

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Community Safety Committee – 14 January 2015

**UPDATE REPORT FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP
ON 21 NOVEMBER 2014**

Report by Depute Director (Housing and Community Care)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report informs Committee of the recent Reports presented to the Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The recent meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group considered updated reports in relation to Community Safety and Environment in respect of the action plans for each of the subject areas with minor amendments to allow for more coherent presentation of information.
- 1.2 The Report reminded the Group of the Reducing Reoffending figures presented in June/July 2014; the introduction of comprehensive home safety checks as an increasingly multi agency exercise; the successful 'scams' work being taken forward to protect those at greatest risk; the work being undertaken to support women in the criminal justice system out of patterns of offending; and work being taken forward by Criminal Justice Staff in relation to a drink driving programme.
- 1.3 In respect of Environment functions, the Group was updated on work to support the Property Level Protection Scheme; progress in relation to Flood Risk Management and work being taken forward in relation to road safety.
- 1.4 The Group was also advised on the work being taken forward at national level with regard to future proposals for the planning, oversight and delivery of Community Justice Services.
- 1.5 There was then presented a report on 'Vulnerabilities' – one of the themes within the Community Safety Action Plan. This report presented by Chief Inspector Whitford, covered a range of topics, including Child Protection and aspects of Criminal Justice work, all of which contributed towards improved Community Safety. Particular attention was drawn to the 'Safe Place Scheme' designed to afford greater protection to adults with learning disabilities who have experienced bullying in the city centre in times past. The report also drew attention to work being taken forward within the 'Choose Life' strand of the Mental Health Strategy to address the issue of suicide within the Council area.
- 1.6 A report by the Service Manager, Community Safety, was then presented covering the work taken forward under the 'Safer Communities' theme within the Action Plan. This report noted the increasing number of service delivery requests for our Warden input, the deployment of 2 Wardens in the Perth City

Centre area and innovations in communication by the public with the warden service including Twitter, Text Messaging, Rural Watch and 'Street a Week'. The report then noted that work is underway to apply for 'Purple Flag' status through the development of a 'safe and vibrant night-time economy' while work continues both in relation to 'Pub Watch' and 'Best Bar None'.

- 1.7 Public Safety has been improved through the installation of throw lines on the Tay at North Muirton prior to the Rewind Festival and this work will be extended to the area around the bridges in Perth. In the run up to Christmas there was an increased Police, Community Warden and Street Pastor service while Taxi Marshalls were also be available during periods of peak demand. Plans are underway to further develop multi agency working in St Martin's House through the institution of frequent multi-agency meetings between key staff groupings. Considerable work has also been under taken to refocus the tasking and coordination groups within a new structure which sees both local operational groups and central tactical and strategic meetings consider the response required and/or resource implications.
- 1.8 There then followed a report on the 'Reducing Reoffending' theme within the Community Safety Action Plan which set the most recent reoffending figures (down 2.1%) within a broader context of Community Payback Orders supplemented by targeted work to support younger offenders, women within the Criminal Justice system and other offender groups – such as perpetrators of Domestic Violence. The overall picture was one of continuing progress based on a bedrock of strong partnership working.
- 1.9 Finally, a report on the theme 'Road Safety' was brought forward by the Service Manager from the Environment Service, providing an update on various items of work which either have been, or were to be undertaken in order to support improvements in road safety across Perth and Kinross.

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