

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, HOWDEN SOUTH ROAD, LIVINGSTON, EH54 6FF, on 23 SEPTEMBER 2013.

Present – Councillor John McGinty (Chair), Anne McMillan and Cathy Muldoon; Jim Forrest (Depute Chief Executive, WLC), Donald Forrest (Head of Finance and Estates, WLC), Lorraine Gillies (Community Planning, WLC) Audrey Park (Addiewell Prison), Chief Inspector Stephen Elliot (Police Scotland), Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr (Police Scotland), Sergeant John Jackson (Police Scotland) and David Lockhart (Group Manager, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service)

Apologies – Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Graeme Struthers (Depute Chief Executive, WLC) and Rob Strachan (Lothian & Borders Criminal Justice Authority)

Absent – Councillors Frank Anderson and Peter Johnston

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTE

The Board approved the Minute of its meeting held on 27 June 2013. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY QUARTERLY STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE UPDATE

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.

Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr then provided an explanation of those performance indicators that concerned Hate Crimes, Serious Assault and Youth Calls. The Chief Inspector explained that the increase in hate crimes and which specifically related to the Mosque in Craigshill could have been a result of the heightened tensions following the incident in Woolwich in May 2013.

The Chief Inspector also advised that Police Scotland were also recording against all incidents and crimes where alcohol was a factor.

David Lockhart, Group Manager, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service then provided an explanation of those performance indicators pertaining to the Fire Service and it was noted that there had been an increase in the Livingston South, Livingston North, East Livingston & East Calder and Fauldhouse & Breich Valley Wards of deliberate fires and which was being attributed to the dry summer.

The Board were also advised that there had been a decrease in the number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population in quarter 1 of 2013-14 compared to the previous year; this equated to 5 dwellings.

Chief Inspector Stephen Elliot then took the opportunity to advise the Board that since the last Board meeting in June 2013, a Joint Tasking exercise had been undertaken between Police Scotland and Police Forces from England. This exercise had been well-received by all those involved and included the sharing of best practice.

The Chair then took the opportunity to ask both the Fire Service and Police Scotland if there had been any changes since the inception of the new services.

Chief Inspector Kevin Kerr explained that whilst internal focus had changed service delivery to the public remained the same.

David Lockhart, Group Manager Scottish Fire & Rescue explained that the Strategic Plan was currently out for consultation and which would be the driving force behind the new regime. It was also noted that it was about sharing best practice with fire services across Scotland.

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentations.

Decision

Noted the terms of the report.

4. POLICE SCOTLAND - CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Steering Group providing information on the Police Scotland Campaign Against Violence (CAV) and its identified strategic intentions.

The report explained that a "Campaign Day" was any additional operational deployment by non-front facing office-based Police Officers from a variety of posts such as administration and specified departments, that focussed on reducing violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour. Deployments that were part of the officer's normal business or specialist deployment such as public order or football duties were not counted as a Campaign Day.

Although any additional deployment could be regarded as a Campaign Day, Police Scotland had identified a National Programme of Force Activity highlighting 36 dates over a calendar year split into 4 phases (9 dates per phase). Within each phase there was a compulsory day and officers had been asked to nominate 12 dates split evenly across the 4 phases.

From a West Lothian perspective West Lothian had identified 29 CAV officers who would potentially give 348 days back to front line policing

within an area chosen by them. An officer's shift for a Campaign Against Violence deployment would generally be 18.00hrs – 02.00hrs.

Whilst work was continuing on identifying priority tasks for officers to undertake the first period would focus on the following :-

- Violent Offender Intervention
- Domestic Offender Bail Compliance
- Domestic Offender Intervention
- Progression of Outstanding Domestic Packages
- Violent Offender Warrants
- Monitored/Problematic Licensed Premises Inspection

The second period activity would be intelligence led and would focus on the following :-

- ❖ High Visibility Patrols dealing with the night time economy
- ❖ High Visibility Patrols in identified “hot spot” areas
- ❖ Monitored/problematic licensed premises inspections.

An assessment of all the activity would be undertaken as part of an on-going process and would take into consideration relevant crime figures, performance in key areas identified by Police Scotland and public perception through community engagement and interactions with partner agencies.

