

# SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM



## Performance Report 2019

Perth and Kinross is a sustainable, safe place for everyone to live, work and visit, and we make the most of our outstanding urban and rural environment for the benefit of all.

*(Perth and Kinross – Local Outcome Improvement Plan - 2018-2020)*



# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>About the Safer Communities Team</b>	<b>4</b>
Safer Communities Co-ordinators	5
Safer Communities Wardens	6
Unpaid Work Team	7
Safer Communities Hub	8
Information and Analysis	9
Community Safety Projects	10
<b>Safer Communities Statistical Overview</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Safer Communities Wardens</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Safer Communities Co-ordinators</b>	<b>13</b>
Types of Cases	
Residential Noise Calls	
<b>Other Issues</b>	<b>14</b>
Drug Issues	14
Youth Issues	15
Police Anti-Social Behaviour	16
Environmental Issues	17
Violence Against Women Partnership	17
<b>Ambitions 2019-2020</b>	<b>18</b>



# INTRODUCTION

## What is Community Safety?

Community Safety is difficult to define and is constantly evolving. The most commonly accepted definition, devised by COSLA is *“Protecting people’s rights to live in confidence and without fear for their own or other people’s safety”*.

Community Safety is therefore as much about how people feel rather than how statistically safe they are. The changing demographics in Perth and Kinross have influenced a change in approach from all the Community Safety Partners with a growing focus on ‘protecting those most vulnerable in Society from those most likely to harm them’ and a consequent emphasis on risk management, inclusion, reducing inequality, engagement and most importantly, prevention.



# ABOUT THE SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM



The Safer Communities Team in Perth and Kinross Comprises:

Safer Communities Co-ordinators



Safer Communities Wardens



Unpaid Work Team



The Safer Communities Hub



Information and Analysis



Community Safety Projects



# ABOUT THE SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM

## Safer Communities Co-ordinators



This team of four people, 1 Supervisor, 3 Co-ordinators is responsible for:

- *The investigation of Anti-Social Behaviour in partnership with other services such as Housing and Social Work and other agencies such as the Police.*
- *The management and resolution of environmental issues/crime such as Graffiti and other vandalism..*
- *Working in partnership to implement new processes, initiatives and policies such as Terrorism Prevent, Serious Organised Crime, and City Centre Improvements.*
- *Analysis, Investigations and Information sharing in relation to dangerous people through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), High Risk Adult Review Group (HRARG) and other multi-agency groups and meetings.*
- *Co-ordinating council services and working with other agencies to address significant community concerns such as youth causing annoyance, drugs, fire risk, water safety, home safety and supporting vulnerable people.*



# ABOUT THE SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM

## Safer Communities Wardens



The team of 13 wardens and 1 Supervisor is based at Perth Community Fire Station in an innovative co-location and partnership arrangement. The Safer Communities Wardens work across Perth and Kinross and;

- *Carry out visible targeted intelligence-led patrols.*
- *Provide a uniformed response to community and individual problems.*
- *Monitor and respond to the Safer Communities Team 24 hour reporting line.*
- *Carry out Joint Home Safety visits with Fire Fighters,*
- *Co-ordinate Bikeability and other Road Safety Initiatives.*
- *Deliver Junior Warden Programme in Schools.*
- *Carry out joint operations with Police and Fire colleagues and other services in response to developing and seasonal demands such as youths causing annoyance, water safety, city centre issues, fireworks night, festive safety and Halloween.*



# ABOUT THE SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM

## Unpaid Work Team



This team allows offenders sentenced to a Community Payback Order to undertake Unpaid Work. They are based at Westbank Depot and during 2018/2019;

- *Supported 176 Clients to complete their CPO.*
- *Carried out 176 jobs in the community for a total of **29,339** hours.*

The team is a key resource for the other members of the Safer Communities Team through:

- *removing graffiti and making other environmental improvements;*
- *cutting back overgrown vegetation to improve natural surveillance and light;*
- *repairing and replacing broken fences;*
- *supporting hoarders in clearing their gardens and houses;*
- *tidying and reinstating gardens to improve confidence of vulnerable people;*
- *decorating houses to improve confidence and inclusion of vulnerable people;*
- *providing resources to support the City Centre Amenity Project;*
- *supporting offenders to reduce their level of reoffending.*



# ABOUT THE SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM

## Safer Communities Hub



This resource is staffed by Police Officers and has become a key part of the multi-agency problem solving approach in Perth and Kinross.

