

**REPORT TO: SAFER & STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP – 10th
SEPTEMBER 2009**

SUBJECT: SAFER CO- ORDINATING GROUP

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Safer & Stronger Strategic Group is invited to note the progress made by the Safer Co-ordinating Group.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Safer & Stronger Strategic Group are asked to note the progress being made by the Safer Co-ordinating Group in relation to identifying and tackling Community Safety priorities through the four Operational Groups.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Safer Co-ordinating Group is situated within the structure of the Safer and Stronger Theme of Community Planning and reports to the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group.
- 3.2 The Safer Co-ordinating Group met on 27 May 2009 where the Tactical Assessment led the meeting in line with the Intelligence Led Business Model. The document evidenced that the majority of performance indicators in relation to the four theme groups showed a downward trend over the last year.
- 3.3 In addition to the priorities within each theme group, the document identified concerns around youths gathering in the Cooper Park, Elgin as well as a projected increase in wilful fires and vandalisms within schools, both during the summer months.
- 3.4 The group discussed these projected issues and agreed to implement the following measures in order to be pro-active in addressing the identified problems of vandalism, youth disorder and wilful fires. The group decided to target Street Football sessions to the identified areas of most concern and link with Community Learning and Development to ensure other activities are put in place to divert young people away from committing vandalism.
- 3.5 Grampian Fire and Rescue Service carried out additional educational sessions in secondary schools to heighten the awareness amongst

young people of the dangers of setting fires in gorse and open land. This occurred just prior to the summer holidays because wilful fire numbers traditionally rise in the summer break. Grampian Fire and Rescue will also review their method of recording such fires and amend their procedures to allow for the early identification of fire 'hot spots'. This will then allow for early intervention measures to be instigated.

3.6 A multi agency approach through Operation Avons continue to tackle youth issues, particularly those related to alcohol, throughout Moray. The opening of the Skate Park within Cooper Park has drawn young people away from Elgin town centre and into the park which is a positive because complaints of youth disorder has reduced in High Street, Elgin. However, concerns have been raised regarding the young people now gathering in Cooper Park but this is being monitored by Grampian Police.

3.7 The four main priorities within the Safer Strategy are Antisocial Behaviour, Violence Reduction, Fire and Home Safety and Road Safety and each priority has a separate Operational Group.

3.8 **Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Group**

An ASB Operational group meets locally every 2 months in each of The Moray Council Housing Manager areas. In the last quarter there were 30 referrals for discussion at these meetings, of these 9 were referred to the Antisocial Behaviour Panel for consideration of an Antisocial Behaviour Order (ASBO). The remainder were resolved by local measures. Warning letters were issued to 6 individuals advising that they were being actively considered for an Antisocial Behaviour Order.

At present, in Moray there are 15 active Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBO) and 2 Interim Antisocial Behaviour Orders which were granted by the Sheriff against two young people in the Buckie area.

Community Wardens are continuing to be pro active in the tackling of Dog Fouling and Litter within their communities. They have implemented the amended fixed penalty procedures in relation to Litter and Dog Fouling which has resulted in 8 fixed penalties being issued.

An extensive Litter Campaign has taken place in communities throughout Moray which involved the Wardens patrolling identified areas within communities distributing posters and leaflets and linking in with schools. This will be followed up with an enforcement phase where, appropriate, use was made of fixed penalties.

Street Football has been deployed on 35 occasions at locations throughout Moray. A total of 952 young people have attended these sessions. It is anticipated that the number of sessions will be increased to 6 per week over the summer school holidays, targeting

the areas identified by Grampian Police as 'hot spots' for antisocial behaviour.

3.9 Violence Reduction Group

Moray Against Violence Summer Campaign - The campaign was launched on Friday 3rd of July 2009 and looked to reduce violent offending in Moray. The campaign incorporated the use of Taxi Marshals who were in place between half past ten at night and four in the morning every Friday and Saturday night on Elgin High Street during the seven week school holiday period. Two different posters were produced highlighting the association between excessive drinking and the likelihood of being either the perpetrator or a victim of violence. A third poster was also produced highlighting domestic abuse. These posters were distributed and displayed in premises selling alcohol as well as in Council Access Points, Libraries and Police Offices.