The report explored the resource implications for the proposal and it was expected that department supervisors would forward plan and consider operational resilience.

The Board were asked to acknowledge and support the ongoing approach to reduce violence within the communities of West Lothian.

In relation to a question asked Chief Inspector Kerr explained that front line officers from West Lothian would not be redeployed in other areas to cover the Campaign Against Violence days as these would instead be covered by those officers from non front-facing services such as the Police College.

Chief Inspector Elliot then suggested that elected members of the Community Safety Board could participate in a Campaign Against Violence day so they could get a flavour of the work involved and how they were organised.

The Chair thanked Police Scotland for the very informative report.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of report; and
2. Noted that Chief Inspector Elliot would be happy to organise for elected members to participate in a Campaign Against Violence Day so they could learn more about its introduction.

5. "PARTY HOUSES"

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Steering Group advising of the process that was followed by Police Scotland in relation to "Party Houses".

The report advised that in June 2013 Community Policing Teams working in partnership with the Community Safety Unit and their council colleagues adopted a process of ensuring that very close checks were kept upon properties identified as "party houses"; these were houses where it had been identified that the occupants were behaving antisocially on a regular basis and causing fear, alarm and distress to neighbours. This process was relevant to all houses whether they be council property or otherwise.

Incidents where a "personal relationship" was involved were excluded as incidents of this nature were addressed through police domestic abuse intervention policies.

Ownership of the issue of party houses lay with the Community Policing Teams and properties were identified and reviewed on a weekly basis with input from West Lothian Council Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers and the analytical team within the CSU. Police Scotland acted proactively to deter problems from occurring and would often attend the property in question to warn of possible action, should antisocial behaviour be witnessed. Action as appropriate would then be followed up by the SNT Council Officers, who could issue warnings and/or consider further action.

The report concluded that this was a new process so it was not possible at this time to draw conclusions until an appropriate period of time had passed. However since its inception on 4 June 2013, 23 houses had been identified as "party houses". 15 of these properties had since been removed by the Community Policing Teams as a result of reduced incidents; 8 remained on the list and continued to be monitored.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report and commended the partnership working on tackling the problem;
2. Noted that further updates would be provided to future meeting of the Board.

6. WESTDRIVE 2013

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Steering Group providing the members with an understanding of the Westdrive event that had recently been held and its contribution to the identified strategic intention of reducing casualty rates from road traffic accidents.

Police Sergeant John Jackson advised that senior pupils in West Lothian attended “Westdrive” at the end of August 2013 and which was held in Howden Park Centre. The event which was funded by Legacy Lothian and Borders Police and organised by West Lothian Community Safety Unit, aimed to promote driving issues in a positive and fun way whilst delivering a very serious message.

The programme included presentations by the emergency services, demonstrations and a range of interactive activities. There was also a short presentation and a DVD showing which highlighted the dangers of poor decision making when driving and the impact on families and friends when these decisions led to tragic consequences.

The Westdrive event was a partnership event hosted by Police Scotland, alongside Fire Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, The AA, Child Brain Injury, West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Services, Young Marmalade (insurance industry) and the Cycle Touring Club. A young driver who had been seriously injured but survived a road accident also attended to engage with the pupils. 1120 pupils attended over the three days.

The report provided further information on those emergency services involved in the event and also included was some comments that had been received to date from appointed members of the council’s Education Executive. It was noted that whilst evaluation forms had been submitted these were still being collated and analysed however it was clear that in general attendees found the event informative and stated that it would positively impact upon their driving behaviour.

Due to the success of the road safety initiative, it was recommended that Community Safety Partners continue to support this worthwhile safety initiative in order that Westdrive 2014 could be developed and planned in the coming months.

In response to the presentation Audrey Park of Addiewell Prison suggested that for future events consideration could be given to involving those who were serving a sentence for involvement in road traffic accidents so the affect on their lives could also be portrayed.

The Chair thanked Audrey for her contribution and commended Police Scotland for running what was clearly a very successful event and looked forward to it returning in 2014 with continued support from West Lothian Council.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

7. PREPARING WEST LOTHIAN FOR BONFIRE/FIREWORK PERIOD 2013

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Steering Group providing an overview of the preventative work taking place across the Community Safety Partnership in relation to the forthcoming Bonfire/Fireworks period.

