

**To: JOHNSTONE AND VILLAGES LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**On: 15 MARCH 2018**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES**

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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 has carried out in the Johnstone and Villages area in quarter 3 (1 October – 31 December 2017). The statistical information has been provided by the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, including relevant Council Services, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue. The report includes information on:

- Johnstone and Villages 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 Johnstone and Villages

- 3.1 The table below details the number of incidents reported in the Johnstone & Villages Local Area during Quarter 3, 2017/18 (01 October to 31 December 2017). The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership continues to target resources into identified hotspot areas.

Incidents Reported	Q3 2016/17		Q3 2017/18	
	Ward 8	Ward 9	Ward 8	Ward 9
Serious Violent Crime (all Gp 1 Crime)	5	2	5	1
Minor Assault	23	16	22	26
Drug Crime	13	22	14	26
Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) (number of calls)	203	190	137	168
Vandalism	23	19	25	35

- 3.2 Across both Wards 8 and 9 there were significant reductions in disorder and Antisocial behaviour incidents when compared to the corresponding period last year. Serious violent crime remains static at a very low level for both 2016/17 and 2017/18, whilst crimes of Minor Assault, Drugs, and Vandalism all remained at a very similar and low level. This downward trend in the overall levels of ASB and Disorder has continued for some time now and reflects the joint working approach by the Community Safety Partnership and the targeted deployment of resources. The reports of vandalism increased in both wards 8 & 9 in quarter 3 with Ward 9 almost doubling in number.

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

- 3.3 87 antisocial behaviour calls were received by the Renfrewshire Wardens' service for the Johnstone and Villages LAC area during October to December 2017 which is an increase compared to the 59 calls in the corresponding period in 2016. 697 patrols took place within the Johnstone and Villages 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. During the same time period, the number of calls to the Noise Team increased, although they tended to be minor and did not require any enforcement action.

### 4 Environmental Enforcement and Improvements

#### **Environment and Place, Team Up to Clean Up**

- 4.1 The Team Up to Clean Up campaign continues to flourish and engagement with communities and schools has been encouraging. The Council has a growing community group contact list and engagement is developing well. Community Clean Up's will remain at the heart of the Campaign. The webpage is live, offering branded downloadable materials and community clean up packs, posters and leaflets to support activity. Community groups can publish their contact details, enabling those who would like to join events, or arrange their own, to obtain support and more information.

- 4.2 A Team Up to Clean Up Facebook page has been launched capturing a significant level of interest with over 200 members joining to date. The page is designed to be a resource for community groups to share good practice, promote events to like-minded individuals and facilitate discussion. The page has so far has prompted joined up working between two groups.

#### **Dog Fouling**

- 4.3 A new approach will be adopted for maximum impact in key hotspot areas identified through data analysis and evidence of need. Initially dog fouling will be counted then highlighted using a temporary chalk spray to demonstrate the extent of the issue and encourage local dialogue. This work will be carried out in partnership with the young people from Street Stuff. The spray and dog fouling will be removed within a maximum of 48 hours by Streetscene. Signage will then be introduced in the street along with temporary street art. Wardens will ensure the area is monitored and will adhere to a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling and litter within the area.
- 4.4 “The Responsible Dog Owners Pledge” has been launched online and includes that, signatories agree, amongst other exemplary behaviours, to pick up fouling after their dog. Work is being undertaken to promote the approach to dog walking groups and boarding establishments.

#### **Purple Flag re-accreditation**

- 4.5 Paisley has been successful in its application to retain Purple Flag status throughout 2018. This is a boost to local businesses who will benefit from Paisley First promotion of the town and its status throughout the year. A particular focus will be on encouraging more students into the town using their Purple Flag discount card.

### **5 Protecting Vulnerable Residents**

#### **Community Safety Partnership Youth Team**

- 5.1 Over the last few months, the Community Safety Partnership Youth Team have been delivering a range of promotional and educational visits to Renfrewshire Schools engaging with pupils with the support of partner agencies. There have been talks on a variety of subjects including Guy Fawkes night, anti bullying and the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

#### **Firereach**

- 5.2 Following an increase in malicious fire raising across the Renfrewshire area a number of young people identified as being at risk of carrying out this type of behaviour have participated in a week long Firereach course. The course hosted by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service worked with the young people to raise awareness of the dangers and impact that this behaviour has on communities.

#### **Festive Safety Campaign**

- 5.3 Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership delivered a Festive Safety Campaign during December 2017 and early January 2018 within Paisley town centre with a

Safe Bus service being provided by the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership assisted by the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

### **I Am Me/Keep Safe**

- 5.4 The new I Am Me school tour #MakeaDifference Scotland has been to 28 Primary Schools in Renfrewshire with 5,616 children participating this term. Of these 839 children's surveys have been returned highlighting positive results with the overwhelming majority of children enjoying the visits, learning more about bullying and feeling more empowered to report bullying to an appropriate adult.
- 5.5 Keep Safe is extending across Scotland, with a further 12 local authorities actively rolling out the initiative. A further 8 local authority areas are currently engaged with I Am Me to prepare for Keep Safe within their area. There are now 334 Keep Safe places across Scotland, including 129 in Renfrewshire.
- 5.6 I Am Me won Disability Charity of the Year at the Charity Champions Awards in November 2017. In addition, the Charity has been shortlisted for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2018 which is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK.

