

ITEM No ...4.....

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE –
19 AUGUST 2019

REPORT ON: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND JUSTICE PROGRESS REPORT 2018/19

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 252-2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an overview of progress on Community Safety and Justice related activity in 2018/19.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Safety and Public Protection Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the content of this report and the continued progress made in relation to Community Safety and Justice.
- 2.2 Notes that the effective delivery of Community Safety and Justice continues to be an important element of the City Plan and the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 2.3 Instructs the Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services to provide a further report on progress in 12 months.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None

4.0 UPDATE

4.1 Reduced Levels of Crime

- 4.1.1 Since the establishment of the Community Safety & Justice Executive Board, a number of successful initiatives have either continued or been newly implemented across the city. They appear to be having a significant impact on reducing most types of crime and this is evidenced in the paragraphs below.
- 4.1.2 A joint scheme with the National Retail crime group was run to tackle issues relating to thefts within the City Centre with a “pop up shop” set up, staffed by Community Officers providing guidance and advice. Lanyards for attaching purses and wallets to for extra security were handed out as well as whistles for alerting assistance.
- 4.1.3 In Operation Moonbeam during Halloween and Bonfire night, joint partnership patrols were undertaken with Community Wardens and members of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to assess and respond to incidents appropriately. Community Officers visited schools and provided input in relation to the risks around fireworks, to discourage individuals from obtaining them and setting them off recklessly.
- 4.1.4 Partners worked together in Operation Fundamental and Operation Slate, to target people involved in the supply of illicit drugs and to minimise its harmful impact on local communities and families, including child and adult protection issues. A number of arrests were made, drugs were seized and 1091 people were given advice regarding available support services and outlets for Naloxone.

4.1.5 The Scottish Government has recently published reconviction rate figures for the 2016/17 offender cohort. The two key reconviction rates are the '1 year reconviction rate', which is the percentage of offenders who are reconvicted in a year and 'average number of reconvictions per offender'. Reconviction rates in Dundee have continued to reduce, which marks an overall ten year downward trend. They moved from 27.8% (2015/16 cohort) to 25.2% (2016/17 cohort). The average number of reconvictions per offender has also reduced from 0.47 to 0.42 in the same time period. The Dundee figures for the 2016/17 cohort are better than the Scottish average of 27.2% and 0.48 respectively.

4.2 **Reduced Levels of Domestic Abuse**

4.2.1 In response to disproportionately high levels of domestic abuse across the city, there was a particular focus on both targeting perpetrators and providing helpful support to victims. A range of initiatives were similarly maintained or developed, these include Safe and Together, the Caledonian System and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC).

4.2.2 There was a renewed focus on implementing Safe and Together in Dundee. The Safe and Together model is based on the assumption that a wide range of professionals and frontline staff must be 'Domestic Abuse Informed' in order to adequately respond to their responsibility of child safety and well-being. It provides a concrete framework for improving competencies and multi-agency collaboration in domestic abuse cases involving children. Essentially, this is a set of tools and interventions that are perpetrator pattern-based, child-centred and take a survivor strengths approach to working with domestic violence. Staff feedback at an event in October 2018 resulted in a number of actions, including a short life working group to develop resources/guidance; a practitioner forum to develop skills and confidence in the delivery of the framework; and briefing sessions to services and teams. A series of topics will be discussed at each forum, with the first focusing on the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) risk assessment tool. Case mapping/mentoring will be introduced in the longer term.

4.2.3 The Caledonian System for addressing domestic abuse has been implemented in Dundee. This introduces an accredited programme to address the behaviour of men convicted of a Domestic Abuse offence and sentenced by the Court to an Order (most commonly a Community Payback Order) with a Requirement to undertake a Domestic Abuse Programme. In addition, the Caledonian system works to an integrated model, drawing on the principles that inform the Safe and Together model, namely that steps should be taken to address the behaviour of perpetrators, whilst simultaneously offering support to victims, and providing support to children. The Caledonian programme will involve partnership working with Action for Children and Women's Aid to support women and children along with the recruitment of new staff and an extensive programme of staff training in the Community Justice Service. The programme became available to the Court from May 2019.

4.2.4 A review of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) was carried out by the Protecting People Team with support from the Violence Against Women Partnership. The Chief Officer Group were presented with the findings and the implementation of the recommendations are underway. These include recommendations relating to attendance, chairing and administration arrangements, support for representatives, practice issues relating to strengthening referral pathways and training and development for the wider workforce.

4.2.5 The introduction of the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 which came into force at the beginning of April 2019, will enhance the tools available to bring perpetrators to justice including the addition of coercive control. Whilst in its infancy this legislation will lead to an increase in domestic abuse incidents being recorded due to the added behaviours that constitute criminality along with ensuring the corresponding recording to meet Scottish Crime Recording Standards. Extensive training has been carried out to ensure Police Officers understand and can implement the legislation.