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

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

- Reduce the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires during this time of 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; and
- Raise awareness of the impact bonfires and deliberate fire setting had on the environment.

Group Manager David Lockhart continued to advise that the Partnership Analyst played a key role in the identification of hotspot areas from historical and real time data. This information was then shared with all community safety partners to ensure that frontline staff was aware of high risk areas. This would in turn inform the allocation of resources from partner agencies for the delivery of preventative activities.

Prevention activity would include the following :-

- ❖ Demand reduction education plan by working with local primary and secondary schools on fire safety issues;
- ❖ Uplift of unlicensed bonfires;
- ❖ Local media releases using both Facebook and Twitter; and
- ❖ Engagement with firework retailers.

The report concluded that it was recognised as best practice that partnership working and early intervention was effective in reducing unlicensed bonfires and resultant injuries.

Group Manager David Lockhart advised that he would report back to the Board once the bonfire/firework period had passed with a review of the

prevention work undertaken.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

8. PARTNERSHIP FOCUS ON DOMESTIC ABUSE OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD 2013-14

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Steering Group providing an update on the agreed plans for partnership working over the Festive Period 2013-14 focusing on Domestic Abuse.

Police action against the perpetrators of Domestic Abuse was central to the current strategy of keeping communities safe. Whilst the Police achieved a great deal by dealing robustly with domestic offenders and proactively targeting frequent offenders more could be achieved by working with partners in Health, Social Work and the community at large. The proposal was to link Police actions with resources from other partner agencies to promote a firm stand against domestic abuse over the festive period.

The report outlined the several tools that would be available to the Partners and included a range of activities that would be undertaken including a number of events to raise the profile of Domestic Violence in the West Lothian area and which would be co-ordinated by West Lothian Council Gender Equality and Violence against Women Department.

The report continued to provide details of the resource and equality implications for the plan.

The report concluded that the Domestic Abuse Plan for the Festive Period 2013-14 had been agreed by the Reducing Re-Offending Committee and separate action had been agreed to lead service providers to take ownership and take forward. It was proposed that a full review would take place at the conclusion of the Festive Period in order to ascertain the success of the partnership work in the prevention of Domestic Abuse and the provision provided to the families concerned throughout West Lothian, details of which would be reported back to the Board in due course.

Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report; and
2. Welcomed feedback on the programme to a future meeting of the Board.

9. NEW SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT (SOA) AND COMMUNITY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by

the West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Steering Group which provided an update on the development of the new Single Outcome Agreement and wider plans for developing the Community Planning Partnership.

The Community Planning Development Manager explained that West Lothian Community Planning Partnership had recently signed-off its new Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023. The new SOA was different to previous SOA's in that it was a 10-year plan and had moved from 15 to 8 more focused and interrelated outcomes. The development of the new SOA was underpinned by CPP Strategic Assessment and built on the current community plan.

Although the new SOA was signed off, there would be a period of engagement to ensure that all appropriate stakeholders were aware of the new SOA and were geared up to using it before the "go live" date of 1 November 2013. In addition several work streams were underway to focus on a revised governance structure and performance management system before the "go live" date.

The Community Planning Development Manager continued to advise the Board that Audit Scotland had been tasked with auditing all 32 CPP's and had recently completed audits in three pilot areas; North Ayrshire, Scottish Borders and Aberdeen. West Lothian had been confirmed as being in the next tranche of five areas to be audited. The CPP and Audit Scotland were developing the scope of the audit with a view to auditors being on site in January/February 2014.

In relation to the audit :-

- Partners would be asked to contribute to the audit process and provide copies of papers, documents, plans, minutes, etc that demonstrated their commitment to community planning and the actions they had taken as a result; and
- Partners would be asked to meet with auditors and attend meetings and development sessions.

Auditors would be particularly looking for evidence of where strategic community planning and SOA impacted upon communities, where partners had arranged their service delivery to meet SOA and strategic direction, where partners had aligned their strategic development and corporate planning to the SOA and Community Plan and where partners had aligned budgets and resources to meet agreed outcomes.

The new SOA had been developed following an extensive consultation process and a period of community development planning was now underway and would inform the forthcoming audit.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.