



**To:** Council

**On:** 29 June 2017

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**Report by:** Chief Executive

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**Heading:** Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group – Annual Report 2016/17

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to Council the Annual Report of Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group. The report specifically outlines the key activities and developments progressed in 2016/17 as they relate to child and adult protection, offender management, problem alcohol and drug use, gender based violence and public protection. The report also highlights the anticipated future priorities for the Chief Officers Group to progress during 2017/18.
  - 1.2 It is important to ensure that there is an integrated approach across the Council and between the Council and its key partners NHS GGC, Police Scotland and other statutory and voluntary sector organisations, to allow for effective strategic oversight and shared prioritisation of resource allocation.
  - 1.3 The Chief Officers Group has a critical role in ensuring links are made across community and public protection activity at operational, tactical and strategic levels.
  - 1.4 In 2015 a review was undertaken of the strategic oversight arrangements for public protection. As part of the response to this, it was agreed that the Chief Officers Group would report annually to parent bodies, including the Council, in respect of the position regarding public protection.
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## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that members of the board note:

- the key activities progressed during 2016/17 by the Chief Officers Group and;
  - the identified priorities to be taken forward in partnership during 2017/18.
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## **3. Background**

3.1 Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group is responsible for leadership, strategic oversight and scrutiny in relation to multi agency public protection activity and practice in Renfrewshire. The Chief Officers Group oversees the work of six strategic partnerships which examine the performance and ensure the provision of quality services in relation to child protection, adult protection, wider public protection, offender management, alcohol and drugs, and gender based violence.

3.2 The Chief Officers Group is chaired by the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council and meets on a quarterly basis.

3.3 Governance arrangements for public protection were reviewed in late 2015, which culminated in recommendations to establish a new member officer group, with a remit to consider wider public protection matters, replacing the existing Member Officer Group, whose focus has been child protection. In addition, it was agreed that the Chief Officers Group would report annually to the parent bodies on the overall position in relation to public protection matters in Renfrewshire.

3.4 This is the second annual report of the Chief Officers Group. It provides an overview of the main elements of work of those involved in public protection over the course of 2016/17, and in doing so highlights the key benefits of good interagency working.

3.5 As elsewhere in the country, Renfrewshire continues to face challenges in addressing a range of local protection issues, and the Chief Officer Group and the local multi-agency partnerships, continue to recognise, alongside scrutiny and reflection, the value of a proactive focus on awareness raising and preventative approaches to protect people in the community. This has been evident in the work of those groups, agencies and partnerships involved in public protection.

### 3.6

A significant range of activities have been undertaken during 2016/17, which are highlighted within the body of the annual report attached at Appendix 1 and include:

- The appointment of John Paterson as the new independent chair of Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee and Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee.
- Successful multi agency adult protection and child protection conferences held to inform local practice and further enhance multi agency partnership working.
- The development of new community justice arrangements and finalisation of a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2017/18
- Women and Children First successfully secured the next 5 years funding from Big Lottery for delivering the Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery (CEDAR) programme
- Further development of the Community Safety Partnership Hub and the daily tasking process involving all key partners locally
- A positive external audit of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing in relation to domestic abuse, with local activity being recognised informally as best practice by other agencies across the country
- A positive validated self-assessment of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, which highlighted some key areas of progress, such as exceeding drug and alcohol waiting times and increasing the reach and coverage of the naloxone programme
- The resettlement of a small number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Renfrewshire from Europe, and further resettlement of Syrian refugees in Renfrewshire during the course of 2016/2017
- Preparation for the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to ensure that all requests for information from the Inquiry can be met expeditiously.
- Supported the development of the very successful Grey Space community group which is led by Police Scotland, and supports communities to address any emerging community safety issues arising, particularly those relating to hate crime.

## 4. **Future Priorities for 2017/18**

### 4.1

The Chief Officers Group regularly scrutinises performance information across all areas of community protection activity, focusing in on areas where there are changes in referrals, incidents or concerns reported, or where national research or legislation suggests improvements or change to practice or multi agency working. In April 2017, members of the Chief Officers Group held a special meeting to discuss current challenges, issues and opportunities for enhanced partnership working and agreed to focus on the following priorities during 2017/18:

- Undertake a spotlight on drugs and alcohol services across Renfrewshire, related performance and outcomes achieved for local people.

