

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Briefing for Elected Members on Key Areas of the Community Safety Action Plan to be monitored by the Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group**

John Gilruth, Depute Director (Housing and Community Care)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides committee with a brief coverage of the elements of the Community Safety Action Plan presented to the first meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

The Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group held its first meeting on 16 May 2014. At that time, an Action Plan comprising the following activity areas was presented for the Group's approval. The elements in question were as follows:-

- Activity designed to reduce the level and impact of alcohol-related crime
- Activity designed to reduce the level of drug-related crime
- Work, co-ordinated by the Environment Service, to identify the victims of a national 'scamming' operation and protect vulnerable members of our communities (Appendix 1 refers)
- Activity co-ordinated by the Fire & Rescue Service to develop a series of 'home safety checks' involving a range of staff from across the Council and other agencies
- The development of a 'Vulnerabilities' agenda which seeks to draw together different elements of the Public Protection agenda.
- Activity being taken forward by the Council in a partnership with the Scottish Prison Service, Police Scotland and a wide range of other organisations to reduce the incidence of reconviction and the frequency of reconviction
- Work being taken forward to improve Road Safety and Water Safety
- Work being taken forward within Integrated Community Safety, Related Groups (MAPPA; Tasking Groups; Complex Case Integration Groups)

In addition to the above actions, the Delivery Group was advised by the Chief Officer of the Community Justice Authority (in attendance) of the current consultation on the Redesign of the Community Justice System in Scotland. In particular, attention was drawn to the responsibilities now facing Community Planning Partners who will be tasked in 2017, with the leadership of 'an Area Plan' for Community Justice with 'Reducing Reconviction' at its core. The respective roles of Community Planning Partnerships and a new central body, tasked with the establishment of standards, monitoring of

performance, delivery of training and potentially the delivery of certain Community Justice functions remains the subject of national consultation.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

This plan will be presented for final approval at the next meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group on 15 August 2014.

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Approved

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John Walker	Executive Director (Housing & Community Care)	11 August 2014

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Community Safety and Environment Outcome Delivery Group (ODG)- Community Safety issues relevant to The Environment Service

At the ODG on 15 August 2014, a report was submitted by Trading Standards on The Scams Hub Project. The project began when a list of scam mail victims, known as a 'suckers list', was recovered by the Metropolitan Police. Each person on this list was almost certainly being targeted by the scammers. At the beginning of 2014 a list of 180 named individuals residing in Perth and Kinross was forwarded to the Council. Following further intelligence gathered by the National Scams Hub, a further list of 68 names was received by Perth & Kinross Trading Standards in mid-May 2014

Working in partnership, Perth and Kinross Council's Trading Standards, Community Care and Adult Protection Co-ordinator, along with Police Scotland are ensuring that each of those named residents are contacted and will receive information, an advisory visit or other help to prevent them suffering from the kind of financial abuse that scams cause.

The report highlighted that one local resident may have already lost £52,000 to scammers, but the local intervention means he will not be swindled by them any more. Another resident was about to send another large amount of money to someone to claim a (false) financial award, but the timely intervention from Trading Standards allowed her bank to recover her money.

