



COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Minute of meeting of the Community Planning Community Safety and Environment Group held in the Hay Room, Dewar's Centre, Perth on Friday 13 November 2015 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors A Grant, D Pover and H Stewart, (all Perth and Kinross Council); J Flynn (NHS Tayside); N Gardiner (TACTRAN) (substituting for E Guthrie); A McManus (Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership); N Russell (Police Scotland) and F Scott (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service) (substituting for R Middlemiss).

In Attendance: Dr S Curran (up to and including Item 5(1)) (NHS Tayside); N Moore (Scottish Ambulance Service); A Fleming (from and including Item 10), L Collie (from and including Item 10), C Haggart, J Irons, C Johnston, K McNamara, M Notman, B Reekie, M Richmond (up to and including Item 5(1)), H Rheinallt and N Rogerson (all Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies for Absence: G Clark (Scottish National Heritage); G Gilling (Perth and Kinross Community Health Partnership); E Guthrie (TACTRAN); D Hodgkinson (Perth College UHI); and H Llewellyn (Community Justice Authority).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor D Pover, Convener, welcomed all those present at the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the relevant Codes of Conduct.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP OF 21 AUGUST 2015

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group of 21 August 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Partnership Home Safety Activities (Item 7 refers)

J Flynn assured the Group that NHS Tayside was satisfied that the response, as regards the Adult Support and Protection issue, was appropriate according to the constraints of the service and the needs of the patient.

(ii) Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) Projects 2015/16 (Item 11 refers)

N Gardiner reported that E Guthrie had raised the issue of cycling safety on the A9 with Transport Scotland.

5. PRESENTATION

(1) Suicide Intervention

M Richmond, Perth and Kinross Council, and Dr S Curran, NHS Tayside, made a joint presentation to the Group regarding suicide prevention in Perth and Kinross. During the presentation the undernoted points were referred to:

- Kinnoull Hill as a location of concern – Kinnoull Hill has been highlighted as a national area of concern for completed suicides. Preventative work has been undertaken, involving M Richmond, Perth and Kinross Council Community Greenspace, and Tayside Mountain Rescue. A landscape architect from Perth and Kinross Council is working on the development of a low wall at the summit. Feedback on the preventative work to be done was given at a meeting involving the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Group and the Suicide Prevention Steering Group and any issues concerning the work had been raised. A further meeting had been arranged on 25 November 2015 to deal with these issues.
- Suicide hotspots around the world – these have been extensively studied. Interventions, such as physical barriers, lead to a reduction in suicides in that area, which are mostly not transferred to another location. One survivor of a suicide attempt from the Golden Gate Bridge, Kevin Hines, later said that he would have stopped his attempt if anyone had intervened before he reached the edge of the bridge; he regretted his decision the moment he jumped. Measures taken to reduce suicides have had a significant impact in locations such as at the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the New Zealand Lawyers Head cliff.
- Evidence points towards physical interventions at suicide hot spots resulting in a net overall reduction in suicides.

K McNamara highlighted that the content of the presentation reinforced the need for work to be done at Kinnoull Hill.

6. OUTCOME DELIVERY PLAN – PROGRESS REPORTS APRIL 2014

There was submitted and noted a six monthly report (G/15/272) detailing developments and progress in working towards the following Strategic Objective: creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

K McNamara spoke briefly to the report in relation to key areas and areas for improvement in regard to environment issues, and he specifically made reference to:

- Perth and Kinross Council social housing has a 73.4% compliance level with the new Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing;
- The Heat Network Partnership is supporting the Council in the development of heat mapping to reduce people's heating bills;
- There is a refurbishment programme for micro-hydro regeneration;
- There has been success under the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan.

M Notman spoke briefly to the report in relation to key areas and areas for improvement in regard to community safety issues, and she specifically made reference to

- Plans for alcohol scoping and water safety are being progressed;
- A candidate for the post of Aberfeldy Community Warden is being advanced;
- Some activities, such as the home safety visits, have been mainstreamed due to their success;
- Progress on the Safer Communities Strategy is slow. Staff members are working on finding funding for policy development.
- The Equally Safe Strategy improvement and implementation plan is being worked on.

J Flynn highlighted the importance of Safe Taysiders. M Notman responded that Roddy Ross, Perth and Kinross Council is considering how it could be maintained and if funding could be obtained to support it.

Resolved:

The six monthly update, as detailed in report G/15/272, be approved.

THE GROUP UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS FROM THIS POINT

7. ROAD SAFETY

There was submitted a report by the Road Safety Theme Lead (G/15/273) providing an update on the various items of work which had been, are being, or would be undertaken to support improvements to Road Safety across Perth and Kinross.

C Haggart highlighted the Safe Drive Stay Alive event as being very successful, however, the lack of availability of funding is of concern. A proposal to extend funding if possible would be brought back to the Group in due course. The A9 installation of average speed cameras had also been highly successful with a compliance figure of over 99.96%, and a significant drop in excessive speeding.

Resolved:

The contents of report G/15/273 be noted.