4.3 Develop Alternatives to Short-Term Prison Sentences and Remand

4.3.1 Partners continue to develop a range of interventions across the criminal justice system in order to ensure that timely, proportionate and cost effective responses can be delivered, increase community safety and improve outcomes for adults who offend. Some key points are as follows:

- A further increase in Diversion from Prosecution referrals from 56 in 2016/17 to 92 in 2017/18.
- Overall, a smaller proportion of people received a custodial sentence following consideration of a court report. Instead, the Sheriff Court has imposed a higher proportion of community based sentences.
- Successful completion rates for CPOs continued to increase over the last 5 years – in 2017/18, 81% were successfully completed.
- Dundee Community Justice Service has also prioritised funding for a mentoring scheme that offers support to those on bail and on community orders.
- In addition, the Service offers national validated programmes such as Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) to address sexual offending. Co-located nursing staff are able to offer Drug and Alcohol treatment programmes and a specialist Women's team offers holistic support to women.

4.3.2 In the last year, Dundee City Council has continued to develop and maintain individual placements to offer a more broad range of opportunities to meet the needs of community organisations as well as utilise and develop the skills of people made subject to unpaid work. Specific examples of unpaid work activities in 2017/18 includes constructing and maintaining stands for the Vegetable Society's Dundee branch at the Dundee Flower and Food Festival, transforming neglected areas of land into more productive Community Gardens. Two of these Community Gardens, namely Tay View at Robertson Street, and the Whorterbank Community Garden incorporating 'The Tattie Patch', briefly featured on the BBC television programme the Beechgrove Garden. Efforts are ongoing to explore how improvements can be made in relation to skills training opportunities for people whilst they are undertaking unpaid work, enhancing current links to community based employability services and developing new placement opportunities.

4.3.3 It is also of note that a new Community Custody Unit for women who have offended was approved over the last 12 months. This positive initiative is being progressed with the Scottish Prison Service and other partners.

4.4 Road Safety

4.4.1 In order to improve road safety, a Tayside Road Safety Forum has been established. The purpose is to develop a strategy of co-ordination and co-operation between Forum members, in relation to the delivery of road safety education, enforcement, engineering and encouragement in Tayside, whereby all members will work jointly, where practicable, towards achieving Government set road safety casualty reduction figures. Terms of Reference have been developed and a strategy and action plan are in progress.

4.4.2 A number of initiatives relating to road safety have taken place. As part of the ongoing work with Go Safe Dundee to raise awareness and promote road safety of pupils in and around primary schools, a short film has been funded and recorded. Filming took place across various locations in Dundee with the assistance of Community Police Officers and partner agencies, highlighting specific dangers a child can encounter whilst walking to school. The film is to be used to raise awareness with pupils and parents through various formats including social media and the web.

4.4.3 Community Police Officers have also undertaken training to become Bikeability instructors. This will allow officers to support schools in the delivery of training to pupils about riding their

bike safely. This is a great opportunity for officers to build trust and confidence with school pupils which will assist with crime prevention and ASB inputs.

- 4.4.4 In April 2019 City Centre Officers worked in partnership to launch the Safe Travel Initiative. This is a new initiative to set out local processes to facilitate Xplore Dundee, Police Scotland and the Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Team working together to manage and prevent incidents of criminality and antisocial behaviour on or near Xplore Dundee's buses. This initiative will provide support and reassurance to Xplore staff and passengers and ensure that whilst they are carrying out their work or travelling on the bus they can do so without fear of any incidents. It is the intention, through this joint protocol, for Police Officers and Community Safety Wardens to regularly carry out high visibility patrols on the buses and to prevent the number of incidents of criminality or antisocial behaviour happening and in turn keep drivers and passengers safe.
- 4.4.5 The multi-agency Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) Roadshow continues to provide positive feedback year on year whilst providing a hard hitting message to develop awareness of the serious risks associated with driving. SDSA events bring together a large number of young people, and use a mixture of film, live presentation and real life testimony from members of the emergency services (who regularly deal with road collisions) and from members of the public (whose lives have been affected by road collisions). The latest event was held at the Caird Hall, Dundee in November, stewarded by Dundee Community Action Team members and local firefighters and was delivered to approximately 1400 S5 school pupils across Dundee Secondary Schools and a number of other youth groups. By sharing experiences of needless tragedies with young people it helps them consider their actions so they can choose never to put themselves or others at risk. This event will be reviewed for the forthcoming year as part of the partnership approach to effective and efficient delivery of youth engagement activities.

