

To: HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY POLICY BOARD

On: 14 MARCH 2017

Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Heading: COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP, OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update for the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board on recent activities carried out by Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, including information on:

- environmental enforcement and improvement activities;
 - protecting vulnerable residents;
 - building safer communities;
 - diversionary activities;
 - strategic Police priorities.
-

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Housing & Community Safety Policy Board notes the content of this progress update report.

3. Environmental Enforcement and Improvements

The Rapid Response Team

3.1 The Rapid Response Team continues to improve the environment by investigating and removing small scale flytipping throughout Renfrewshire, especially in town centres. This specialist team focuses on early intervention and faster resolution of potential problems by patrolling central locations 2-3 times per day. The team maintains regular contact with local businesses. If the team is unable to resolve an environmental issue immediately, they signpost the issue to the relevant service.

DVLA Audit of Abandoned Vehicle Procedures

- 3.2 Renfrewshire Council received over 300 reports of abandoned vehicles in 2016/17. However, after investigation only 10% of the vehicles were officially categorised as abandoned. There are strict criteria to assess if a vehicle is abandoned and this can include (but is not limited to) flat tyres or removed wheels, smashed windscreens or windows, missing number plates or graffiti. Most of the complaints related to cars that had not moved for a time period and were untaxed, however, they were not deemed to be abandoned once inspected. The DVLA enforce cars that are untaxed and remain on the road and complainers can check on the DVLA website to see if a car is untaxed.
- 3.3 To assist in the delivery of the service, the Council website has been updated to provide more information to the public as to what constitutes an abandoned vehicle. One issue is that many of the complaints were anonymous which resulted in the Council being unable to advise why they were not abandoned and therefore there were a lot of repeat callers. This has been rectified and now to report an abandoned vehicle, the complainer must leave contact details to allow Renfrewshire Council to respond.
- 3.4 The Renfrewshire Wardens were externally audited by the DVLA Data Sharing Assurance Team in December 2016. The purpose of this audit was to confirm that the Council was recording and investigating abandoned vehicles to the required DVLA standards. In January 2017, Renfrewshire Council received an overall audit rating of 'Green', which demonstrates a high level of compliance. This allows the Renfrewshire Wardens continued access to DVLA vehicle keeper data which helps to identify abandoned vehicles at the earliest point in the process.

4. Protecting Vulnerable Residents

Safe Kids

- 4.1 Safe Kids is an annual interactive educational programme involving Renfrewshire's Community Safety Partners, delivering messages relating to a range of safety issues to every Primary 6 pupil in Renfrewshire, ie 1,830 pupils in total.
- 4.2 The aim of Safe Kids is to reduce the number of accidents involving young people, promote positive behaviour and eliminate risks.
- 4.3 Safe Kids was delivered at St Mirren's Paisley 2021 Stadium during February-March 2017 with pupils transported to the stadium from their respective schools. Workshops were designed to be interactive and short in length (10-12 minutes) to enable partners to get vital messages across in subject areas that can be difficult to discuss.
- 4.4 Workshops this year included - antisocial behaviour; CCTV; alcohol and drug awareness; internet safety; fire safety; litter & dog fouling and Street Stuff. Some new workshops were also included for the first time this year, including raising awareness and encouraging kids to "back the bid" for Paisley - City of Culture 2021 and working with the Council's Civil Contingencies Team, to increase awareness of how to prepare for emergency situations.

The Street

- 4.5 'The Street' is an award winning drama project based in Hamilton that helps young people to address risky behaviour and keep themselves safe. This 20 minute drama is delivered by young people aged 14-24 with the target audience being other young people. Topics include knife crime; teenage pregnancy; domestic violence and alcohol misuse.
- 4.6 Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership has visited the project on several occasions during January - February 2017 with groups of young people who come to the attention of the Community Safety Youth Team through their involvement in youth disorder. After watching the drama, the young people attend a 1 hour workshop to assess the impact of their behaviour on themselves and their community.

I Am Me/Keep Safe

- 4.7 The 'I Am Me' Cinebus continues to tour Renfrewshire primary schools to deliver a comprehensive programme which raises awareness of disability, bullying and hate crime. Over 5,000 children have participated in the programme, with a further 3,000 children booked to attend over the coming months. The programme has been designed to complement the curriculum for excellence and a progressive lesson plan is available for each school year (from P1 - P7). Feedback from over 2,000 participants highlights that 98% of participants have enjoyed the Cinebus visit, 98% know bullying is wrong and 96% would report an incident.
- 4.8 The Keep Safe Scotland "phone app" has now been launched and is free to download for iOS and Android phones. The app can be used to plan routes, highlighting all Keep Safe places and provide details including opening hours, website and telephone numbers. The app is linked to Police Scotland to dial 101 or 999 with an approximate location displayed allowing officers to find the app user if they are lost or in distress. A link is provided for all local authorities in Scotland, with the option to provide details for community safety events and contacts.

