

SE5. FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND (FPP): COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services which provided an update on the work of external organisations in receipt of funding from the Community Safety budget and who fall within the Following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements.

The report provided background on each organisation, highlighting their respective contribution to the Council's Single Outcome Agreement priority of Safer Communities.

An individual report was appended for each of the four organisations which receive funding. Each report set out the service provided, the agreed outcomes and objectives, and performance information for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 together with information on their funding and the Council's contribution thereto.

The Committee heard from officers in relation to the individual reports.

(a) Falkirk Towns Ltd - Specialized Security - Taxi Marshalling Service

Alice Keenan provided an overview of the report, advising that Specialized Security received £36,000 of Council funding in the period (with total funding of £52,000) and provides a taxi marshalling service in Newmarket Street and Meadow Street and also the Safe Base initiative over the festive period.

The Committee praised the taxi marshalling service and its contribution to reducing anti-social behaviour in the town centre. Members also highlighted the multiagency approach to tackling alcohol related antisocial behaviour and in particular the Street Pastor initiative. The Committee sought clarification on the funding available for the marshalling services

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged the progress made by Falkirk Towns Ltd – Specialized Security in delivering Council priorities.

(b) Sacro – Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service

Alice Keenan provided an overview of the report, advising that Sacro received funding for two initiatives - £46,104 for the Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service – Anti Social Behaviour and £81,296 for the Restorative Justice Service – Youth Service. The latter is reported on separately at (c) below.

The Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service aims to divert young people from anti social behaviour and criminal activity, reduce the fear of crime and support and promote safer communities.

The Committee sought clarification on the services provided, in particular the referral mechanism and the client groups supported by the initiatives. Ms Keenan explained that referrals stem from a number of can originate as a result of anti social behaviour or offending and the majority of referrals are made by Council services. Members asked for further information on the partnership work with schools and the measures of intervention employed. Ms Keenan explained that there were specific initiatives set

up in individual schools, for example an Alternative To Exclusion initiative at Falkirk High School and groupwork at St Mungo's high School and, while Sacro would liaise with each school, there was not a single one size fits all initiative for schools. Members then asked whether all headteachers were aware of the Service and its benefits. Ms Keenan, in reply, stated that the (former) Education Service was involved through the Community Safety Partnership and reiterated that Sacro would be willing to liaise with all schools.

Members then sought clarification on the funding available and questioned whether the service was meeting its agreed outcomes.

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged the progress made by Sacro – Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service in meeting Council priorities.

(c) Sacro – Restorative Justice Service

Matthew Davies provided an overview of the report, advising that Sacro received £81,296 for the service which aims to provide victims of crime and anti social behaviour the opportunity to apologise to their victims and repair the damage they have done.

The Committee sought further detail on the outcomes and in particular questioned whether the agreed objective of receiving 120 referrals had been achieved. Mr Davies explained the referral process, the majority of which are received through the Youth Justice Referral Group. In 2014/15 106 referrals had been received, lower than the target of 120, and this, he attributed to lower than anticipated referral numbers in the earlier part of the year due to a redesign of the referral processes and on Government funding pressures.

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged the progress made by Sacro – Restorative Acceptable Justice Service in meeting Council priorities.

(d) Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnerships – Contract to Scottish Families Against Drugs (SFAD) Forth Valley Family Support Service (FVFSS)

Fiona Campbell provided an overview of the report, highlighting the role of the Family Support Service, which provides support across the Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas and which was established in March 2014 following a pilot project in 2012/13. Each of the Councils in the Forth Valley contributed £20,000 in 2014/15 for the service which received 83 referrals in the period.

The Committee asked whether the number of referrals (83 compared to 100 in 2013/14) represented an effective use of the Council's limited funding. Ms Campbell confirmed that the Forth Valley Drug and Alcohol Partnership reviews the service quarterly and in particular monitor the uptake of the services provided.

In regard to funding, Ms Campbell confirmed that funding was available from each of the local authorities for 2015/16. The service was, she confirmed, staffed by Volunteers.

The Committee then sought further information on the service provider and the partners with which the service engages. Ms Campbell explained that, while the service has links with the Council's Social Work Services, through the Drugs and Alcohol Partnership, its main links are with organisations such as SIGNPOST. In regard to its outcomes, Ms Campbell explained that one of its roles was to help support new groups to form and become self-sustaining. Members then asked how the work, which was to support families, compared to the services provided by Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

Decision

The Committee approved the report and acknowledged the progress made by Forth Valley Alcohol and Drug Partnerships – Contract to Scottish Families Against Drugs - Forth Valley Family Support Service.