

The background of the slide is a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. It features a crown at the top with four thistles. The shield is divided into four quarters: top-left shows a castle tower, top-right shows a stag's head, bottom-left shows a sailing ship, and bottom-right shows an eagle. A banner at the bottom contains the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

## **Agenda Item 6**

### **Antisocial Behaviour**

**Falkirk Council**

**Title:** **Antisocial Behaviour**

**Meeting:** **Scrutiny**

**Date:** **30 November 2017**

**Submitted by:** **Director of Corporate and Housing Services**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the arrangements in place to resolve antisocial behaviour issues to allow the committee to and for members to consider whether this is an area for further scrutiny.

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- 1) note the various arrangements in place to resolve antisocial behaviour issues; and**
- 2) consider if antisocial behaviour is an area for further scrutiny as part of the Scrutiny Plan.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 19 August 2017 the committee asked for report on the mechanisms in place to tackle antisocial behaviour, with particular reference to Council tenants. The topic was one of 6 which the committee identifies potential areas for further scrutiny as part of the Scrutiny Plan. Although written for this purpose the report also satisfies the terms of the decision of the Executive of 17 October to refer the matter of antisocial behaviour to the Scrutiny Committee.

**Considerations**

- 3.2 Antisocial behaviour can mean different things to different people. The Antisocial Behaviour Act (Scotland) 2004 defines it as “acting in a manner that causes or is likely to cause distress”. Examples of antisocial behaviour include:

- Behaviour causing alarm, distress or annoyance
- Neighbour nuisance
- Noise
- Dog Fouling
- Litter and Flytipping
- Vandalism and Graffiti

3.3 The provision of effective arrangements to resolve antisocial behaviour requires collaboration across the Council and with partner agencies, such as Police Scotland; Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; NHS and SACRO. The primary Council services are:

- Conflict Resolution Services
- Community Safety Team
- Restorative Justice
- Community Learning & Development

3.4 In addition to these services, specific input on a case by case basis is available from a range of other Council services including Children's Services and Housing Services.

3.5 Antisocial behaviour can be reported on a confidential 24/7 basis, either via the Council's website or calling the free phone antisocial behaviour reporting line (08081003161). Council tenants should report instances of antisocial behaviour via their local housing office. Where applicable, cases are then escalated to the Conflict Resolution Service.

## 4. Conflict Resolution Services

4.1 The Conflict Resolution Service provides specialist assistance for people experiencing antisocial behaviour or neighbour disputes. They work with Police Scotland, voluntary agencies, and other council services. Their aim is to prevent, intervene, engage and reduce antisocial behaviour. The services available to help do this are:

- **Mediation** – provides the opportunity to resolve issues about neighbours or minor anti-social behaviour with the help of professionally trained mediators. The service is free and voluntary. For mediation to be successful, everyone involved must show that they are willing to resolve the situation. Family mediation is also offered for young people to help prevent them becoming homeless.
- **Conflict Resolution Officers** - specially trained officers can help residents by, investigating antisocial behaviour. This includes:

- Preventing negative behaviour escalating by using acceptable behaviour agreements
  - Working in partnership with SACRO, the youth justice mediation service, to prevent youth antisocial behaviour
  - Supporting and assisting residents of non-council properties by managing cases in the same way as Neighbourhood Offices do for council tenants
  - Installing noise monitoring equipment and undertaking analysis
  - Issuing antisocial behaviour warnings
- **Falkirk Investigation Response and Support Team (F.I.R.S.T)** - specially trained officers who deal with more serious and persistent antisocial behaviour. F.I.R.S.T can:
    - Identify and act on the appropriate course of action to resolve the situation
    - Gathering evidence to pursue legal action
    - Act as professional witnesses
    - Apply for Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBO)
    - Pursuing eviction action when appropriate
    - Work with other agencies to provide necessary support to all parties involved
    - Supporting witnesses and victims

## **5. Community Safety Team**

- 5.1 The Community Safety Team consists of officers and Wardens; they patrol the Falkirk Council area between 7am and 10pm Monday to Saturday. Their main duties involve developing close links between communities and dealing with Antisocial Behaviour. They can also offer advice on local services, housing and environmental issues.
- 5.2 Community Safety Officers also have responsibility for control of dogs, dog fouling, litter and fly tipping. They can issue Dog Control Notices, Warning Letters and Fixed Penalty Notices. Fixed penalty notices are currently: Litter - £80; Dog fouling - £80 (rising to £100 if not paid within 28 days) and fly tipping - £200
- 5.3 The team is recognisable by their distinctively marked vehicles and black uniform. They wear personal CCTV cameras, have access to vehicles and mountain bikes and can be approached by any member of the public looking for help.
- 5.4 Contact details and information relating to the team is available via the Council website.

## **6. Restorative Justice**

- 6.1 Sacro provides a restorative justice and anti-social behaviour service in Falkirk. This service is aimed at children and young people aged between 8 and 18 years of age who have been charged with offences or have been involved in anti-social behaviour.
- 6.2 The service has a delivery target of working with 120 referrals per year delivering a range of interventions including mediation, restorative conferences, restorative conversations, one to one victim awareness work and group work programmes. Specifically the service focuses on inclusion, by enhancing resilience and confidence in young people alongside taking responsibility for their actions through reparation and restorative work.
- 6.3 Sacro also provides a diversion from prosecution service to the Fiscal for children aged 16 and 17 years of age. This reduces the likelihood of children ended up in the criminal justice service and subject to statutory orders.
- 6.4 The service received 122 new referrals during period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017:
- 211 pupils participated in group work in schools relating to internet safety;
  - 107 young people were engaged in a programme of support to address offending behaviour;
  - 76 young people completed programmes;
  - 95 cases were closed; and
  - There were 18 re-referrals to Sacro during this period
- 6.5 This service plays a key role in the delivery of youth justice services within the Falkirk Council area. It sits within a tiered approach to youth justice and works with partners in both Criminal Justice and Children's Services to reduce the likelihood of young people progressing into the adult Criminal Justice Service as a result of continued offending behaviour. The service ensures that those harmed by offending and anti-social behaviour are provided with the opportunity to achieve redress.

## **7. Community Learning & Development (CLD)**

- 7.1 This Service offers children and young people alternatives to becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. This early intervention work is delivered within schools and youth groups and raises with young people the dangers, impacts and consequences of vandalism, smoking, drunken behaviour, throwing stones or other objects and threats, verbal and physical abuse. Staff engage with children and young people in a creative way to help them to learn and develop regarding these issues.
- 7.2 CLD also engage with parent/carers of children and young people who are at risk of becoming involved in ASB. A family learning approach is utilised, which is an early intervention and prevention approach. This seeks to improve the way parents/carers communicate with the children, including ASB matters. This enables the parent/carers to work with their child to understand, take responsibility and make shared decisions that can relate to their child's involvement in ASB.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 Consultation on this report is not considered necessary at this stage. However, consultation maybe necessary as part of the remit of a Scrutiny Panel, should members consider antisocial behaviour an area for further scrutiny.

## **9. Implications**

### **Financial**

- 9.1 The costs of the respective Services outlined above are included within the Council's 2017/18 revenue budget.

### **Resources**

- 9.2 There are no resource implications arising from this report

### **Legal**

- 9.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **Risk**

9.4 No specific risks are identified in relation to this report

### **Equalities**

9.5 No specific equality matters are identified in relation to this report

### **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

9.6 No specific sustainability or equality matters are identified in relation to this report

## **10. Conclusions**

10.1 The Council provides a range of services in relation antisocial behaviour services. These services are provided in partnership with a range of partner agencies.

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**Date: 2 November 2017**

## **APPENDICES**

**1. None**

### **List of Background Papers:**

**The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:**

- **None**