5. Building Safer Communities

Monte Carlo Rally

- 5.1 Paisley town centre was one of the start points for the historic Monte Carlo Rally on 25 January 2017. Paisley was the sole British host out of seven European cities including Stockholm, Lisbon and Barcelona for a range of classic cars to make the 1300 mile trip to the south of France. Provost Hall flagged off nearly 100 competing cars from a special new start ramp. The cars included a Paisley 2021 branded Sunbeam which was going all the way to Monte Carlo as a support car to the main rally. Thousands of spectators attended creating a party atmosphere with lights, music, street food and fireworks. The event was supported by StreetScene services and the Renfrewshire Community Safety partnership, including Wardens and Civil Contingencies service.

Best Bar None

- 5.2 Best Bar None is an awards scheme which raises standards and rewards excellence for those venues that attain the award standard. This is delivered at a local level in partnership with the industry, local authorities and Police Scotland. Community

Resources' Trading Standards & Licensing Team is responsible for the local co-ordination and assessment of the scheme. Best Bar None Awards are based on core national standards relating to the five licensing objectives, which are:

- preventing crime and disorder;
- securing public safety;
- preventing public nuisance;
- protecting and improving public health; and
- protecting children from harm.

- 5.3 12 venues attained either gold or silver awards at the local Awards Ceremony on 12 January 2017. 7 venues were presented with awards in specialist categories such as "Best family establishment", "Most improved" or "Heart of the Community". The Best Bar None Scotland Awards will be held at The Hilton Hotel in Glasgow on 30 March 2017, and a number of local category winners have been shortlisted at this event.

6. Diversionary Activities

Street Stuff

- 6.1 Street Stuff continues to deliver a variety of activities throughout Renfrewshire including the introduction of the new Street Stuff Culture Buses which were designed both internally and externally by the young people attending the programme. There are over 34,000 recorded attendances this year to date which is an increase in comparison with the same period last year.
- 6.2 Street Stuff continues to work in communities and all 5 local area committee areas 6 days a week. The Street Stuff buses are also out during the 6 evenings and are moved depending on need and the requirements of the young people.

7. Strategic Police Priorities

- 7.1 At the Housing and Community Safety Police Board on 23 August 2016, Community Resources presented the Renfrewshire Council response to the Scottish Government consultation on the Strategic Police Priorities.
- 7.2 The strategic priorities have now been published are in line with Renfrewshire Council's consultation response.
- 7.3 The Scottish Government has now established seven strategic priorities for Police Scotland to drive their service over the coming years and these are:
- **Localism** – Ensure that the needs of local communities are understood and reflected in the planning and delivery of policing at a local and national level.
 - **Inclusion** – Ensure our police service is accessible and responsive to the needs of all people in Scotland.

- **Prevention** – Ensure our police service works to protect people by preventing crime and reducing fear of crime through communication, education, innovation and partnership working.
- **Response** – Focus policing on improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities by tackling crime and responding to and investigating incidents effectively and efficiently.
- **Collaborative Working** – Ensure that our police service works productively with partners at local, national and international levels to deliver better outcomes for people in Scotland.
- **Accountability** – Continuously improve public confidence in policing and inspire trust by being transparent, accountable and acting with integrity, fairness and respect.
- **Adaptability** – Ensure our police service takes advantage of new opportunities and meets emerging threats and challenges.

7.4 Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) launched a consultation on the 2026 Strategy on 27 February 2017. The Chief Constable has advised that the strategy is aimed at making police time more productive and that Police Scotland will work smarter. As part of this, Police Scotland are also introducing new Operational Area models, including across Renfrewshire from 4 April 2017. The focus of the new strategy and operational model is in line with the Strategic Police priorities above and will result in a focus on Community Policing.

Implications of this Report

1. **Financial** - none.

2. **HR and Organisational Development** – none

3. **Community Planning**

Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire – The 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. It addresses antisocial behaviour & crime and supports youth diversionary and education programmes.

A Greener Renfrewshire – Through tackling environmental crime, community safety activities supports a cleaner and more attractive Renfrewshire.

Renfrewshire forum for Empowering Communities – Engaging with communities and encouraging voluntary work to improve the local area.

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 and Safety** – none.
9. **Procurement** – none.
10. **Risk** – none.
11. **Privacy Impact** – none.

List of Background Papers - none

Author Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection
e-mail: oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk