

Minute of Meeting

Police Fire and Rescue Board
Monday 21 February 2022
Item No: 4.1



Police and Fire and Rescue Board

Date	Time	Venue
20 December 2021	11.00 am	Virtual Meeting by MS Teams

Present:

Councillor Curran (Chair)
Councillor McCall
Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Parry
Councillor Smail

In Attendance:

Midlothian Council	Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
	Janet Ritchie, Democratic Services Officer
Police Scotland	Chief Inspector Arron Clinkscales
	Superintendent Alwyn Bell
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Stephen Gourlay, Area Commander
	Andy Anderson, Group Commander
	Hilary Sangster, Area Commander
SpikeAware	Guest Speaker

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apology

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and there followed a round of introductions.

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Munro

2. Order of Business

The order of business was as amended with Item 5.3 taken as the first item as detailed below:

3. Declarations of interest

There was no declarations of interest received.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 30 August 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

5. Public Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	
5.3	SpikeAware	Verbal Update
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>A guest speaker from SpikeAware UK was in attendance at the meeting to raise awareness of SpikeAware UK and advised that spiking in the UK was on the increase. He provided details on what actions are being taken across the country and highlighted that there was no coordinated system and everyone was working differently with regards to this. He further advised that a lot of people do not report being spiked and that spiking does not just happen to teenagers but can happen to any age and also in many different ways.</p> <p>This was followed by a discussion on raising awareness and what could be done by Midlothian Council and Police Scotland to further highlight this in the community and with local license premises. The Police confirmed that the figures of Spiking was not seen as a big problem in Midlothian but did acknowledge that this may be due to these being under reported. He further confirmed that this was a work in progress with MCAT and Council Officers and would continue to be on the radar. He also advised that he would ascertain where the stats on this were recorded and report back. Mr Oliver also confirmed that the Licensing Officer would be working closely with MCAT and Police Scotland to do spot visits and to raise awareness with local License premises. It was also highlighted that the Serious Crime Division were collating all returns relating to this crime and that they hold weekly meetings to look at trends and that feedback is provided to local Divisions.</p> <p>During a demonstration of some of the anti-spiking kits it was acknowledged that this could happen to anyone not just young people. It was also raised that information from the Ambulance Service relating to this might be useful and Mr Oliver advised he would follow this up with the Ambulance Service and also</p>		

confirmed that letters were sent out to Licensees on 10 December 2021 with regards to raising awareness of spiking.

It was also highlighted that Licensees and Taxi Drivers have a duty of care and need to be aware that someone who may appear drunk could have been spiked.

The Chair thanked the Guest speaker for his input and the work that SpikeAware were continuing to do.

Decision

The Board noted:

- Aaron Clinkscales would ascertain where the stats relating to this were recorded and feedback.
- Mr Oliver to liaise with the Ambulance Service with regards to incidents relating to this.

Action

Chief Inspector Aaron Clinkscales / Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place

Midlothain Fire Service

The Chair acknowledged that Stephen Gourlay was moving from his current post and thanked him for his commitment over the last few years and wished him every success in the future.

Area Commander Stephen Gourlay thanked the Chair and introduced Area Commander Hilary Sangster who was present at today's meeting and advised also on a new Depute Assistant Chief Officer.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Midlothian Fire Service Quarter 2 Scrutiny Performance Report	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Mr Gourlay acknowledged the delay in this meeting due to COP26 which passed relatively quietly and highlighted that although they did have a number of staff commitments to this event this did not have an impact on services in Midlothian.</p> <p>He further advised that Bonfire period had passed and the support provided by Police Scotland was not required as much as in previous years. He further advised on the Unwanted Fire Alarm consultation which was now concluded and the results had been analysed and presented to the National Fire Board who had chosen Option A which was the recommendation from the consultation and this would be formally communicated on Tuesday.</p> <p>He advised on some of the changes due to this and also that new domestic smoke detection legislation which will become live in February 2022. He further advised that he would circulate an Elected Members Briefing paper after the meeting which will provide some advice and guidance.</p> <p>Mr Gourlay highlighted it had been a pleasure working in Midlothian over the last 4 years and expressed his thanks to the fantastic partnership working across Midlothian and also acknowledged the excellent team he has worked with.</p>		

Thereafter Mr Gourlay responded to questions raised with regards to purchasing equipment and advised that the Fire Service would still fit these in high risk areas and that there was affordable systems for the general public. The Chair also highlighted that there is some funding available from Care and Repair Scotland for those who require support.

Mr Oliver advised that communication regarding this had been sent out internally and that this message was getting pushed on Social Media but he would follow up if external communication had been sent out.

The Chair welcomed the new Area Commander, Hilary Sangster to the Board.

Andy Anderson then presented the Quarter 2 Scrutiny report highlighting that this report provides information on prevention, protection and operational response activities within Midlothian for Quarter 2 of 2021-22 (1st July – 30th September 2021). He highlighted the summary of the key performance indicators and then provided a detailed update on each of the key indicators contained within the report. Mr Anderson highlighted that there was a data glitch on some of the figures and graphs on P17 of the report and advised that in year to date table at the bottom the figures under 2021/22 should read Midlothian 2 and as well as 1 for Penicuik it should also read 1 for Midlothian South but advised that this data glitch should be resolved for Quarter 3.

Andrew Anderson then provided an update on the Prevention and Protection Activities and Partnership Working as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Thereafter Officers responded to questions and comments raised which included the increase in the false alarms and if there are particular repeat offenders and Accidental dwelling fires and smoke damage and how these incidents are categorised. Also raised was unwanted fire alarms, duty holders and control measures in place as well as the maintenance and testing of these.

The chair thanked Steve Gourlay for his contributions and wished him well for the future.

Decision

The Board noted the content of the report

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Police Scotland Midlothian Quarter 2 Performance Report 2021/22	Police Scotland

Outline of report and summary of discussion

Arron Clinkscales also expressed his congratulations and good wishes to Stephen Gourlay.

Arron Clinkscales in presenting this report highlighted the main points contained within the Executive Summary and commented on the excellent partnership working with the Fire Service and Council services in the collaborating working in Midlothian and the significant work of MCAT. He then provided a brief update on each separate category of crime within the report advising that this was on a 5 year average highlighting some of the main challenges and also some of the good partnership working in Midlothian.

Thereafter Officers responded to questions and comments raised by members including group 2 sexual crimes increase and the work done to address this, the high rate of domestic abuse in Midlothian and alarms going off at Straiton.

Officers advised that there was a new Domestic Abuse team advising that this was a supplement to what was already in place which meant an increase in Officers and this should make a difference in the coming weeks. Also advised was the issue with the fire alarms at Straiton and that work was ongoing at the moment to try and resolve this.

The Board noted their thanks to Chief Inspector McKenzie and welcomed Alwyn Bell to the board.

The Chair thanked everyone involved in COP26 and asked for statistics on responding to 911 calls and the allocation of resources. Mr Clinkscales advised that he could not advise on the stats at this time but outlined the call grading system as detailed below:

- Immediate call grading is where circumstances dictate that there is a threat to life or property;
- A prompt call is dispatched as soon as possible but within 4 hours;
- Local policing appointment which is a standard response and is a scheduled appointment;
- A non-attendance, non-incident resolution which is advice and partner signposting – resolution team at control centre or direct crime recording.

Mr Clinkscales advised that he would provide further details and stats on this at the next meeting.

Decision

The Board noted the contents of the Report.

The meeting terminated at 12.43 pm