

Community Planning
Safer & Stronger Theme Group

Safer Strategy

2008-20011

DRAFT 1

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Foreword

Community Safety in Moray is changing

The past year has seen many changes within The Moray Council. The new concordat with local authorities and the new Scottish Government has seen a change in how Community Safety Partnerships will be funded and consequently a shift towards new governance and accountability within the Partnership. This includes the introduction of the new framework of joint accountability between local and national Government through a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) process. Community Planning partners were essential in this process.

The Community Planning Partnership has undertaken a new business model approach, which all five theme groups have adopted. Community Safety now sits under the new Safer & Stronger theme group and will become the Safer strand of the group.

As of April 2008, and in agreement with the Scottish Government, Antisocial Behaviour and Community Safety as we have known them over the past few years has merged to become one service working even more closely to achieve enhanced quality of life throughout Moray.

Previous Community Safety and Antisocial Behaviour strategies have assisted us in achieving a safer Moray as well as effective partnership working. The Community Safety Partnership have supported vast and diverse community initiatives, enhancing the profile of community safety and promoting positive behaviour, all of which makes a real difference to the quality of life within our communities.

Introduction

The Safer & Stronger theme group is dedicated to enhancing quality of life in Moray and commits to dealing effectively with community safety issues and promoting positive behaviour, contributing to making Moray a safe place to live, work and visit.

The new strategy will concentrate on those areas, which our strategic assessment has identified as the areas of concern. This allows us to commit to priorities which are evidence based. We believe that by concentrating our efforts on these priorities, we can secure the most effective and sustainable results over the next three years to improve community safety and tackling antisocial behaviour.

The new business model approach will be based on intelligence led problem solving. This will incorporate the new PIER concept which will now form the backbone of the joint working by all agencies in the Safer & Stronger Theme Group when tackling community safety in Moray;

- **Prevention** - Preventing antisocial behaviour and tackling it at the earliest possible stage is essential.
- **Intelligence** - Information from many sources will be collated to identify areas of concern or individuals of concern.
- **Enforcement** – Effective enforcement will be taken where necessary and appropriate.
- **Rehabilitation** – Changing behaviour for the long term.

The Moray Council, Grampian Police, NHS Grampian and Grampian Fire & Rescue form the basis for partnership working within the Safer theme group. They are working in partnership to make our communities safer whilst addressing the fear of crime and other quality of life issues.

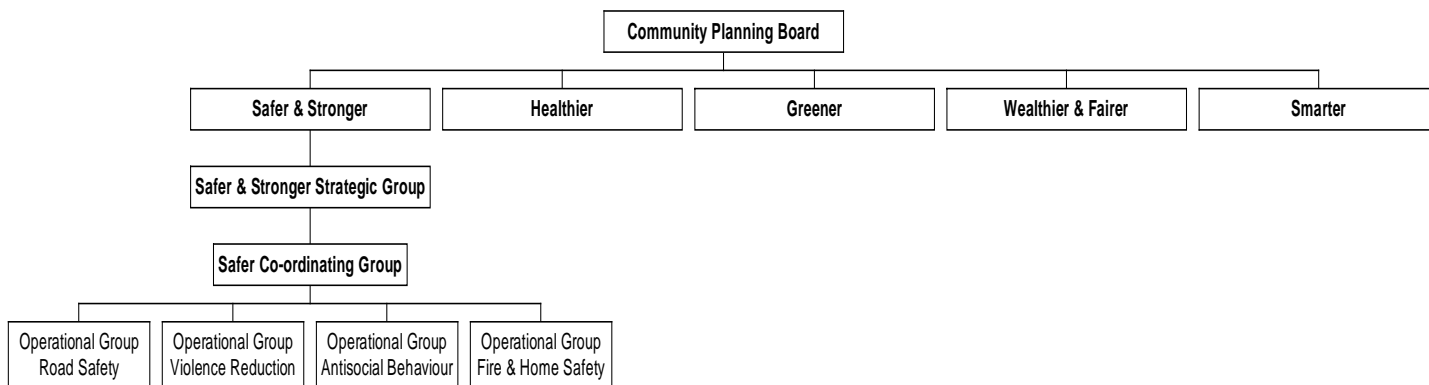
Our main purpose is simple.

To improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in and visits the area by working together to provide a safer environment.

This strategy document sets out how the Safer group will progress during the three years from 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2011 whilst taking into account delivering local and national priorities.

The Partnership

The overarching governance of Community Planning has been revised. The new Community Planning Board now has five themes which reflect the national priorities set by the Scottish Government as part of the new Single Outcome Agreement. As a result the Safer & Stronger Theme Group has also been revised to reflect this change in terms of both responsibility and accountability. This will ensure consistency with the other theme groups. The 'Safer and Stronger' theme group will comprise of a Safer & Stronger Strategic group, a Safer Co-ordinating group and four Safer Operational groups, one for each priority.



Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004

The Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004 places statutory obligations on The Moray Council. It gives the authority powers to implement various measures when dealing with antisocial behaviour. The new strategy must incorporate these measures as part of the new merged strategy.

Measures

Antisocial Behaviour Order – the above act sets out provisions relating to antisocial behaviour orders. A policy is in place with The Moray Council and its partners to ensure the effective and consistent use of these provisions and associated measures such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Mediation where appropriate.

Fixed Penalty Notices for Fly tipping, Litter & Dog Fouling - the power to issue notices enables local authorities to deal directly with these types of antisocial behaviour. Our community wardens have been granted this authority.

Graffiti Removal – a policy is in place for removing graffiti throughout Moray with new procedures in place to identify and tackle graffiti.

Closure Orders – this provides the powers for Grampian police, in consultation with Moray Council to make applications to close premises associated with persistent and serious disorder or nuisance.

Youth Services - there are clear links between the work of youth justice and the work of the safer group. Close liaison with the service is ongoing. This ensures the best course of action for the children being worked with.

Consultations

Consultations with community bodies take place throughout Moray, specifically in areas where antisocial behaviour is a problem. This takes place through Community Council meetings and local area forum meetings. Two way information is shared and problem solving approaches are discussed.

Information Sharing

A detailed Information Sharing Protocol has been agreed between and signed by all the Safer partners. This clarifies the focus, aims and objectives underlying the Information Sharing Process and will promote the effective use of information in order to enhance community safety and tackle antisocial behaviour in Moray.

Victim Support

Victim Support Moray is a voluntary organisation helping people affected by antisocial behaviour. It provides emotional support, practical help and essential information to victims, witnesses and others affected by antisocial behaviour. The service is free, confidential and is provided by a dedicated person funded from the antisocial behaviour budget.

The New Safer Strategy 2008-2011

National Context

The Scottish Government, through the development of the Single Outcome Agreement, has set a number of National Indicators. The 'Safer' group has been given responsibility for National Outcome 9:

We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

Local Context

Strategic Assessment Outcome

A Strategic Assessment was commissioned to identify the priorities within Moray, for the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group. This was achieved by gathering together data from all agencies and then undertaking an accurate analysis to identify main problem areas within the Safer theme. The strategic assessment ensures that all strategic decisions are evidence based and support National Outcome 9.

For further details please refer to Safer & Stronger Strategic Assessment.

The information and analysis contained within the assessment became most effective when combined with the knowledge and local expertise that exists within the partnership network and across partner agencies. The result has provided a firm foundation for developing the Safer Strategy 2008-2011.

The assessment was based on 5 main themes;

- Safety (including fire, road, home and water safety)
- Violent crime (including knife crime, hate crime and domestic violence and public place violence)
- Antisocial behaviour
- Drug and Alcohol misuse
- Youth Crime (including early identification and intervention)

Partnership consultation regarding the recommendations took place. As a result four main evidence based priorities to be addressed within Moray over the next three year programme were confirmed as:

- **Antisocial Behaviour**
- **Violence Reduction**
- **Road Safety**
- **Fire & Home Safety**

Priorities and Associated Objectives.

In order to fulfil our vision the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group has agreed these four main priorities. This strategy will aim to demonstrate how the partnership is to address the identified priorities.

An Operational Group has been formed for each priority with a designated lead officer. Outcome agreements for each group have been set and agreed. They set out objectives and outcome targets in detail.

For further details please refer to individual outcome agreements.

The priorities are set as follows;

Local Outcomes - People in Moray feel safer and incidences of crime will reduce
- The number of children and young people who offend will reduce

Priority **ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Overall objectives for the year ahead;

Disregard for Community

- Long term reduction of behaviour which shows disregard for the Community.

Acts Directed at People

- Improve public perception of the level of antisocial behaviour
- Long term reduction in incidents of neighbour disputes

Environmental Damage

- Reduce graffiti and the negative impact it has on members of the community
- Reduce vandalism and the negative impact it has on members of the community
- Reduce incidents of litter, dog fouling and fly tipping

Misuse of Public Space

- Reduce Misuse of Public Space

Agencies Performance in Tackling Antisocial Behaviour

- Provide co-ordinated and consistent multiagency response to ASB and increase satisfaction with agency response and support

Priority **VIOLENCE REDUCTION**

Overall objective for the year ahead;

People in Moray feel safer and incidences of violence will reduce.

