



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

**On: 24 November 2016**

**Report by:**

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**Community Safety and Public Protection Update**

**1. Summary**

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

- protecting vulnerable residents;
- building safer communities;
- diversionary activities.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board;

- Notes the content of this progress update report.

**3. Protecting the Vulnerable**

**Renfrewshire Child Protection Conference**

3.1 The annual Renfrewshire Child Protection Conference in September 2016 saw a day of discussion on the theme of 'Getting it right for children in Renfrewshire'. More than 200 child protection professionals attended to hear from experts in the field. Officers from Community Resources/Community Safety Partnership being key contributors to the conference.

3.2 Attendees at the conference included staff from the Council, NHS, Police Scotland, and many other local agencies involved in looking after young people. This event was an excellent opportunity for child protection professionals to learn about latest developments from the sector's leaders. The key message of the event was that keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility, not just something for the experts to think about.



## School Talks

3.3 The Community Safety Partnership Youth Team began their range of promotional and educational visits to Renfrewshire Schools in September 2016 and will continue throughout the school year. These school talks are targeted at P7 pupils in all primary schools and S1 pupils in all secondary schools throughout Renfrewshire. The talks will encourage young people to make better choices around responsible citizenship and community safety, as well as raising awareness of the impact of antisocial behaviour on communities.

## I Am Me/Keep Safe

3.4 In September, the I Am Me CineBus began a tour of primary schools in Renfrewshire. The bus is being used to raise awareness of Disability Hate Crime by showing films within schools and to groups across Scotland. This mobile cinema/theatre was attended by around 400 pupils in its first week. The bus will also tour across Scotland raising awareness of the Keep Safe initiative.

3.5 The Keep Safe initiative works in partnership with Police Scotland and is supported by the Crown Office. The latest Renfrewshire premises to sign up to Keep Safe are the University of the West of Scotland (Paisley Campus), and Ward 38 of the Royal Alexandra Hospital. There are currently over 140 Keep Safe premises in Renfrewshire. The initiative also operates in Edinburgh, Dundee, Inverclyde, Borders and Dumfries and Galloway. A national rollout event was held on 14<sup>th</sup> October as part of the Hate Crime Awareness week.

## 4. Building Safer Communities

4.1 A Renfrewshire multi-agency tasking group was set up in April 2016 to focus on the Building Safer Communities National Strategy of reducing victims of crime and victims of unintentional harm. This is achieved through interventions in key communities to help them build capacity to resolve issues affecting their areas. Analysts from the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership select areas for this programme using a range of data including:

- Crimes of violence;
- Drug supply and possession;
- Public reports of anti-social behaviour and disorder;
- Environmental issues such as dog fouling, fly tipping, vandalism and graffiti;
- The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).



4.2 The first programme was delivered in Ferguslie Park between May and July 2016, with the Gallowhill area being the focus during October and November 2016. Over a six week period the group works with the local community to support them in improving their area. Desired outcomes include:

- Reduced victims of serious violent crime;
- Fewer admissions at Accident and Emergency;
- Fewer families requiring support from social services/education;
- Fewer criminal injury claims;
- Increased satisfaction in the community with where they live and increased feelings of safety.

4.3 From the surveys undertaken, 47% of Ferguslie residents rated the area as a very good place to live which was an increase of 16% in comparison to 2013.

4.4 The surveys also indicated that 64% of Ferguslie residents stated that they feel very or fairly safe when walking alone in Ferguslie after dark which was an increase of 14% in comparison to 2013.

4.5 Some of the other issues raised included:

- Vandalism and house breakings (both Identified as high priority during 2013) were not highlighted in 2016.
- The two highest priority common issues were litter and dog fouling.
- Residents requested more high visible patrols by police officers and local authority wardens
- Further improvement suggestions for the area were local facilities for youths and more CCTV cameras

### **Community Safety Officer Trainees**

4.6 The Community Safety Partnership employed 3 new Community Safety Officer Trainees in September 2016 using funding awarded from the Council's Tackling Poverty Fund. These trainees are based within the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Hub and will remain in post until March 2017. The trainees will initially work with the Council's CCTV Operators and Youth Officers, also gaining a variety of skills and experience necessary to the preparation of future job applications.

4.7 The trainees have already settled into the role extremely quickly with several early successes, including using CCTV to investigate a bike theft and support Police in a firearm arrest.



### Purple Flag Status

- 4.8 The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership is supporting Paisley First in their submission to be awarded Purple Flag Status for Paisley Town Centre. An application was submitted by Paisley First on 14 October 2016. If successful it is anticipated that this award will support the City of Culture Bid. Purple Flag is an accreditation process similar to the Green Flag award for parks and the Blue Flag for beaches. It leads to Purple Flag status for town and city centres that meet or surpass standards of excellence in managing the evening and night time economy. Only two other locations in Scotland have attained Purple Flag Status so far, Dunfermline and Aberdeen.
- 4.9 Research by the Awarding body, the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM) suggests that Purple Flag can bring real benefits which include:
- A raised profile and an improved public image for the town
  - A wider patronage with increased expenditure
  - Lower crime and anti-social behaviour
  - Support for a more successful mixed use economy in the longer term
- 4.10 A working group was formed in February 2016, which includes representation from Police Scotland, Council services, businesses, NHS, community groups, street pastors and those involved in transport services. This group are working collaboratively to ensure that the application reflects the activities of all interested parties. As part of the application process, a preparatory overnight assessment of the town centre was undertaken on Friday 26 August from 5pm to 4am on the Saturday morning. This assessment was an on the ground appraisal of the town centre during the hours it is active at night. The results of this preparatory assessment formed part of the application which was submitted to the Association of Town and City Management on 14 October 2016. A second formal assessment will be carried out by two external Purple Flag Assessors prior to the end of 2016.

