

ITEM No ...2.....

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE –
22 NOVEMBER 2021**

REPORT ON: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND JUSTICE PROGRESS REPORT 2020-21

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 323-2021

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an annual update on activities relating to Community Safety and Justice as outlined in the City Plan, incorporating the first update on the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2020-23. As the report covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, it outlines how services have been adapted and sustained during the first 12 months of the Covid-19 pandemic. A previous update report was considered in January 2021 on 2019-20 progress on the previous Community Justice Plan (Article IV of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 11th January 2021 refers).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 2.1 Notes the effective delivery of Community Safety and Justice as an important element of the City Plan and the associated Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 2.2 Instruct the Executive Director of Neighborhood Services to provide a further update on Community Safety and Justice in 12 months.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None

4.0 UPDATE

4.1 Reduced Levels of Crime

4.1.1 Over the reporting period, several targeted operations have been successfully delivered, designed to reduce levels crime. These include:

- **The Hilltown Policing Plan** - implemented in Dundee to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour associated with drug use around the Hilltown multi-story flats, support residents effected by criminal and anti-social behaviour and increase their sense of safety. The operation reduced both calls and recorded crime by 20% within the first three months of its implementation. The scheme has been extended into the next reporting year.
- **Operation After Dark** - implemented to identify any vulnerable properties, engage with those property owners and deliver crime prevention advice. The Police Scotland Youth Volunteer Teams were actively engaged in this work.
- **Hate crime** - a National Hate Crime event was due to take place in the city as a collaboration between the Scottish Community Safety Network and the Council but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, at the start of the reporting period a Hate Crime Campaign was delivered which involved 17 different events across a range of community locations tailoring Hate Crime messaging to different audiences.
- **Acquisitive crime** - an operation was led by the Community Investigation Unit (CIU) between January and March 2021. This was linked to offenders targeting commercial premises within both the City Centre and Wester Gourdie Industrial Estate. A series of arrests were made.

- **Maryfield Violence Prevention Operation** - instigated in the latter part of the year, in response to increasing numbers of Serious Assaults and Robberies. The operation concentrated on targeting repeat offenders in respect of enforcement action, intelligence gathering, high profile patrols in higher crime areas, the completion of drug enforcement activity and the delivery of intervention visits to repeat victims.
- **Fraud** - in order to tackle fraud/scam related incidents and prevent repeat victims, there is a full review of the circumstances, ensuring support is provided to victims. Police Scotland have strengthened relationships with Neighbourhood Schemes to encourage those affected to sign up to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, where they are provided with alerts of any scams.

4.1.2 Police Scotland Tayside Division Partnerships chair a monthly Violence Prevention Board, which meets to coordinate and deliver sustained and directed preventative activity in order to tackle an increase in robberies. It is recognised that the majority of victims and offenders are often known to each other and are linked to substance misuse. All opportunities are explored by partnership officers along with other agencies to carry out joint visits in order to engage with those vulnerable individuals. Training has been provided to agencies in relation to identifying the signs of cuckooing/county lines with further sessions planned.

4.1.3 The most recent Scottish Government reconviction rate figures are for the 2018/19 offender cohort and therefore precede this reporting period. 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 rose for the first time in 5 years, moving from 25.0% in 2017-18 to 26.2% in 2018-19. The average number of reconvictions per offender also rose, from 0.44 to 0.47. However, this remained better than the Scottish average, which was 28.3% and 0.50 respectively.

4.2 **Reduced Levels of Domestic Abuse**

4.2.1 In response to relatively high levels of domestic abuse across the city, there was a particular focus on both targeting perpetrators and providing support to victims.

4.2.2 Every Domestic Incident attended by Police Scotland across Dundee results in a victim centered investigation, underpinned by the completion of a Domestic Abuse Questionnaire. This questionnaire provides an empirical means to assess and evidence the level of risk associated with the incident, the wider relationship and the offender. This risk assessment activity is supported by the creation of a Safety Plan for each victim which includes a bespoke set of safety measures specific to that victim. This can include practical steps such as the Police provision of a mobile phone, establishing supports from neighbours, family and friends, security advice in respect of the victim's home, or in some cases tenancy support to move victims to safer accommodation.

4.2.3 There is also a key focus on the perpetrators of domestic incidents through making early arrests, delivering multi-agency intervention and seeking prohibitive civil and criminal court orders where applicable. Every high-risk domestic incident is reviewed at the Area Commander's daily briefing and tasking meeting. Throughout the course of this reporting period, most domestic abuse perpetrators have been traced and arrested in respect of domestic offences, within the first 24 hours of the crime occurring. Similarly, there have been significant increases in number of people pro-actively arrested in respect of breach of bail, with a significant portion of those offences relating to domestic offenders.