4.5 **Community Safety**

- 4.5.1 Efforts continue to improve safety within our local communities by reducing the risk to life, property and the environment from fire and reduce levels of anti-social behaviour. The Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) team use CCTV to assist with general community safety and last year this led to several permanent overt cameras being installed in Maryfield, an area where there had been repeat problems. This has reduced complaints in this area. During 2019/20 a similar installation is planned for the Lochee Ward.
- 4.5.2 The use of the Fast Online Referral and Tracking (FORT) system is being explored as a means to implement the Home Safety Scheme. FORT is an electronic system that allows for agencies to easily refer clients online to other agencies in order to provide a particular service. The system creates heightened awareness of the importance and effectiveness of joint working and information sharing, supporting agencies and staff to work within their own areas of expertise, whilst aiding the development of a broader understanding and utilisation of other services. It can be accessed through standard internet browsers. If it is used to implement the Home Safety Scheme, it would provide a co-ordinated response for those in vulnerable groups and allow opportunity to make full use of all available services.
- 4.5.3 Community Safety Wardens have reported that information sharing has improved with the introduction of local Multi-Agency Tactical and Co-ordinating (MATAC) meetings, which also allow for a wider set of interventions to be considered. Community representation will be encouraged through 2019/20.
- 4.5.4 The ASB team continues to have an input in housing allocations. The allocations policy for housing can play a part in reducing anti-social behaviour complaints. Furthermore changes have been made to the eviction process to improve working practices between the ASB team and Housing Options team. Previously, if an eviction was granted, the person would go into the normal homeless process. Now, they look at holding a multi-agency meeting with all relevant staff involved with the individual to plan the best outcome post eviction, including supported accommodation options and level of supports required to ensure a sustainable

tenancy moving forward. Similarly, the working relationship with Tenancy and Estates also continues to improve, and as such, some of the low level tenancy management issues are being more appropriately recorded and managed by the Tenancy Officers.

- 4.5.5 Joint patrols with Community Wardens and Police Scotland have taken place across the reporting period to tackle areas of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, this is supported by analytical product highlighting hot-spot areas and resulted in environmental scanning which has highlighted areas for improvement in security measures. This sort of activity and target tasking allows us to focus on key locations and prevent and deter incidents from occurring.
- 4.5.6 Various different diversionary measures were trialled and used across the City, including:
- Twilight Basketball at the Kirkton Community Centre, held every Friday night by professional coaches and supported by the Kirkton Management Group, which sees youngsters provided with a safe place to learn and take part in sport.
 - Joint visits to identified youths were carried out by Police Officers, Community Wardens, Night Time Noise and Anti-Social Behaviour Teams across the city, in order to intervene early in an effort to disrupt incidents which may result in violence. These visits not only resulted in a reduction in calls of anti-social behaviour/violence, but they were positively received by the youths who were supportive and receptive to this approach.
 - A 146% increase in Diversion cases for 16-17 year olds, where cases increased from 15 to 37.
- 4.5.7 Operation Islington was launched in January 2018 by Police Scotland and continues to tackle violence and anti-social behaviour within the City of Dundee. As part of this initiative, officers asked local licensees, off licences and taxi companies to pass on any information or concerns they may have regarding large purchases of alcohol or food, which may identify so called 'party' flats or locations where alcohol or drugs may be being misused.
- 4.5.8 The Safety and Alarm Response Centre (SARC) has been successfully established within the West District Housing Office. It became fully operational as of 1 April 2019 and aims to create a safer community for residents by empowering the council to respond to incidents faster. Prior to the 1 April, there was only a partial service provided to tenants in multi storey blocks. This new system will provide comprehensive CCTV monitoring, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing footage from property-related council CCTV cameras under one roof, including all multi-storey blocks, environmental depots and council car parks and Dundee House. The initiative is designed to reduce criminal activity and antisocial behaviour as well as protect citizens as well as buildings and other assets. It will also allow the council to respond in a timely manner during emergencies as well as play a crucial role in emergency planning. Since 1 April, staff have already been able to detect a variety of incidents from serious assault to house parties and insecure properties.
- 4.5.9 In addition, the Hate Incident Sub Group has been established as a sub group of the Community Safety Partnership. The group aims include increasing education, awareness and understanding of hate incidents, helping reduce the occurrence of hate incidents and number of victims, optimising the ways in which victims can report hate incidents and sharing best practice.

5.0 SUMMARY

- 5.1 In summary, this report shows that good progress has been made by local community safety and justice partners since the establishment of the Community Safety and Justice Executive Board. This includes work in relation to reducing levels of crime, reducing levels of domestic abuse, developing alternatives to short-term prison sentences, road safety and community safety. Efforts will continue and future reports on progress will be provided as appropriate.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at www.dundee.gov.uk/iia.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None

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03 June 2019