Issues and concerns are raised from the Police Tasking Meeting each day and these are allocated to the Hub for action. These include:

- *High risk repeat missing people*
- *Dangerous people*
- *Environmental issues*
- *Vulnerable people*
- *Trends in anti-social behavior and crime*
- *Updates on current complex cases*

Emerging trends are identified and tracked through a fortnightly multi-agency tasking meeting and ownership of issues is passed to Short Life Working Groups led by whichever of the partners is most appropriate. These groups develop multi-agency action plans which share skills and resources to tackle issues as early as possible to improve efficiency and effectiveness of response and promote public confidence and trust.

Police Scotland and the Safer Communities Team have developed an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy which has emphasis on early intervention and joint working.





# ABOUT THE SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM

## Information and Analysis



Effective, proportionate information sharing is essential in tackling the many problems reported to the Safer Communities Team and the Hub. It is supported by the Admin and Information Team which has access to all Police and Council systems which ensures operations are well-informed and intelligence-led.



# ABOUT THE SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM

## Community Safety Projects



### City Operations Project

The public space CCTV system has been in operation within Perth City Centre for around 20 years and is now in need of urgent replacement due to its age, increasing maintenance costs and the leap in technologic improvements.

Working in partnership with Dundee City Council and the SMART Cities Programme Safer Communities secured £265,000 supported by ERDF funding, to replace the aging analogue system and replace it with digital smart cameras and much improved support and recording system.

The City Operations will be delivered in conjunction with Community Alarms and Police Scotland. The Project is expected to being its programme of replacement in June 2019.

### Westbank Project

Westbank House and grounds are shared by Community Greenspace and the Unpaid Work Team - It incorporates the House, Workshops, Plant Nurseries and Allotment.

Safer Communities and Community Greenspace have established the project whereby:

### Westbank Vision

Westbank will become a community asset where people and partners will work together:

- *To develop a range of opportunities where partners and people support each other and are supported.*
- *To create positive initiatives associated with Education, Care, Manufacture and Retail.*
- *To promote equality, inclusion, consultation, collaboration and innovation.*
- *To create a welcoming environment where people are valued and their skills and confidence grow.*

In 2016 an application for funding was made to the European Social Fund to further develop the employability activity already taking place on site. The bid was successful and gave the 'board' the capacity to implement its 'transformation' plan. This year a Stage 2 application was approved which will provide funding until the end of 2022.





# SAFER COMMUNITIES STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

During 2018/19 there were a total of 1,839 Service Delivery Requests which includes a huge diversity of issues such as School Patrol checks, Home Safety Visits, Keep in Touch Visits, Water Safety checks, Bikeability, Junior Warden's, Graffiti & Environmental issues, Home Detention Curfews and Community Engagement and more.

Safer Community Wardens are the main source of incident/reports at **58.5%**, with direct reports from the public accounting for **14.9%** reports.

Estates Managements is the category where most incidents were recorded as (ie fly tipping, street lighting and general security) with **789**: this is an increase of **37.7%**, these apparently minor issues, when not addressed, lead to the gradual deterioration of an area and to increases in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The second highest category is Drug Issues with **220**; this is an increase of **36.6%** from the previous year. Residents consistently cite drug abuse and dealing as a significant concern for them. This is a priority for the Safer Communities Team and in the reporting period, the team has focused patrols in areas they know to be affected. A number of new initiatives to tackle the impact of drug abuse in our communities are being developed with partners and will be implemented in 2019-20.

Drugs represent a significant threat to public health and public safety. All Community Wardens are trained and equipped to lift and dispose of discarded needles and work closely with the Co-ordinators and the Environment Service to tackle drug and drinking dens. Information on drug dealers and dealing is always shared with the Police and Wardens of work closely with Drug and Alcohol Services to ensure people get the help they need.



# SAFER COMMUNITIES WARDENS

The Safer Communities Wardens continue to carry out prioritised patrol across Perth and Kinross. The preventative patrolling provides reassurance and provides valuable information for Housing Offices, Environmental Services and other agencies reducing the risk of harm to people and communities. Wherever possible, patrol is linked to multi-agency problem solving initiatives to address long standing issues.

