

The Highland Council
Communities and Partnerships Committee
10 December 2015

Agenda Item	9
Report No	CP 06/15

Partnership Report on Antisocial Behaviour

Report by Local Senior Officer for Highland – Area Manager Scott Hay

Summary

This Report provides members with an update in relation to progress in responding to and managing antisocial behaviour (ASB) in Highland area.

The report also sets out planned future direction for supporting a sustained reduction in reported ASB in line with the Highland ASB Strategy, Action Plan and partnership protocol.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 (the Act) requires each Local Authority and Chief Constable to prepare a strategy for dealing with antisocial behaviour.
- 1.2 Supporting the implementation of the above act, in 2009 the Scottish Government and COSLA created a framework for tackling antisocial behaviour. This framework recognises all key stakeholders within the public and third sector and sets out the four pillars of addressing ASB as **prevention, integration, engagement** and **communication**.
- 1.3 The key points within **prevention** recognises the creation of more choices and opportunities for positive activities, education and dealing with the root causes of ASB were critical to preventing ASB. They also recognised that sharing good practice and the provision of support alongside enforcement would be important to changing the overriding focus of how to tackle ASB. Some of the partnership delivered prevention activities are set out in **Appendix B**.
- 1.4 **Integration** is also essential for partnership working. Sharing information and intelligence as well as best practice from agencies best placed to manage the many root causes of ASB have produced results in reducing ASB.
- 1.5 The framework recognised that community **engagement** at the earliest opportunity was essential to support a preventative approach and empower communities to take an active role in tackling ASB.

1.6 There is also recognition within the framework that **communication** was necessary to tackle the negative stereotypes of young people in relation to ASB and to work with the public to understand the gap which exists between their perceptions of the problem and the situation within their local community. Much of this work is addressed in the activities delivered by partners as identified in **Appendix B**.

2. Safer Highland Partnership Model – Inverness Response Team

2.1 The Partnership Report on ASB presented to the CPE committee in June 2014 set out the new Safer Highland Strategy Group structure; **see Appendix A**, and key thematic groups. The creation of a dedicated ASB group allowed all key partner agencies to work more closely together and examine service delivery in the context of the Act, the ASB Framework and the Highland ASB Strategy.

2.2 Improving partnership working and implementing best practice informed the creation of a dynamic tactical team in September 2014, the Inverness Response Team (IRT). The IRT is supported by all community planning partners and ensures key delivery in line with the four pillars of **prevention, integration, engagement and communication**.

2.3 Since the IRT has been established it has managed 987 complaints from 294 separate addresses. The complaints from 283 addresses have been resolved and the remaining 11 are subject to ongoing partner involvement through IRT. More importantly, there has been a 13% reduction and 12% reduction in Assaults/Serious Assaults and Breach of the Peace/Disturbances respectively. All of which supports the early and dynamic partnership intervention through the IRT.

2.4 The IRT is now a very effective delivery model for managing reported ASB activity and is flexible and dynamic enough to respond by bringing key partners together and manage immediate and longer term ASB reduction.

3. Next Steps

3.1 Examining how the wider successes of the Inverness Response Team can be implemented in a tailored/bespoke way to manage local needs in other areas of Highland. This is currently being applied in the Caithness area under the partnership heading of Safer Caithness.

3.2 The current Highland ASB Strategy 2011-2016 will be updated to reflect the current Safer Highland Partnership structure. This will further support a refresh of the ASB Action Plan, operating and data sharing protocols.

3.3 Further updates and progress against the ASB Action Plan and partnership delivery models (IRT and Safer Caithness) will be presented at future meetings of the Communities and Partnerships Committee.

