

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Community Safety Committee - 20 May 2015

UPDATE REPORT FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP
ON 20 MARCH 2015

Report by Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report informs the Community Safety Committee on the recent reports presented to the Community Safety and Environment 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.
- 1.2 A report was submitted concerning commitment of the small Community Safety budget – allocated under the aegis of the Delivery Group. Whilst these were agreed, it was on the understanding the current level of funding available to the Group may not be sustainable and that new providers may priorities may emerge in the coming year. This would require discussions with partners during the coming year to develop other funding streams or exit strategies as appropriate. It is important that these discussions are carried out at an early stage to retain as much of the value of key projects as possible into the future.
- 1.3 A report outlining the work of the multi-agency operational groups was presented. In particular it covered the arrangements concerning the Complex Care Integration Groups (CSIG), High Risk Adult Review Group (HRARG) and the Multi-Agency Tasking Arrangements. The group noted the excellent partnership working being carried out by these groups, who often dealt with complex and difficult cases, and the relationships which exist between them.
- 1.4 Another report highlighted the work being carried out in respect of the Home Safety Theme. With an increasing older population, home safety checks are intended to build safer communities through reducing household risk and ensure that people (particularly older people or people with disabilities) remain independent and able to live in their homes for longer. A scheme has been implemented using partnership staff and volunteers trained in home safety visits. 281 high risk visits have been carried out in the first 10 months of the initiative with 69 referrals being submitted to other partner agencies.
- 1.5 Alcohol and drug related crime was the subject of a report from the Director of Tayside Council on Alcohol. It highlighted the corrosive effect of the misuse of alcohol and drugs and the issues around drug deaths and new psychoactive substances. It highlighted the partnership work being carried out

to deal with these issues. It was agreed to build on these by continuing to promote recovery and integration between peer workers, mutual aid and services. This would require an understanding of recovery, new ways of working and different skills sets for services.

- 1.6 The group were given a briefing on “Operation Festive Homesafe” which was carried out during the last festive season. It highlighted the work carried out by partners including Street Pastors, Taxi Marshalls and the Licensed Trade. Additionally, this festive season a partnership was established with the Giraffe Café in Mill Street, Perth. This is a social enterprise dedicated to offering employment activities to local people with mental ill-health, disabilities and other disadvantages in the workplace. Because of its location in the city centre, the management board of the café were approached to ascertain if it could be used as a base for partnership staff to use in the evenings and night for briefings, refreshments etc. This was agreed and the café was utilised by partnership staff during the initiative. The positive relationship established with the board of the Giraffe Café discussions has led the partnership to consider other ways that the café could help in respect of community safety issues - such as extended opening hours into the evening at times of high demand, to provide non-alcoholic refreshments.
- 1.7 The Perth & Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership submitted a report in respect of their draft Safer Accommodation Strategy and requested that the Group discuss it and make comment in due course.
- 1.8 A report was submitted outlining the Rural Watch initiative. One of the main aims of the scheme is to improve communications between the local community, police and other community safety partnership agencies working in the area. It is a secure, web-based two-way community messaging system which enables Police, Fire & Rescue, Local Authorities and Neighbourhood Watch partners to deliver targeted, relevant messages to specific groups of users. The system has been developed bespoke for Perth and Kinross Multi Member Wards and integrates seamlessly with the National Neighbourhood Watch database. The pilot was officially launched on 31 October 2014 and to date has approximately 150 registered members. With the existing members registered through Neighbourhood Watch, this gives over 200 members.
- 1.9 In respect of environmental matters the Group were updated on Flood Risk Management and the Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance

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