

Agenda Item	7
Report No	CIA/3/20

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 20 February 2020

Report Title: Inverness Community Safety Partnership

Report By: Report by Inverness City Area Manager

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the activities of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership (ICSP) since it last reported on activity to Committee in May 2018.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. note the work of ICSP for since last report dated May 2018 to date;
- ii. endorse the work of the Operation Respect Daytime Group; and
- iii. Note the updated ICSP Constitution & Terms of Reference, and the agreed New Governance, Oversight & Accountability Structures and Reporting Lines of Communication Arrangements which are now aligned to the Safer Highland Partnership directly through the Inverness Community Partnership. The Inverness City Area Committee will continue to receive an annual update on the work of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership in addition to any updates as part of regular Police and Fire Scrutiny reports.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - The activities detailed in this report are funded through existing partner contributions to the ICSP.
- 3.2 **Legal** – None

- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - The ICSP Partners ensure that resources are targeted at those most in need and will support the delivery of locality plans and the priorities of the Inverness Partnership.
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** – None
- 3.5 **Risk** – None
- 3.6 **Gaelic** - All policies regarding use of the Gaelic language will be adhered to.

4. Background

4.1 The Inverness Community Safety Partnership (ICSP) was formed in January 2011 with the aim of overseeing the activity of Community Safety initiatives across the city.

4.2 The partners involved now include

- Highland Council
- Police Scotland
- N.H.S Highland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Inverness Business Improvement District (BID)
- Inverness Drug and Alcohol Forum
- Newstart Highland
- In This Together (Formerly Signpost)
- Inverness Street Pastors
- Highland Crimestoppers

4.3 The Partnership has also developed links with a number of other local groups who are supported or assisted through and participate in relevant Partnership initiatives and opportunities.

4.4 Cllr Janet Campbell is the representative of the City Area Committee on the Partnership and acts as a key link between the community and the partnership in passing comment and feedback.

4.5 The ICSP Mission Statement is

'Working in partnership, to create an environment where our communities and visitors will remain safe and reassured.'

4.6 The original aims/priorities of the ICSP were aligned to Highland's Single Outcome Agreement; the Community Plan between statutory agencies and The Scottish Government. Following the 2019 Review of the ICSP Constitution the following has been agreed:

4.7 The aims of the partnership are aligned to the Safer Highland Partnership and specifically with the Inverness Community Partnership.

- Maintain and develop the vibrancy of Inverness City and Area, by promoting crime prevention, and addressing anti-social behaviour through reassurance, communication, education and engagement

4.8 The Partnership fits with the objectives of the Community Empowerment Act 2015, in respect of enabling public sector agencies and third sector organisations to work collaboratively in their support of common goals.

4.9 Core activities of the ICSP are as follows;

- Co-ordination of the activity of the partners of the Inverness Partnership in relation to all Community Safety initiatives through an agreed action plan

- Co-ordinate best practice and identify funding opportunities.
- Deliver an annual report to the Community Partnership Core Group on the activities of the Community Safety Partnership and its proposals for the forthcoming year.
- Where practicable to assist with the delivery of Community Safety initiatives

