

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 16 February 2010**

**SUBJECT: SAFER STREETS CAMPAIGN – DECEMBER 2009**

**BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The reason for this report is report is to highlight the actions taken in relation to the December Safer Streets Campaign 2009.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Communities Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to Safer Communities.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **The Communities Committee is asked to note the actions taken by the campaign to reduce alcohol fuelled street disorder.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Alcohol fuelled violence and disorder seriously affects the quality of life in many city and town centres across Scotland. Much of this violence and disorder occurs at weekends and during holiday periods, just when many people wish to enjoy these public spaces. Since 2007 the Scottish Government has provided additional support to local partnerships during the December period in order to assist them in tackling this problem.
- 3.2 The funding received by all Local Authorities has gradually reduced with Moray Council receiving £10,000.00 in 2007, £6,600.00 in 2008 and £4,000.00 in 2009. Moray has consistently been within the lowest band of funding due to low related crime levels.
- 3.3 This significant reduction in funding each year has restricted the options available to tackle street disorder during subsequent campaigns. The Scottish Government funding received by Moray Council did however allow for the provision of four Taxi Marshals on Elgin High Street between 10.30pm and 04.30am every Friday and Saturday throughout December. This included Christmas Eve and Hogmanay, which were on a Thursday.
- 3.4 As in previous years Grampian Fire and Rescue Service provided assistance by producing and distributing posters. The NHS also provided assistance by organising the inclusion of taxi companies' details on the posters provided by

GFRS as well as taxi cards, which they themselves distributed. Both the posters and the taxi cards highlighted the campaigns aim to ensure that those out socialising had a safe journey home.

- 3.5 In order to address the reduction in funding and to provide opportunities to look at alternative means of tackling alcohol fuelled violence and disorder a funding application was submitted to the Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnership. Previous campaigns had focused on deterring crime and antisocial behaviour however the subsequent impact on the NHS, particularly the A & E Department at Dr Grays has not been previously tackled. The application submitted was successful and allowed for the provision of an additional ambulance to be in place on Elgin High Street on Friday and Saturday nights as well as a nurse within the Elgin Police Office Custody Suite.
- 3.6 The application was also successful in securing funding for an MFR advert in order to further highlight the campaigns message across Moray.
- 3.7 In addition the application requested funding to provide a bus service in order to transport people from the town centre after the licensed premises closed, dropping them off at their respective home towns and villages between Elgin and both Forres and Buckie. This service had been provided previously during the 2007 Safer Streets Campaign however there had been a poorer uptake than expected. Due to the previously low uptake and the considerable cost involved in providing this service funding was not secured in respect of this aspect of the application.
- 3.8 The campaign took place as planned with the exception of the nurse within the Elgin Police Office Custody Suite. This was due to NHS staff sickness and shortages during the festive period. This aspect of the campaign has been delayed and will commence on 6<sup>th</sup> February and will last until Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- 3.9 In order to assess the campaign's effectiveness and to comply with the Scottish Governments requirements in respect of the funding provided a full evaluation of the campaign will be carried out by the Community Analyst. Whilst this evaluation will look in detail at the campaigns impact in relation to both violence and disorder it will also assess the subsequent impact on the NHS. The evaluation will then be used to direct and inform future campaigns.
- 3.10 Whilst this report in no way supersedes the evaluation currently taking place nor does it attempt to predetermine its conclusions, early indications suggest that there has been a further fall in street disorder in comparison to previous years. This is in comparison to not only the years prior to the initial campaign in 2007 but in comparison to campaigns in subsequent years. Early indications also suggest that the A & E at Dr Grays experienced a busy period during the festive period despite the presence of an ambulance on Elgin High Street. Both these aspects of the campaign could however have been influenced by circumstances out with the campaign itself such as the period of snow resulting in fewer people braving the weather but potentially a greater number of trips and falls.

- 3.11 The evaluation will look at both the calls received by the Police as well as the circumstances surrounding those attending at A & E in order to determine what influence conditions out with the campaign had. Once the evaluation is complete a summary of its conclusions and recommendations will be submitted within a further report.

**4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**

- (i) The Safer Streets Campaign supports the Single Outcome Agreement, Outcome 9 - We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

None

**(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

None

**(d) Consultations**

None

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Communities Committee is asked to note the actions taken by the campaign to reduce alcohol fuelled street disorder.**

Author of Report: Adrian Moar, Partnership Development Officer  
Background Papers:  
Ref: