



Report To:
West Lothian Community Safety Board

From:
West Lothian Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group

**Meeting Date: 5 October 2021
Item 6**

Subject: West Lothian Multi Agency Bonfire Planning 2021

1. Purpose of Report

To Provide CSB with an overview of the multi-agency preventative activities planned within the West Lothian area during the Bonfire / Firework Period 2021.

2. Terms of Report

The aim of this preventative work is to minimise operational demand to all partner agencies, reduce deliberate fire setting and fire related anti-social behaviour and, advise the communities of West Lothian on how best to enjoy bonfire night safely.

Outcome Based Objectives

The success of the prevention work will be measured against the following Outcome Based Objectives:

- Reduce the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires during this time of the year.
- Reduce acts of fire related antisocial behaviour.
- Reduce accidents and injuries arising from fire and fireworks.
- Promote an awareness and, assist to enforce firework legislation.
- Raise an awareness of the impact bonfires and deliberate fire setting has on the environment.
- Reduce the recorded acts of violence on emergency service workers.

Preventative Activity

Demand Reduction Education Plan

- SFRS digital engagement materials are being developed for targeted school age groups P6-S2 – and will be provided to all schools with facilitator notes to include in curriculum.
- Joint engagement (Police and Fire Service) with targeted (high-tariff) schools “virtually” via Police Scotland school campus officers. Where safely possible, face to face engagement will be carried out.
- SFRS Community Action Team will provide virtual support for schools appropriate to the risk.
- All primary schools will be provided with interactive educational resources through GLOW.

- School children will be issued with letters for parents to advise them of the resources available online.
- West Lothian Council Media Team will share SFRS, Crimestoppers and partner safety messages across social media platforms and local publications.

Engagement with firework retailers

- SFRS Fire Safety Enforcement/auditing officers (FSEOs) will provide firework retailers with safety advice to provide to customers.
- FSEOs will, in conjunction with Trading Standards and where necessary, inspect premises storing larger amounts of fireworks to ensure compliance with storage and the sale of fireworks in line with the change in fireworks legislation of June 30th 2021.

Removal of Bonfires

- Nets and Land Services will provide a service where unlicensed bonfires will be uplifted when reported to them from partner agencies.

Youth Engagement

- West Lothian Youth Action Project (WLYAP) will continue to engage with young people in targeted areas (historical hotspots of antisocial behaviour) during detached “streetwork” sessions throughout the period
- Partner working across our communities in West Lothian where antisocial behaviour is identified to engage with young people, creating positive relationships. Support these communities where possible; e.g the Community of Blackburn through the established Blackburn Bonfire Night Action Group.

3. Summary of Implications

Relevant LOIP outcome (s)	We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities People at risk are protected and supported to improve life chances
Relevant LOIP performance indicator (s)	Community Safety Partnership
Resources	Existing Partnership resources from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Police Scotland (PS) and West Lothian Council (WLC).
Link to CPP prevention plan/Community Engagement plan	West Lothian Local Policing Plan Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Plan for West Lothian Equally Safe – National Strategy for Prevention and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls

	Community Justice Strategy 2019-24 Corporate Equality Outcomes 2017-21 Corporate Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23 Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan
Impact on inequalities	None identified
Key risks	Operational demands of COP26 affecting the commitment of partners.

4. Conclusions

It is recognised as best practice that partnership working and early intervention is effective in reducing unlicensed bonfires and resultant injuries. This will enhance community safety. Partners will review and explore the lessons learned using the debrief from the 2020 Multi Agency Plan, including the learning and preventative efforts of the work within our communities of West Lothian.

5. Consultation

Consultation is on-going with Community Safety Partners with this year's first meeting anticipated for mid-September 2021.

6. Recommendation

The Community Safety Board are asked to note the contents of this report and make any comments.

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