The second phase of "Safer Streets" occurred in May because the planned February event had to be cancelled due to adverse weather. All second and third year pupils were invited, with in excess of 200 young people attending a disco in Joanna's. In addition to having an enjoyable evening in an alcohol and smoke free environment, positive lifestyle messages were delivered by a variety of agencies.

Anti-Arson Boxes - Two boxes have been purchased and will be installed following incidents of domestic abuse where there are threats to burn the victims property.

Fairer Scotland Fund - A funding request was submitted to the Fairer Scotland Fund regarding the employment of two Family Support Workers for a twelve month trial period to assist Families suffering from domestic abuse. This funding request was successful and a Service Level Agreement will be negotiated between all those involved with the project. Although support and supervision will be through the Social Work Service, the role of the Workers would be to support and take direction and workload primarily from the Grampian Police Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer (DALO). The workers would primarily target the two areas of New Elgin (South Central) and Kingsmills (North Central), these being recognised areas of need.

Domestic Abuse Awareness Advertisements - A domestic abuse awareness section has been purchased for inclusion within local street plan maps. These maps, including the domestic abuse awareness advertisement, are also on public display within the St Giles Centre and at the Moray Leisure Centre.

The Group organised a Domestic Abuse Conference which took place in the Eight Acres Hotel, Elgin. The conference was attended by 83 delegates with presentations being delivered on the 'Effects and Impact of Living in a Domestic Abuse Environment' and 'The Perpetrators Programme – Caledonian Project. 80% of those attending stated the

conference was excellent or very good. All delegates left the conference with a greater knowledge of domestic abuse which they discriminated through their respective agencies.

3.10 Road Safety

4 Antisocial Driving Initiatives have taken place over the last quarter in Forres, Lossiemouth and Keith. A total of 6 warning letters were issued as a result of these operations.

A 'Belt up in Moray' educational day was staged in the Plainstones Elgin, where several hundred people attended and were provided with advice on car safety. Roads Policing staff are now engaged in visiting all Primary Schools in Moray to enforce all aspects of safety around schools. Including speed limits and parking on zig zags. A Driving Ambition day also took place at Lossiemouth High School with 44 6th year pupils taking part.

The 'Young Drivers' Day was organised for Elgin and was attended by 16 young drivers.

3.11 Fire and Home Safety

Lossiemouth and Elgin continue to be identified as 'hot spot' areas for incidents of deliberate fire raising. A Scottish Government sponsored initiative which involved posting leaflets highlighting the dangers and consequences associated with deliberate fires to every address within the target areas. In addition a mobile billboard display van toured the areas for three days displaying the same information.

A joint initiative between NHS Grampian and Grampian Fire and Rescue Service targeted vulnerable patients who are discharged from hospital. They offered home fire safety leaflets and home fire safety visits. As a result 8 home fire safety checks were carried out by Grampian Fire and Rescue.

An electric blanket testing day was held in Elgin Fire Station where 42 blankets were tested. A number of older blankets were presented but only one failed. This event also gave the opportunity to the Pension Service and Moray Trading Standards to engage with a vulnerable group within the community which is traditionally hard to reach. Both agencies reported delivering advice and assistance to a number of those attending and deemed it a great success.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

- (i)** The Safer Co-ordinating Group is part of the Safer & Stronger Theme Group which works to deliver Outcome 9

of the Single Outcome Agreement - We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

- (ii) The Safer & Stronger Theme Group supports Priority 6 of the Service Improvement Plan, ensuring effective early intervention for young people and improving the life chances of looked after children.

(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 continued joint working necessary to tackle such behaviour.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

The budget to deliver Safer Communities has been set and allocated with no additional funding required within this three-year period.

(d) Consultations

Consultations have taken place with Adrian Moar, Partnership Development Officer and all other relevant Community Planning partners who are in agreement with this report.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Safer & Stronger Strategic Group are asked to note the progress being made by the Safer Co-ordinating Group in relation to identifying and tackling Community Safety priorities through the four Operational Groups.**

Author of Report: Andy Jamieson, Antisocial Behaviour
Co-ordinator

Background Papers:

Ref: