

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND (FPP): COMMUNITY SAFETY
Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date: 01 DECEMBER 2014
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the work of external organisations who receive funding from the Community Safety budget and who fall within the “Following the Public Pound (FPP) reporting & monitoring arrangements. The reporting period is 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
- 1.2 The services affected by Following the Public Pound reporting requirements are:
- Falkirk Bid – Taxi Marshalling services
 - Sacro – Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service
- 1.3 Both of these organisations provide services that could not be delivered internally. They provide the Community Safety Partnership with expertise in managing and minimising potential disorder, anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. They contribute to the council community safety priority of achieving Safer Communities - “Our Area will be a Safer Place to Live”.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO OUTCOMES

- 2.1 Safer Communities is one of our key priorities within our Single Outcome Agreement with regard to the following outcomes:
- Our citizens will be protected;
 - Vulnerable children and adults will be protected;
 - Our citizens will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing;
 - Our communities will be safe; and
 - We will work to reduce crime and the fear of crime.
- 2.2 In overall terms the number of recorded crimes in the most serious categories per 10,000 population continues to fall, from 465.5 in 2012/13 to 458.8 in 2014/15. We consistently achieve in excess of 90% of people who feel safe in their local area during the, and in excess of 60% feel safe at night.
- 2.3 Sacro (RABS) and Specialized Security (taxi marshalling service) both contribute to the delivery of Safer Communities and are key partners in management of anti-social behaviour and alcohol related disorder.

- 2.4 The taxi marshalling initiative continues to deliver a valuable service in promoting Falkirk Town Centre as a safe place to have a night out in. The initiative has proved a successful tool in managing and minimising any potential opportunities for alcohol fuelled disorder at peak times within the town centre. Public opinion of the taxi marshalling service is that it provides an essential service and that it has changed people's perception of Falkirk for the better.
- 2.5 The RABS service continues to work with partners and the Community Safety Partnership's monthly Tasking & Co-ordination Group to reduce levels of conflict and anti-social behaviour in communities through challenging and modifying young people's behaviour; diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour and criminal activity and reducing the fear of crime.

3. OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATION WHICH RECEIVED FUNDING

- 3.1 Falkirk Town Centre Taxi Marshalling provision is commissioned by Falkirk Towns Ltd on behalf of the Falkirk BID/Delivers. The service is delivered by Specialized Security Ltd. The taxi marshalling service has been operational at Newmarket Street taxi rank since 2007, initially over the festive period, funded by the Scottish Government and now by Falkirk Council's Community Safety budget in partnership with Falkirk Towns Ltd.
- 3.2 The taxi marshalling initiative was mainstreamed in 2009 providing taxi marshalling at the Newmarket Street taxi rank on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the year supported by Festive Safe Base and Safer Streets in partnership with Falkirk Street Pastors, British Red Cross, Signpost Recovery, Police Scotland, NHSFV Alcohol & Drug Partnership and Falkirk Community & Learning Development Service. The aim of the taxi marshalling initiative is to manage and minimise any potential opportunities for alcohol fuelled disorder at peak times within Falkirk Town Centre and consequently enhance the image of Falkirk Town Centre as a safe and enjoyable place to visit at night time.
- 3.3 The taxi marshalling provision was further developed in 2013 to extend the service to the Meadow Street taxi rank which has proved successful in managing alcohol related disorder in this area of the Town Centre. The area around the Storm Nightclub in Meadow Street has repeatedly been identified as an area of concern with regard to alcohol related disorder. The inclusion of the Meadow Street taxi rank has been a positive contribution to reducing alcohol related disorder in this area.
- 3.4 Sacro is funded by the Community Safety budget to provide a Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Service (RABS). Current funding stands at £46,104, which has been the case since 2011/12.
- 3.5 The service provided is funded externally as Sacro are leaders across Scotland in providing restorative approaches within a Community Justice setting. The service provides the Partnership with a cost effective and valuable resource in managing anti-social behaviour/conflict within our communities. This is not a service that could be provided in-house.

4. ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATION'S PERFORMANCE

- 4.1 An individual report is attached for both Falkirk BID and Sacro. Each report provides an overview of the service provided, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the reporting period and a financial overview which includes their financial accounts for 2012/2013. Audited accounts for 2013/14 have not yet been published.
- 4.2 As part of the funding application process an annual risk and financial assessment is undertaken based on governance arrangements, financial management and past performance to ascertain their risk rating. The ratings are graded low, medium or high and provide monitoring officers with an indication of the minimum level of monitoring and support which should be established. External organisations deemed as low risk, are monitored at least annually, medium risk external organisations should be monitored at least quarterly and high risk, at least monthly. Monitoring is recommended to take the form of regular reports, which measure performance against outcomes and/or objectives and provide financial monitoring information. Monitoring Officers are also required to hold meetings with the external organisation throughout the year.
- 4.3 Quarterly monitoring is in place for both organisations, funding is released on a quarterly basis on receipt and approval of their monitoring reports. Their annual risk and financial assessment is rated as low to medium risk with annual accounts being assessed as satisfactory.
- 4.4 An individual report is attached for both Falkirk BID and Sacro. Each report provides an overview of the service provided, the agreed objectives or outcomes, performance information during the reporting period and a financial overview which includes their financial accounts for 2012/2013. Audited accounts for 2013/14 have not yet been published.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 As set out within the report to this Committee on 13 June 2013, 'Following the Public Pound: Scrutiny Committee Role and Reporting Schedule', Members are invited to consider each organisation's report and select from the following options for each external organisation:
- A. Approve report and acknowledge progress by the external organisation in meeting Council priorities;
 - B. Request further information on specific aspects of the service provided; or
 - C. Request action with follow-up for subsequent Scrutiny Committee consideration.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 6.1 Consider individual reports for external organisations and select an option from those presented in 5.1.**

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 10 September 2014
Ref: ABC0914AK – FPP – Community Safety
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506004 and ask for Fiona Campbell