
To: Police and Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee

On: 17 August 2021

Report by: Director of Communities and Housing Services

Heading: Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority (SPA) – Review of development of Local Police Plans

1. Summary

- 1.1 Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and COSLA have agreed to collaborate on a review of the development of the latest Local Police Plans to identify areas of development and best practice which will then inform future local planning processes.
 - 1.2 The review seeks the views of local authority elected members and officials involved in the last planning cycle and leading on scrutiny of local policing, as well as Police Scotland's divisional and local commanders.
 - 1.3 It is anticipated that the review will conclude in 2021/22 allowing learning from the review to be incorporated into the planning process for the next round of Local Police Plans.
 - 1.4 The first stage of the review and an initial short survey was launched by Police Scotland and the SPA on 27 June 2021 and a draft Renfrewshire response is attached as Appendix 1. The consultation paper can be found at: <https://spa.citizenspace.com/strategy-performance/d560d12d/>
 - 1.5 In the response the Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the short survey and feed into the wider review of local police plans.
 - 1.6 The final date for submissions to the consultation was 31 July 2021. A response from the Council was submitted within the timescales set by the SPA and Police Scotland and is attached as Appendix 1.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee:
- (i) notes the on-going review of local police plans and the launch of the first phase with a short survey; and
 - (ii) homologates the Council's submitted consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, local policing commanders prepare a Local Police Plan (LPP) for each of Scotland's 32 local authorities. The Local Police Plan sets out the approach to policing in the area and is shared with the appropriate local authority for the area.
- 3.2 The above Act requires Local Police Plans to be reviewed at least every three years or whenever a new Strategic Police Plan (SPP) is agreed. The latest Strategic Police Plan, known as the Joint Strategy for Policing – *Policing for a Safe, Protected and Resilient Scotland* ('the Strategy') was approved in 2020.
- 3.3 The Act sets out the following areas for inclusion in the Local Police Plans:
- the priorities, objectives and arrangements for policing in the local area;
 - an overview of how these were determined;
 - the contribution of policing to local and community planning; and
 - information on performance monitoring.
- 3.4 Police Scotland last reviewed Local Police Plans in 2019/20, for launch around April 2020, alongside the work programme to refresh the Strategy. Local Police Plans are informed by Divisional Commanders' engagement with local authorities and key stakeholders, national and local strategic assessments of threat, risk and harm and local responses from members of the public to the first "Your Police" survey.
- 3.5 The review of the plan development process seeks to address the following questions:
- How effectively Police Scotland engage at local level in the development of Local Police Plans
 - How effectively Police Scotland demonstrate the benefit of access to national assets to local communities
 - How effectively Police Scotland engage with stakeholders on changing local priorities
 - How effective current scrutiny of Local Police Plans delivery at local level is
 - Whether the process to develop Local Outcome Improvement Plans could be enhanced to more effectively embed the role of policing?

- How the process to produce Local Police Plans could be enhanced and improved
 - What measures could be used to strengthen the local relevance of Local Police Plans?
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - None
 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
 3. **Community/Council Planning** –
 - *Our Renfrewshire is safe* – By constantly reviewing, improving and developing local police plans, Renfrewshire will be a safer location to reside, work and visit.
 4. **Legal** - None
 5. **Property/Assets** - None
 6. **Information Technology** - None
 7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) 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** – COSLA is part of the review of local police plans.
 13. **Climate Risk** – Not Applicable
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List of Background Papers

- a) Consultation on the Joint Strategy for Policing (2020), Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee 10 March 2020

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Communities, and Housing Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is the Communities and Regulatory Manager.

Author: Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection.

Email: oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Consultation Response

Does Police Scotland share the findings and information used to determine local priorities and objectives for policing with you / your Local Authority?

Yes

How effectively does Police Scotland engage with you on changing local priorities?

5 - very well

Are there any further comments you would like to make on how local priorities are identified and set?

Renfrewshire Council has an excellent working relationship with Police Scotland at both an Officer level and via the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee. Where there are changes required, the Divisional Commander brings the rationale to the Committee to advise of why they are potentially looking to change priorities.

Priority setting is most effective if it is a product of genuine ongoing partnership working between the Police, Local Authority, other community planning partners and local communities.

The partnership working structures in Renfrewshire - Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, Community Protection Chief Officers Group, Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee and community structures - provides a framework for regular partnership working that enables partners to engage in an informed basis in identifying and setting priorities.

Please provide detail of any additional activities you feel Police Scotland could take to enhance how Local Authorities are engaged and involved in the priority setting process, and in the development of the overall Local Police Plan's contents?

There are many different Services within Renfrewshire Council that can link into the Local Police plan content. Whilst this will often include Public Protection due to the close working relationship within the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, there are other areas that would have valuable insight into the priorities, in particular Community Planning. Whilst Renfrewshire Council always try to collate, it would be important for Police Scotland to cast their net as wide as possible.

Engage with Local Authorities to ensure that relevant priorities in strategic documents (such as the Children's Services Plan, Housing Improvement Plan, Town Centre Strategies, Digital Strategy, Social Renewal Plan and local area-based plans) can be identified as an ongoing process and used to inform the development of the Local Police Plan

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Continue to strengthen engagement on local issues through geographic community-based structures such as Local Partnerships and Community Councils in Renfrewshire.

Where there is specialist third sector knowledge in the local area about a particular community or locality, have specific engagement that captures this knowledge to inform priority setting.

Continue to develop the sharing of information, intelligence and data while adhering to GDPR regulations.