4.2.4 Domestic Abuse Intensification periods have taken place in Dundee, the first of which was delivered in September 2020. This involved joint working between the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and Local Policing Area uniform officers with support from partner agencies. Officers progressed outstanding perpetrator packages, domestic warrants and disclosures as part of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS).

- 4.2.5 A Violence Against Women (VAW) multi-agency Covid-19 group was formed at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic to collect and scrutinise data to inform targeting of resources. A Risk Register was created and maintained to mitigate risk. This created an environment of shared learning and improved the collective response to Domestic Abuse. A strong media presence was maintained throughout this period, to inform victims that services continued to be available. A VAW Partnership training consortium has also been established to collate and improve training across all Gendered Based Violence areas. This will assist to reduce resourcing demands across all agencies in relation to the delivery of training and improve levels of service to victims regardless of the agency they are presenting to.
- 4.2.6 The Community Justice Service (CJS), alongside Partners in Perth and the Third sector, introduced the Caledonian system for addressing Domestic Abuse in April 2019. This provided a nationally accredited programme for men convicted of a domestic offence alongside support to the partners, ex-partners and children. The introduction of Caledonian also enhanced the report writing process with non-convicted information (for example Police callouts that did not lead to a charge) being considered as part of the assessment, alongside an invitation to the victim to share their perspective. As well as Caledonian, CJS has continued to offer a Respect Programme which can be more suitable for people less able to attend groupwork. In 2018-19, nine men were made subject to a Community Payback Order (CPO) with a Domestic Abuse Programme requirement. In 2019-20 after the introduction of Caledonian, this increased to 23 Caledonian orders plus 18 Respect. The numbers were lower in 2020-21 due to the reduction in Court sittings during Covid-19 but there were still 9 new Caledonian Orders and 15 for Respect. The Caledonian Woman's worker continued to offer support to partners and ex-partners of the men involved in the programme.

4.3 Reducing Re-offending

- 4.3.1 Partners continued 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:
- **Diversion from Prosecution** - the number of referrals for Diversion from prosecution cases continued to rise, moving from 140 in 2019-20 to 187 in 2020-21 (a 44% increase). The number of Diversion cases successfully completed has also risen, moving from 67 in 2019-20 to 80 in 2020-21. A total of 46% of diversion cases commenced were for those aged 16-17, 7% higher than in the previous year. .
 - **Community Payback Orders** - overall, 77% of all Community Payback Orders were successfully completed in 2020-21. This is an increase of 9% on the previous year.
 - **Short-term prisoners** - in 2020-21, 215 prisoners voluntarily engaged with support in the community when released, 24% more than the previous year when there were 174 prisoners engaged. This suggests that prisoners are responding to proactive support within the prison and that their confidence in available community-based support is growing
- 4.3.2 In terms of short-term prisoners, the impact of the pandemic on prisons led to a decision from the Scottish Government to release certain low risk prisoners early, in 3 tranches during the month of May 2020. This was a strong example of how the Community Justice Partnership (CJP) adapted to the challenges of Covid-19, with a "Virtual team" created to coordinate transitional arrangements from prison and community-based support in response. This included the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), Prison Healthcare, Police Scotland, Community Justice Service, Housing, Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, Third sector, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and emergency food provision. Information sharing was enhanced and support was progressed efficiently and effectively. After the prisoners had been released, partners decided to sustain the approach and continue to meet on a quarterly basis as an operational group.