- Work with Government to implement the recommendations of the Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP)
- Respond to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and any associated requests for information
- Ensure safety, protection and positive outcomes for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and Syrian families, with a particular focus on support and integration
- Complete a local Gender Based Violence Strategy that reflects national and local priorities
- Prepare our commissioning based Community Justice Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) for 2018 – 2021
- Continue to enhance all multi - agency Child Protection and Adult Protection training opportunities
- Monitor and respond appropriately to continuing pressures on adult social care, with particular reference to guardianships and anticipated changes to the workload of mental health officers arising from new mental health legislation.
- Support the work of the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland, with an inspection of adult services planned for Autumn / Winter 2017.
- Continuing to develop multi agency partnership arrangements including training opportunities, which focus on reducing risk to vulnerable people through for example issues such as fire raising.
- Continue to develop best practice in relation to civil contingencies exercising, serious and organised crime and fraud.
- Continue to support the roll out the Building Safer Communities programme in partnership with Police Scotland.
- Encourage pro social behaviour and increased community safety through a partnership approach to Building Safer Communities

4.2 The Chief Officers Group will continue to seek to ensure that performance and practice are scrutinised at a strategic level, to identify what works well, to highlight any areas for improvement, and to consider where further opportunities for early intervention and prevention activity would achieve improved outcomes for local people.

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## Implications of the Report

- 1 **Financial** – n/a.
- 2 **HR & Organisational Development** – n/a
- 3 **Community Planning** – n/a.
- 4 **Legal** – n/a
- 5 **Property/Assets** – n/a

- 6 **Information Technology** – n/a
  - 7 **Equality and Human Rights** – no negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified from the recommendations contained in this report. If required, 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** – n/a.
  9. **Procurement** – n/a
  10. **Risk** – n/a
  11. **Privacy Impact** – none.
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# Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group

Annual Report 2016/17



15/5/2017  
Renfrewshire Council

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# 1. Introduction

Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group is responsible for leadership, strategic oversight and scrutiny in relation to multi agency public protection activity and practice in Renfrewshire. The Chief Officers Group oversees the work of six strategic partnerships which examine the performance and ensure the provision of quality services in relation to child protection, adult protection, wider public protection, offender management, alcohol and drugs, and gender based violence.

As elsewhere in the country, Renfrewshire continues to face challenges in addressing a range of local protection issues, but the Chief Officer Group and the local multi-agency partnerships, continue to recognise, alongside scrutiny and reflection, the value of a proactive focus on awareness raising and preventative approaches to protect people in the community. This has been evident in the work of those groups, agencies and partnerships involved in public protection.

This is the second annual report of the Chief Officers Group. It provides an overview of the main elements of work of those involved in public protection over the course of 2016/17, and in doing so highlights the key benefits of good interagency working.

A significant range of activities have been undertaken during 2016/17, which are highlighted within the body of this report and include:

- The appointment of John Paterson as the new independent chair of Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee and Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee.
- Successful multi agency adult protection and child protection conferences held to inform local practice and further enhance multi agency partnership working.
- The development of new community justice arrangements and finalisation of a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2017/18
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- Further development of the Community Safety Partnership Hub and the daily tasking process involving all key partners locally
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- A positive validated self-assessment of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, which highlighted some key areas of progress, such as exceeding drug and alcohol waiting times and increasing the reach and coverage of the naloxone programme
- The resettlement of a small number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Renfrewshire from Europe, and further resettlement of Syrian refugees in Renfrewshire during the course of 2016/2017
- Preparation for the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to ensure that all requests for information from the Inquiry can be met expeditiously.
- Supported the development of the very successful Grey Space community group which is led by Police Scotland, and supports communities to address any emerging community safety issues arising, particularly those relating to hate crime.

## 2. Profile of Renfrewshire

Renfrewshire Council covers an area of 261.5 km<sup>2</sup>. The latest estimate (mid-year 2016) puts Renfrewshire's population at 175,930 - an increase of 1,370 (0.78%) on 2015. This makes Renfrewshire the 10th largest authority in Scotland in terms of population.

Although Renfrewshire's population as a whole is projected to remain stable over the next twenty years with only modest increases, its age composition is projected to change significantly. While numbers in the 16-64 age group are projected to decline by 7%, the 65+ population is set to increase by 26% to 2039, most significantly by 79% in the 75+ category. (2014 based projections).

In terms of ethnicity, Renfrewshire has a larger proportion of the population identifying as White Scottish and smaller percentages of all minority ethnic groups than the Scottish average. 91% of the population in Renfrewshire identify as White Scottish compared to the Scottish average of 84%. 2.8% identify as Black or Minority Ethnic compared to the Scottish average of 4%.

Deprivation remains an issue in Renfrewshire. According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation of Renfrewshire's 225 datazones, 13 are in the most deprived 5% in Scotland. This is a local share of 5.8% (13 out of 225) and a national share of 3.7% (13 out of 349). The 2016 release however, also evidenced a decrease in the number of people identified as income and employment deprived since 2012, by 6% and 15% respectively.

### Analysis of current trends

The rate per 1000 of children in Renfrewshire on the Child Protection Register has fallen over the last five years and is the fourth lowest in the ten authorities in our benchmarking group. This figure is subject to fluctuation. As at 31 July 2016, Renfrewshire had 681 Looked After Children. This amounts to 4.4% of the total in Scotland, and recent figures suggest this level continues to be maintained.