5. Progress since May 2018 to date

5.1 Following partnership working with relevant agencies, through the ICSP, progress was made as follows;

- In 2018/2019, A full review of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership Constitution and Terms of Reference was undertaken as part of potential wider remit in line with the Highland Outcome Improvement Plan and any Local Outcome Improvement Plans that emerge for identified areas. This came into effect in May 2019.
- As part of the above Consultation, formal discussions took place with Safer Highland Officer Group and others in respect of New Governance, Oversight & Accountability Structures and Reporting Lines of Communication Arrangements. These are now aligned to the Safer Highland Partnership directly through the Inverness Community Partnership. The Inverness City Area Committee will continue to receive annual updates on the work of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership in addition to the regular Police and Fire Scrutiny reports.
- In 2018, work was undertaken by Police Scotland Inverness Area Commander/Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership/Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to look at Diversion and Alternatives to Legal Remedies in regard to application of the Inverness Alcohol Bye-Law in order to break the repetitive cycle of re-offending and non-compliance of Court Disposals by a small number of recidivist individuals. In November 2018, a pilot scheme for referral to Addiction Services was introduced but whilst it was a slow uptake, the initiative remains as an option for disposal.
- The ICSP provided support to Signpost (now known as “In This Together”) as they progressed their Recovery Café initiative culminating in January 2019 with the opening of Ar n-Aite, which means Our Place in Gaelic, at the vacated Dunbar Centre where vulnerable people who might struggle to get a job will be trained to cook and serve a weekly evening meal to anyone from homeless people to paying customers. The premises have already made its mark providing meals and a safe place for those in need, and has developed a number of initiatives alongside mainstream hospitality and food venues in support of its aims.
- Throughout 2018/2019, Home Fire Safety Visits by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service continues apace with an increase in referrals being received via other statutory partner agencies, social housing providers, care services and other bodies who interface with vulnerable households in an attempt to reduce fires and deaths in homes of vulnerable persons and families.
- Operation Respect Festive, the multi-agency Community Safety Initiative took

place between 22/11/18 – 02/01/2019 and again from 27/11/2019 until 04/01/2020. This initiative included additional and targeted City centre patrols by Police Scotland, BID Security Task Team & Taxi Marshalls, Inverness Street Pastor Patrols and Safe Zone in conjunction with British Red Cross (BRC). This event is supported financially by Inverness Common Good Fund and specific grant funding from NHS/Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership towards Safe Zone. A full evaluation Report for the Operation Respect Festive 2018 Event was previously circulated to Partners in February 2019 and it is hoped that the Evaluation Report for last year's 2019 Festive Initiative will be available shortly.

- In 2019 a full review of the Operation Respect Initiatives for both Summer and Festive periods, was commenced looking at all aspects of Partnership participation, opportunities for improvement, funding etc. This remains an ongoing process but it is hoped that recommendations will be forthcoming and implemented for 2020.
- The continued provision of support to and links with the Persistent Offender Project which had been granted Agency and financial support for a further year following the successful pilot initiative. On average there are 20 persons being assisted through the Project at any given time.
- Partnership to the Community Mental Health Triage Initiative continues all year round whereby MH Professionals at New Craigs will be available to Police via telephone for advice, guidance and possible admissions when dealing with vulnerable persons in the Community.
- Partnership Engagement with Police Scotland regarding City Centre Policing issues resulting in continued Policing capacity and capability within the City Centre.
- Continued support of the fortnightly Multi-Agency Tasking Group – Operation Respect Daytime Group. This tasking group makes use of the ICSP partners to deliver a programme of work with resources being directed to take action on a number of issues within the city centre such as
 - Anti-Social Behaviour with regard to City Centre persistent offenders
 - Development of environmental solutions to Anti-social behaviour issues
 - Support of and involvement in Operation Respect Summertime 2018 and 2019
- Continued support of measures, including establishment of Cold Call Control Zones, to combat consumer detriment, and protect especially vulnerable individuals from criminal activity associated with Doorstep Crime /Cold Calling.

6. Work in Progress for 2020/21

6.1 Key areas of activity are currently being progressed through the work of the ICSP:

- Support provided to other Third Sector Bodies such as Inverness Foodstuffs, Third Sector Hub and New Start Highland initiatives and projects continues.

