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**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 18 AUGUST 2015**

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SAFETY & ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR  
STRATEGY PERFORMANCE - 2014/15**

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides Committee with a review of the Community Safety & Antisocial Behaviour Strategy performance for 2014/15 and also provides an update on actions undertaken by Community Safety Groups in relation to tackling Community Safety priorities.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III G(14) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the developing and monitoring of the Council's Performance Management Framework for the Communities Services and Section III G(15) relating to contributing to public performance reporting.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:**

- (i) welcomes performance against the outcomes performing well; and**
- (ii) notes the measures and activity being undertaken in relation to those requiring action.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) comprises The Moray Council, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Police Scotland, and NHS Grampian. On 23 April 2013 this Committee approved the Community Safety & Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2013-16 (paragraph 13 of the minute refers). The Strategy sets out the business plans for the CSP and the performance framework. Performance against the outcomes and actions of the Strategy will be reported to this Committee.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE**

##### **Outcome 1: The Community Safety Partnership adds value to partner's work and delivers Community Safety outcomes for Moray.**

- 4.1 To add value to work undertaken by the Partnership, four underlying priorities exist within Outcome 1:
1. Closer working between Community Safety Partners through the implementation of an integrated performance framework
  2. Early Intervention begins within 2 weeks of any young person being identified as at risk of offending
  3. Strong communities are able to contribute to tackling Community Safety issues and their causes
  4. Progress against community safety outcomes is communicated to local communities.
- 4.2 In 2014/15, all partners continued to report performance for Community Safety through the integrated framework. Overall the number of key indicators showing a positive trend improved from 49% in 2013/14, the first year of the strategy, to 54%.
- 4.3 Joint working was enhanced to provide increased opportunities for information sharing with the introduction of weekly Community Safety Hub meetings, that bring together Moray Council's Community Safety team, Police Scotland, NHS, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Moray Alcohol & Drug Partnership, Social Housing representatives (council and registered social landlords), Child and Adult Protection, the Early Engagement Team, the Early Intervention Worker, Trading Standards and Victim Support. By adopting this approach, emerging issues were dealt with quickly and effectively.
- 4.4 In November 2014, a new Early Intervention Worker (EIW) commenced with Police Scotland (B Division). The role diverts children and young people from becoming involved in antisocial behaviour. This post was vacant from mid-May to November, so a full year comparison is not available; however, quarterly data shows that referrals increased to 118 in the 3 months to March 2015 against 74 in the same period last year. The EIW works closely with Community Wardens, Social Work, Police, Moray Youth Justice and Schools and all interventions commenced within 2 weeks of a referral being made.
- 4.5 Community engagement continued with the Wardens working with a number of local groups and businesses to tackle Community Safety issues. Areas of work undertaken include a cigarette litter campaign held due to community concerns over discarded cigarette packets and ends and a successful spring clean in Hopeman with the local Warden working alongside the Community Association group to target Dog Fouling and Littering.
- 4.6 Wardens' attendance at Community Council meetings fell from 57% in 2013/14 to 34% in 2014/15. Competing priorities, shift work and periods of sick leave contributed to performance however efforts will be made to improve

attendance during 2015/16. Communities are however kept updated through other methods; Wardens liaised directly with Community Councils Chairpersons and held community surgeries for members of the public as well as attending several talks with local interest groups and schools.

**Outcome 2: Antisocial Behaviour in Moray is reduced.**

- 4.7 Contributing to this strategic outcome is a commitment to reduce neighbourhood disputes, incidents of litter, dog fouling and fly tipping by 5% (from 2012/13 baseline) by March 2016 and to reduce the deployment of wireless CCTV by 10%.
- 4.8 Good performance across the majority of these areas was achieved in 2014/15.
- 4.9 Significant reductions were recorded in relation to Noise Complaints, Drinking in Public, Rowdy Behaviour and Incidents of Litter –