The Safer Communities Warden team has fluctuated in size from a high 30 to a low of 9 and currently sits at 13 with 2 of these staff partly funded externally.

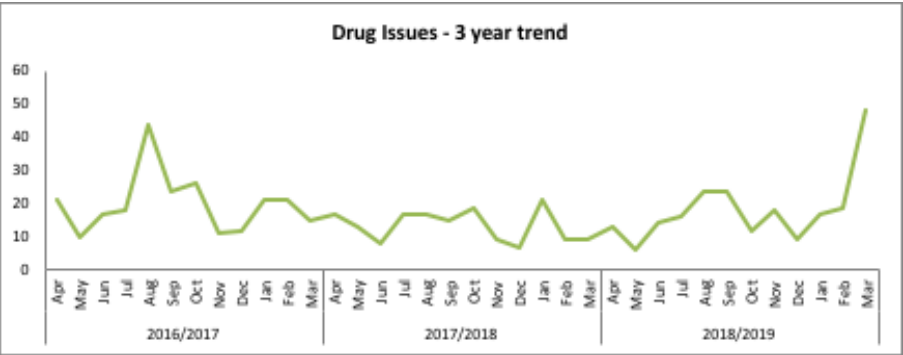
The team dealt with **1402** service delivery requests in 2018-19 an **increase** of 27% over the previous reporting period.

There were 775 Estate Management Issues, which represents an **increase** of 40% and reflects the commitment to working with housing providers to report environmental issues like fly-tipping and graffiti.

There were **213** Drug Issues dealt with by the Wardens, an **increase** of 34% which is a response to public concern and reflects a new focus on directed patrol based on a matrix which encourages staff to regularly revisit drug hot-spots.

There were **119** Youth Issues dealt with by the Wardens, a **decrease** of 8.6%. Youth issues remain a key issue for the service and Wardens engage proactively with young people whenever possible. The reduction in the reporting period is encouraging and may be a response to significant multi-agency investment in tackling youth disorder and annoyance in which the Safer Communities Wardens have been a key player.








# SAFER COMMUNITIES CO-ORDINATOR

226 incidents were dealt with by the Safer Community co-ordinators, almost identical to the previous recording period;

*14 Noise Issues*

*28 Early Intervention Issues*

## Types of Cases

Safer Communities Co-ordinators are involved in a broad range of activities to challenge a broad range of anti-social behaviour. They use all operational and statutory resources at their disposal to find sustainable solutions to problems.

Early Intervention is used in partnership with Housing Officers, Police and the like and Co-ordinators provide support and advice to others to help prevent cases becoming complex, lengthy and expensive investigations. This approach works well, helping perpetrators to maintain their tenancies, reducing the need to criminalise people and showing those suffering the effects of the behaviour that the council and its partners can respond quickly and effectively.

Serious cases of anti-social behaviour can lead to the issue of an ABA (Acceptable Behaviour Agreement) or ASBO (Anti-Social Behaviour Order). ABA's are signed off with the offender if they agree to modify their behaviour and an ASBO has to be applied for and granted by a Sheriff. ASBOs place restrictions on the behaviour of the subject and experience suggest they are effective in changing perpetrator behaviour. A breach of the ASBO is a crime and offenders can be arrested.

During the reporting period Co-ordinators dealt with **226** cases. None of these resulted in an ASBO being granted and **12** people signed up to an ABA.

The Co-ordinators have an effective relationship with Legal Services which means an Interim ASBO can be obtained in days rather than months as it once was effectively making an ASBO an early intervention.

<b>Residential Noise Calls</b>	
There were a total of <b>28</b> recorded as Anti-Social Noise investigations dealt with by the Safer Communities Team in 2018/19 a decrease of 25%	
Anti-Social Noise is where someone is affected by noise created by their neighbours. These cases are time-consuming, complex and often, when Housing structural issues are part of the problem, expensive. A joint approach by a combination of Housing Officers, Police Officers, Safer Communities Co-ordinators, Wardens, social workers etc. achieve the best results. The continuing use of the 2 noise meters to record the frequency and decibel level allows staff and the public to focus on the cause of the problem. The team has 2 units which are always on operational deployment.	







