

**ABERDEEN COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
TASKING MINUTES
Tuesday 7 July 2009, Town House, Aberdeen**

Present

Peter Leonard (ACC) – Chair, Leslie Brown (ACC), Superintendent Adrian Watson (Grampian Police), Ian Donaldson (GFRS), D/Sgt Colin Donald (Grampian Police), Sgt Andy Verreydt (Grampian Police), Rebecca Ball (Grampian Police), Laura Patterson (ASB Analyst), Allison Bastow (ASB Analyst), Inspector Robert Cameron, (BTP), Sgt. James Wand (BTP), Colin Walker (ACC), Jennie Biggs (JADAT), Rachel Strachan (Crimestoppers), Lesley Simpson (CJSW)

Apologies

Cllr Martin Greig (ACC), Chief Inspector Adrian Berkeley (Grampian Police), Inspector Roddy MacInnes (Grampian Police), Cllr. John Corall (ACC), Margaret-Jane Cardno (ACC), Neil Carnegie (ACC), Bob Murray (Grampian NHWA), Alan Fleming (GFRS), David Rout (GFRS), Michelle Herd (Crimestoppers), Doug Duthie (Aberdeen Safer Community Trust), Linda Smith (NHS), Helen Knipe (PFD)

Action Updates Table

Task Number	Details of Task	Task Holder/ Organisation	Result	Status of Task
1	Please provide feedback on plans to secure Middlefield and Marchburn Schools intended to prevent vandalism and wilful fire-raising.	Margaret Jane Cardno, ACC	Middlefield has been handed over to the 3Rs contractor who now has the site secure with 24-hour security personnel on site. Demolition is scheduled for 25 June. Aberdeen City Councils term contractor is currently actively involved in boarding up and securing all openings in both Byron Park and Marchburn Primary Schools the whole operation will take about 2 weeks to complete owing to the numbers of windows involved. Expected completion date 28 June.	Complete
2	Please provide the Partnership with a sanitised version of the most recent Byron Square Profile – You may also like to attend the meeting to present your findings.	Laura Patterson, ASB Analyst	Updated Byron Square profile completed and a verbal update to be provided at the meeting.	Complete
3	Please provide conclusions research into the availability of packs for repeat victims of Domestic Abuse to the Partnership in order to enhance future decision making.	Doug Duthie, Aberdeen Safer Community Trust	Research was made involving both UK and overseas approaches to repeat victimisation in domestic violence. In general the action taken involved the supplying of information to repeat victims on ways to prepare and deal with subsequent attacks. The most useful of these in my opinion was a comprehensive document prepared by Camden Council Multi Agency Domestic	Complete

			<p>Violence Forum. Another but more expensive aid to victims could be the supply of wireless panic alarms fitted with fob which can be programmed to make an emergency call and then stay open for whoever receives the call to hear what is taking place. The costs of this item would be in the region of £70 per unit. A more robust and transportable unit can be obtained which includes GPS – the cost is over £300 and there would be an ongoing monitoring fee. Either unit could be supplied to victims on a temporary basis and recovered for further allocation later.</p>	
4	<p>1. Please provide information on the possibility of using Cash back for Communities funding to provide a positive input to participants relative to Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>2. Please speak with the Community Safety Network about the coordination of Cashback For Communities funding.</p>	<p>Leslie Brown, ACC</p>	<p>See documents circulated with the Tactical Assessment.</p> <p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. Met with Margaret Wallace of Scottish Community Safety Network to discuss possible representations to Scottish Government regarding concerns about the operation of Cashback funding.</p> <p>Margaret Wallace indicated that she has had similar concerns expressed by around six other CSPs, although a similar number were content with arrangements. The Network Chair would consider any request for representations to be made and take the final decision on whether it was appropriate.</p> <p>Since the CSP met, the attached letter from Fergus Ewing the Minister for Community Safety was sent to local authority Chief Executives, Chief Constables etc. The letter sets out the Scottish Government rationale for the Way the Cashback funding is being operated, and provides a clear steer that current arrangements will not change in the medium term. The letter indicates a degree of annoyance about previous complaints.</p> <p>In the light of the above letter we took the view that further formal approaches to the Scottish Government on this at the present time would not be helpful and could well be counter- productive.</p> <p>I recommend that no further action is Taken on this task, although officers will continue to work with Scottish Government officials. regarding Cashback.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

