

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON , on 7 DECEMBER 2015.

Present – Councillors John McGinty (Chair), Dave King (substituting for Cathy Muldoon) and Anne McMillan; Graeme Struthers (Depute Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw (Head of Housing, Construction and Building Services, WLC), Yvonne Beresford (Policy & Performance Officer, WLC), Tim Ward (Senior Manager, Health & Care Partnership, WLC) Audrey Park (Addiewell Prison), Inspector Brian Auld (Police Scotland), Sergeant John Jackson (Police Scotland) and Eddie Ritchie (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service)

Apologies – Councillors Peter Johnston and Cathy Muldoon; Fiona Young (Criminal Justice Authority)

Absent – Councillor Frank Anderson

1. MINUTES -

- a) The Board confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 21 September 2015; and
- b) The Board noted the Minute of the meeting of the Community Planning Steering Group held on 2 November 2015.

2. 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.

Yvonne Beresford, Policy and Performance Manager, WLC provided an overview of some of the main performance measures contained within the report, highlighting some of the issues surrounding Youth Calls and Vandalism noting the work that were being carried out in the community in terms of diversion activities for young people.

The Chair then invited Eddie Ritchie to comment on those indicators pertaining to the Fire Service noting that bin fires were still continuing to cause concern in the community and that the fire service were working closely with the council on the types of materials used in the manufacture of household bins.

The Board were advised that the Fire Service along with the council and Police Scotland were working together to engage with the young people in the community on the creation of diversion activities and to monitor those young people who were most at risk at causing harm in the community.

The Chair then invited Inspector Brian Auld to comment on those

indicators pertaining to Police Scotland. It was reported that a spike in Hate Crime incidents had been expected on the back of the recent terror incidents in Paris but fortunately this had not occurred. It was explained that Police Scotland felt that Hate Crime was being under reported and had been running a campaign to encourage residents to report such incidents.

In relation to Hate Crime incidents Councillor McMillan enquired to such incidents perpetrated against staff at St John's Hospital. The Inspector explained that very often such incidents were alcohol related and not necessarily targeted to individual members of staff.

The Chair concluded by commending all the partners on their partnership working noting that the indicators were heading in the right direction which was a testament to that partnership working.

### Decision

To note the contents of the report

## 3. WEST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2018

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been) and to which was attached the West Lothian Community Safety Strategic Plan 2015-18.

However prior to further consideration of the Strategic Plan it was noted that the Plan had been further updated since the agenda had been circulated and this was provided in presentation format to the Board.

The Community Safety Strategic Plan 2015-18 highlighted the priorities for the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership with the overall aim to protect the wellbeing of people living in West Lothian and help them to feel safe in strong, inclusive communities.

The West Lothian Community Safety Partnership had established strong and effective joint working arrangements that were already addressing and preventing crime. Each partner was committed to priorities contained within the Strategic Plan and would continue to work to reduce antisocial behaviour, crime and negative trends within communities within West Lothian, making it a safe place to stay, work and visit.

The Strategic Plan comprised of the six priorities; these being Substance Misuse, Home, Fire & Road Safety, Antisocial Behaviour & Hate Crime, Violence, Serious & Organised Crime & Counter Terrorism and Financial Harm, noting that each priority would have a set of performance indicators and an Action Plan. The Strategic Plan was an evolving document and it anticipated that it would be refreshed on an annual basis.

A summary of implications for the Single Outcome Agreement were detailed in the report and it was recommended that the Community Safety Board provide any comments for consideration whilst the plan was in draft format and to recommend that the plan be submitted to the Community

Planning Partnership Board for partnership approval.

It was noted that the Strategic Plan contained some targets that had already been achieved and therefore the refresh would have to take this into account so that targets remained challenging.

The Chair also raised a question with regards to public consultation on the document noting that whilst the views of the public and the partners had been taken into consideration in the preparation of the document it would still be helpful to ensure that this was included and acknowledged in the final version of the plan.

The Chair also requested that given that the plan had recently been updated that this version be circulated to the partners for comment.

It was recommended that the Board note the contents of the updated Strategic Plan and agree that it be submitted to the Community Planning Partnership Board for approval.

#### Decision

- 1) Noted the contents of the update version of the Strategic Plan;
- 2) Agreed to consider targets that had already been achieved and how these could be made more challenging in future plans;
- 3) Agreed to include a paragraph within the Strategic Plan on what community engagement had been undertaken in formulating the plan; and
- 4) Agreed to circulate the revised plan to members of the Board for comment.

