

MINUTES of MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith Tuesday 2 December 2014 at 2.00 pm.

Present:-

Midlothian Council: Councillors Thompson (Chair), de Vink and Wallace

Police Scotland: Chief Superintendent Gill Imery; Chief Inspector Kenneth Simpson.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service: Dean Mack; Michael Jaffrey.

Midlothian Voluntary Action: George Wilson.

Criminal Justice/ Public Protection Services: Margaret Brewer.

Plusone Mentoring Programme – Natasha McInninie.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Baxter; Colonel Mackay (Mod Edinburgh Garrison); Mr. R Strachan (CJA). Mr. A Short (Lothian NHS).

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Plusone Mentoring Programme – Progress Report

There was submitted report, dated 20 November 2014, by the Programme Manager, Plusone Mentoring Programme providing an update on the development of the programme since its commencement in May 2014. The report provided detailed information in respect of the objectives of the programme; the criteria for referral; the numbers and geographical spread of referrals; the roles of Mentors; Mentor recruitment; partnership development; recreational venues; and the development of Mentor skills. The report further advised that the challenges in recruiting male mentors could potentially pose a risk to the programme, particularly in respect of matching Mentors with existing referrals. It was possible that the target of 20 matches may not therefore be achieved in year 1.

Decision

- (a) To note the willingness of both MVA and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to support initiatives to secure further volunteers to act as mentors;
- (b) To note that Midlothian Council could likewise support the initiative through various staff communications and via Black Diamond FM;

- (c) That Officials investigate the possible use of facilities in Community Leisure Centres, possibly at a discounted rate, to support the work of Mentors;
- (d) To note that extensive training was given to Mentors, particularly in respect of anger management; and
- (e) To otherwise note the report.

(Action: (a) Programme Manager ; (b) and (c) Head of Customer and Housing Services).

3 Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of 19 August 2014 were submitted and approved.

Arising from consideration of the foregoing Minutes, the Board noted that the Midlothian Council Labour Group had not yet taken up its places on the Board and that the Chair would make a further approach to the Group with a view to resolving the situation.

4 Midlothian Local Police Plan 2014-2017 - Update

There was submitted report from Chief Inspector, K Simpson, Police Scotland, updating the Board on the ongoing work of Police Scotland within Midlothian during the period July to September 2014.

The report drew attention to the Police involvement at the Commonwealth Games; the Scottish Independence Referendum on 18 September 2014; and the Midfest event also in September 2014, all of which had substantial resource implications for Police Scotland. In amplification of the report, Chief Inspector Wilson also highlighted the action taken by the Police in respect of serious issues which had arisen in the Woodburn area of Dalkeith, which were now resolved and that there was an open day on 6 December 2014 at Penicuik Police Station.

At a national level, Chief Superintendant Ritchie, drew attention to a number of initiatives being promoted by Police Scotland including, *inter alia*, the establishment of a Chief Officer Group to scrutinise the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation. At a local level statistics showed that violent crime; assaults; and domestic violence were reducing although there had been an increase in sexual crime.

Decision

To note the report.

5 Community Policing Team - Activity Summary

There was submitted report by Police Scotland providing a summary of Community Policing activity during the period July to October 2014.

The report provided detailed information in respect of the number of drugs and alcohol searches (persons and property); the volume of street alcohol recovered; the numbers of weapon searches; the number of licensed premises visits; the number of bail curfew checks completed/offenders reported; the number of warrant checks/persons arrested; the number of arrests made (other than on warrant); the number of full Standard Prosecution Reports (SPRs) submitted (excluding Road Traffic Act (RTA) and Bail Offences); the number of Anti Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices issued (excluding RTA); the number of Road Traffic based full SPRs; the number of RTA Fixed Penalty Notices(FPNs) issued; the number of seizures under Section 165 of the RTA; the number of vehicle ASBO warnings issued; the number of breath tests undertaken; and the number of Scottish Intelligence Database(SID) submissions. There had been five Child Social Work Referrals (CCFs) and one adult social work referral submitted; seven party House visits;and 19 violent offender visits. The number of officer hours spent on non-core duties totaled 200. The report also provided detailed additional information on police activity and notable incidents during this period.