- Work is ongoing by the Chair, through her role as NHS Head of Service - Drug & Alcohol Recovery and Professional Lead - Drug & Alcohol, to develop and introduce updated Drug Awareness Advice and Naloxone Programme Training to widen distribution across a range of local Partner Agencies and other Bodies who will be able to administer this simple but effective recovery intervention when faced with drug overdose scenarios.
- Following concerns regarding outdated advice, guidance and contact details for Statutory Agencies responsible for dealing with biohazard waste etc. the review of the existing Highland Drug & Alcohol Partnership/Highland Council Biohazard Waste and Used Needles Leaflet to be finalised and redrafted. Advice & Guidance to include information on Biohazard material, discarded drug paraphernalia, as well as used Condoms and other Sanitary products and updated Agency Contact details to be available in print format and through all relevant Partner websites. Consideration also to be given via the Inverness Community Partnership Locality Plans to identify trained and equipped Community Volunteers who can be called upon to deal with low level waste issues in the absence of a statutory response being readily available.
- Following the tragic fatal road collision involving a student, and a subsequent approach by the Senior Management of UHI to Police Scotland regarding a joint Road Safety Education Initiative, early discussions with relevant Partners and Agency Representatives proved positive and consideration is being given to taking forward such an initiative to better inform Students and the Public in regard to issues associated with Road Deaths.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Officers are now providing Fire Safety Awareness Training on request to groups or individual organisations involved Adult Social Care such as NHS, Highland Council and other organised groups such as Carers, Handy Person Schemes, Care Sector Organisations etc. The idea being that they will be better prepared to identify potential risk or vulnerability within premises or when dealing with those in their care and report this through the Fire Safety Referral Scheme.
- ICSP partners are supporting Newstart Highland in producing a Multi-Agency Welcome Pack as part of their interaction with Vulnerable People/HMO's etc, for new clients entering Supported or New Tenancies which could be broadened to include other relevant material, information, advice and guidance.
- Following publication of the Scottish Drug Related Death Report in July 2019, which demonstrated a significant increase in annual fatalities involving drug use, ICSP have engaged with Shona Urquhart, Chair of the DRD Preventions Group to address Members on the issues and how best they can contribute to improving response and reducing such instances.

6.2 As per the agreed Constitution, a planning meeting of the ICSP will take place no later than 30th March annually.

The business of each Annual Planning Meeting shall be to:

- a) confirm the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the partnership / nominate successors bi-annually
- b) review the work and activities of the partnership during the previous year and

agree priorities for forthcoming year all in alignment with the priorities of the Inverness Community Partnership.

- c) review the operation of this constitution and make such revisions as are necessary.
- d) determine the dates and times of future meetings and of General Meetings;
- e) transact any other business, as appropriate;

6.3 There are clear opportunities through this work outlined above to contribute to the Locality plan priorities of the Inverness Community Partnership with the aim of addressing poverty and inequality. Progress on these areas of work and potential outcomes will be reported back to the City of Inverness Area Committee at a future date and a report will also be considered by the Council's Poverty and Inequality Working Group.

7. New Governance Arrangements

7.1 The ICSP has reported annually to the City of Inverness Area Committee or to the former City Committee, since 2011. In October 2016, the Council and its partners agreed a new Community Partnership framework to support delivery of the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act. The Inverness Community Partnership (ICP) was established in December 2016 and work continues apace on the key themes involving the preparation and implementation of;

- An Adults Plan
- A Children's Plan and
- The first Locality Plan (Merkinch)
- Current Consultation Survey underway on the second Locality Plan (Hilton)
- Transport Plan
- ICCP Communications Plan

7.2 This work will link in with the work of the ICP to varying degrees. Many of the links will be practical where the ICSP can provide the expertise to resolve issues and support /lead projects and initiatives to help deliver against the priorities of the Inverness Community Partnership. With the formation of the local community partnership, the governance, tasking delivery and accountability will be enhanced if aligned to the Inverness Community Partnership. A formal approach to the Chair of the said partnership was made and early indications are that this approach has been well received.

7.3 The Inverness City Area Committee will continue to receive an annual update on the work of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership in addition to any updates as part of regular Police and Fire Scrutiny reports.

Designation: Inverness City Area Manager

Date: 30 January 2020

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Background Papers: