

FALKIRK COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

**Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - PROPOSED
RESTRUCTURE**
Meeting: COMMUNITY PLANNING LEADERSHIP BOARD
Date: 12 JUNE 2014
Author: FALKIRK AREA COMMANDER, POLICE SCOTLAND

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline proposed changes to the Board regarding the Community Safety Partnership, so that its approach and work is better co-ordinated. The activity undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership to review its approach has been favourably commented on by Audit Scotland within the Community Planning audit report.
- 1.2 In April 2011, the Community Safety Partnership adopted an evidence led tasking and co-ordinating approach, to ensure that community safety was delivered by partners in an informed, prioritised and co-ordinated manner.. The structure was developed in response to the Partnership Strategic Assessment report undertaken in 2009 /10.
- 1.3 Further to this a review and refresh of the Strategy was conducted in 2013, which identified the following priorities for the Falkirk Local Authority Area..
- **Antisocial Behaviour;**
 - **Reducing Re-offending;**
 - **Domestic Abuse;**
 - **Alcohol and Drugs; and**
 - **Safety.**

2. EXISTING STRUCTURE

- 2.1 The Community Safety Partnership presently meets on a monthly basis, with there being a clear focus upon the operational matters in terms of reviewing and addressing the issues identified through the Joint Tasking Group Monthly Report. This is a monthly report collated by an analyst and is drawn from a number of partner based information and management systems. The Board should be aware that throughout the process partner support and motivation for community safety has been maintained.
- 2.2 While this approach has been successful at an operational level, a number of partners

have expressed concern that all areas of business were being covered. A number of the following issues reflect the findings arising from audit of Community Planning, including:

- The structure lacks strategic direction and scrutiny;
- Too much focus is given to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) to the detriment of other priorities;
- There is no mechanism to deal with other Community Safety matters outwith the scope of Tasking and Co-ordination meetings;
- One meeting per month is insufficient to drive the business of the partnership;
- There is insufficient focus on performance management; and
- We are not fully capturing the work of the partnership and individual partners against our priorities.

3. PROPOSED STRUCTURE

- 3.1 We propose to make a number of changes to the way in which the Community Safety Partnership operates, to address these concerns, and to ensure that locally we are strategically led and our work is effectively co-ordinated. The proposed structure has been developed following consultation with key partners and has recently been tested with favourable feedback. The proposed structure will ensure that we continue to develop the positive outcomes already achieved in addressing ASB at an operational level but also develop an enhanced overarching approach to developing the wider community safety strategy and priorities. This also takes account of the establishment of Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, as well as each organisation's local plans covering the Council area. An overview of the proposed new structure is provided at Appendix 1.

The Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group (CPSG)

- 3.2 We propose that the existing approach whereby the Community Safety Partnership reports to the Community Planning Leadership Board will remain. This will be in accordance with any new scrutiny requirements the Board may have, and will take account of the performance management improvements being progressed by the Improvement Group. We have however, identified the need for a new Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group (CSPSG) Group meeting on a quarterly basis. The CSPSG will be chaired by the Local Police Commander, with a deputy chair being resourced by a senior officer from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The group will consist of partner representatives at a management level within partnership agencies with the authority and ability to commit resources and make decisions.
- 3.3 The CSPSG will have oversight of the Community Safety Strategy against the agreed priorities using an Action Plan for each priority to be developed and monitored by the partnership. It will also lead on engagement, promotion, communication, while

having oversight responsibility for performance on our Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The Action Plan, which we propose to publish will highlight key actions to be taken to secure our strategic priorities. This will complement the SOA delivery plan which will be developed later in the year, as recommended by Audit Scotland. The group will also have greater scrutiny on performance against the relevant outcomes in our SOA, particularly with regard our key responsibility for, '*Our area will be a safer place to live*', and the following local outcomes;

- Our citizens will be protected;
- Vulnerable children and adults will be protected;
- Our communities will be safer; and
- We will work to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

- 3.4 A bi-annual review of the Strategic Assessment will ensure the continuing validity of our local priorities and Action Plan. The CPSG will receive a six monthly overview report, which will provide an analysis of performance against our priorities and an environmental assessment of emerging Community Safety priorities and issues. Each of the partnership groups outlined at Appendix 1 will be reporting progress and performance on a regular basis to the Strategic Group. These arrangements will provide the necessary source information for scrutiny reports the Strategic Group will submit to the Leadership Board on a six monthly basis.

The Community Safety Partnership Tactical Tasking Group

- 3.5 The current Community Safety Partnership Tasking & Co-ordination Group will continue to meet monthly. This group will be chaired by a local community Inspector. Representation on this group will be operational managers who are involved in the deployment of managers and the local leads for each of the Community Safety Partnership's priorities. At this meeting the local leads will be held to account for progress made in their respective areas of responsibility.

Fortnightly/Daily Tasking Structure – Operational Matters

- 3.6 Each of the Community Safety Partnership's priorities has an identified local lead officer, who has responsibility for delivering that function's annual work plan. These priorities, will have their own group based meeting structure, to ensure that they receive the individual focus and attention, which in turn will ensure that appropriate progress is being achieved.
- 3.7 The new structure will also introduce formal daily contact between key agencies, to ensure that resources can be co-ordinated and deployed proactively to any emerging issues. Importantly, this strand of the new structure will capture much of the good work being carried out on a daily basis, which previously we have been unable to tangibly align to the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The proposed changes to our approach on Community Safety, reflect the desire of the partners involved to optimise the time and resources to the work of the partnership. The proposed will enhance both governance and accountability, with an increased emphasis on performance management. This in turn will provide assurance to the Board that the required progress is being made on our SOA.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board:

- 5.1 **Notes the rationale provided for the proposed changes to the Community Safety Partnership; and**
5.2 **Approves the proposed changes to the Community Safety Partnership, as outlined at section 3.**

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FALKIRK AREA COMMANDER

Date: 19 May 2014
Ref: MAAEA0414AW – Community Safety Restructure
Contact Name: Andrew Wilson

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. None

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506046 and ask for Andrew Wilson