Decision

- (a) To note the increase in the numbers of cases of careless driving;
- (b) To note that information on the definition of “Seriously Injured” would be provided to Board Members;
- (c) To note that Police Scotland were keen to enhance their attendance at Community Council Meetings and to this end would be discussing the issue further at the meeting of the Federation of Community Councils on 21 January 2015; and
- (d) To otherwise note the report.

6 Police Scotland – Performance Report

There was submitted report from Police Scotland detailing their performance in Midlothian against set indicators during the period 1 April 2014 to 30 September 2014.

The report highlighted local police performance in relation to the priorities of Tackling Substance Misuse; Protecting People; Reducing Violence; Making Roads Safer; Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour; Tackling Serious and Organised Crime; and Reducing Housebreaking.

Decision

To note the report.

7 Fire and Rescue Service – Performance Report – Quarter 1 2014-15

There was submitted report from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, providing an update on performance against the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Midlothian 2013, along with statistical information relative thereto.

The report highlighted that during this period (1 July to 30 September 2014):-

Accidental Dwelling Fires - There had been 18 Accidental Dwelling fires, a decrease of one when compared to the same period during 2012-13;

Deliberate Dwelling Fires – There had been four deliberate dwelling fires, a slight increase when compared to the same period in 2013;

Fire Casualties/Fatalities - There had been no fire fatalities and four non fatal fire casualties from accidental dwelling fires;

Road Traffic Collisions - The Fire and Rescue Service had attended 13 Road Traffic Collisions, a increase of three when compared to the same period during 2013-14; and

Unwanted Fire Signals - There had been 130 Unwanted Fire Signals, a decrease of 27 when compared to the same period during 2013-14.

In amplification of the report, SFRS advised that of the 18 accidental dwelling fires, 16 of these were in single occupancy homes; in respect of stair fires, one of these was regarded as an arson attempt and was now in the hands of the Police; of the unwanted fire signals, 59 of these arose from faulty apparatus; there had been a positive response to the initiative to reduce the numbers of unwanted fire signals; whilst a number of prevention and protection activities were behind schedule, these would be completed by the target date of 31 March 2015; and the service was ahead of target in respect of home safety visits.

Decision

To note the report.

8 Youth Engagement Referral Process – Cool Down Crew

There was submitted report, dated December 2014, from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), advising that within the East of Scotland Service Delivery Area , the Service would be introducing a new youth engagement programme during 2014/15 which would involve reviewing and possibly amending the manner in which students were identified, selected and nominated for attendance on the “Cool Down Crew” course. The report explained that a new method of referral had been developed with a focus on attracting students who met specific criteria and who were most likely to benefit from participation on the course. The referral method would still involve schools but would also open up the possibility of referrals via Community Planning Partnership forums. There were five planned courses for Midlothian involving 40 students.

Decision

To note the report.

9 Community Safety Performance Report

There was submitted the Community Safety Performance report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2014 , providing a summary of successes during this period and detailing the major challenges to be faced and the proposed actions to address these.

Decision

- (a) To note that 27 of the 28 actions in the Community Safety Strategy were either on target or had been completed; and
- (b) To otherwise note the report.

10 Midlothian Community Safety Partnership – 2015/16 Priority Setting

There was submitted report, dated 20 November 2014, by the Community Safety Manager, presenting the recommended Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2015/16 which had been determined after consultation with the Citizens' Panel, the public, community groups and other organizations and following the Community Planning Partnership Development Day on 9 October 2014. The recommended priorities were:-

- Violent Crime, including sexual crime (high);
- Violence against women and girls including domestic abuse and gender based violence (high);
- Alcohol and drug misuse (high);
- Reoffending;
- Antisocial Behaviour, including hate crime;
- Adults at risk of financial harm and exploitation;
- Child protection with a focus on risk taking behaviour and WSA;
- Home safety;
- Serious and Organised crime; and
- Railway safety.

The report therefore incorporated an action plan to address these issues.

Decision

- (a) To approve the Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2015/16; and
- (b) To approve the action plan in principle and to remit to the Delivery Group to finalise its terms.

(Action: Community Safety Manager).

11 Midlothian Community Safety Partnership Funding

There was submitted report, dated 18 November 2014, by the Head of Customer and Housing Services, in respect of Community Safety Partnership Funding, providing an evaluation of the funding distributed in 2013/14; a summary of the approved projects for 2014-15; and an outline of the new procedure for distributing funding in 2015 -18 under the Council's new grant distribution scheme. The report highlighted that until this year, the Community Safety funding criteria was aligned with the Community Safety Strategy Priorities but this would no longer be the case as part of the Council grants process. The effect of this change would mean that projects previously funded by the Community Safety Partnership would now be in competition with other projects in the Developing Communities grants stream. In addition, the funding criteria for the grants stream was not specific to the Community Safety Partnership Priorities but now fell within the objective of ensuring that Communities of interest and place were more resilient, cohesive and safer. The Community Safety Partnership had submitted several bids as part of the 2014 Council's grants process and was awaiting a decision on these.

Decision

- (a) To note the evaluation of projects funded in 2013-14;
- (b) To note the distribution of the funding for 2014-15; and
- (c) To note the new funding structure for 2015 onwards.

12 Alcohol and Drug Misuse in Midlothian

There was submitted report, dated 18 November 2014, by the Community Safety Manager, presenting an update on the Community Safety Partnership's work in respect Alcohol and Drug misuse which was the Partnership's top priority for 2014/15. The report provided detailed information in relation to alcohol and drug misuse initiatives and the emerging problem resulting from the use of Psychoactive substances and in respect of which the Steering Group had formulated a draft action plan. The report detailed the anticipated outcome of the measures detailed in the action plan.

Decision

To note the report.

13 Community Justice Re-design

There was submitted report, dated 10 November 2014, by the Statutory Service Manager, in respect of preparation for the new national Community Justice framework and suggesting the establishment of a Shadow Reducing Reoffending Partnership which would commence meeting in April 2015. The report explained that the new structure being introduced by Scottish Government would place a statutory responsibility on Midlothian Council to establish a local Reducing Reoffending Partnership and assume responsibility for the strategic and operational planning,

design and delivery of services for community justice. The following agencies would be included in Reducing Reoffending partnerships, viz:-

- Local authorities
- NHS Boards
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Prison Service
- Alcohol and Drug Partnerships
- Third Sector
- Skills Development Scotland

Local partnerships would be required to produce a single strategic plan for community justice for each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and each partner organisation within the CPP would be held accountable for its performance, including its contribution to community justice, through its existing governance and accountability arrangements. In addition, a national body would be created which would develop a national strategy and a national performance framework for community justice that would inform local plans.

Decision

To recommend to the Midlothian Council the establishment of a Shadow Reducing Reoffending Partnership, to include the seven agencies outlined above and any other agencies deemed relevant with a view to ensuring that the Council was be adequately prepared for the new Community Justice structure.

(Action: Head of Customer and Housing Services/ Statutory Service Manager).

14 Community Payback Order Annual Report 2013/14

There was submitted report, dated 3 November 2014, by the Statutory Service Manager, providing a context for the Community Payback Order Annual Report 2013/14 which had been produced in accordance with the Criminal (Procedure) Scotland Act 1995 and which accompanied the report. The annual report had also been circulated to all Community Councils.

Decision

To note the report.

15 Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Board agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted items, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed information as defined in paragraphs 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- (a) Overview of Violent Crime and Violence Against Women in Midlothian 2014 – 15 – Report By Community Safety Manager – Report noted; and
- (b) New Psychoactive Substances – Current Position in Midlothian - Report by Community Safety Manager – Report noted;

Sederunt

Councillor de Vink left the meeting during discussion of item no 15 (b) above (3.55pm)

The meeting terminated at 4.00pm.

