

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON , on 23 MARCH 2015.

Present – Councillors John McGinty (Chair), Tony Boyle (substituting for Cathy Muldoon), Peter Johnston and Anne McMillan; Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Graeme Struthers (Depute Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw, (Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services, WLC), Chief Superintendent Gill Imery (Police Scotland), Fiona Young (Lothian & Border Community Justice Authority), Sergeant John Jackson (Police Scotland), Gary Laing (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Steven Michie (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Tim Ward (Senior Manager, Health & Care Partnership, WLC), Yvonne Beresford (Policy & Performance Manage Officer, WLC), Lorraine Gillies (Community Planning Development Manager, WLC) and Colin Heggie (Partnership Analyst, Police Scotland)

Apologies – Councillors Frank Anderson and Cathy Muldoon; Audrey Park, Addiewell Prison.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 6 (Quarterly Performance Report) – Councillor Tony Boyle declared a non-financial interest arising from his position as the council's appointed Chair of the Licensing Board.

2. MINUTE

The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 8 December 2015. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. MINUTE COMMUNITY PLANNING STEERING GROUP

The Board noted the Minute of the meeting of the Community Planning Steering Group held on 23 February 2015.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Prior to consideration of the following item of business the Chair ruled that amended statistics relating to road safety performance be circulated to Board members.

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 Officer, then provided an overview of some of the main performance measures contained in the report.

Following discussions and questions it was agreed that officers would provide elected members with further details of how the figures were compiled for Performance indicator cspV002 (Number of Licensed Premises not Complying with Licensing Board policy or Licensing Legislation).

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and.
2. Agreed that further details be provided on Performance indicator cspV002 (Number of Licensed Premises not Complying with Licensing Board policy or Licensing Legislation) to members of the Board

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES

The Board considered a presentation and accompanying report (copies of which had been circulated) seeking approval for the 2015-18 proposed Community Safety priorities to be published by 1 April 2015, following which a Community Safety Strategy would be prepared incorporating aspects of the strategic assessment and joint action plans.

The report advised that the proposed Community Safety priorities for 2015-18 were discussed at the Joint Tasking Group meeting on 9 February 2015 and the following priorities were determined:-

- Antisocial Behaviour including Hate Crime and Internet Safety.
- Road and Home Safety
- Substance Misuse
- Violence
- Adults at Risk of Financial Harm

The report advised that Adults at Risk of Financial Harm was included due to the complex and wide ranging nature of this type of exploitation. Whilst some victims would be considered in legislative terms as adults in need of support and protection this was included as a Community Safety priority to ensure that activity was ongoing to protect the wider at risk population.

Consideration was also given to making Serious and Organised Crime a priority. The group believed separate work streams were in place to cover this area of business and that no separate work would be required in this area. It was recognised that specific actions surrounding Organised Crime Groups would be incorporated into Strategic Action Plans, where appropriate.

The report went on to advise that Performance Indicators would be reviewed and action plans created for each priority area. The action plans

would incorporate work around the key themes identified by the Strategic Assessment. Initial discussions would concentrate on these key themes to avoid duplication of work in action plans against existing strategies within the partnership.

The report concluded that once approval was granted, action plan development groups would meet during April and May and draft a framework for discussion at the Strategic Steering Group in May and the next Board meeting in June.

These plans would then determine the performance measures and outcomes to be met for the coming year and would be reviewed annually to reflect any emerging threats.

The report recommended that the Community Safety Board approve the Community Safety Priorities 2015 – 2018.

Following discussions the following additional priority was suggested:-

- Organised Crime/Counter Terrorism

It was also suggested that when this item of business was brought back to the Board meeting in June 2015 that it was to include details of how the Action Plans would relate to local communities and the involvement of the council's Local Area Committees.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the presentation and its accompanying report;
2. To approve the contents of the report;
3. Agreed the inclusion of the following additional priority:-
“Organised Crime/Counter Terrorism”; and
4. Agreed that the report to the June meeting of the Community Safety Board include details of how the Action Plans would relate to local communities and the involvement of the council's Local Area Committees

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING 2015-16

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing the results of the approved West Lothian Community Safety fund for the period 2015 – 2016.