Priority **FIRE & HOME SAFETY**

Overall objectives for the year ahead;

- Reduction in Accidental Dwelling fires
- Reduction in Home fires resulting in Death & Injury
- Reduction in Falls
- Reduction in Unintentional Injuries to the under 5's at home

Local Outcome – The number of people killed and injured as a result of road accidents will reduce

Priority **ROAD SAFETY**

Overall objective for the year ahead;

The number of people killed or seriously injured as a result of road accidents will reduce.

Alcohol & Substance Misuse

After specific consultation the partner agencies decided not to set alcohol and substance misuse as a main priority. The consensus reached was that alcohol & substance misuse primarily could be tackled more effectively under the Healthier theme of Community Planning. The partners fully recognise that it is a factor in many aspects of antisocial behaviour and community safety. It cuts across all of the strategy's objectives and does feature in the relevant business plans.

The Moray Drug & Alcohol Partnership (MDAAP) is a multi-agency group of service providers, statutory and voluntary, available to anyone who needs access to drug and alcohol services across Moray. Its primary purpose is to deliver the governments strategy in relation to drugs and alcohol by bringing together many different agencies and co-ordinating a partnership approach to substance misuse. Their primary aim is to assist in finding solutions to identified problems locally. The Safer group work alongside the MDAAP to contribute to the delivery of their strategy. Where appropriate, and in order to help us achieve our aims, we will request the support of MDAAP.

Youth Crime

Similarly Youth Crime was passed to the Smarter Theme Group to be considered in line with early years' development, support for vulnerable young people, educational attainment and achievement and lifelong learning. Again it is recognised that to be tackled effectively it requires input from various services and agencies across a few of the Community Planning themes. The Safer theme group will play its part and contribute to tackling youth crime where appropriate and in partnership to ensure effective results.

Public Reassurance & The Community

Public reassurance is a key part in managing community safety throughout Moray. It is commonplace that people's fear of crime is often disproportionate to the reality in their own area. Moray is no exception. Despite reductions in crime and antisocial behaviour, survey findings have shown us that public perception still regards fear of crime as an issue in our area.

The following is currently in place and will continue to be built upon, to try and alleviate the misconception and reassure communities that Moray is, in comparison to other areas in Scotland, a generally safe place to live.

- Regular attendance at community council and area forum meetings allow consultation with the public to discuss current issues and appropriate measures that can be introduced.
- Patrols by Community Wardens/Council Officers and Community Beat Officers provides a reassurance by their presence within the communities.
- Use of media to keep the public informed and highlight the good work undertaken by the partner agencies through various projects and initiatives.
- Periodic surveys to assess the perception of fear of crime and publish results compared against the reality.
- Regular leaflet drops to raise awareness and encourage community involvement.

The measures complement each other and the aim is that they will form the basis of an ongoing long-term plan that is necessary to improve perceptions within our communities. Fundamental to this will be empowering our communities, through various mediums, to assist us in making our communities across Moray not only feel safer but be safer.

Working to Achieve Targets

The need to tackle many areas with differing and diverse projects has been recognised. The projects will involve agencies working together jointly on shared objectives and they will work towards delivering on the targets set. The four Safer operational groups have all set business plans with indicators, outputs and targets. The operational groups will play a fundamental part in delivering the work to achieve the targets. Projects are flexible to adapt to changing circumstances but will be subject to ongoing review by both the Coordinating Group and the Strategic Group to ensure that issues being tackled are still current.

Performance Management

Performance management will be vital in monitoring the extent to which the objectives, outputs and specific targets within the business plans are met. Quarterly reporting documents will be presented to the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group and coordinating group for ongoing monitoring of the targets. They will set out the progress in relation to each outcome agreement and highlight if the group are on target.

Partnership Funding

Funding for the Safer theme group is allocated from the general fund of The Moray Council. Business plans indicate the level of funding required to sustain the work through the remaining two years which would need to be provided.

Conclusion

The Safer Strategy contains a range of objectives and targets that address a variety of antisocial and community safety issues that have been identified from the strategic assessment in support of the Single outcome Agreement. If the strategy is delivered effectively the partners are confident that it will have a significant positive impact on the identified priorities whilst enhancing the quality of life for those living, working and visiting Moray. Detailed outcome agreements have been developed by each operational group and this will assist in achieving the delivery of the Strategy. An annual review of the Strategic Assessment will take place to ensure that the priorities remain current. The new structures will also develop. This will maximise the partner's ability to deliver the business plans. Effective intelligence led working and performance management will be key to the strategy's success.

The strategy will drive forward the community safety agenda and be used to inform partners and public alike. It is not necessarily a static document. National and local community safety and antisocial behaviour agendas will be taken into consideration along the way and if change is evident then the strategy will follow.

TO BE REVIEWED – April 2009

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