Indicator	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	% change from baseline
Total Number of Noise Complaints	1,102	1,170	990	- 10%
Number of offences of drinking in a public place and underage drinking	54	22	9	- 83%
Number of Incidents of Rowdy Behaviour (Breach of the Peace, Urinating and Drunk and Incapable)	411	333	200	- 51%
Total Number of Incidents of Litter	181	129	106	- 41%

- 4.10 Work undertaken by Partners contributed to the fall in noise complaints and littering; weekly Community Safety Hub meetings ensured repeat offenders of noise were targeted and action taken quickly to address issues. Partnership working proven particularly effective with noise offenders received a joint visit from Community Wardens and Police and Housing where applicable. Littering also benefitted from the partnership approach where areas are identified and targeted with 'hot spot' patrols. During 2014/15, 9 fixed penalty notices were issued for littering compared to 11 the previous year.
- 4.11 The Community Safety partnership tackled rowdy and drunken behaviour with high visibility Police and Warden patrols and Operation Avon initiatives, of which there were 29 undertaken throughout Moray in 2014/15.
- 4.12 Partner agencies (Police Scotland, Community Wardens, Youth Workers, Moray Youth Justice and the NHS), engaged with approximately 624 young people during 2014/15; fifty were found to be under the influence of alcohol. The Early Intervention Worker dealt with 33 of these young people; 29 via a first warning letter, making parents aware and offering support and advice and

4 via the offer of a home visit. Those accepting support were referred for health advice and to other support agencies including The Moray Council Employability Service. The remaining 17 young people were dealt with by agencies at the time of the disorder.

- 4.13 In 2014/15 wireless CCTV was deployed on 5 occasions, one less than the previous year.
- 4.14 In contrast, the number of neighbour disputes significantly increased in the 3 years to March 2015, from 296 incidents reported in 2012/13 to 515 incidents in 2014/15, an increase of 74%. Looking at the breakdown of agencies dealing with the complaints, it is clear that the Community Safety team and Housing have noted a significant increase while complaints to Police have increased only slightly each year -

Total Number of Neighbour Disputes	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	% change from baseline
Police Scotland	218	225	234	+7%
Community Safety/Housing (TMC/RSLs)	78	210	281	+260%
Total	296	435	515	+74%

- 4.15 This increase in complaints coincides with the Community Warden team's move from the Police to the Council in 2012. Community Wardens now deal with all Neighbour Disputes reported to the Community Safety Team and also work closely with both Moray Council Housing and Registered Social Landlords. Public awareness of the service and help it can provide has increased considerably in this time and as a result, as anticipated complaints received increased
- 4.16 Incidents of fly tipping and dog fouling from 2012/13 remained fairly static (+1% and +2% increase respectively); the Community Warden team through initiatives such as the Green Dog Walkers Scheme and patrols continue to work to target these problems as well as actively encouraging communities to continue to report incidents. In 2014/15 there were 329 incidents of fly tipping and 143 incidents of dog fouling reported. Twelve fixed penalty notices were issued for fly tipping along with 9 others for dog fouling. This compares to 7 for fly tipping and 17 for dog fouling in 2013/14.

### **Outcome 3: Road Casualties and fatalities in Moray are reduced.**

- 4.17 The formation of Police Scotland in April 2013 meant that data, for a number of performance indicators relating to Road Safety Collision and Drink Drive reduction, previously included in Community Safety & Antisocial Behaviour Strategy, are no longer collated (Item 8 of the Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour Performance report 2013/14 to the Communities Committee on 24 June 2014 refers).
- 4.18 Two indicators that are comparable record Fatalities and Serious Injuries on Moray roads. Both recorded a slight decrease from the previous year;

recorded Fatalities fell from 3 in 2013/14 to 2 and Serious Injuries from 43 to 41. Police Scotland continues to undertake national high profile Road Safety campaigns with local initiatives in place to target problems as required.

- 4.19 In May 2014, in conjunction with Aberdeenshire Council, a Road Safety Education Officer was appointed to promote good practice in road safety through delivery of education, training and publicity initiatives. This Early Years approach to Road Safety in Moray during 2014/15 included Car Seat Clinics, Bikeability with primary schools and Road Safety talks with school pupils both primary and secondary.
- 4.20 To further target young drivers in Moray, the Community Safety Partnership continues to fund the annual Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign which offers all S5 pupils the opportunity to attend sessions that deliver a stark message of the impact of being involved in a road accident on friends, family and the emergency services. Aberdeenshire Council, who co-ordinate the event, state that since Safe Drive Stay Alive started 10 years ago, young drivers involved in fatal and serious road accidents in Grampian has dropped from 40% to 23%.

**Outcome 4: Fire and Home Safety in Moray is improved.**

- 4.21 There are two priorities contributing to the above outcome;
  - 1. We protect our communities by actively preventing the occurrence of fire and other emergencies through the review of risk plans, maintenance of asset database and data sharing
  - 2. Health & Home Safety in the community is enhanced
- 4.22 In 2014/15, significant improvements in Fire Safety in Moray were noted when compared to the previous year. Accidental fires in Moray reduced from 232 to 200; dwelling fires from 104 to 66 and the number of casualties as a result of accidental fires from 23 to 9.
- 4.23 Improvement is linked to the sustained focus on prevention through Home Fire Safety Visits undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). In 2014/15, 696 visits were undertaken and 647 in 2013/14. During these visits, possible fire hazards are highlighted with practical help and advice given to assist in minimising the risk of a fire, i.e. installation of smoke alarms and the offer of fire resistant bedding.
- 4.24 Through the Community Safety Hub, partner agencies have worked more closely with SFRS to address issues around a number of vulnerable households in the area. It is anticipated that strengthening joint working and information sharing will improve Fire Safety in Moray going forward.
- 4.25 At a meeting of this Committee on 24 June 2014, performance indicators relating to Home Safety were amended for 2014/15 at (para 13 of the Minute refers). The data now collected reports that there were 138 attendances at A&E at Dr Gray's in Elgin of under 5s due to falls and collisions whilst and a further 48 attended as a result of an injury from playing in 2014/15.

- 4.26 To address the issues surrounding the safety of under 5s, a number of home safety and 'play@home' sessions were held with local groups. Smoke free homes were also promoted via second hand smoke training events for parents and carers.
- 4.27 The Mobile Information Bus funded by the NHS but made available to all partners was widely used to offer support to partnership events including Operation Avon, substance abuse, sexual health and healthy working lives.

**Outcome 5: Incidences of violence in Moray are reduced.**

- 4.28 The Community Safety & ASB Strategy 2013-16 aims to reduce both Domestic Abuse incidents and the risk of violence in Moray by 5% from the 2012/13 baseline.
- 4.29 End of year statistics from Police Scotland show recorded crimes of Domestic Abuse increased by 14% from 654 in 2013/14 to 746 in 2014/15 however at the same time, Police detection rates for these crimes also increased by just under 13%. These figures infer that although more people are reporting being the victim of Domestic Abuse, more offenders are being held to account for their behaviour and being charged with the offence.
- 4.30 Tackling domestic abuse is stated as a priority within the Moray Local Policing Plan 2014-17 and Moray 2023 – a plan for the future. Police proactively target dangerous offenders via the dedicated Domestic Abuse Unit and through a number of action days, involving partners and support agencies.
- 4.31 The Domestic Abuse Partnership brings together Police Scotland, Moray Woman's Aid, NHS, Moray Council, Moray Alcohol & Drug Partnership and Army Welfare to tackle incidents of Domestic Abuse. During 2014/15, the Partnership raised awareness through messages placed on all Moray Council payslips and external emails, coffee mornings and posters and cards distributed through local libraries. Work continues to finalise the Domestic Abuse Strategy due to be submitted to the Public Protection Partnership in September.
- 4.32 Serious Assaults have declined since 2012/13 by 16% however incidents of Common Assaults have increased by 3.6% -

Indicator	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	% change from baseline
Number of recorded incidents of Serious Assault	36	20	30	-16%
Number of recorded incidents of Common Assault	907	993	940	+3.6%
Total number of Assaults	943	1013	970	+2.9%

- 4.33 Between 2013/14 and 2014/15, detection rates in Moray recorded by Police Scotland increased by 13.3% and 6.5% for Serious and Common Assaults respectively. This again infers that whilst recorded incidents of Common Assault have increased, those being caught and charged has also increased.

