

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Community Safety Committee – 5 November 2014****Brief Feedback Report from Community Safety/Environment Outcome Delivery Group****Report by John Gilruth Depute Director (Housing & Community Care)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report informs Committee of the recent Reports presented to the Community Safety and Environment ODG

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 A Briefing Report was presented to the last meeting of Housing & Health Committee on the domains within the proposed Community Safety Action Plan to be taken forward under the auspices of the Community Safety Outcome Delivery Group.
- 1.2 At a subsequent meeting of the Outcome Delivery Group on 15 August, the following reports were presented taking forward key areas within this Action Plan:-
 - 1.2.1 Drugs & Alcohol Related Crime Report
This report (presented by Mr Eric Knox, Perth and Kinross Alcohol & Drug Partnership) began by noting some national and local figures relating to the cost of illicit drug use and alcohol related crime, before commenting on two important, local initiatives in these areas. The first concerned the Mentoring Project, focussing initially upon women within the Criminal Justice system, but subsequently extending this service to certain men under Criminal Justice Supervision. The service is run by Tayside Council on Alcohol, of which Mr Knox is the Chief Executive, and has made significant contributions both to the OWLS Project for women at risk of offending and towards supporting male persistent offenders under Court Supervision/Bail between the ages of 16-25 years into more positive lifestyles.
 - 1.2.2 The report then noted the focus of the local Alcohol Forum, on the issue of over provision in Perth and Kinross. Licensing Boards have a duty to assess over-provision and to include a statement in their Licensing Policy. The aim of the forum is to contribute towards wider work in this area in order to ensure that decisions with regard to the granting of licences take into account both public health and community safety considerations with a direct bearing on the wider public.
- 1.3 A report was then presented on the Scams Hub Project by Willie Young, Acting Head of Service, TES. Ms Janet Reay, Trading Standards Officer currently chairs an Inter-Agency Group focussed on this particular problem, in the wake of the discovery of a national Scams Hub in England containing the names of 180 residents of Perth and Kinross. Following further intelligence, a

further list of 68 names from Perth and Kinross has been received. This group endeavours to identify the individuals concerned, determine the extent to which they remain at risk of scamming and suggest actions which may be taken to address these risks. This is not a short-term task, given the difficulty in tracing certain people and the potential challenges in convincing others of the risk to which they may be subject. Royal Mail have become directly involved in this exercise and Scam Awareness sessions are now being carried out with postal workers. Royal Mail will also instigate an internal referral procedure so that their staff can report any possible victims, with this information being forwarded to Trading Standards.

- 1.3.1 A report was then presented by Mr Rab Middlemiss, (Group Manager, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) on actions being taken to develop a multi-faceted Home Safety Screening process. Some years ago, an initial scheme was developed involving Community Care staff checking with older people whether their homes contained smoke or fire detectors – as part of the standard Community Care initial assessment. This assessment process has gradually expanded to include a wider number of staff and a broader range of agencies.

In April 2014, a pilot scheme was implemented between Scottish Fire & Rescue Services and the Safer Communities Wardens to extend the training available on home safety assessments. 3 volunteers are now attached to PKAVS, the umbrella organisation which provides support for agencies in their recruitment and use of volunteers.

A joint home safety visit has now been developed which can extend to the following areas:-

- Falls Assessment
- Home Security
- Energy Efficiency
- Electric and Gas Safety
- Fire Safety
- Community Alarms
- Basic Adult Protection
- Care & Repair
- Basic assessment of need for additional support
- Fitting of mail guards
- Home Security

This truly person-centred approach contributes much towards building safer communities by offering a wider set of security checks to people who, through age, frailty or other circumstances, may be more vulnerable within their community.

Finally, further minor adjustments continue to be made to the Community Safety Action Plan in order to ensure that actions are addressed under the

appropriate themes and the potential for inter-agency co-operation is maximised.

2. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 At the last meeting of the Housing & Health Committee a brief report was presented describing the outline of an Inter-Agency Community Safety Action Plan. An Environment Action Plan has also been tabled before the ODG. These Action Plans are now underway and the agencies responsible for their delivery are reporting on progress to the Outcome Delivery Group.

It is recommended that Committee note the content of this report.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Contact Details
John Gilruth	Depute Director, Housing & Community Care	(01738) 476711 jgilruth@pkc.gov.uk

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Jim Valentine	Executive Director (Environment)	16 October 2014
John Walker	Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)	

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The undernoted table should be completed for all reports. Where the answer is 'yes', the relevant section(s) should also be completed. Where the answer is 'no', the relevant section(s) should be marked 'not available (n/a)'.

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This report relates to the following outcomes:-

Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens

Corporate Plan

1.2 This report relates to the following outcomes:-

Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Workforce

- 2.2 The key workforce implication within this report is that of improving into agency operation and broadening staff competencies in order to improve the safety accorded to our citizens.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

This report is relevant to the Equality Act 2010 as it relates to improvement in the protection afforded to more vulnerable citizens.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Service for the Environment Service has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 Those agencies represented on the Outcome Delivery Group have been consulted in relation to the reports to the ODG described within this report.

5. Communication

- 5.1 *Where appropriate, this section should set out the communications which will be undertaken in implementing the proposals, including the key target audiences and the communication methods.*

3. APPENDICES

There are no appendices