## **6. Building Safer Communities**

### **Autumn/Winter Events, 2017**

- 6.1 During October to December 2017, Environment & Communities and in particular Amenity Services and the Community Safety Partnership (including wardens, CCTV and Street Stuff) have supported various events throughout Renfrewshire, including Winterfest, Paisley Halloween Festival, Paisley Fireworks Spectacular, Bonfire Night, Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday events throughout Renfrewshire, Reclaim the Night March and Christmas Lights Switch On events in Paisley, Johnstone, Renfrew, Elderslie and Linwood.

## **7. Diversionary Activities**

### **Street Stuff**

- 7.1 The Street Stuff programme has been delivering activities across Renfrewshire with recorded attendances in the region of 24,000 this financial year to the end of December 2017. This includes the delivery of additional activities with the provision of a healthy meal during the October school week and festive period with attendances averaging 100 per day – at a similar level to last year. A range of activities were delivered during the holidays including; Football; Table Tennis; Music and dance. Healthy meals were provided including a Christmas dinner with fun activity games, selection boxes and gifts/prizes for young people.
- 7.2 The table below shows Street Stuff activity and attendance in the Johnstone and Villages LAC area from October to December 2017:

Venue	Attendance
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McMaster Centre	525
Lochwinnoch	23
Auchenlodment PS	67
Wallace PS	84
Total	699

- 7.3 Funding from this LAC in 2017/18 has allowed Street Stuff to deliver extra sessions in local areas. In total Street Stuff has provided 5 sessions over 5 days per week in the autumn months in the Johnstone and Villages LAC area. The Street Stuff buses are also out during the 6 evenings and are moved depending on need and the requirements of the young people.

(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>.)

- 7.4 Street Stuff won the Community Champion award at Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce ROCCO Business Awards 2017. They also won the Community Engagement category at the Scottish Public Sector Awards in December 2017. These latest awards complete a hat trick of awards and a very successful and well deserved year of recognition for the programme.

## **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 (Statistically 1 in 4 women and children will experience some form of violence or abuse at some point in their life). 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 (GVB) 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 GBV strategy group have recently completed a Self Evaluation exercise and have drafted the Renfrewshire Gender Based Violence Strategy for 2018 – 21, which will be launched later this year

- 8.4 In recent years, 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.
- 8.5 In Apr-Aug 2017, 933 residents in Renfrewshire were reported victims of domestic violence which is a 6.5% decrease compared with the corresponding period last year, although this total is similar to the 920 recorded victims in 2015, with domestic abuse remaining a key priority for Community Planning Partners.
- 8.6 Responding to incidents of domestic abuse involves several partner agencies including Police Scotland, 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 Children's Services in respect of child care concerns and to ASSIST in respect of concerns for the victim's well being. 2730 referrals of domestic abuse with a child in the household were received by Children's Services during 2016/17. Children's Services make inquiries into these referrals and if necessary investigate concerns received. There are a range of specialist services available to support women and children who are subject to gender based violence, including Renfrewshire Women and Children First and Renfrewshire Reconnection (Renfrewshire Council), Renfrewshire Rising, Renfrewshire Women's Aid, ASSIST and Barnardos.
- 8.7 MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) meetings are held on a 4 weekly basis to protect victims at the highest risk of harm. Since MARAC was established within Renfrewshire in November 2015 there have been 232 victims discussed and safety plans have been put in place to prevent further harm to them and their family.
- 8.8 The 16 Days of Action is an international annual awareness-raising campaign aimed at raising awareness and applying protective action to end violence against women and girls around the world. In 2017 the campaign ran from 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10th December, Human Rights Day. The campaign encouraged people to take action and use their influence to help raise the status of women to a level where violence against them is no longer tolerated.
- 8.9 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 'March to the Beat of Your Own Drum' which sees women and supporting agencies join forces to educate and inform the public about gender-based violence. A key symbol associated with the campaign is a white ribbon. On 28th November, The Reclaim the Night March, was coordinated by Renfrewshire Rising, to raise awareness and call for the end of violence against women. The sale of white ribbons resulted in a donation of £117 being made to Renfrewshire Rising.
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## **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** –

**Our Renfrewshire is fair** - The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership treats all enquiries and complaints consistently using relevant legislation and guidance to ensure everyone that lives, works and visits Renfrewshire is treated fairly.

**Our Renfrewshire is safe** - The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership contributes towards Renfrewshire being a safe and secure place for those living, working or visiting the area, using intelligence led joint tasking arrangements

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
  12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None
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