

**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 31 August 2016**

**Report by:**

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**Scottish Police Authority Annual Review of Policing 2015/16**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 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. 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 The Annual Review Report makes an assessment of progress against each of the 4 Strategic Police Priorities and highlights some of the key work undertaken by the Police Authority to improve the performance and scrutiny of Police Scotland. The full report is available on the SPA website and copies can be made available for the information of Members.
- 1.3 This report highlights some of the key points made in the Annual Review Report that have particular relevance to the work of Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership and the Council.

**2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Board:

- a) Notes the publication of the Annual Review of Policing 2015/2016 by the Scottish Police Authority;
- b) Notes the focus of the work of Police Scotland on a range of issues that have direct relevance to Renfrewshire and that align with the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

**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 2015/2016 Scottish Police Authority annual review is the third since the single Police service came into force in Scotland.

- 3.3 The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) was established with the remit to ensure that the “people of Scotland receive the best policing possible.” The SPA Board has a responsibility “to maintain, support and promote policing while.....holding the Chief Constable to account.”
- 3.4 During the period of this review the Chief Constable changed, with Stephen House leaving the post and the appointment of Phil Gormley at the beginning of 2016.

#### **4 Chair’s Foreward & Chief Constable’s Comments**

- 4.1 A number of themes that are of particular interest and relevance to the priorities being taken forward by the Community Planning Partnership come across strongly throughout the report – but in particular are a focus in both the SPA Chair’s foreword (Andrew Flanagan) and the Chief Constable’s comments (Phil Gormley):
- Support for vulnerable people;
  - Support for missing persons;
  - Combating domestic abuse;
  - Child protection and combating child abuse;
  - Protection of communities;
  - Strengthening business and community resilience and combating terrorism;
  - Strengthening the approach to managing serious and violent offenders;
  - A commitment to equalities and diversity;
  - A commitment to improving procedures such as “Stop and Search”;
  - A commitment to working in partnership.
- 4.2 This focus should be welcomed by the Board as it aligns well with the priorities established by the wider Community Planning Partnership and supports the agenda that has been agreed in Renfrewshire to meet the needs of communities locally.

#### **5. Strategic Police Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1 The work undertaken to deliver against the 4 current agreed Strategic Police priorities also aligns well with and supports agreed local priorities.

*Priority 1 – Make communities safer and reduce harm by tackling and investigating crime and demonstrating pioneering approaches to prevention and collaboration at a national and local level.*

- 5.2 The commitment to early intervention, prevention and partnership working established in this priority is central to the work of Renfrewshire Council’s Community Safety Partnership, and is a key area where there is ongoing and effective partnership working with Police Scotland.
- 5.3 Much of the work provided as examples in the attached SPA Annual Review report is being implemented within Renfrewshire and the multi-agency, preventative focus with respect to reducing crime and other harms, as well as improving individual and community safety, security and wellbeing is central to the work of the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Hub.

- 5.4 Recorded crime in Scotland continues to fall and according to the report, stands at a 41 year low. These figures are also being reflected in Police scrutiny reports being presented locally at each Housing and Community Safety Policy Board.
- 5.5 Whilst not specifically mentioned in the report, this priority also links closely to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Coordination (MARAC) group approach that has been established during the past year. Police Scotland chairs the Renfrewshire MARAC with the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership hub providing support and coordination. The SPA Annual Review report highlights that the number of recorded Domestic Abuse incidents nationally has decreased from 59,515 to 57,687. There is concern that these figures might continue to under represent the true number of incidences of domestic abuse in Scotland, however there is increasing confidence that the work now being carried out locally in partnership with Police Scotland is beginning to strengthen and improve support for individuals and families that are subject to domestic abuse.
- 5.6 The report also highlights the work being undertaken to tackle serious and organised crime and new and emerging threats including cyber crime. Members will be aware that the Council has established an Integrity group to examine this issue and to respond to this locally. Police Scotland have provided considerable help and support to this group including awareness raising, training and development for the group and other senior officers within the Council.

*Priority 2 – Strengthen Scotland’s reputation as a successful and safe country by demonstrating excellence in effectively planning for and responding to major events and threats.*

- 5.7 The SPA Annual Review report notes that the threat from international terrorism has continued to exert a major influence on this area of policing activity. This is liable to continue to be the case following recent events in Nice, Turkey and Munich that have come since the events noted in the report – which occurred in Tunisia, Paris and Brussels. Renfrewshire Council has worked closely with Police Scotland at a local level to put in place arrangements that will support and protect local communities as far as possible. The local Counter Terrorism Prevent Group has now been established as a multi agency tasking group, with close support from Police Scotland and involving all of the key partners that are relevant in Renfrewshire.
- 5.8 Operation Darting Dolphins was a National Counter Terrorism Exercise run on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and focused around INTU Braehead Shopping Centre. Renfrewshire Council were invited to observe and learn from the exercise, as were the Civil Contingencies Service through their partnership with the management of the Shopping Centre.

*Priority 3 – Provide an efficient, effective service focused on protecting frontline services, delivering the benefits of police reform and promoting continuous improvement.*

- 5.9 Like all other Public Service Bodies, Police Scotland are facing resource reductions and cuts to budgets. However, this Priority focuses on the need to protect frontline services by minimising areas of duplication in support service activities.
- 5.10 This focus is to be welcomed as it supports the continuation of frontline and community Policing of the type that is essential to ensure that local priorities and concerns are addressed.

*Priority 4 – Make communities stronger and improve wellbeing by increasing public confidence and reducing fear of crime, making the new Police Scotland an exemplar of visible, ethical and responsive policing.*

- 5.11 This Priority highlights the ways that Police Scotland intend to make communities stronger and increase public confidence whilst reducing the fear of crime.
- 5.12 A lot of the focus is on equality including gender based violence initiatives, LGBT and engaging with a diverse range of communities. Renfrewshire Council links into this via the Scottish Government's Equally Safe Strategy. The reference to the work done to support the arrival of Syrian refugees is of particular relevance to Renfrewshire. In addition, the work that is referred to in the SPA Annual Review report to increase levels of hate crime reporting is being driven nationally by the "I am Me Charity" based in Renfrewshire and supported by the Council and other local partners.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 In its conclusion to the report, the SPA highlights a number of key developments that will influence how the SPA and Police Scotland will deliver policing, this includes:
- Introduction of new Strategic Police Priorities set by the Scottish Government during summer 2016;
  - Consultation on the next Strategic Police Plan 2017/20; and
  - Implementation of the recommendations from the Chair's Review of Governance of Policing.

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