Police Scotland are active partners in the protection of vulnerable adults, children and the management of offenders within Renfrewshire. The local division contribute effectively to planning and responding to these agendas by their membership of the Adult and Child Protection Committees and the Senior Officer Group for the Management of Offenders. The data from these meetings is used effectively to plan local priorities.

What would be most supportive in enabling Local Authorities to give their feedback and input into the priority setting process?

This could be done in a variety of methods e.g. workshops, consultation documents, however, a single point of contact for input would be important so they can see the full picture from Renfrewshire Council.

Building understanding among Local Authority Elected Members and key officers of what the policy priorities are and how they translate into operation would help frame feedback to be as useful as possible in setting priorities.

Providing context as to why certain priorities are becoming of greater or lesser concern over time would also be helpful in supporting Local Authorities (and other community planning partners) to provide effective feedback.

Discussing with Local Authorities the anticipated community impact of prioritising action to address different types of crime. This would support informed responses to consultation about priorities.

How can Local Authorities support Police Scotland with this e.g. dedicated planning and community engagement officers to help gather and coordinate feedback?

Renfrewshire Council is always willing to engage and support, however, this would be unlikely to be via a dedicated resource. Close working relationships to allow regular feedback (rather than just when the plan is due) would be worthwhile i.e. build up evidence over the 3 years of the plan to influence the next plan.

Locally staff from K Division contribute to the joint planning in adult and child protection and community justice. This is a two way process with the priorities from these groups contributing to the development of the local policing plan.

Building understanding among Local Authority officers of the types of information that the Police would find useful to be shared with them.

Local Authorities can provide feedback about how perceptions change in local areas (customer surveys, place standard tools, place plans). This can support the police to determine the community impact of their work.

How does the Local Authority / Community Planning Partnership provide evidence to Police Scotland to inform the development of Local Police Plans?

Within the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, evidence is obtained from different teams as well as the Partnership analyst that can look at the key issues affecting the partnership. Issues raised at the Community Protection Chief Officers Group the Adult and Child Protection Committees, the Community Justice Steering Group and the Community Protection (Prevent) Steering Group are also fed back to Police Scotland.

Renfrewshire Council and Community Planning Partnership provides evidence to Police Scotland at an officer level through the community Safety Partnership and the Community Protection Chief Officers Group.

Elected member input is through the Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee of Renfrewshire Council.

In what ways can this be enhanced going forward? For example, in providing feedback to Police Scotland, adjusting timescales for reviewing and developing Plans, providing intelligence and evidence obtained by the Local Authority or Community Planning Partnership?

As detailed above, a constant review of feedback issues will allow them to be picked up over the 3 year period rather than just during a limited review. However, someone would require to take ownership and ensure consistency to allow this to be done.

Assessing together the results of engagement work carried out for different purposes by community planning partners might enhance this. Information gathered in developing Housing Plans, Children's Services Plans, Health and Social Care Plans and area-based plans will all contain information that will be helpful in developing Police Plans. Analysis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation should also feature here. Gathering this information through a Geographic Information System would enable information from a number of different sources to be accessed. Synchronising or phasing the review and development timescales for strategic plans might assist in bringing different strands of information together.

Looking at specific issues in an in depth-way through a Commission approach (such as drugs and alcohol) has developed greater understanding of cross-cutting issues. One of the benefits of this approach has been the opportunity to engage with people with lived experience. This approach could be used with the development of the Police Plan.

In your view, could the process to develop the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) in your area be enhanced to more effectively embed the role of policing?

Yes

Police intelligence regarding emerging issues and how neighbourhoods are changing would be a valuable contribution to the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

The Police also have a role in building understanding among community planning partners of emerging or rapidly changing issues such as cyber crime and hate crime.

There could also be improved articulation of how policing priorities will impact positively on quality of life in communities.

In your view, could the process to develop key local strategies and plans (such as the community safety strategy) in your area be enhanced to more effectively embed the role of policing?

Yes

The Police already engage very effectively through Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership in developing key local strategies and plans around

community safety.

There is scope for embedding the role of policing to a greater extent in other plans such as Housing Plans and strategies to support vulnerable people.

Raising awareness of when the Police can take action and what information they require from partners or the public to enable them to do this would support this.

How effectively does Police Scotland demonstrate the benefit of access to national services to local communities?

N/A for Renfrewshire Council

How effectively does Police Scotland engage at a local level in the review of Local Police Plans?

4 - well

In what ways could the reviewing of a Local Policing Plan (prior to committing to refresh/replace) be enhanced going forward?

A yearly discussion/touch base could be worthwhile to assess and review priorities over the last year and then horizon scanning for the following year.

Seeking views from local communities and partners on how effective the Police Plan has been in an area would enhance the review process.

To what extent does Police Scotland measure progress against delivering the objectives set out in Local Police Plans?

4 – well (reported at Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee)

How well do performance measures used help to assess whether implementation of the Local Police Plan is making a positive difference locally, and making a contribution to delivery of the LOIP?

The Renfrewshire Police and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny Sub Committee considers scrutiny reports, spotlight reports on particular issues, operational updates and local issues updates.

Over time, this information is building up our knowledge and understanding as community planning partners of how the Local Police contributes to the delivery of the LOIP.

In your view, does the current performance reporting provided by Police Scotland enable your role to undertake effective scrutiny and promote accountability?

Yes

Would the development and introduction of national practical guidance / standards on local scrutiny be helpful, with the guidance / standards aligned to the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015?

National practical guidance/standards would be an opportunity to gather and spread best practice in local scrutiny. Renfrewshire Council would welcome participation in the development of these standards.