



COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMUNITY SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Minute of meeting of the Community Planning Community Safety and Environment group held in the Committee Room, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Friday 15 August 2014 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors A Grant and D Pover (both Perth and Kinross Council); E Guthrie, (TACTRAN); E Knox (Tayside Council on Alcohol), A McManus (Perth and Kinross CHP), N Morris , PKAVS (VAP), A Nicolson (Police Scotland) (substituting for J Robertson), W Strathearn (Victim Support Scotland), and A Wood (Perth and Kinross CHP).

In Attendance: G Esson, D Fraser, J Gilruth, R Lyle M Notman, I Smillie, J Somerville, and W Young (all Perth and Kinross Council).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor H Stewart; G Clark (Scottish National Heritage), D Hodgkinson (Perth College UHI); J Flynn (Perth and Kinross CHP, NHS Tayside), J McGuinness (Perth and Kinross CHP, NHS Tayside), R Middlemiss (Scottish Fire and Rescue), J Robertson (Police Scotland), B Roxburgh (Scottish Environment Protection Agency), M Strachan (Forestry Commission), J Valentine (Perth and Kinross Council), and M Whitford (Police Scotland).

Councillor D Pover, Convener

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor D Pover, Convener, welcomed all those present at the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

Councillor D Pover also noted that this would be the final meeting to be attended by two of the members present and on behalf of the Group, he thanked N Morris and W Strathearn for their contribution to the Group and wished them both well for the future.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the relevant Codes of Conduct.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP OF 16 MAY 2014

The minute of meeting of the Community Safety and Environment Group of 16 May 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record subject to the amendments noted below:-

- (i) Date of Minute be amended to read - 16 May (2013) 2014
- (ii) Present: J Kerr (~~Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Services~~) be amended to read – J Kerr (PKAVS (VAP)).

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Restructuring of Community Justice (Item 5 refers)

J Gilruth, Depute Director (Housing and Community Care), referred to the useful update provided to the Group by H Llewellyn and C Johnstone, Tayside Community Justice Authority, at the last meeting. He noted that since then a new national working group had been established. The working group consisted of members from Community Planning Partnerships, COSLA and the Scottish Government. J Gilruth reported that he would be representing the Community Safety and Environment Group on this working group and would expect to consult with members in respect of reducing re-offending and in other areas in due course.

5. PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT TO COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN AND SCHEDULE OF PAPERS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (G/14/231) seeking approval of the amended Community Safety Action Plan. J Gilruth emphasised that the document submitted was not yet final and would continue to evolve. He thanked members of the SMART Group for their considerable effort in further developing the Action Plan and he noted that a number of actions would require continuing significant interagency effort.

J Gilruth added that it was hoped to submit a further updated Action Plan to the next meeting.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Consultation with local communities was planned and the sharing of information would result in the Action Plan further evolving.
- N Morris noted that feedback provided by PKAVS (VAP) had not been incorporated into the Action Plan and requested that references to PKAVS and MEAD be checked for consistency and corrected if necessary.
- That PKAVS (VAP) had been invited to Environment discussion but not to Community Safety discussion and the helpfulness of being involved

at that level. E Knox noted that one voluntary sector organisation involved in any particular group could disseminate information across the sector.

- Clarification regarding communication across the partnership was required (M Notman provided email address and telephone number to those present – it was thereafter agreed that an email confirming correct contact details would follow to all members).
- E Guthrie noted the crossover relevant to environmental and community safety issues in some areas and he also referred to proactive measures such as safe driving courses. In regard to Theme 2 – Road Safety, E Guthrie also suggested there was a need to broaden the references and J Gilruth advised that he should liaise with C Haggart in this regard.

Resolved

- (i) That the Community Safety section of the Community Safety and Environment Action Plan continued to be work-in-progress be noted.
- (ii) The revised actions to date for the Community Safety section of the Community Safety and Environment Action Plan be noted.
- (iii) An updated version of the Community Safety section of the Community Safety and Environment Action Plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.