8. SAFER COMMUNITIES

There was submitted a report by the Safer Communities Theme Lead (G/15/274) updating the Group on the partnership and other activity of note that is underway or under development within the Safer Communities Theme.

N Russell provided updates in relation to partnership working currently ongoing, highlighting the following points:

- The candidate for a Rural Community Warden had recently passed the fitness test.
- Through the Graffiti Strategy, 245 pieces of graffiti had been identified and reported, with the strategy resulting in a marked improvement in the City Centre. There are currently three very active 'taggers' in Perth and work is currently being undertaken to identify these.
- There is a Prevent duty on local authorities as part of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy. The Council has established an Integrity Group under the "Letting Our Communities Flourish" strategy which accepted ownership of the Prevent duty on behalf of the Council, with the Safer Communities Partnership having accepted a co-ordinating and delivery role. There is close partnership working and counter terrorism is discussed with the Police Scotland Counter Terrorism staff regularly. Work is being progressed on carrying out the duty.
- There have been meetings on how the CCTV in Perth City Centre would be tackled and upgraded; further reports would be submitted to the Group in due course.
- The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 will be coming into force on 1 April 2016, and the Council's Environment Service is identifying a suitable lockfast container to support the surrender period.
- Community Watch is in use in Perth and Kinross, and the next stage of its roll-out had been on 28 October 2015 at Dewars Rinks, promoting the use of the system in Perth City.
- The outputs from a workshop session held on the Scottish Government's new National Missing Persons Strategy had been made available to all partners who would respond separately to the consultation, closing on 30 November 2015.

Councillor Grant queried whether the Group was being asked to give its view on the burden assessment of the new Prevent duty. N Russell agreed to find out and report back to members of the Group on this (**ACTN – NR**).

Resolved:

The contents of report G/15/274 be noted.

A FLEMING AND L COLLIE ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

9. REDUCING REOFFENDING

There was submitted a report by the Reducing Reoffending Theme Lead (G/15/275) updating the Group on the current partnership activity and the activity which is currently being developed within the remit of the Reducing Reoffending Theme.

J Irons provided updates in relation to partnership working currently ongoing, highlighting the following points:

- The partnership service for the multiple and complex needs of women offenders, which had resulted in a significant increase in positive outcomes for women offenders themselves, families and communities. Although these figures may change, this had been a significant impact, and in terms of reducing reoffending, would also have an impact on the number of victims of crimes. This service had not required much extra funding but is the result of changing ways of working.
- New developments with the OWLS service had begun, for example for the women themselves take ownership of the women's centre, and to develop it beyond criminal justice. Work is also being progressed to get more agencies to work in the centre without incurring additional costs; six beds are being asked for Skinnergate in case of need.
- The possibility of a women only unpaid work team is being considered due to the different and complex needs women have; the service would need to be reconfigured to fulfill statutory duties.
- There is now a Community Justice Co-ordinator for Community Justice Reform. Criminal Justice Authorities will be disbanded from April 2017, replaced by eight Community Justice Partnerships. Decisions will be made in local areas with partners. By the end of January 2016 there should be a plan on how the process will be managed, which will be shared with the partners in the Group. There will also be a national organisation – Community Justice Scotland – which will provide leadership guidance, training, development and national commissioning for services. These will be major changes.

J Flynn highlighted the importance of ensuring that the changes to the OWLS service would not involve duplication of service or services apart by themselves.

Resolved:

The contents of report G/15/275 be noted.

10. PRESENTATION

(2) Methadone Treatment Programme

A Fleming, Clinical Lead Nurse, Perth and Kinross Substance Misuse Service gave a presentation to the Group regarding the substance misuse service and methadone treatment in Perth and Kinross. During the presentation the undernoted points were referred to:

- The substance misuse service
- Funding pressures and being inventive about delivering quality of services
- Patients sometimes come to the service through referrals but mostly through the drop-in clinic
- The process of treatment for patients, and the importance of treatment at the earliest opportunity
- The importance of working with other agencies to provide a comprehensive package of care
- The use of methadone as a treatment programme, for example for clients with chaotic lifestyles; once the drug/alcohol use is taken away it is easier to identify underlying issues; risks of mortality and contracting HIV are reduced
- The importance of having reasonable expectations and personalised care plans, as people have different plans for their recovery; it is not a requirement for recovery that everyone detoxes; furthermore, drug and alcohol dependence affect the brain differently
- Discharge planning is carried out around community re-integration, through partnership working

In response to a query from N Russell regarding links and support with local police officers, A Fleming responded that care had to be taken as the service is bound by rules and regulations; confidence can only be breached when there is a real risk of harm to their patients, children or the public. L Collie added that if there are significant concerns that a patient has disappeared, this would be reported to the police.

The Convener thanked A Fleming and L Collie for the presentation.

A FLEMING AND L COLLIE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

11. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP – 2016 TIMETABLE

The timetable of meetings for 2016 (G/15/276) was submitted and noted.

12. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was no other competent business.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group would take place on Friday 18 March 2016 at 10.00am.