#### 4. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY JUSTICE REDESIGN - WEST LOTHIAN PROPOSED MODEL FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the proposed model and implementation process that would be followed by West Lothian for the Scottish Government Community Justice Redesign, with further details contained in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

The Head of Social Policy advised that West Lothian was now in the early stages of planning the details of the transition towards the new arrangements noting that there was a major challenge in ensuring that all relevant local bodies were kept informed and could have their reviews represented in the final agreement.

A number of actions had been taken to date and included the following :-

- The setting up of the West Lothian Reducing Reoffending Committee structure in early 2013;

- Discussions in various forums about the future shape of governance for Community Justice Redesign; and
- The first meeting of the Community Justice and Community Safety Implementation Group

Consultation to date had included the full range of justice and planning partners including direct contact with the staff delivering services. Consideration was also being given on how best to raise public awareness of the changes ahead.

A summary of implications for the Single Outcome Agreement were summarised in the report and it was recommended that the Board agree the following:-

1. That the draft Transition Plan be circulated electronically for consultation by the beginning of December 2015;
2. That any comments arising from the consultation were considered by the Community Justice and Community Safety Implementation Group and where relevant were incorporated into the final draft of the Transition Plan;
3. That the Transition Plan and an accompanying report be presented to the meeting of the Social Policy Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 14 January 2016 for ratification; and
4. That the final version of the report be signed off by the Leader of the Council in his role as Chair of the Community Safety Board and by the Chair of the Community Planning Partnership Board.

#### Decision

To approve the terms of the report

#### 5. POLICE SCOTLAND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS UPDATE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers programme in West Lothian.

The Board were advised that when recruitment started in West Lothian a total of 226 application forms were issued to young people who had expressed an interest. Of these 61 forms were returned and from those 24 volunteers were selected.

The 24 volunteers had now undergone the basic training programme which was primarily carried out during the summer holidays and allowed for the compulsory 12 week training programme to be completed. The training included team building exercises, workshops on rules and expectations, learning the phonetic alphabet, radio procedure, notebook procedure and standards as well as drill practice for the passing out

parade.

The completion of the compulsory training was marked with a “Pass Out” parade at West Lothian Civic Centre on 3 October 2015 when they were formally inspected and congratulated by Police Superintendent Andrew Clark and Leader of the Council Councillor John McGinty.

The volunteers were now ready to start a three year training programme developed at the Scottish Police College. They would also be given opportunities to volunteer at events both locally and nationally which would allow them to develop confidence and leadership skills while helping in local communities and further afield. It would also enable them to work towards their Saltire award which would assist them with future applications for employment, college or university.

Sergeant Jackson also reported that since the report had been compiled the volunteers had been provided with Mental Health & Autism training and had started to be deployed as volunteers on passenger commuter trains.

In relation to a question asked by Councillor McMillan to the roll out of the programme Sergeant Jackson explained that the 24 volunteers in West Lothian was the maximum that would be recruited to the programme for this area and that Police Scotland efforts would be concentrated on those areas in Scotland that had yet to recruit any volunteers

A summary of the implications for the Single Outcome Agreement were summarised in the report.

It was recommended that the Community Safety Board welcome and support the programme development.

#### Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. Recorded a note of congratulations to Police Scotland on the development of the programme.

#### 6. PROPOSED COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING DATES FOR 2016

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising of the proposed dates for meetings of the Community Safety Board in 2016. Dates for the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group were also detailed in the report.

The proposed meeting dates for the Community Safety Board in 2016 were as follows :-

- Monday 21 March 2016
- Monday 13 June 2016

- Monday 19 September 2016
- Monday 12 December 2016

The following dates were also proposed for meetings of the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group in 2016 :-

- ❖ Tuesday 23 February 2016
- ❖ Tuesday 17 May 2016
- ❖ Tuesday 23 August 2016
- ❖ Tuesday 14 November 2016

It was recommended that the Community Safety Board approve the dates for its meetings in 2016 as outlined in the report.

#### Decision

To approve the terms of the report

### 7. CLOSING REMARKS

Eddie Ritchie wished to record a note of thanks on behalf of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to all the partners for their assistance with a recent inspection and the positive comments received from the partners which contributed greatly to the outcome.