- 4.3.3 During the pandemic, action was taken to ensure that the CJS centre at Friarfield House remained open throughout, with strict Public Health adjustments made to allow appointments to continue. This allowed all requested Court Reports to be written and all people on Community Payback Orders requiring individual supervision to continue. Similarly, all people required to undertake programme work as part of their Order, such as Caledonian for Domestic Abuse and Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) for sex offences, had their programme work delivered by replacing usual groupwork with individual work and hosting smaller groups when Public Health guidance allowed.
- 4.3.4 The appointments at Friarfield House have been delivered alongside telephone contact and home visits according to a system where face to face contact has been prioritised base on an assessment of risk and need. The framework for prioritised contact was set out in new Minimum Practice Requirements, which were also accompanied by regular auditing to ensure that individuals were being contacted and seen face to face at the agreed frequency. Within this system, individuals assessed as higher risk to others and managed under MAPPA have been prioritised for higher levels of face-to-face contact. All multiagency Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) case conferences continued at the same frequency through teleconference. A Tayside-wide audit undertaken of MAPPA activity based on input into the shared Visor database, showed that for 12 randomly selected MAPPA managed individuals, over the same 3-month period, Dundee had a very high level of face-to-face contact.
- 4.3.5 In CJS, the service also navigated the challenges of the pandemic to sustain partial delivery of Unpaid Work. The pandemic involved two prolonged suspensions of work and required reduced service user to staff ratios when work was able to be carried out. As a result, a lower annual total of 5,569 hours of unpaid work was carried out over the year compared to the pre-pandemic figure of 30,934 hours in 2019-20. Nevertheless, when unpaid work was able to operate, work teams continued to provide practical benefits across the city, including restoring multiple benches from the NHS Tayside estate (30+), making a mud kitchen and raised beds for a local school, assisting a vulnerable resident to tidy a garden and erect a fence, repairs to sheds and furniture, painting railings, cleaning up leaves, assisting in charity shop to remove items that could not be sold, litter picking and continued work at 'the piggery' - a three quarter acre site at the bottom of the Dundee Law, to create a community growing space. It received consistently positive feedback from both the individuals carrying out their work and from the recipients
- 4.3.6 The Other Activities element of unpaid work is delivered separately to the work of the Unpaid Work Project Team and Individual Placements. The Unpaid Work Case Managers identify appropriate activities that would meet the criteria for Other Activity, which is other rehabilitative activities which promote desistance such as alcohol and drug education; literacy and numeracy training; and employability support. Maintaining adherence to the legislative requirement that this element of the Order must not exceed 30% of the specified number of hours, the overall amount of Other Activity increased by 270% in 2020/21.

4.4 **Road Safety**

- 4.4.1 During the summer months local and national campaigns were delivered across the city, including the Summer Drink Drive campaign, Motorcycle Campaign, Seatbelt/Speed and Mobile Phone days of action, Project EDWARD (European Day Without a Road Death) and the Vulnerable Road Users Campaign. In the winter months, there was the Get Ready for Winter Campaign, BRAKE Road Safety Week and a Festive Drink Drive campaign targeting those risk associated with a lack of preparedness for winter driving conditions and the annual rise in instances of drink/driving around the festive period.
- 4.4.2 In the summer of 2020, Operation Close pass was launched within Tayside Division. The introduction was in response to a modal shift towards more active travel as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. This includes an increase in the number of people using Tayside's roads and paths for cycling. The operation was highlighted via Tayside Police Division's social media page which generated healthy debate with over 1200 comments being posted. Feedback received via Cycle Scotland, indicates that the scheme is well received and cyclists are pleased to see a focus on their safety whilst using the roads.

4.4.3 The net result of this Road Safety activity has been a 67% reduction in the number of fatalities on Dundee's roads, a 48% reduction in Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) leading to serious injury and a 21% reduction in RTCs leading to minor injury.

4.5 **Community Safety**

4.5.1 Home safety work continued to take place through the Council and partner agencies. For example, the Dundee Community Action Team (CAT) receive Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) referrals from Partner Agencies such as Social Work teams and have conducted joint HFSVs to high-risk individuals. The provision of fire-retardant bedding, throws, mats and additional fitted smoke/heat detectors to domestic properties are some of the fire safety provision and equipment that have been provided following HFSVs being carried out. Throughout December 2020, the CAT was proactive in working with Foodbanks, Community Officers, sheltered housing and project workers in delivering Fire Safety Advice leaflets. The leaflets were also provided to Dundee United Football Club and Dundee Football Club Community Trusts as part of a joint initiative between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Scottish Professional Football League. The CAT Community Safety Advocates also actively participated in on-line video calls with Dementia Support Workers, and Young Mum's support workers to provide Fire Safety advice.

4.5.2 Referral processes are in place with various partner agencies including Council, Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Tayside, Housing Associations, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Police Scotland, to identify and collectively support all relevant and appropriate details of those who are most vulnerable to fire risk within our communities.

4.5.3 In late 2018, a partnership was forged between the Maryfield Community Policing Team, We Are With You (formally Addaction) and NHS Community Keep Well Nurse, to support and engage with those women involved in on street sex work in the Maryfield Community Ward. Known as the Scotty Centre Project, Officers work in plain clothes in partnership with We Are With You workers who provide support and advice to the women. Over 30 women have now used the services to date, significantly increasing engagement and diversionary opportunities.

4.5.4 Despite the challenges of Covid-19 and because of the trust that has developed through this positive engagement by Police Scotland and partners, the Scotty Centre Project is now an established 'annexe' to the Stobswell Community Hub, where some of the most vulnerable women in Tayside can obtain substance misuse services, medical help, harm reduction advice and increased access to support and diversionary agencies. The project is open from 6.30pm-10.30pm - currently on a bi-monthly basis.