Domestic violence is also a key issue in the area with 2215 incidents recorded by Police Scotland from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

2,578 adult welfare and protection referrals were received by Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership (RHSCP) from April 2016 to March 2017. Of these 800 were adult protection concerns and 1,778 were adult welfare concerns, with most referrals made by the Police. 724 referrals were progressed as adult protection enquiries, from which 58 adult protection investigations were conducted, with 28 resulting in an adult case conference.

In 2015-2016 there were a total of 2515 referrals received of which 946 were adult protection concerns and 1569 were adult welfare concerns. In 2014-15 the overall total was 1708. The latest data therefore confirms the year on year upward trend in reported concerns.

Drug crime has been identified by the police as a key issue the public would like to see tackled. Nearly a quarter of all crimes reported in 2015/16 were drug related.

Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership continues to exceed waiting times targets for access to drug and alcohol services. Outcome data relating to 657 individuals shows an overall improvement within each recovery element. The biggest improvements have been with alcohol use and emotional health.

Employability has been identified as a key element in preventing re-offending after prison or community sentences. Up to 1 in 3 males and 1 in 10 females in Scotland are likely to have a criminal record which may act as a barrier to employment. Community Justice Renfrewshire is supporting an employment network to ensure staff across the partnership are able to advise people with convictions on securing training and employment.

Homelessness for those released from prison is also an issue as re-offending rates are high and a holistic package of support is required to support desistance from further offending. In Renfrewshire overall homeless applications have fallen 29% from 1,064 in 2007/08 to 825 in 2014/15 however homeless applications from those leaving prison has almost doubled from 67 to 120 in the same period.

Overall in the Renfrewshire area, there has been a reduction, since 2013-14, of 3% (325) on the total number of crimes recorded by the police. The Renfrewshire area accounts for approximately 3% of the total crime figures in Scotland.

Renfrewshire has been successful in diverting women and young people from custodial sentences to community alternatives. 97% of the current prison population for the area are male and 94% over 21.

The number of complaints for youth disorder and anti social behaviour remain lower than historical levels, reflecting the good work being undertaken at Daily Tasking with referrals to the Youth Team when youth disorder occurs. Performance continues to be maintained at a high level in relation to Community Safety investigations with 100% of complainers being contacted within 5 working days of the complaint being made and a high percentage of the person being complained about being contacted within the target of 10 working days.

### **3. Chief Officers Group**

Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group is responsible for leadership and strategic oversight of performance in relation to multi agency public protection practice in Renfrewshire. The Chief Officers Group has a critical role in ensuring links are made across community and public protection activity at operational, tactical and strategic levels.

The six strategic partnerships covering the areas of public protection work, report into the Chief Officers' Group which oversees the performance and ensure the provision of quality services in relation to child protection, adult protection, wider protection, offender management, alcohol and drugs, and gender based violence. These are:

- Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee
- Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements Strategic Oversight Group
- Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- Renfrewshire Gender Based Violence Strategy Group
- Community Safety and Public Protection Steering Group

It is recognised that these areas of protection are very often inter-linked and can impact on each other. A key aim of the Chief Officers Group is to provide strategic leadership and oversight to ensure developments within specific areas of practice support cross cutting activity and have a positive impact on outcomes for local people.

#### **3.1 Remit, roles and membership**

The core membership of the Renfrewshire Chief Officers Group (COG) is chaired by the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council and comprises representation at Chief Executive level, or senior nominee, from the three statutory agencies - Renfrewshire Council, Police Scotland, and Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board. They are supported by the attendance of the following or their senior nominee:

- Chief Social Work Officer, Renfrewshire Council or appropriate senior nominee;
- Chief Officer of the Integration Joint Board or appropriate senior nominee;
- Independent chair of Renfrewshire Child and Adult Protection Committees;
- Child Protection Committee lead officer
- Adult Protection Committee lead officer
- Senior officer representing Renfrewshire on the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements Strategic Oversight Group (NSCJA MAPPA SOG) or appropriate senior nominee
- Head of Public Protection or Director of Community Resources
- Scottish Fire Service senior officer representation
- Chair of the Gender Based Violence Strategy Group or appropriate senior nominee
- Chair of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership or appropriate senior nominee

The remit of the group is to provide strategic leadership and scrutiny of the work of the protection business areas on behalf of their respective agencies; to identify successes and areas for improvement and in doing so learn from experience, monitor trends and examine local and national comparisons and take appropriate action where necessary in response to performance where improvement is needed. This includes the consideration of local and national critical incident reports to inform learning where this is appropriate.

The Chief Officers Group reviews performance management information to ensure that this is being collected in a robust and regular manner, that any areas for development are identified and addressed promptly and that consideration is given to identifying further opportunities for early intervention and prevention.

