stuff activities and the up to date timetable are available on the Council's website using the following link

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/2381/Street-Stuff.>)

## **8. Public Protection Spotlight – Gender Based Violence**

- 8.1 The term 'gender based violence' was first defined by the United Nations in 1993. This international agreed definition is still used today and helped to create the Scottish Government's definition:

- Gender-based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

- 8.2 Violence against women has its roots in gender inequality (1 in 3 women worldwide will experience physical and/or sexual violence by a partner, ex partner or stranger). However, this does not mean that all acts against a woman are gender based violence, or that all victims of gender based violence are female.
- 8.3 Renfrewshire's Gender Based Violence Strategy Group is an inter-agency strategic partnership responsible for developing and implementing Renfrewshire's response to Equally Safe - Scotland's National strategy to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls. The group plan to achieve a 15% reduction in the number of reported incidents of domestic abuse.
- 8.4 In recent years, anti domestic violence media campaigns and reporting strategies have been giving victims of violence the confidence to report and providing mechanisms for third parties to also report incidences of violence. This has led to an upwards trend in reporting of domestic violence which corresponds to the national trend. In Apr-Aug 2016, 1005 residents in Renfrewshire were reported victims of domestic violence which is 9.5% increase compared with the corresponding period

last year. This is a positive result that reflects the efforts that have been made to increase reporting in recent years.

- 8.5 Responding to incidents of domestic abuse involves a number of multi agency partners including the police, social work, ASSIST (Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information, Services Together) and the Children's Reporter. Following an incident of domestic abuse to which the police have responded, onward referrals are routinely made to social work in respect of child care concerns and to ASSIST in respect of concerns for the victim's well being. 2851 referrals of domestic abuse with a child in the household were received by Social Work during 2015/16. Police Scotland make up approximately 85% of referrals at present. The Social Work Department will make inquiries into these referrals and if necessary investigate concerns received. There are a range of interventions available to support women and children who are subject to gender based violence. These include Renfrewshire Women and Children First and Renfrewshire Reconnection (Renfrewshire Council), Renfrewshire Rising, Renfrewshire Women's Aid, ASSIST and Barnardos.
- 8.6 16 Days of Action is an international campaign started by the United Nations to raise awareness of violence against women. Renfrewshire Council worked with local and national community and volunteer groups to create a variety of events for our version of 16 Days of Action. The theme in Renfrewshire this year was 'Not Just A Women's Issue' and men were encouraged to join the action and show their support by wearing a white ribbon. Renfrewshire's campaign began on 29 November with The Reclaim the Night march coordinated by Renfrewshire Rising to signal an end to violence against women. Hundreds of residents attended the procession which started at University of the West of Scotland at 6pm. The candlelight march progressed through the streets of Paisley to Dunn Square. Renfrewshire's Provost Anne Hall laid a Renfrewshire Rising remembrance wreath at the memorial followed by a two minutes silence to remember those lost to domestic violence. The march then continued on to Paisley Abbey where White Ribbon Scotland closed the proceedings and the Renfrewshire Rising choir performed, led by Gordon Rigby, formerly of the BBC and Scottish Philharmonic Orchestra.
- 8.7 Other 16 Days of Action events included the delivery of several awareness courses throughout Renfrewshire to improve the public's understanding and encourage community activism of the issue. These included the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes march where men and women wear high heels to raise awareness of sexual violence, local displays by school pupils and specialist training for local workers on Child Sexual Exploitation.

### **Implications of this Report**

1. **Financial** – none.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none.
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan**

**Safer and Stronger** – The activities set out within this report contribute to ensuring that Renfrewshire is a safe and tolerant place where residents and visitors enjoy a high level of personal safety and public protection, are free from crime and vulnerable children and adults are well looked after and protected.

**Greener** –Activities set out in this report contribute towards developing the quality of the environment of Renfrewshire in a sustainable way ensuring it is clean, green and safe for all residents and visitors.

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.
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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