**Outcome 6: Alcohol and drugs have a reduced impact on community safety in Moray.**

- 4.34 Outcome 6 aims to reduce Alcohol and Drug related offending in Moray by 5% by March 2016. During 2014/15, incidents of Serious and Common Assault and Rowdy Behaviour where alcohol or drugs were a factor, have all recorded decreases.

Indicator	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	% change from baseline
Number of recorded incidents of Serious Assault where alcohol/drugs were a factor	17	14	16	-6%
Number of recorded incidents of Common Assault where alcohol/drugs were a factor	294	528	283	-4%
Number of recorded incidents of Rowdy Behaviour where alcohol/drugs were a factor	n/a	154	124	-20% (from available baseline)

- 4.35 The Safer Streets campaign aims to reduce alcohol fuelled violence in identified hot spot areas at peak times. Two campaigns were held in 2014/15; during the summer holiday period in July and in the run up to Christmas in December. Partner agencies were involved and each campaign involved taxi marshalls in the High Street area of Elgin, radio adverts and anti-violence posters in licensed premises. The campaigns reinforced that alcohol related violence is not be tolerated and contribute to performance results.
- 4.36 In 2014/15, there was an increase in the percentage of domestic abuse incident where alcohol/drugs were a factor, to 53% in 2014/15 from 42% the previous year. As previously stated in para 4.5 of this report substance misuse was discussed with all perpetrators and victims and referrals were made to Studio 8 for further advice and support where appropriate.
- 4.37 Substance misuse and the impact it has on community safety was addressed by the Community Safety Partnership through provision of funding of an A&E nurse to facilitate research and undertake Alcohol Brief Interventions with patients admitted due to incidents involving alcohol or drugs. Interventions provide help, advice and signposting of support to individuals. With patients' approval, information on attendances at A&E is shared with partners via the Community Safety Hub to ensure all agencies provide appropriate support. In terms of Housing and Adult Protection, this support has assisted tenants to sustain tenancies and help reduce the impact of substance misuse on neighbours and the surrounding community.

## **5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

### **(a) Moray 2023: A Plan for the Future/Service Plan**

Moray 2023 identifies that Moray is a safe place to live, though more should be done to protect those vulnerable and at risk and that a proactive approach is taken to ensure communities feel safe in the years ahead. Reporting performance against the outcomes and actions of the Community Safety & Antisocial Behaviour Strategy allows partners to ensure activity is targeted correctly and that any emerging issues relating to Community Safety are addressed promptly.

### **(b) Policy and Legal**

The Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory obligation on The Moray Council to implement the range of antisocial behaviour measures and continue joint working as necessary to tackle such behaviour.

### **(c) Financial implications**

None.

### **(d) Risk Implications**

None.

### **(e) Staffing Implications**

None.

### **(f) Property**

None.

### **(g) Equalities**

There are no Equalities implications because the report is about performance.

### **(h) Consultations**

Lead officers from the Community Safety Partnership have contributed to the production of this report.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 During 2014/15, the Community Safety Partnership worked together to ensure Moray remains a safe place to live. The Partnership has been**



**strengthened by the introduction of a Community Safety Hub, that encourages greater information sharing and joint working practices. Already a great deal has been achieved in meeting outcomes of the Community Safety & ASB Strategy 2013-16. Good performance is evident through the reduction in the number of Antisocial Behaviour incidents, the improvement in Fire Safety and reduced impact on violent offending involving alcohol. Work continues to tackle Domestic Abuse incidents, reduce road casualties and improve home safety.**

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Background Papers:	Held with author
Ref:	