

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 18 SEPTEMBER 2017.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), David Dodds, Charles Kennedy and Cathy Muldoon (substituting for Kirsteen Sullivan); Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw (Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services), Tim Ward (Senior Manager, Health & Care Partnership, WLC), Inspector Barry Blair (Police Scotland), Gary Laing (Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), and Alison Smith (Customer Service Manager, WLC)

Apologies – Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised the Board that Gary Laing, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would soon be retiring. Therefore the Board wished to record a note of thanks to Gary for his contributions to the Board over the years and for keeping West Lothian communities safe.

3. MINUTES -

- a) The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 26 June 2017; and
- b) The Board noted the Minute of the Community Planning Steering Group held on 14 August 2017.

4. JOINT INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy, WLC, providing an overview of the outcomes of the Joint Children's Services Inspection, the report on which had been provided on 29 August 2017.

Since mid-December 2016 services for children and young people in West Lothian had been subject to inspection by the Care Inspectorate. The inspection focused on how well services in West Lothian were working together to make a positive difference to the lives of children, young people and their families.

In order to reach confident conclusions the inspection team had undertaken a range of activities to collect evidence. These included :-

- The analysis of inspection findings of care services for children and

young people and findings from relevant inspections carried out by other scrutiny bodies;

- A review of national and local data related to children and young people;
- A review of self-evaluation work undertaken by the partnership and the evidence that supported it;
- Review of a wide range of documents provided by the partnership;
- Conducting of a survey of staff with named person and lead professional responsibilities;
- Meeting with children and young people, parents and carers in order to hear from them about their experiences of services and what difference they thought the support they received was making;
- Speaking with staff at all levels across the partnership, including senior officers and elected members and large numbers of staff who worked directly with children, young people and their families;
- Reviewing practice through reading records held by services for a sample of the most vulnerable children and young people; and
- Observing key interagency meetings.

In the Inspection Report the Care Inspectorate reported that they were confident that outcomes for many children, young people and families living in West Lothian had improved as a result of committed leadership, an ambitious shared vision and effective community planning arrangements.

As part of the inspection process the planning and delivery of services for children and young people had been evaluated against nine quality indicators, the results of which were detailed in Table 1 contained within the report.

Within the report the team had noted a number of salient points and these were summarised in the report and included areas of strength and areas for improvement.

Following publication of the Inspection Report the partnership was required to prepare a plan detailing the actions that would be taken in response to the report. This Improvement Plan was to be submitted to the Care Inspectorate within six weeks of the publication of the Inspection Report.

The Board was asked to note the positive outcomes of the inspection and the contribution made by services involved in safe communities work streams.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. PINPOINT UPDATE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector Barry Blair, Police Scotland providing an analysis following the deployment of Operation Pinpoint in Whitburn in June 2017.

The Community Safety Partners (Police, Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services) had developed Operation Pinpoint as a way of “pin pointing” areas within West Lothian that required a community safety intervention and one which provided a flexible approach to deal with issues in any one particular community with the aim of achieving an immediate, short and long term outcome for the community concerned.

Operation Pinpoint had been intelligence led and geographical and was driven by trend information from the daily/monthly TAC meetings or where concerns were known to the community safety partners.

The decision to initiate Operation Pinpoint was taken in consultation between the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, the local area Police Commander and the Local Fire Officer. The operation took place between Monday 19 June and Sunday 25 June 2017.

Following the conclusion of Operation Pinpoint significant progress had been made on the Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) actions with a number of notable results, including clean-up and removal of graffiti, the offer of training in dealing with anti-social behaviour to community centre staff and work to identify the owner of Weavers Lane which required road markings to be painted to prevent traffic congestion.

The use of the partnership EVA approach was now being embedded as routine business at an operational level which was extremely encouraging. Also in the two month period since Operation Pinpoint the ward had seen a sustained reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour with a combined number of calls for July and August of 118 compared to 107 for the whole of June.

The report concluded that lessons continued to be learnt each time a pinpoint operation was undertaken and would help inform the planning of all future activity. It had also been agreed that the next Operation Pinpoint would take place in Bathgate at the end of September/start of October prior to the bonfire initiative getting underway.

The Chair thanked the Inspector for the update and for the positive work being done in the Whitburn community following the implementation of Operation Pinpoint.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

6. WESTDRIVE 2017

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Inspector Barry Blair, Police Scotland providing an update on the Westdrive 2017 event and its continued contribution to reducing casualty rates from road traffic accidents.

“Westdrive 2017” had been held between 29 and 31 August 2017 and approximately 1200 senior pupils had attended.

The event was funded by Road Safety Scotland and the Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group and organised by Police Scotland through the West Lothian Community Safety Unit (CSU). Its aim was to promote driving safety issues in an engaging and impactful way.

The main point of the event was to highlight that road crashes destroyed lives on multiple levels. Of particular note was that young drivers and their families were over represented in road crashes in West Lothian in that in the last year of the 50 seriously injured casualties, 21 were drivers of whom 7 were young drivers (24 and under). The format of the event specifically allowed the agencies who dealt with the aftermath of road accidents to directly engage with young drivers.

The event had followed a similar format to previous years and included handing out green “P” plates to young drivers who had either passed their driving test or who had booked a test date.

Evaluation forms from Westdrive 2017 had been distributed and were currently being assessed. However initial feedback had indicated that the majority of attendees assessed the event as excellent.

The Board continued to be advised that in 2017, for the first time, a number of young people from outside traditional education establishments had been identified by Youth Justice partners and invited to attend the event. Oatridge and West Lothian Colleges had also indicated that they would be interested in some of their young people attending such an event in the near future. Therefore organisation of separate events had now begun.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

7. BONFIRE STRATEGY FOR WEST LOTHIAN 2017

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire & Rescue, advising of the strategy to minimise the impact of deliberate fire setting and fire related antisocial behaviour over the peak autumn period.

Statistical evidence indicated an increase in deliberate fires, fire related offending and hostility towards fire crews during October, commencing in

the school holiday period and peaking on or around November 5 each year.

Therefore the pre-planning for the bonfire season had begun with multi-agency meetings which included Scottish Fire & Rescue, Police Scotland, and West Lothian Council.

In order to reduce demand on emergency resources within West Lothian during this period a programme of prevention activities were planned and included a number of initiatives related to schools and for the identification of unlicensed bonfires/fireworks and these were summarised in the report.

Community engagement would also be undertaken and details of this were summarised in the report.

The report concluded that following the bonfire period an evaluation would take place and would be reported to members of the West Lothian Services for the Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and the Community Safety Board with an overview of the preventative and operational response joint activities conducted by Community Safety partners within West Lothian during the bonfire period 2017.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

8. QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) which provided information from Covalent (the council's performance monitoring system) showing a number of community safety performance indicators for Quarter 1 2017-18.

The Board then heard the council's Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services explain that there had been some issues with the integrity of data and therefore officers wanted to carry out some research into this and would report back fully to the next board meeting.

Decision

To note the comments by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services with regards to the integrity of the data contained within the report and that he would report back fully to the next scheduled board meeting on the matter.

9. SAFER COMMUNITIES FUNDING 2017/2018

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on the expenditure of funding for safer community initiatives 2017-18

The Board were advised that the co-Chairs of the Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group reviewed each of the funding applications and approved bids that would further meet joint community safety priorities.

Contained within the report was a table which provided a summary of the funding applications that had been received and approved. The range of projects to be supported included Westdrive, the Risk Factory and a new project known as letter box blockers, further details of which were attached to the report.

Following approval of all the applications received to date there remained £25,932 in the budget for 2017-18.

The Board was asked to note the contents of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.