Governance arrangements for public protection were reviewed in late 2015, which culminated in recommendations to establish a new member officer group, with a remit to consider wider public protection matters, replacing the existing Member Officer Group, whose focus has been child protection.

In addition, it was agreed that the Chief Officers Group would report annually to the parent bodies on the overall position in relation to public protection matters in Renfrewshire.

In February 2016 the Leadership Board considered a report on the review and these recommendations were formally approved and have subsequently been implemented.

### **3.2 Member Officer Group**

As outlined above, revised governance arrangements for the Member Officer Group were agreed as part of the review of public protection governance in late 2015. These have now been in place formally for one year.

The purpose of the Member Officer Group is to provide senior elected members with the opportunity to formally and regularly discharge their strategic independent scrutiny and assurance role in relation to key activity and significant developments which have implications for public protection matters in Renfrewshire as they relate to:

- Adult and Child Protection;
- MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements); and
- wider Community Safety and Public Protection matters including the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Gender Based Violence Strategy Group.

The group is comprised of elected members on a cross party basis and key officers of the council as follows:

- Three senior members of the administration
- Two members of the main opposition group
- One other opposition member
- Director of Children's Services and Chief Officer Social Work Officer
- Director of Development and Housing Services
- Chief Officer, Integration Joint Board
- Health and Social Care Partnership operational head of service
- Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice
- Head of Public Protection, Community Resources
- Child Protection Officer
- Adult Support and Protection Officer

Also in attendance will be:

- Independent Chair of the Child Protection and Adult Protection Committees
- Divisional Commander, Police Scotland or appropriate senior nominee

The group will also invite the participation of other key individuals or agencies involved in the areas of concern of the Member Officer Group as required.

## 4. Updates from Strategic Partnerships

The period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 has been one of significant activity in terms of public protection arrangements in Renfrewshire. The Chief Officers Groups meets on a quarterly basis and considers reports on all public protection matters in relation to performance, learning and development, legislative change and findings from research. The Chief Officers Group regularly reviews available information and makes a strategic assessment on an ongoing basis of issues which require further consideration or action.

A summary of key developments and activity over the 12 month period is provided in the following sections, by thematic area.

### 4.1 Child Protection

- A new independent chair was appointed for the Renfrewshire Adult Protection and Child Protection Committees. The recruitment process was undertaken by a multi-agency panel chaired by the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council, and supported by the local Divisional Commander of Police Scotland and the Executive Nurse Director of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde. The Chief Social Work Officer acted as specialist advisor to the panel. The panel agreed to appoint Mr John Paterson to the post of Independent Chair, who took up the role in May 2017.
- The inspection of joint services for children in Renfrewshire took place between December 2014 and February 2015. It was the first time that all children's services in Renfrewshire had been inspected jointly and was, at that time part of a new national programme of inspection. The inspection report was published on 11 December 2015, with Renfrewshire receiving six "very good" grades; two "good" grades and one "adequate" grade. A comprehensive action plan was produced to address the recommendations made in the inspection report.

During 2016/ 17, areas of progress have included:

- The Initial Referral Discussion (IRD) process has been further refined between services to ensure that a three way discussion between Health, Social Work and Police takes place at the earliest opportunity where there are concerns that a child is in need of protection. Revised multi agency guidance has been disseminated to staff during 2016/17, nationally Police Scotland is developing a Standard Operating Procedure that will standardise the practice and recording across Scotland once agreed.
- Risk assessment has been a clear focus in single agency training and in all multi agency Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) training which is based on the national practice model and risk assessment framework. This also includes the use of chronologies and SMART action planning. The GIRFEC pathway establishes a review framework for all looked after children. New guidance has been developed for the core multi agency assessment which provides advice on best practice in risk assessment, chronologies, action planning.
- A revised suite of performance information has been developed to support Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee in their role of scrutinising performance.
- A report of the Systems Review completed as part of the Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Programme was published on 2 March 2017. The Systems Review concluded that, in general, the child protection system works well, however it identified 12 recommendations to strengthen systems to better protect children and young people. The Scottish Government has advised that all of these recommendations will be taken forward. The Chief Officers Group in Renfrewshire will review Renfrewshire's position in relation to the recommendations and oversee the work

of Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee in terms of implementing these. Local officers will seek to participate in national groups and discussions which will influence the practical implementation of the recommendations

- The annual RCPC conference held in Johnstone Town Hall on 8 September 2016 attracted 233 delegates from across all agencies. Keynote speakers included Nazir Afzal, former Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West England; Billy Burke, Head Teacher at Renfrew High School and David Mandel , of endingviolence.com , who used a live transatlantic video link to the conference. Over 200 people attended, with very positive feedback received in terms of the value of the input from the speakers in terms of developing professional practice.
- A development session for Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee was held on 17 March, with the aim of finalising the development of the Committee Business Plan for 2017-2019.
- Regular performance reports are submitted to Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee on activity in relation to numbers of children on the child protection register, numbers and reasons for child protection concerns amongst others. The number of children on the child protection register is subject to fluctuation and the changing nature of the needs of local children and families. Analysis of child protection concerns received indicates that children in Renfrewshire continue to be in contact with social work due to issues such as parental neglect and associated levels of drug and alcohol misuse amongst parents or carers.
- The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is looking at the abuse of children in care. It was set up on 1 October 2015. The Inquiry will report to Scottish Government Ministers within 4 years with recommendations for the future to improve the law, policies and practices in Scotland. As part of the Inquiry, both Renfrewshire Council and Police Scotland have received requests for information to support the review. Renfrewshire Council Social Work Service have allocated professional and administrative resource to ensure all requests for information are met expeditiously.

