

## The Highland Council

Caithness & Sutherland Area Committee  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Agenda Item	5.
Report No	CS/22/15

### Safer Caithness

### Report by Chief Superintendent Highland and Islands Division- Police Scotland.

#### Summary

This report provides some background information on a new initiative to address public and private space issues based on the Inverness pilot. The initiative will see local resources combine to respond quickly to local problems to ensure early intervention, better outcomes and value for money.

The committee is invited to:

1. note the start date of the trial of 7 September 2015;
2. note the willingness of agencies to work together;
3. agree to support the initiative and hear further debrief of the progress.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Inverness Response Team is a partner led approach developed to take forward the good practice and positive outcomes of:

Operation Notebook - an existing and ongoing multi-agency operation, its activity aims to “make people feel, and be safer, by tackling antisocial behaviour in and around residential properties within our communities.

and

Operation Respect - aimed at the city centre and reducing street violence and disorder within public spaces and incidents linked to licensed premises by working with key partners to make our streets safer and to reduce the risk to the public.

Both are longstanding and successful initiatives where key partners work together to reduce antisocial behaviour within our communities and public spaces.

- 1.2 The focus of the Team is on prevention and early intervention with the recognition that effectively tackling low level antisocial behaviour can reduce the number of such incidents which can often escalate into more serious

cases.

1.3 The core partners who participate in the daily tactical process include:

- Highland Council
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Police Scotland

The following partners participate on a case by case basis:-

- Albyn Housing Society
- Cairn Housing Association
- Street Pastors
- Inverness BID
- Apex
- VSS
- NHS Highland
- Care and Learning Service
- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Youth Justice

During the period under review the Team have developed and agreed a Operating Protocol and Information Sharing Protocol.

1.4 The new initiative will see this model replicated in Caithness with flexibility applied to meet the local requirements.

## **2 Objectives**

2.1 To develop a Safer Caithness Response Team based on best practice and partnership working.

2.2 • Collaborative planning and service delivery to achieve more efficient and sustainable solutions to community safety priorities.

• Systematic analysis of information collected from all relevant Partners and analytical products to direct activities.

• Operate at a tactical level but not exclusively.

• Create a Response Team which will in the long term be based in a dedicated office environment for community safety partners.

• Evolve over time in terms of membership and act as a catalyst for further integration and partnership working.

• Improve information flow from communities, their representative and colleagues direct to the professionals involved in the daily tactical process.

- Support other thematic groups deliver the Highland Single Outcome Agreement.

### **3 Outcomes and Benefits**

The outcomes and benefits are assessed as:

- A new multi-agency tasking process;
- Emphasis on working in partnership;
- More efficient and effective use of resources;
- Earlier identification of problems and trends;
- Greater contribution to community safety outcomes;
- Improved communication and information sharing;
- Evidence of success.

### **4 Performance**

A performance reporting mechanism will be put in place to meet the needs of the Area Committee for Caithness.

### **5 Evaluation**

- 5.1 The pilot will run for 6 months with reports of progress going to the Area Committee for scrutiny.
- 5.2 Statistical information will be provided to evidence success or otherwise.
- 5.3 Victims of antisocial behaviour will be surveyed along with staff involved with the response team.
- 5.4 Qualitative evidence will be provided along with statistical reports.

### **6 Resource, Legal, Equalities, Climate Change, Rural and Risk implications**

There are no known implications arising from this report. The pilot will focus on Caithness only at this time.

#### **Recommendation:**

The Committee is invited to:

1. note the start date of the trial of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015;
2. note the willingness of agencies to work together;
3. agree to support the initiative and hear further debrief of the progress.

Chief Superintendent Julian Innes  
Highland and Island Divisional Commander  
1 September 2015