PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Environment Committee – 11 November 2015

Summary Report from Community Safety and Environment Group on 21 August 2015

Report by Director (Housing and Community Care)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting on 21 August 2015, the Community Safety and Environment Group considered the following matters:

1. **Community Watch**
   A presentation on the above was delivered by Sergeant Nicholson and Councillor Mike Williamson. Community Watch is a community messaging system designed to improve communication between participants in order to improve the safety of communities. The subsequent discussion noted the distinction between 'Community Safety' and 'Community Resilience' - albeit that there are some areas of cross over - and the increasing amount of 'Capacity Building' activity within communities across Perth and Kinross. In this context, it was noted that Community Watch will wish to be integrated within the broader capacity building and engagement exercise.

2. **Best Bar None**
   The group then heard a presentation from Arlene Campbell, National Co-ordinator of Best Bar None Scotland and Jennifer McOmish, from the Safer Communities Team in Perth and Kinross Council. Arlene provided the backdrop to the Best Bar None Accreditation Scheme, noting how the project had been well received and adopted locally.

   The group expressed their continuing support for the project and Councillor Stewart requested that, following evaluation, further detail be submitted to a future meeting of the group.

3. **Partnership Home Safety Activity**
   Mr Middlemiss, Group Manager for the Perth and Kinross Area of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service then advised the Group on continuing work around home safety within the Council area. This incorporated the results of the first full year of Joint Home Safety Visits, the recent work of the Home Safety Partnership Group and local case studies highlighting notable practice and outcomes.

4. Drug and Alcohol Related Crime

A report was then submitted by Mr Knox and Mr Smillie from the Perth and Kinross Drug and Alcohol Partnership updating the Group on interventions in relation to drug and alcohol related crime. Particular reference was made to the impact of new psycho-active substances and the work being progressed through the Partnership in relation to this. In light of the continuing emphasis upon recovery, it was proposed that a presentation be made to a future meeting of the Group on the work of the Drug and Alcohol Team and the Substance Misuse Service in relation to harm reduction and where this sits in relation to the broader challenge of the 'Recovery Agenda'.

The Group also noted the work being undertaken in relation to a Provision Statement by the Partnership.

5. Monthly Safer Communities and Community Justice Briefing

Mr Gilruth, Depute Director, Housing & Community Care, then drew the Group's attention to a monthly bulletin issued by the Justice Analytical Services of the Scottish Government covering a wide range of Community Safety data. He drew the Groups attention to one data set concerning referrals to Drug and Alcohol Services nationally and suggested it would be helpful for the local equivalent data set be presented to a future meeting of the Group. He also suggested that Group members may wish to acquaint themselves with this regular briefing from Government and to consider local data in relation to national data.

6. Vulnerability Theme Update

A report was presented by Chief Inspector Scott on the 'Vulnerability Theme', noting the work being taken forward by the Tayside Suicide Review Group, on which Perth and Kinross is represented by Mary Notman and Marliese Richmond.

7. Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) Project

A report was submitted by the Depute Director, Environment Service, detailing the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Project implemented in 2014/15 and approved by Committee on 4 June 2014.

In response to a specific question regarding the A9, Mr Cargill advised that Transport Scotland were the appropriate agency to provide the requested data.

The following matters were resolved:

(i) The Schemes implemented from the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Grant funding in 2014/15

(ii) The applications for funding from the Sustrans Community Links 2015/16 Programme

(iii) The proposed projects to be progressed in 2015/16

8. Tay River Renewable Heat Exchange and Network in Perth City

A report on the above subject was then presented by the Depute Director, Environment Service, providing an update on progress. Reference was made to the benefits of the proposed programme and to the feasibility work required in order to detail a full Business Case, including exploring the creation of an Energy Service company.

9. Developmental Warden Project – Aberfeldy Area

A report was then presented by the Depute Director, Housing & Community Care, advising the Group of the progress made towards appointing a Partnership Warden post in the Aberfeldy area – jointly funded by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and Perth and Kinross Council.

The Group was advised that, after discussion the with local Community Council and other relevant bodies, an agreement has been reached in principle as to the range of functions which this postholder may undertake. Proposals are now in place to move towards interview and selection of an appropriate candidate.

The Depute Director for Housing & Community Care noted that perhaps this post should be seen within a slightly broader context of various posts partly funded by the Council and/or Change Fund monies – all of which sought to enhance the resilience of communities and improve their citizens quality of life.

10. Integrated Services for Young People

A report was then presented by the Head of Service, Culture & Community Services, providing an update on the Integration of Youth Services and the Intensive Report Team, following a review of Youth Services and Youth Justice in 2013/14. Mr Stokoe spoke to the report and introduced Mr McKendrick, the recently appointed Team Leader for Services for Young People. It was agreed that Mrs Notman would arrange a visit to the Children and Families Social Work Service and Throughcare Team at Scott Street for Elected Members on the Development Group and that a further report will be presented to a future meeting of the Group on Key Performance Indicators.

11. Any Other Competent Business

Councillor Williamson enquired as to the availability of further information on the role of sport/exercise in the prevention of substance misuse locally. The Depute Director, Housing & Community Care, responded that there were various initiatives under way (under the general heading of Recovery) which encouraged healthier life styles within which sport and appropriate use of leisure played a part. Mr Ross, from the Safer Communities Team suggested that some work could be undertaken to explore what is currently available and what else might be considered – under the auspices of the Drug & Alcohol Partnership.

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Approved

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