## **4.2 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

- Officers from Renfrewshire Council have engaged in discussions with the Home Office, following a request to offer resettlement to unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) residing in the south of England or in Europe. In legislative terms, local authorities in Scotland are able to offer resettlement to UASC through the Dubs Amendment of the Immigration Act 2016, by which the UK Parliament agreed to resettle an agreed number of UASC residing in Europe. Renfrewshire welcomed a small number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in late 2016. Children's Services has established a specialist team to work with unaccompanied through this route asylum seeking children. This team forms part of the current Throughcare service.

## **4.3 Adult Protection**

- John Paterson took up the role of independent chair of Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee (RAPC) in May 2017.
- Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee has approved the revised set of Inter-agency Adult Support and Protection guidance and procedures. The final, approved version is now available to staff, partners, and the public.
- A multi-agency case file audit relating to adult support and protection was conducted in March 2016 and the findings were presented to the RAPC in September.

- The Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee (RAPC) requested that an Appreciative Inquiry be carried out in relation to a Large Scale Adult Protection Investigation at Abbey Court Older People's Care Home in Paisley. The findings from this were presented to RAPC in September 2016.
- Demand for Adult with Incapacity (AWI) reports, which require to be completed by a qualified Mental Health Officer (MHO), has risen steadily over recent years (this picture is replicated across Scotland). In 2016-17 Renfrewshire received 155 requests for AWI MHO Reports. In the previous year there were 137 such requests. The other main area of work for the Mental Health Service was around the Mental Health Act. The number of detentions under the Act has risen by 16% year on year. Orders where the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is appointed Welfare Guardian have also risen significantly in recent years, from 79 in March 2015 to the current figure of 107. Each order requires a Social Worker to act as the 'Nominated Officer' on behalf of the CSWO for day to day management of the case. In addition there are currently approximately 450 private Guardianship Orders.
- The RAPC Annual Conference took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 at Johnstone Town Hall. Dr Linda de Caestecker, NHS GGC Director for Public Health, delivered a highly informative presentation on 'The Causes of Wellness'. Graham Vance, a former senior police officer, presented on the theme of Financial Harm and the role of banks and financial business in identifying and preventing fraud and organised scams involving adults at greater risk of harm. Workshops included disability hate crime, domestic violence, preventing harm and dementia and initial feedback from the conference was very positive with delegates commenting on stimulating presentations from keynote speakers, thought provoking input, and a diverse range of workshops.
- It is a requirement within adult support and protection legislation that the independent chair of the Adult Protection Committee submits a Biennial Report to the Scottish Government. A draft of the RAPC Biennial Adult Protection Report 2014-16 was approved by the RAPC on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, and was submitted to the Scottish Government as a finalised report on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **4.4 Offender Management**

- The Community Justice Scotland Act 2016 received Royal Assent on 21 March 2016. Community Justice is about protecting the community. As well as delivering justice for the victims of offending and about making our communities feel safer, it is about working with people with convictions to give them the support and help they need to reduce the risk of re-offending. Under the new model, the Community Justice Authorities were disestablished on 31 March 2017 and new community justice arrangements have been put in place at both a national and local level.
- Community Justice Renfrewshire was created in response to the Act and is now firmly established within Renfrewshire Council's robust Community Planning arrangements.
- In the new arrangements, it is a requirement of the Community Justice Scotland Act 2016 that statutory partners must work together to prepare a plan for their local authority area. A National Strategy for Community Justice and Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework was published on 24 November 2016 which partners have a duty to regard in their planning process.
- Community Justice Renfrewshire produced its first Community Justice Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, which was submitted to Community Justice Scotland for the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The plan sets out our assessment against national outcomes and identifies local priorities for action, along with a participation statement detailing actions taken to involve community bodies and third sector bodies in community justice and the preparation of the plan.

This Plan was consulted on with Community Justice Scotland and the wider community. Full responsibilities for Community Justice commenced from 1 April 2017.

The Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2018 identifies local priorities relating to employability, alternatives to custody, homelessness for prison leavers, domestic violence, support to children and families.