The report provided an overview of the types of preventative work that would take place across the Community Safety Partnership during the year. It was recognised that best practise in West Lothian was for services to work together in order to prevent and reduce incidents occurring, and increase the safety within the communities.

Some of the funding initiatives were to varying extents, multi-agency in their approach. To date, each of the funding applications approved for the period 2015 – 2016 offered a repeat service provision.

The report advised that during 2014 it was decided that £50,000 funding for the DASAT (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Team) would be ring-fenced until further notice to ensure that crucial early intervention and prevention work around domestic abuse and sexual violence would continue to take place.

The report listed a number of initiatives that were key to preventing and addressing domestic violence and sexual assault in the long term, and contributed to reducing re-offending and re-victimisation. These preventative initiatives aimed to reduce violence and increase resilience and recovery for victims.

The report also advised that in addition, the Community Safety Partnership was keen to utilise other funding streams in an attempt to retain as much funding as possible. This would enable partners to utilise any retained funding and respond to any trends and emerging threats that arose throughout the year.

With this in mind, Police Scotland requested funding of £2.5k from their Community Partnership Fund to go towards Westdrive. Similarly, WLC sports were requested to apply to Youthink Scotland for £10,850 to utilise an underspend in WL Cashback for Communities fund.

The fund was currently showing a total available spend for the budget period of £4,741 although it could increase to as much as £17,821 if the alternative funding sources were confirmed. This would ensure that the maximum funding was available for any unforeseen emerging threats within community safety in the following year.

In conclusion, whilst acknowledging the good work carried out by Partners and the great outcomes achieved, the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group recognised the need for a review on future funding processes. Given the current financial climate, changes in the way funding allocations were determined in future was highly likely.

The report recommended that the Community Safety Board acknowledge the current agreement of funding approved for expenditure during 2015/16 and the proposal to make changes to the allocation of funding from 2016/17.

Decision

Approved the terms of the report.

7. POLICE SCOTLAND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising of Police Scotland's intention to introduce the Police Scotland

Youth Volunteers (PSYV) programme in West Lothian.

The report advised that the objectives of the PSYV were to:-

- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people;
- Encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship;
- Support local policing priorities through volunteering;
- Give young people a chance to be heard; and
- Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.

The report went on to advise that youth volunteers would undertake a range of training sessions to gain confidence, take part in physical activities, learn about community safety, make friends and develop leadership skills.

At the same time there were opportunities to acquire recognised awards such as Youth Achievement Awards. It was anticipated that volunteers would use the volunteering to gain new experience, gain qualifications and enhance their CV's.

One of the original targets intended within the PSYV programme was that 30% of all participants would fit with vulnerable criteria, although this was changed to 25% to keep in line with England and Wales.

Sergeant Jackson advised that volunteers would have to apply through normal channels. Volunteers would be engaged in a range of volunteering experiences that were uniquely available through police resources and opportunities.

Police Scotland's perspective was that youth volunteers would be a physical representation of Police Scotland's commitment to supporting young people in Scotland.

The West Lothian PSYV programme was fully funded by the Scottish Government and would be co-ordinated by School Link Officer Constable Macaulay, supported by Constables Thomson and Corner and staff from the Community Safety Unit.

The report concluded that the local development of this national programme was a benefit for the West Lothian community. Evaluation of the five pilot areas identified numerous benefits to the Youth and Adult Volunteers, Police Scotland, and the wider community.

The report recommended that the Community Safety Board welcome and support the PSYV programme.

Sergeant Jackson was then asked as to why the programme was being introduced at Bathgate and Armadale Academies only and whether there were plans to expand the programme. The Board were advised that much

Careful consideration had been given to the selection of Bathgate and Armadale as the transport links for the young people involved in the programme made their getting out and about much easier and also for when they returned home at the end of the day. Additionally there were a number of events in these areas at which youth volunteers could be put to much use and provide them with an invaluable experience.

Additionally the programme was being funded by the Scottish Government for twenty four places but no further information was available with regards to expanding the programme. The programme was also being seen as an addition to the number of diversionary programmes already in existence for young people.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.