# OTHER ISSUES

## Drug Issues

There were a total of 220 drug issues dealt with in 2018/19. An increase of 37%. 7 cases were dealt with by the Safer Communities Co-ordinators and 213 by the Safer Communities Wardens.

The following table shows the breakdown of drug finds:

Discarded Drug Litter (foil, packages, spoons etc)	180
Presence of dealers or users	14
Discarded needles	15
Taking drugs	11



# OTHER ISSUES

## Youth Issues

There were a total of 121 youth issues in 2018/19. A decrease of 5% from last year's figure of 127. Although the trend in youth issues remains downward, there is a concern about youths gathering in large groups drinking alcohol. This is being tackled by Community Wardens working closely with secondary schools and the Safer Community Team working with the Police in reducing the problem associated with this behavior. The concerns expressed by partners and communities led the partnership to establish short life Youth Issues Group to co-ordinate the response. This seems to have been effective but the Safer Communities Co-ordinators continue to monitor the situation closely and to work closely with Police colleagues.

The following table shows the breakdown of youth related calls:

Group Gathering	56
Football/Sports	6
Vandalism	3
Underage Drinking	15
Weapons Involved	0
Throwing Objects	9
Litter/Rubbish	8
Graffiti	8



## Police Anti-Social Behaviour

The following information is taken from the published figures from Police Scotland for Anti-Social behaviour calls within Perth and Kinross:

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) (public reported)	7522	6738	-10.42
Complaint	1886	1490	-21.00
Disturbance	1846	1739	-5.80
Noise	1481	1327	-10.40
ASB (where alcohol is reported)	59	47	-20.34
Neighbour Dispute	460	508	10.43
Vandalism	750	662	-11.85
Communications	1039	965	-7.12

This decrease in reports is welcome but is against an increase in the previous reporting period. It is attributed to the joint working to tackle youth issues:

- *Police and Warden patrols at Secondary Schools in Perth;*
- *Improved referral procedures;*
- *Improved information sharing between Schools and other Community Safety Partners;*
- *Planned 'hot spot' patrols with Community Wardens and Police to tackle youth drinking;*
- *Hot Spot identification and engagement with affected communities;*
- *School Liaison Visits.*



## **Environmental Issues**

Environmental checks are carried out by Safer Communities Wardens. These include reporting any issues of discarded furniture/ electrical goods, lighting within blocks, street lighting defects, graffiti, abandoned shopping trolleys are reported to Supermarkets.

775 such issues were recorded:

Letham, Hillyland and Tulloch 327 issues reported

North Muirton and Muirton 192 issues reported

Perth City Centre a total of 181 issues reported

Ratray 38 issues reported

## **Violence Against Women Partnership**

The Perth and Kinross Violence Against Women Partnership Co-ordinator is part of the Safer Communities Team. The partnership works together to implement the Equally Safe - Scotland's Strategy to eradicate Violence Against Women and Girls.

The membership is drawn from a broad range of Agencies, Interest Groups and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector providers.

There will be new challenges for the partnership in 2019-20, some we know about, others have yet to emerge. Our processes are designed to be flexible and staff are receptive to change both organisational and operational.

We will seek to find new and creative ways to increase our capacity and capability and will seek new partnerships to help share the load.

Examples are:

*We will develop a new performance reporting regime for the Safer Communities Team which will release capacity for further operational intervention.*

*We will develop a mobile data application to ensure Safer Communities Wardens make the best use of technology to increase their capacity and improve communication.*

*We will deliver the City Operations Project and ensure CCTV is embedded in the activities of the wider safer partnership so enhancing both Capacity and capability.*

*We will develop a new approach to tackling Serious and Organised Crime in Perth and Kinross.*

*We will increase our use of social media to ensure people understand and can access the services we provide.*

*We will seek to develop new co-locations and extend existing ones.*

..and through these activities the Safer Communities Team will continue to work with others to ensure:

*‘Perth and Kinross is a sustainable, safe place for everyone to live, work and visit, and we make the most of our outstanding urban and rural environment for the benefit of all.’*

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

**[www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)**

*(PKC Design Team - 2019109)*