5	Please provide feedback on the bid that is being formulated for Scottish Government funding, as discussed at the last meeting of the Partnership.	Colin Walker, ACC	A copy of the Bid has been circulated	Complete
6	Please include a message in your organisation's bulletin on the security of refuse and preventing refuse fires, as discussed at the meeting of the Partnership on 26/05/2009.	Bob Murray, SA&NW	<p>The following warning was included in the weekly crime bulletin to NW co-ordinators in the city on 26/5/09 and it is intended to send it again at the end of June 09.</p> <p>WILFUL FIRE RAISING</p> <p>Over the past few months there has been a significant increase in wilful fire raising in Aberdeen City. Approximately one third of the fires are started in wheelie bins or using rubbish piles. Tests have shown that a wheelie bin on fire can have flames up to 3 metres high and a bin fire in Nottinghamshire, where the bin was stored against a house wall, set fire to the house resulting in the death of a young child.</p> <p>We would ask all residents to consider the area where they normally store their wheelie bin and where possible position the bin away from buildings and concealed from view from the street. Please be aware of any rubbish which poses a fire risk and arrange for its removal or contact Aberdeen City Council for information telephone 0845 6080 919.</p>	Complete
7	Please forward any available strategic information that would be useful in explaining the ACC decision to move to a fortnightly refuse collection cycle. This information should be passed to the Wilful Fire Raising Task Group.	Margaret Jane Cardno, ACC	Committee paper outlining strategic rational, together with details of a full range of short and long-term projects designed to reduce landfill and promote recycling have been passed to the wilful fire-raising group.	Complete

Review of Previous Tasks

Rebecca Ball presented a review of the Tasks that had been allocated at the last meeting on Tuesday 26 May 2009 and the Partnership agreed that they had been completed.

Leslie Brown summarised the Government's letter of 29th May in which the Minister for Justice stressed that Cashback for Communities was not merely a community safety scheme and would remain under Governmental control. Leslie stated that she had been in contact with the Scottish Community Safety Network and it was felt that it was not prudent at this stage to progress this issue further meantime.

Colin Walker stated that word on the success of the Council's bid for the Town Centre Regeneration Fund was expected later this month. Included within the document were a range of measures including temporary CCTV systems and improved street lighting in hotspot areas.

Performance Review

Rebecca Ball provided an explanation regarding the figures calculated in relation to Crime Performance Against Targets, which were described as being broadly positive for the 6 weekly period covered.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Antisocial Behaviour

Laura Patterson summarised the content of Neil Carnegie's report, highlighting that there had been a decrease in the total number of antisocial behaviour calls received to Grampian Police. Laura also advised the partnership that the issue of Antisocial Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices had increased over the reporting period, where Jennie Biggs asked whether it was known how many Fixed Penalties issued for Antisocial Behaviour had actually been paid. Laura Patterson advised that while she didn't know she would nevertheless look into it and report back. Laura concluded by detailing the recommendations.

Laura also summarised the Update of the Byron Square profile, which raised discussion on the work that has been carried out in the area and what particular.

Domestic Abuse

Leslie Brown provided a summary of the priority's content, in particular referring to the Grampian Gender Based Abuse Training Consortium's proposals to roll out training in schools across Grampian. She added that she wanted to speak with the plan holders for the Sex Industry and Serious and Violent Crime priorities to ensure a cohesive approach. Lesley Simpson reminded the group about the work that the Criminal Justice Social Work had done with perpetrators of domestic abuse and Leslie acknowledged this.

Serious and Violent Crime

Supt. Watson provided a summary of the plan, advising that the number of crimes had remained consistent over the reporting period. Although, the detection rate had decreased, it was anticipated that this rate would increase over the next 6-week period, with a number of incidents that have a positive line of enquiry to be progressed and completed.

He continued to advise the partnership that there had been a significant decrease had been recorded in the number of Serious Assaults, and the number in the city centre was lower than recorded during the last 4 assessment periods. He added that whilst Serious and violent crime can be attributed in part of the nighttimes economy, which contributes to alcohol violence, recent research has shown that people are consuming more than half of all alcohol in their own homes, resulting in patrons being intoxicated prior to attending licensed premises.

Supt Watson mentioned the recent disturbance at Stonehaven Railway Station, with the acknowledgement that such an event could just as easily have taken place in Aberdeen. Inspector Cameron briefly expanded on this incident advising that a number of persons from both Aberdeen and Dundee, some of whom who were affiliated to their respective football teams risk support were due to appear at Stonehaven Sheriff Court next week.

Supt Watson raised the issue of CCTV and highlighted the difficulties with the existing public space system. Pete Leonard responded that at the start of the next Committee cycle following the summer break, the question of a jointly funded study could go ahead after a delay in identifying funding.

Pete Leonard asked the group whether any work had been done regarding the seemingly rising trend of murders. Supt. Watson responded, describing the highly individual nature of the majority of murders, all of which made it difficult to compile a problem profile. He stressed the importance of early interventions, mentioning 'Roots of Empathy, as part of a long-term strategy. Jennie Biggs suggested that some more work was required to tease out ways of moving forward.

To conclude Supt Watson¹ spoke about the economic downturn and rising unemployment, where he outlined a need for the Police and others to monitor any racial tensions between locals and Eastern European migrants.

Fire Safety (Wilful Fireraising)

Ian Donaldson summarised the Fire Safety submission for the Group, highlighting recent fires and the subsequent measures taken to address these, at the former Broadford Works and McNeil Business Centre.

He mentioned a forthcoming refuse amnesty for Manor Walk, a high risk street for wilful fire-raising, while Leslie Brown mentioned work elsewhere that she had been doing with Norrie Steed on providing a range of tips designed to reduce the levels of wheelie bin fires.

Pete Leonard advised the group that he was hopeful that Council might reverse a decision on charging for the collection of large items, at least in some of the city's neighbourhoods, which he hoped would discourage fly-tipping.

Controlled Drugs

Jennie Biggs provided a summary of the Controlled Drugs section, stressing that the JADAT (Joint Alcohol and Drugs Action Team) had changed its name to the Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drug Partnership (Aberdeen City ADP) and would be aligning itself as one of the challenge for a reporting to The Aberdeen City Alliance (TACA). She also mentioned that she was due to meet with a colleague in the near future about getting treatment time information which she hoped would be fed into future Partnership meetings.

She also drew the group's attention to the White Ribbon Campaign and the links between alcohol, drugs and violence against women. In response to a general request for a male figurehead to be identified for such a campaign in Aberdeen, Supt. Watson advised that he would look at this issue, and also reminded those present that despite the recent success of Operation Lochnagar the city still had significant drug problems. He highlighted the quality and quantity of intelligence on this issue.

Peter Leonard summarised the current position with the work ongoing as part of the Building Responsible Communities Project in Tillydrone. He also asked Supt. Watson if there were any updates in relation to a formal Operation Lochnagar debrief available from Assistant Chief Constable Menzies. Supt Watson undertook to do this and update him

Sex Industry

Colin Walker provided a summary of the graphical information for the Partnership, commenting on the worth of the recent seminar on Commercial Exploitation that was held in Aberdeen.

1

Supt Watson also discussed 2 other topics, which he felt were of a sensitive nature and requested that they did not feature in the Minutes. A Task to Criminal Justice Social Work was generated from one of the topics discussed, which has been completed.

He hoped that a forthcoming DVD production would be a useful educational tool for all sectors and stressed the importance of the work that was being done with the Factors of premises in the Adelphi to get a gate installed to prevent prostitutes taking their clients there.

Leslie Brown stated that all this and the other awareness raising work would need to be linked in with that being done by the Grampian Gender Based Domestic Abuse Training Consortium to achieve maximum impact.

Jennie Biggs queried whether any colleagues working in the Tax Office were aware of the activities of prostitutes and queried if they could provide any information. Colin Walker undertook to look in to this.

New Actions Table

Task Number	Details of Task	Task Holder/ Organisation	Date Result Required
1	Provide figures on the number of ASB fixed penalty notices complied with during the period, as discussed at the tactical meeting.	Laura Patterson, ASB Analyst	04/08/2009
2	Please provide information to the Partnership on the role played by HMRC in the tackling of off street prostitution.	Colin Walker, ACC	04/08/2009

ISSUES OF INTEREST OUTWITH THE CONTROL STRATEGY

CSP Finance Update

No new updates since last meeting.

City Voice, Citizen's Panel 16th Questionnaire (Safety) – GFRS 'Safety and Wilful Fire Raising

Jacqueline McKay summarised the purpose behind the questions within the City Voice and outlined the benefits of engaging with both it and the Citizen's Panel. She raised the question of why residents don't get around to contacting the Fire Service for fire safety advice even though many of them will be aware that this is a service provided by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service.

She stated that her organisation was looking to kick start regular smoke detector campaigns again while Leslie Brown stressed how important it was that the Fire Service liaises with the Council's Home-check Service who can also provide information on those in need of fire safety advice.

Date of Next Meeting – 10.00 am Tuesday 18th August 2009, Committee Room 4, Town House, Aberdeen.