6. THE SCAMS HUB PROJECT

There was submitted a report by, W Young, Acting Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (G/14/232) highlighting the work of the Scams Hub Project. The report noted that the Scams HUB Project was a partnership project, co-ordinated by the Trading Standards Service, which aimed to contact directly those residents in the Perth and Kinross area who, it was believed, were being targeted by mass market scams. Appendix 1 to the report highlighted relevant case studies.

W Young introduced his colleague, Robert Lyle, Principal Officer, The Environment Service, to the Group. R Lyle then updated the Group on recent developments in relation to the Scams Hub Project and the installation of 'true call' devices to a number of local residents. He referred to difficulties in engaging with individuals, who had already been subject to a scam, in their home. He also reported on the usefulness of being able to work together with Police Scotland.

W Young confirmed that it was expected that the SCAM Awareness sessions, which had taken place at the AK Bell Library previously were expected to continue. He added that there appeared to be a continuing lack of awareness relevant to identity fraud amongst the general public. A Nicolson referred to 'Rural Watch' and to the numerous ways of getting the message out to the public.

The Convener thanked W Young and R Lyle for the informative update and noted the success of the work taking place in partnership within the community.

Resolved

The partnership working on activities resulting from the Scams Hub project, and in protecting possible victims of mass market scams, as outlined in Report G/14/232, be endorsed.

7. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE, DELIVERY OF HOME SAFETY VISITS

There was submitted a report by Rab Middlemiss, Group Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (G/14/233) advising on the progress of joint Home Safety Visits involving Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and PKAVS (VAP).

N Morris noted that in terms of home safety visits, three volunteers were currently working with Fire Wardens and that when an individual's premises was being visited for one of the reasons noted at point 2.3 of Report G/14/233, attention could also be paid to potential evidence of scams.

The Convener asked if there should be a reference to 'flood risk' included within the list of areas covered by joint home safety visits and Councillor Grant agreed that he was surprised this was not included. W Young advised that a report was due to be submitted to a forthcoming meeting of the Council's Environment Committee considering the role that flood protection products could play in improving the resilience of individual properties against flooding. He added that only those properties at risk of flooding would be eligible for a Flood Protection Assessment.

Resolved

The next steps, as outlined in Report G/14/233, be noted.

8. ALCOHOL AND DRUG RELATED CRIME REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (G/14/234) informing the Community Safety and Environment Group of the status and progress of interventions in relationship to Alcohol and Drug Related Crime. The report also noted that drug related crime had a disproportionate impact on communities and that a relatively small amount of offenders could have a large impact on any community. It was acknowledged that drug related offending in the main was usually associated with an individual's drug use and the need to sustain this drug use through acquisitive crime and that this was strongly related to the incidence of violent crime.

The report also noted that alcohol harm arguably caused greater harm to the community than illegal drug use and that wider cultural issues, treatment, education, awareness, support and direct interventions would all relate to a reduction in alcohol related crime.

E Knox briefly spoke to the report and specifically stressed that the availability of alcohol was a key factor in the substantial rise in alcohol consumption and related harm. He referred to proposals, including:-

- Strengthening links between court enforced restrictions and treatment services,
- Tayside survey on prevalence of NPS (new psychoactive substances),
- Alcohol targeted overprovision report,
- To ensure drug user have improved access to general medical care, and
- To ensure long term sustainability of OWLS (Offending and mentoring service).

J Gilruth noted that a paper was to be submitted to the Council's Housing and Health Committee on 27 August 2014 - Support Services for Women at Risk of Offending in Perth and that he would report back to this Group at a future meeting.

In response to a question regarding the situation regarding local misuse of so called 'legal highs', E Knox reported that most information was currently mainly anecdotal and he reported on current work being undertaken by Police Scotland in the Angus area. A Nicolson noted the difficulties in enforcement of a substance that was not a controlled drug and the need for a legal framework. Discussion focussed on the terminology around the substances and the potential alternatives such as 'lethal high' and 'ill legal high'.

Resolved

The work on (1) Mentoring and Community Payback Orders, which is monitored through Tayside Community Justice Authority and (2) Overprovision, which is being progressed through the Alcohol and Drug Partnership, as outlined in Report G/14/234, be supported.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 21 November 2014 at 10.00am.

