

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 19 SEPTEMBER 2016.

Present – Councillors John McGinty (Chair), Anne McMillan and Cathy Muldoon; Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Graeme Struthers (Depute Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw (Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, WLC), Yvonne Beresford (Policy & Performance Manager, WLC), Tim Ward (Senior Manager, Health & Care Partnership, WLC), Alison Smith (Customer Service Manager, WLC), Gary Laing (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) and Helen Davies⁹ West Lothian Youth Action Project)

Apologies – Councillor Peter Johnston; Bridget Paterson (VSGWL), Fiona Young (Community Justice Authority) and Police Scotland representatives

Absent – Councillor Frank Anderson

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS

In welcoming everyone to the meeting the Chair noted that Police Scotland were not present and had advised the Board that they did not have a representative to attend the meeting.

Therefore the Chair requested that the Chief Executive contact Police Scotland on the matter.

The Chair also advised the Board that officers would soon be in touch with regards to dates for Board meetings in 2017.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTE

The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 13 June 2016. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. WEST LoTHIAN YOUTH ACTION PROJECT - PRESENTATION BY HELEN DAVIES

The Board were provided with an overview of the West Lothian Youth Action Project Summer Diversion Programme that had been held between 4 July and 19 August 2016.

Helen Davies from the WL Youth Action Project explained that the project aims were to provide an intensive diversion and support based activity programme for young people who had been identified as at risk of involvement in crime and ASB during the summer holiday period. The

total fund awarded for the programme was £16,200 with the programme having 509 actual attendances, which equated to £31.83 per intervention.

The young people were referred to the programme through a number of routes including children and families' social work, schools, police and the youth justice team.

The presentation continued by providing details of the ages of those participating and the areas of West Lothian they came from. It was noted that there had been no young people from either the Whitburn or Fauldhouse areas and this was something that would be looked into as in previous years young people from both these areas had been involved.

The Board were advised that following the conclusion of the summer programme the young people who had taken part were asked to evaluate their experiences including what they would have been doing if not involved in the programme with by far the two biggest responses being either "bored/nothing" or "staying in/sleeping" along with other comments which contained in the presentation.

The presentation concluded with a series of photographs showing the young people taking part in a wide variety of activities including cycling & mountain biking, camping, hill walking, park games & picnics and museums visits.

There then followed a questions and answer session and the Chair concluded by thanking Helen Davies for the excellent presentation and noting all the work being done in all communities across West Lothian to engage young people in diversionary activities.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the presentation; and
2. To note the good work being carried out by the West Lothian Youth Action Project in terms of its Summer Diversion Programme.

5. SAFER COMMUNITIES PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing information from Covalent (the council's performance monitoring system) showing Community Safety Performance indicators for the year to date.

Yvonne Beresford, Policy and Performance Manager for West Lothian Council provided an overview of some of the main performance measures contained within the report. The Board were also advised that Sergeant John Jackson would soon be retiring from Police Scotland and that it was not yet known who would be filling this key role in terms of community safety performance monitoring.

The Chair then invited Gary Laing, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to comment on those statistics pertaining to the Fire Service. Gary advised

the Board that there was usually always a spike in deliberate fire incidents in the summer due to the light nights and the SFRS were always prepared for this pattern of behaviour.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising of the community engagement plan that was being developed as part of the changes within the Community Justice agenda.

The Board were advised that the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 provided a new approach to the delivery of services intended to reduce levels of offending and to increase public safety. At a local level, strategic planning and service delivery were responsible for local community justice partners, with Community Planning Partnerships (CPP's) taking a lead role. The statutory partners were required to produce a local plan for community justice and would have a requirement to engage and involve all relevant bodies in the planning, delivery and reporting of services and improved outcomes.

The Scottish Government were also about to release a new National Reducing Re-offending Strategy, which had at its heart a desire to engage more with communities on the subject of Community Justice. In order to achieve this outcome and work to the ethos of new safer communities, partners within West Lothian had agreed that whilst the main purpose of the consultation plan was to engage partners, service users and members of the public on community justice matters, it was also considered beneficial to incorporate pertinent questions related to Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

To this aim a community plan would be developed and delivered between now and October in order for the collective outcomes to be considered and influence the final decision making process of the refresh of the West Lothian Reducing Re-Offending Strategy 2013-2018.

The opportunity would be taken to engage extensively and consult people using as wide a range of methods as possible and would include questionnaires, focus groups, online surveys and face-to-face engagement exercises with members of the community, partner organisations such as HMP Addiewell, West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Service, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Team, Social Policy and others. The feedback and the results of the engagement exercise would, by the end of October, influence the decision making process to the refresh of the Reducing Re-Offending Strategy 2013-2018 which would take place during November and December 2016.

Once refreshed the West Lothian Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2013-2018 would undergo an extensive consultation exercise again, with

members of the public, partners and service users from January 2017.

The Board were asked to note the Community Engagement Plan.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To note that engagement with partners and the community would commence within the next couple of weeks; and
3. To note that a further report on the subject would be brought to a future meeting of the Board.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY RESTRUCTURE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an overview of changes to the West Lothian Council's Safer Neighbourhood Team following a planned restructure.

Efficiency savings were identified under Delivering Better Outcomes (DBO) in respect of the council's Community Safety Service and as a result the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Out of Hours Night Noise Team were to be amalgamated into one Safer Neighbourhood Team from 3 October 2016.

The plan included the closure of the existing Out of Hours Night Noise Team and amalgamating officers with the existing Safer Neighbourhood Team. By continuing to focus on prevention and early intervention, the changes to the Out of Hours Service would now increase the numbers during the day and ensure that productivity was targeted at the most prevalent times during the night when it was most needed for the noise nuisance calls (Fridays and Saturdays 7pm to 3am). Resources would also be available to cover Part 5 of the ASB Act (Noise Nuisance) during the day.

With the merging of the two teams, one team consisting of 12 people would deal with both Antisocial Behaviour cases and the enforcement of noise nuisance legislation. This team would also adopt additional responsibilities for the enforcement of unlicensed Houses in Multiple Occupations (HMO's), unregistered private landlords and unauthorised gypsy/traveller encampments.

The restructure had taken account of key customer demand and a new shift pattern would be adopted which would provide a more flexible service, with improved coverage and resources which allowed enforcement in relation to amplified noise during day time hours. The service would operate from two zones in the East and West of the county with officers based at the Civic Centre and Winchburgh Burgh Halls. The success of the restructured team would be regularly monitored and reviewed.

It was recommended that the Board note the changes being made to the

Safer Neighbourhood Team and Out of Hours Night Noise Team.

Decision

To note the contents of the report