

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Community Safety Committee****31 August 2016****Safer Communities Team Annual Performance Report****Report by Director (Housing and Social Work)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report introduces the Perth and Kinross Council's Safer Community Team annual performance report for 2015/16. The key message from this report is that the demand for the services provided by the team has stabilised after a period of significant growth. The report highlights a number of positive outcomes that have been achieved by the team for communities.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

1.1 The introduction of the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 recognised the importance of Council involvement in addressing anti-social behaviour. It provided local authorities, Police and other agencies with a number of new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. To support these activities, Perth and Kinross Council put in place the following resources:

- Antisocial Behaviour Investigators
- Communities Warden Service
- Antisocial Noise Team

1.2 In late 2010, as part of a transformation project approved by Council, the Antisocial Behaviour Investigation Team, Community Wardens, Community Safety Policy Officer and Anti-Social Noise Team were integrated to form a new Safer Communities Team. A description of the team's role and activities is made later in this report.

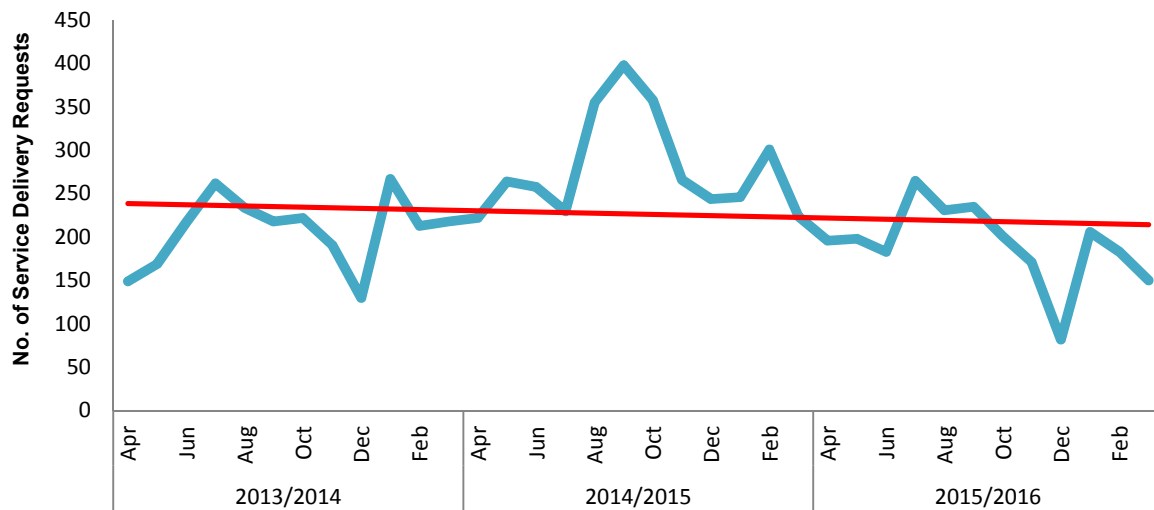
2. SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

2.1 A statistical report has been compiled each year in respect of the work of the Safer Communities Team and the 2015/16 report is attached at Appendix I.

2.2 The key message from this report is that the demand for the services provided by the team has stabilised. Examination of the three year trend line demonstrates an overall reduction in demand which is to be welcomed. Examples of this reduction are:

- Estate management issues – decrease 19%
- Drug issues – decrease 51%
- Youth related issues – decrease 24%

Service Delivery Request - 3 year trend



2.3 The chart above shows the number of service delivery requests received by the Safer Communities Team over a three year period. Analysis of the peak demand between June and December 2014/15 revealed that it was associated with the upsurge in activity relating to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and the introduction of Community Wardens into the city centre full-time.

2.4 To deal with this a multi-agency response was developed to tackle the NPS issue which included the following partners:

- Community Wardens
- Third Sector Partners
- Drug and Alcohol Team
- Police
- Trading Standards
- Safer Communities Investigators
- The Environment Service
- Legal Services
- Licensing
- City Centre Management Team
- Focus on Alcohol

2.5 Following a concerted effort two shops, which were the source of a great many of the problems, were closed down and a variety of locations of concern either secured or reclaimed through environmental and target hardening measures, patrol and engagement. Whilst the use of NPS remains an issue and danger to the users, the antisocial element and the impact on the wider community has been much reduced.