4.5.5 The Community Safety Warden service has continued to operate as close to normal as was possible and the team have continued to provide pro-active patrols around the city, especially in areas that have experienced anti-social behaviour (ASB). They have also continued to respond to calls requesting assistance with ASB and other matters. Core duties have also continued such as fly tipping reporting, youth disorder and fire raising.

4.5.6 In addition to these duties, the Community Safety Warden team have responded to requests from other teams for assistance, mainly as part of the Council Covid-19 response. Examples of this include assisting with the initial setting up and stocking of the PPE distribution hub located at the west housing office. The team have also been assisting with the setting up of Covid-19 testing sites, distributing LFT kits and leaflet dropping in areas where test sites are to be established.

4.5.7 The Antisocial Behaviour Team received a higher number of complaints in 2020-2021 than the previous reporting period, rising from 1,733 to 1,946. A report detailing the work of the Council's Antisocial Behaviour Team is provided quarterly to the Community Safety and Public Protection Committee which specifies statistical information on a ward basis. There was also an increase in recorded antisocial behaviour calls to Police Scotland. A number of related initiatives took place with partners including:

- **Operation Foxglove** - within the Maryfield area, specifically designed to reduce incidents of ASB. Operational activity prioritised high visibility patrols, enforcing arrest warrants, intelligence gathering and most notably the delivery of nearly 100 proactive intervention visits to the most vulnerable living within that locality.
- **Partnership working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service** - in the Kirkton and Whitfield areas of the city, tackling instances of youth anti-social behaviour and specifically the setting of fires in open spaces.
- **Operation Challenge** - was implemented to tackle the unlawful, anti-social and dangerous use of motor cycles.
- **Operation Talla (the policing response to Covid-19)** - activity has focussed on striking a balance between supporting and encouraging compliance and enforcing the legislation when faced with repeat offenders, flagrant breaches of the legislation or blatant disregard for the health and well-being of others.
- **Joint visits** - with the Council Antisocial Behaviour Team and daily liaison with Community Safety Wardens.

4.5.8 The Scottish Violence Reduction Unit (SVRU) works in partnership with Police Scotland and the Scottish Government. Adopting a public health approach to reducing violence, it is a national centre of expertise, made up of serving Police officers, civilian police staff, experts and people with lived experience. Motivated by the belief that violence is preventable and not inevitable, they work closely with colleagues and partners in health, social work, education and the third sector, to analyse the root causes of violence and develop and evaluate solutions which can be up-scaled across the Country. Dundee has had a Police Inspector seconded to the Unit since 2019. The role involves leading on prevention initiatives and projects in Dundee with the aim of reducing violence and contributing towards making a true difference to some of the city's most vulnerable people. An example of the work of the Unit includes introducing Heartstone Story Circles to schools, a preventative project aimed primarily at school children aged between 9 and 12 years of age, to promote diversity and reduce bigotry and racial prejudice.

4.5.9 Dundee Football Club in the Community Trust were one of five clubs chosen by the Scottish Premier Football League (SPFL) Trust to launch the Off the Bench programme. Funded by the Scottish Government CashBack scheme, this is a 16-week programme for 18-24-year-olds who have committed, or are considered likely to commit, offences or engage in anti-social behaviour, particularly but not limited to offences in and around football matches in Scotland. Sessions take place at each of the participating clubs, are delivered in partnership with Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the Procurator Fiscal and the Scottish Football Association (SFA). There is a strong focus on delivering certificate-based courses, enabling young people to build a better pathway going forward. It is designed to help young people improve decision making and reduce risk taking behaviour through understanding of the wider consequences. It also builds resilience by providing positive and consistent role models through the coaches and providing an activity to improve self-esteem and confidence.

5.0 SUMMARY

- 5.1 This report illustrates how Community Safety and Justice partners have navigated the many challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic to maintain crime reduction and anti-social behaviour activities and continue to supervise and support people subject to statutory interventions. There have been a range of targeted approaches focused on specific communities, people and/or crimes, alongside a proportionate approach to different types and levels of risk which people can present to themselves and/or others. As partners move through the recovery process, a number of the adaptations introduced during the pandemic, such as the minimum practice requirement, prisoner release virtual team and enhanced other activity elements of Unpaid Work, will also be maintained. In Justice, a key priority is to maintain progress with Diversion from Prosecution schemes and continue to develop and provide the Sheriff Court with effective community-based alternatives to remands in custody and prison sentences.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

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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