

**Highland Council Community Safety, Public Engagement
& Equalities Committee**

13 June September 2013

Safe Highlanders 2013

Report by the Assistant Chief Executive

Agenda Item	10
Report No.	CPE 25/13

Summary

This report provides the committee with an update on the delivery of the 2013 Safe Highlanders event in Inverness 8th to 17th May 2013. The report highlights that satellite events achieve geographical coverage of the Highlands. A full evaluation of the Inverness event is also underway.

1. Background

- 1.1 Safe Highlanders & Islanders is a nationally recognised partnership project where around 3,000 Primary 7 pupils from Highland schools are immersed each year in the challenging issues of community safety and crime prevention. They do this through attending Safe Highlanders events in Inverness; and the satellite events, organised locally and to be held this year in Lairg (TBC), Fort William (05/06/13), Portree (12/06/13) and Wick (TBC).
- 1.2 Safe Highlanders is an educational activity based on a partnership approach, aiming to tackle challenging issues of community safety and crime prevention. Children attending the event can:
- become more aware of their own personal safety;
 - potentially avoid becoming victims of crime;
 - understand how to react to emergency situations; and
 - improve their chances of becoming good citizens.
- 1.3 The project is based on the principle of “learning by doing” where Primary 7 pupils get their chance to experience a number of potentially hazardous situations and participate in a range of simulated practical exercises. Pupils acquire life-saving skills including first aid, fire and water safety, safety on roads and internet safety. Children are also presented with the dangers of electricity, building sites and substance misuse.

2. Project Objectives

- 2.1 The event’s objectives are:
- To ensure pupils understand what and what not to do in the event of someone falling in the water and in the event of finding a marine pyrotechnic on the beach.
 - To ensure pupils are able to recognise fire hazards in the home and understand what to do in the event of a smoke alarm going off at home and

the importance of working smoke alarms and fire action plans.

- To ensure pupils know what to do if he/she come across an injured person and what position to use with someone unconscious.
- To ensure pupils understand the dangers of electricity.
- To make pupils more aware of the dangers of putting information online.
- To make pupils aware that building sites are not a playground.
- To reinstate again the importance of using the Green Cross Code when crossing roads (Stop, Look, Listen).
- To provide pupils essential skills and options to refuse harmful drugs when offered and keeping themselves and others safe.

3 Partnership and Volunteers

3.1 The agencies involved in staging this year's Inverness Safe Highlanders event which ran between 8th and 17th May 2013 were:

- The Highland Council services
- Police Scotland – North Command
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service – North
- Scottish Southern Energy
- British Red Cross
- Institute of Safety and Health
- NHS Highland
- Maritime Coastguard Agency
- Fujitsu

The 1700 children attending the event were supported by over 100 volunteers who escorted children from one set of activities to another during the eight day event.

Additionally and new for 2013 Tesco supported the event by providing the commitment of two of their Community Champions and donated fresh fruit and juices to all children, teachers and participating volunteers and agencies.

4. External Interest

4.1 This year's Inverness event attracted local media including Highland News, Inverness Courier, Press & Journal and Moray Firth Radio. The Premier League Football Club, Inverness Caledonian Thistle, visited the event and spent the day talking to the children, agencies and taking part in the sets.

5. Evaluation

5.1 For the Inverness event several evaluations including teachers, pupil and partnership take place with some responses yet to be received. Results will be compiled by end August 2013 and fed back to Members.

6. Implications

6.1 Resource Implications – To date the £22k per annum for the Inverness event covering most schools in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey and Ross-shire areas and £1400 of grant funding for satellite events has been accommodated within existing budget and from partnership contributions.

From 2014/15 forward budget savings of £9,000 is to be made, as agreed as part of the budget setting process in February 2013. Partnership funding is secured for a further two years to make the Inverness event viable, but further work will be done to attract additional sponsorship and other contributions to make the event sustainable.

- 6.2 Legal Implications – there are no known legal implications
- 6.3 Equality Implications – The event targets primary 7 pupils, this is agreed by partners to be the most effect age to get key safety messages across and also supports children in the transition from primary into secondary school. Assessments have been carried out and adaption made to enable children with a physical disability to participate in the sets. Satellite events provide geographical coverage although the sets available vary depending on partner contributions. In addition resource material and a DVD have been developed and are accessible to all schools at the following link:
<http://www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/communitysafety/safehighlanders.htm>
- 6.4 Climate Change Implications – there are no known climate change implications.
- 6.5 Risk Implications – A risk assessment is carried out for each event, no issues requiring mitigation were identified.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Members are asked to note:

- The purpose of the event, the high numbers attending and the contributions for partners and business.
- The additional external interest from local media.
- The evaluation of the event will be circulated to Members for information.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive

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