### Office of Surveillance Commissions Inspection

- 4.11 In August 2016, Renfrewshire Council was inspected by the Office of Surveillance Commissions (OSC) to ensure compliance with statutory provisions for the use of covert surveillance. The previous 2013 inspection confirmed we were compliant but identified some minor recommendations:
- minor revisions to the Council guidelines & procedures;
  - the introduction of corporate refresher training for Authorising Officers;
  - the need for Authorising Officers to justify any authorising decision in their own words.



- 4.12 The 2016 inspector's report highlighted that Renfrewshire Council had addressed all of the recommendations and now has an "exceptional training programme and excellent levels of awareness amongst staff". The inspector identified no new specific recommendations.

### **Summer Events, 2016**

- 4.13 During July-September 2016, Community Resources and in particular Amenity Services and the Community Safety Partnership (including wardens, CCTV and Street Stuff) have been supporting various summer events throughout Renfrewshire. This included local events such as Sma Shot Day, Paisley Pipe Band Championships, Scottish Afro Caribbean Carnival at Barshaw Park, Johnstone Fire Engine Rally and local gala days at Erskine and Johnstone. Amenity Services undertook pre and post activities for each event. The wardens provided the Safe Bus and the CCTV vehicle at many of these events. Meanwhile, Street Stuff was in attendance at family orientated events like the gala days, providing football and dance activities for young people to participate in.

### **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Fortnight**

- 4.14 The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership assisted Children's Services and the Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce with the STEM Fortnight 2016 which ran from 3 October to 13 October 2016. As part of this, pupils visited the Community Safety Hub to see how Renfrewshire Council, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services use technology to protect people and public spaces across the Renfrewshire area. This involved a tour of the facility and a presentation from the Community Safety Partnership Manager to demonstrate how the Council uses various technologies including mobile CCTV. Trinity High School and Paisley Grammar School were the schools chosen to participate.

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Initiatives**

- 4.15 The Fire Reach programme is delivered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Community Safety Youth Team. The course targets young people who have come to the attention of the Community Safety Hub through their involvement in fire related offences. This intensive one week course focuses on raising the awareness of participants about the impact of deliberate fire raising and antisocial behaviour and promotes team building. After attendance at the course, the young people normally cease their previous fire raising offences and known hot-spots areas of activity are reduced due to the offender being caught. The last course took place during September 2016 with 8 young people participating.



- 4.16 In August, The Festival of Fire celebrated the West of Scotland's proud firefighting heritage. Thousands of spectators watched the Fire Engine Rally, led by a local Boys Brigade pipe band, process from Johnstone Fire Station to an assembly point at Houston Square. Residents were able to get up close to current and vintage fire vehicles, some dating back 60 years and learn more of the history of the Fire Service in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service mobile museum. Throughout the day the public got a chance to see firefighters' stage demonstrations. There were dramatic chip pan fire demos which highlighted the importance of safety in the home. A rescue from a road traffic collision simulation was also performed with Renfrewshire's Provost playing the role of the 'injured casualty'.
- 4.17 In September, the 3 Community Fire Stations (Paisley, Renfrew & Johnstone) were venues at the annual Renfrewshire Doors Open Day. This was an opportunity for the public to look inside these active fire stations to learn more about the service.

## 5. Diversionary Activities

### Street Stuff

- 5.1 The Street Stuff programme continues to be delivered throughout Renfrewshire and continues to go from strength to strength. Over 27,882 attendances have been recorded in this financial year with around 170 attendances per day at summer holiday activities and a similar number participating during the October school holiday week.
- 5.2 During the holidays, an extra programme of afternoon classes was run in addition to the normal timetable of early-evening activities. Afternoon activities included football, dance and the Street Stuff Bus with a free healthy meal for every child who attended. The summer classes ran at six locations: the Paisley 2021 Stadium and Glenburn in Paisley, Bargarran in Erskine, Knockhill Park in Renfrew, Our Lady of Peace PS in Linwood and the McMaster Centre in Johnstone. The free meals and summer expansion was financed by the Council's Tackling Poverty Fund.
- 5.3 A similar programme was run in the October 2016 school week with sessions being held at St Mirren, Bargarran Primary School, Gallowhill MUGA, Glenburn Community Centre and Our Lady of Peace MUGA. These sessions were run on different days throughout the week (1pm – 4pm) and either a meal or sandwich was provided.



- 5.4 During October 2016, the fourth Street Stuff bus was unveiled with a colourful wrap designed by Street Stuff participants as part of the summer programme of activities. Over 90 participants attended the launch day activities. The bus offers a range of interactive and cultural activities onboard. The bus will be deployed throughout Renfrewshire and will also be used for events and activities linked to the Paisley 2021 City of Culture bid.
- 5.5 The fifth Street Stuff bus will develop this approach further when it is unveiled later this month with a focus on cultural activities, performance art and creativity. This bus is slightly larger than the other four Street Stuff buses and will again be used to support the Paisley 2021 City of Culture bid.

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