- Criminal Justice Social Work has been working closely with Scottish Government and partners in the Penal Policy Improvement Programme focusing on bail supervision for women. Early indications are that this approach has been successful in diverting women from remand. This is significant as the vast majority of women who are placed on remand never go on to serve a custodial sentence. Unfortunately although successful, additional resources have not been available to continue the pilot.
- North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority (NSCJA) responded to the Joint Thematic Review of MAPPA in Scotland, published in November 2015.
- In November 2017, the Chief Officers Group considered the MAPPA annual report 2015 /16.

#### **4.5 Alcohol and Drug Partnership**

- The Scottish Government commissioned the Care Inspectorate to undertake a programme of validated self evaluation for Alcohol and Drug Partnerships. The purpose was to provide an evidence-informed assessment of local implementation, measurement and quality assurance of the ADPs compliance with the Quality Principles.
- To assist in this process a number of focus groups were held with members of the ADP, staff from local services and service users. A case file audit and Position Statement were also completed. Formal feedback has been received from the Care Inspectorate which has been framed around each quality principle. In the course of the validated self-evaluation process the Care Inspectorate identified 28 areas of particular strength which were making a positive difference for individuals and families and 13 areas for improvement. The Care Inspectorate also identified an example of best practice – ‘Addaction Intensive Family Support Service’ and will be shared with other ADPs across Scotland. The areas for improvement will be discussed and agreed, as appropriate, and will be incorporated into the draft Quality Improvement Plan and monitored by the ADP on a quarterly basis.
- Renfrewshire ADP continually monitors activity and ensures that naloxone is offered to individuals who are attending for assessment. Regular campaigns also take place to target individuals who may have previously turned it down in the past. A pilot project to equip those accessing mental health inpatient services is also underway. Current performance shows that Renfrewshire ADP is on target to achieve 30% coverage of problem drug users – current performance is 27%.
- Renfrewshire ADP has a drug death action plan which outlines key priorities for preventing deaths. Key areas include investigating all drug related deaths and trends and reviewing (any) areas for intervention. Recent data shows that there were 19 drug related deaths in Renfrewshire in 2015. This represents a 37% decrease compared with 2014 and is in contrast with many other areas of Scotland which experienced a 15% increase.
- Renfrewshire ADP has been working in partnership with local communities to raise awareness of alcohol. Brighter Renfrewshire Alcohol Awareness Week (BRAW) is now in its second year and aims to promote key messages specific to alcohol.

- A proactive and planned response to the needs of prisoners affected by problem alcohol and drug use and their associated through care arrangements, including women – a number of initiatives and projects are now in place including the Women’s Community Justice Centre. Within HMP Low Moss there are a number of offender behaviour programmes which targets alcohol and drug use linked to offending including intervention programmes for short term offenders, the provision of naloxone and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) awareness sessions.

## 4.6 Gender based violence

- Women and Children First (WCF) have been successful in securing funding of £788,987 from the Big Lottery over a five year period to facilitate the delivery of the CEDAR programme as part of the WCF Reconnections service, with a view to establishing sustainable funding at the end of this period.

WCF commenced the delivery of the CEDAR programme with Big Lottery Funding more than 3 years ago. The programme has been positively evaluated and adapted on the basis of the feedback of the women and children who have experienced the programme. Tackling Poverty monies enabled the continued delivery of the programme while this further funding bid was developed.

- The national Equally Safe strategy was refreshed in 2016 following its original publication in 2014. The associated delivery plan is currently out for consultation until the end of June 2017. The draft plan has been billed as giving increased momentum to eradicate violence against women and girls and including plans for a raft of measures to tackle violence against women and girls.
- The Gender Based Violence Steering group has been keen to offer staff, directly involved in this work, training that supports the development of their skills in working in this complex and prevalent area of practice. The Safe & Together Model Training ([www.endingviolence.com](http://www.endingviolence.com)) provides a framework for improving how agencies, particularly those involved in child protection procedures, deal with situations of domestic abuse. There was a 4 day multi-agency training on the Safe and Together Model attended by 39 front-line practitioners from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016. A briefing on the Safe and Together Model delivered by David Mandel was held at the University of the West of Scotland on 11 November 2016 for leaders and practitioners to develop awareness about the model more broadly within Renfrewshire. The Gender Based Violence Strategy Group identified funding to recruit a graduate intern to increase our capacity to develop our local strategy based on our self-assessment. The intern has now started and is consulting with partners on the strategy.
- Criminal Justice Social Work have started a perpetrators programme (Up 2 U) with men who have been convicted of domestic violence. The innovative approach was developed by Portsmouth City Council. Renfrewshire Criminal Justice Social Workers have all been trained in the programme and report requests are now screened with consideration for individuals to be included in the programme. The programme is consistent with the Safe & Together training. Renfrewshire Criminal Justice Social Work have been selected as one of three finalists for the Scottish Social Services Awards in the category of “making research and evidence real.”

## 4.7 Public Protection

- The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Daily Tasking process takes place each day within the Community Safety Partnership Hub and now handles around 6000 incidents per

year. The purpose of the daily meeting is to review relevant incidents which have occurred over the past 24 hours. The information is then disposed to the most appropriate service to look at an earlier intervention approach to resolve the issue prior to further escalation. The outcomes of each incident are monitored in order to identify any patterns of persistent behaviour to support evidence-based deployment of resources.

Since a review in 2015, efforts have been successful in working with a number of key partners at the Daily Tasking process. Addiction Services, the Intensive Home Treatment Team, the Persistent Offenders Partnership, Older Adult Community Mental Health Team and Victim Support have all become regular attendees. This has had positive outcomes - for example the involvement of Community Mental Health Practitioners on a regular basis has enabled earlier intervention and support to be implemented to prevent patient deterioration and help prevent further patterns of concerning behaviour. Overall the Daily Tasking process has been highlighted as best practice in recent audits and inspections and the close working that it supports across the Partnership Hub is now integrating with services including 24 hr CCTV operations, noise enforcement and youth teams to support the Missing Persons Strategy, tackle anti social behaviour and support police in investigations and evidence gathering.

- Domestic abuse is a significant issue across the UK and Scotland, including in Renfrewshire:
  - 14% of adults (18.5% of women and 9.2% of men) report having experienced physical or psychological partner abuse since the age of 16. This means that almost one in five women in Scotland will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.
  - The average period of abuse before a victim sought support was 4 years in Scotland compared with 3 years in England and Wales.
  - It is estimated that 12,480 children in Scotland are living with victims of the highest risk domestic abuse.
  - In the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 Police Scotland recorded 2215 domestic abuse related incidents in Renfrewshire.
  - The detection rate for Domestic Abuse related offences in Renfrewshire for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 was 61.5%.

Not all domestic abuse is in the form of physically violent behaviour. Abuse can be in the form of coercive control, financial control or other forms of non physical control or intimidation. Domestic abuse can be very difficult to identify and can occur in all types of household. For a long time it has been recognised that domestic abuse is underreported and there has been a focus on improving reporting and methods of response to increase confidence amongst victims to report domestic abuse.

- The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a multi agency victim-focussed meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies. The role of MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety. The Renfrewshire MARAC has been very successful so far and since established in 2016, 103 cases have been referred.
- SafeLives, a UK wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse carried out an audit of the Renfrewshire MARAC in October 2016, a year after MARAC was established in the area, as part of the Scottish MARAC Development Programme. The aim of MARAC is to protect the highest risk victims and their children – those at risk of murder or serious harm. The audit looked at: identification of domestic abuse; referrals; multi-agency engagement; support for

victims; information sharing; action planning; number of cases; equality; operational support; and governance. Overall the audit was very positive and demonstrates the strong approach and excellent partnership working that is delivering real meaningful results in relation to tackling domestic abuse in Renfrewshire. Renfrewshire has been recognised by Safelives for having a solid foundation around the development of MARAC and has been recommended as a good practice model to other Local Authorities with officers from Renfrewshire assisting East Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council to establish their own MARAC.

- Police Scotland provide regular updates on terrorist threat levels and these have highlighted that the current operating assumption of both the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) and MI5 is that it is a question of “when” not “if” the next terrorist attack is carried out in Britain. When providing updates Police Scotland have also provided additional analysis of the evolving nature of the threat that is being used to provide focus to the Renfrewshire Multi Agency CONTEST (Prevent) Group as it sets its work programme for the year. For example, strong and possible growing links between serious organised crime and terrorism and the threat of extreme right wing groups operating locally.

The response to this threat analysis has been to focus and strengthen the work of the Renfrewshire Multi Agency CONTEST (Prevent) Group across a number of areas, including improving community engagement and building capacity and resilience through the development of a Community Tensions Grey Space group led by Police Scotland. The Group has also refined the approach of key partners to training and awareness raising to recognise that the Scottish approach to Contest (Prevent) is different from the approach in England and Wales. Training developed in Renfrewshire highlights the responsibilities of public agencies with regard to safeguarding vulnerable persons and the inter relationship of the Prevent agenda with other strategies including GIRFEC.

- The Grey Space Group established and led by Police Scotland and operating across K-Division continues to go from strength to strength. It is already acting as a useful sounding board for interaction with key community groups and has proven a useful group for communicating with minority groups that may have been impacted on by events in the media.
- The Renfrewshire Council Integrity Group takes forward work to understand and respond to the threat posed by Corruption and Serious Organised Crime to the Council. Overall the Council remains in a relatively strong position, however, significant change programmes, particularly those that impact on ICT systems do increase organisational risk and vulnerability. The awareness of individuals working within the Council and managing these programmes is essential in responding to the risks posed by organised crime groups. In addition to the well understood role of the Chief Auditor, the Head of Public Protection is the Council Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for serious organised crime and is a member of the National Deter group for this agenda. During 2016, Police Scotland’s Counter Corruption Unit in conjunction with the Council’s Internal Audit team supported the Council in undertaking a significant assessment of the Council’s vulnerability to Corruption and Serious Organised Crime.

This assessment provided a number of opportunities to strengthen the Council’s procedures and approach that have been used to develop an updated Renfrewshire Integrity Action Plan.

- Resilience and Civil Contingencies training has developed significantly over the past few years. Within the Council, resilience training has traditionally focused on preparing individuals and teams to be able to effectively manage the response and recovery process. Training has included regular exercises to ensure a cohesive and cooperative structure is in place across the Council and that there is a high awareness of the role of multi agency partners. More recently training has focused more on the relationships between critical groups when dealing with the

complexities of a protracted major incident and has also included realistic media training and exercising.

The approach is now to test the coordination of partner responses using a multi agency integrated emergency management training exercise to test integrated response arrangements, and ultimately provide the assurance that a wide range of public sector agencies can collectively respond, if required, to risks and threats of a significant nature. Planned exercises will also involve the community tensions “Grey Space” group to act as a sounding board to comment on the key messages and decisions being taken, giving views on how these might be received by various community groups.

Overall the strategic approach towards training and exercising has been to respond to the changing nature of the risks, hazards and threats that might be faced by public agencies. It also aims to test collaborative working and partnership arrangements more fully and to test communications skills and approaches, developing improved awareness of how communications and actions might be received, and interpenetrated, by the community in general and specific groups within the community.

- Building Safer Communities is a National Programme with a focus on Reducing Victims of Crime and Reducing Victims of unintentional harm. In Renfrewshire a partnership approach linked to early intervention and prevention has been developed and led by Police Scotland – focused on communities identified using a range of information and data available to all partners and responding to community needs and priorities. The programme was first delivered in Ferguslie Park and later in Gallowhill. Erskine will be included in the next phase. Evidence from surveys and consultations within the local communities is used along with data and analysis to determine community priorities and deliver focused interventions. Follow up surveys have demonstrated the success of these interventions in changing perceptions and concerns within the communities targeted.
- Purple Flag is an accreditation process (similar to the Blue Flag for beaches) which is awarded by the Association of Town and City Management for towns that show excellence in managing the evening and night time economy, demonstrating that visitors can experience an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out. Applicants must renew their Purple Flag status annually and demonstrate continuous improvement.

Purple Flag can bring real benefits which include:

- A raised profile and an improved public image for the location;
- A wider patronage and increased expenditure;
- Lower crime and anti-social behaviour; and
- A more successful mixed use economy in the longer term.

Paisley First led the process in Paisley with support from the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership as a key part of supporting the Paisley 2021 bid. The Accreditation was achieved on the first attempt in October 2016. 3 other cities in Scotland have achieved the Purple Flag standard - Aberdeen, Dunfermline and Perth.

## **8. Priorities for 2017/18**

The Chief Officers Group regularly scrutinises performance information across all areas of community protection activity, focusing in on areas where there are changes in referrals, incidents or concerns

reported, or where national research or legislation suggests improvements or change to practice or multi agency working. In April 2017, members of the Chief Officers Group held a special meeting to discuss current challenges, issues and opportunities for enhanced partnership working and agreed to focus on the following priorities during 2017/18:

- Undertake a spotlight on drugs and alcohol services across Renfrewshire, related performance and outcomes achieved for local people.
- Work with Government to implement the recommendations of the Child Protection Improvement Programme (CPIP)
- Respond to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and any associated requests for information
- Ensure safety, protection and positive outcomes for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and Syrian families, with a particular focus on support and integration
- Complete a local Gender Based Violence Strategy that reflects national and local priorities
- Prepare our commissioning based Community Justice Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) for 2018 – 2021
- Continue to enhance all multi - agency Child Protection and Adult Protection training opportunities
- Monitor and respond appropriately to continuing pressures on adult social care, with particular reference to guardianships and anticipated changes to the workload of mental health officers arising from new mental health legislation.
- Support the work of the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland, with an inspection of adult services planned for Autumn / Winter 2017.
- Continuing to develop multi agency partnership arrangements including training opportunities, which focus on reducing risk to vulnerable people through for example issues such as fire raising.
- Continue to develop best practice in relation to civil contingencies exercising, serious and organised crime and fraud.
- Continue to support the roll out the Building Safer Communities programme in partnership with Police Scotland.
- Encourage pro social behaviour and increased community safety through a partnership approach to Building Safer Communities

The Chief Officers Group will continue to seek to ensure that performance and practice are scrutinised at a strategic level, to identify what works well, to highlight any areas for improvement, and to consider where further opportunities for early intervention and prevention activity would achieve improved outcomes for local people.