3. SAFER COMMUNITIES INVESTIGATORS

- 3.1 Their remit is to tackle complex or protracted antisocial behaviour. The investigators work with others to intervene early to prevent problems escalating and take a problem-solving approach. When necessary they use the powers available to them under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004. As part of the Council's financial savings programme the number of Safer Communities Investigators were reduced from 5 to 3 in April 2016.
- 3.2 In order to successfully deal with antisocial behaviour, the Safer Communities Investigators have developed very close working relationships with other services and agencies. This partnership approach can and often does include, Police Scotland, Tenancy Support, other housing associations, Victim Support, Scottish Fire and Rescue and other in-house Council services.
- 3.3 Complaints of antisocial behaviour can involve anything from Serious and Organised Crime to a conflict of life styles. Examples include:
- Noisy music and parties
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - DIY work late into the evening
 - Personality clashes
 - Generational differences in terms of acceptable lifestyles
 - Dogs and other pets
 - Environmental issues
 - Youth issues
- 3.4 Where interventions have not succeeded, the investigators are responsible for preparing the necessary case papers for application to the Court for an Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO) by the Council's Legal Services. An ASBO is a civil order through which the Court can require someone to stop doing specific things that it considers to be antisocial. Failure to comply with the order is a criminal offence which is dealt with by Police Scotland.
- 3.5 If an ASBO is granted, the investigators will continue to work with those involved to achieve a solution.
- 3.6 It was identified that there was a significant amount of graffiti affecting Perth. A Safer Communities Investigator became the graffiti co-ordinator and single point of contact. New reporting arrangements were agreed and new clean up procedures established. As a consequence over 200 pieces have been removed.

4. SAFER COMMUNITY WARDENS

- 4.1 At present there are 12 Safer Community Wardens and one supervisor. The wardens primarily cover four areas; Letham/Tulloch, Muirton/North Muirton, Rattray and Perth City Centre though they can be deployed elsewhere, if there is a need. The Wardens act as the eyes and ears of the local community; they are a uniformed presence, deter anti-social behaviour and reassure and

engage with the community. They work in partnership with internal and external agencies and are encouraged to find sustainable solutions to community problems. Other roles include visiting vulnerable people, acting as a bridge between young people and community activities in the local area. They also attend Tenants and Residents Meetings, Community Council and other meetings.

4.2 During the reporting period the Safer Community Wardens have continued to be involved in developing new approaches with partners to address community issues and vulnerabilities. These include:

- Joint Home Safety visits with Fire Service
- Keeping in Touch visits with vulnerable people
- Junior Wardens Scheme
- Cycling Proficiency
- Joint patrolling with drug and alcohol workers
- Joint working with unpaid work
- Safetaysiders
- Street Football with the St. Johnstone Community Trust

5. SAFER COMMUNITIES HUB

5.1 During the reporting period the extended Safer Communities Hub has become ever more important to the business of the Team and the Partnership. It now comprises of the following:

- Police Community Sergeant
- MAPPA Liaison Officer/Supervisor
- 2.5 FTE Police Constables
- Community Engagement Analyst (Police)
- Community Analyst (Council)
- 3 Safer Communities Investigators
- Temporary Policy Officer
- Part-time Violence Against Women Co-ordinator
- Action for Children (Arrest Referral)

This multi-agency operational group also works very closely and is co-located with:

- Criminal Justice Social Work
- Right Track

5.2 This approach significantly improves joint working and information exchange to tackle complex cases, manage dangerous people, prevent and detect crime and reduce the demand on other operational staff.

5.3 This approach is neither new nor innovative; these are proven tactics, we know they work and the benefits are clear. We do however strive to expand its influence and impact.

6. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

6.1 Police Offender Management Officers will join the Safer Communities Hub at St Martins House which will prompt a reorganisation of the offices to further develop collaborative working.

6.2 The introduction of a new rural Safer Community Warden/Fire Community Advocate in Aberfeldy is an innovative development which is being seen as a template for similar developments across Scotland. This will include a co-location of the Warden with Police and Fire at Aberfeldy Community Fire Station.

6.3 The Safer Communities Wardens and their supervisor, will co-locate with Scottish Fire and Rescue staff at Perth Community Fire Station thereby reducing costs and allowing us to share services and information. Further evidence of this collaborative approach is evidenced the redesign of the Safer Communities Team and their close alignment to the Hub in St Martins House. It will further enable partners to work seamlessly; intervene earlier and utilise all available resources to find sustainable solutions. Both are good examples of the recommendations of the "Christie" Commission being put into practice.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee endorse this report and ask the Director (Housing and Social Work) to bring a further report on the work of the Safer Communities Team to the Committee in 12 months' time.

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	yes
Corporate Plan	yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	no
Workforce	no
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	no
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	no
Strategic Environmental Assessment	no
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	no
Legal and Governance	no
Risk	no
Consultation	
Internal	no
External	yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	no

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This report supports the following outcomes of the Community Plan / Single Outcomes Agreement in relation to the following priorities:

- (i) *Giving every child the best start in life*
- (ii) *Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens*
- (iii) *Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy*
- (iv) *Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives*
- (v) *Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations*

Corporate Plan

1.2 This report supports the following outcomes of the Community Plan / Single Outcomes Agreement in relation to the following priorities:

- (i) *Giving every child the best start in life;*
- (ii) *Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;*
- (iii) *Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;*
- (iv) *Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and*
- (v) *Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.*

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Workforce

2.2 There are no workforce issues arising from this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 There are no asset management issues arising from this report.

3. Assessments

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 section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

(i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

Sustainability

3.3 There are no issues in respect of sustainability.

Legal and Governance

3.4 This report contains no issues which would have a legal or governance impact on the Council.

Risk

3.5 There are no issues of risk arising from the proposals in this report.

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 None

External

4.2 Community Safety Partners were consulted in the preparation of this report.

5. Communication

5.1 Not relevant to this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 No background papers were relied upon during the preparation of this report.

7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix I – Safer Communities Team Performance Report