Recommendation

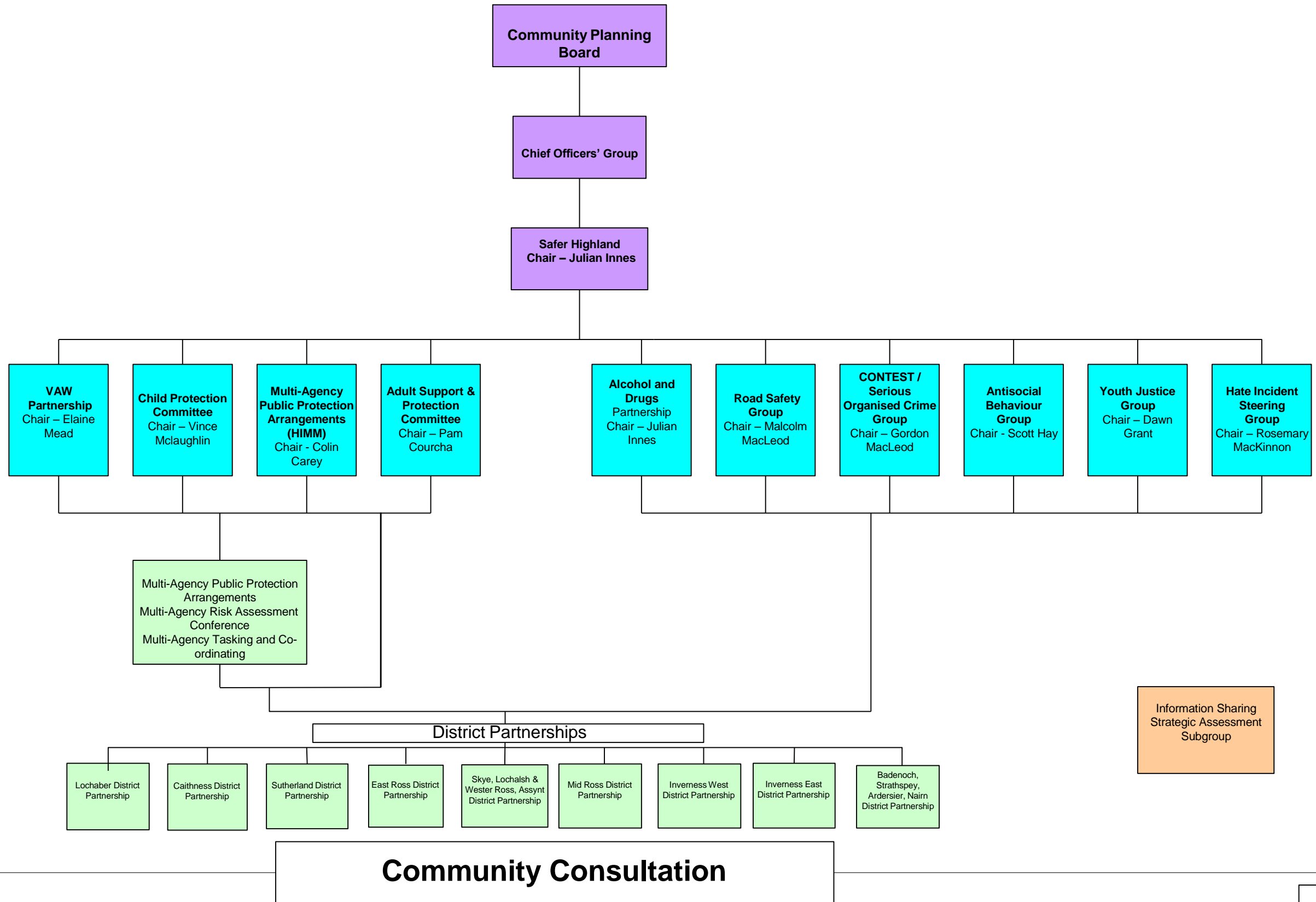
Committee Members are asked to note the update provided by partner agencies in supporting this multi-agency approach in responding to and managing ASB in Highland.

Area Manager Scott Hay

29 November 2015

SOA, Partnership Strategic Assessment, Fire/Policing Plans, Ward Plans

Scrutiny, Performance



Appendix B – Examples of Partnership Delivered Prevention Activities

Operation Respect

Aims to reduce street violence, disorder and incidents linked to licensed premises. This operation intends to provide enhanced levels of public reassurance, through visible and robust policing activity, working with key multi-agency partners to reduce the negative effect of antisocial behaviour, violence and crime. Events such as 'street briefings' which have been held in Inverness City Centre allow members of the public further opportunity to experience and understand the positive working relationship that Police Scotland and partner agencies have.

Operation Notebook

Aims to make people feel, and be safer by tackling antisocial behaviour in and around residential properties within the community. This includes a 3 stage escalatory approach and closely aligns with Highland Council Housing staff.

Safe Highlanders

These annual educational events for primary 7 pupils tackle issues of community safety. They deliver learning which is integrated with the nationally developed Primary Schools' Curriculum for Excellence and 'Health and Wellbeing' outcomes.

Fusion

Fusion events are run in partnership between Highlife Highland, Action for Children and Youth Highland. It encourages children to be more active and develops team building skills and good citizenship.

Action for Children's "Street Football Kit",

This also includes workshops offered by Eden Court's "Creative Identities" project on dance, music and drama, provide positive alternatives to drug and alcohol misuse/risk-taking behaviour within the community.

Youth Advantage Outreach

This programme supports vulnerable young people who are engaged in minor offending behaviour, are disadvantaged or disengaged. It is run in partnership with Police Scotland, Highland Council and Army Youth Teams.

Firesetters

These programmes involve specially trained SFRS personnel delivering fire safety intervention to young people who have been identified as displaying previous fire setting/wilful fire raising activity. This intervention involves active liaison with some or all of the following key people/agencies; parents, operational fire crews, teachers, police and social services.

HI-Fires Youth Engagement Programme

These sessions are aimed at young people aged 12-16 who are on the cusp of offending, are truanting, have behavioural issues and/or suffer from low self-esteem. The programme is held on fire stations across Highland and, through partnership, changes attitudes and perceptions of young people by promoting life skills and good citizenship. This is achieved by providing a positive work experience programme including the essential elements of first aid, use of operational equipment and simulated fire incidents, all within a disciplined and controlled environment.

Go Safe Scotland

This is a web based teacher led/delivered tool designed specifically for pre-school and school aged children and young people with advice and guidance on safety, which includes fire safety, road safety, home safety, water safety, rail safety and outdoor safety. It also aligns to the Curriculum for Excellence.