



Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership – An Introduction

Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership has been working “**Towards a Safer Aberdeen**” since 1999. The Partnership was established following guidance from COSLA and the Scottish Executive requiring all local authority areas to establish such partnerships and strategies as part of its ‘Towards a Safer Scotland’ agenda.

Community Safety Partnerships provide a framework within which partners can develop robust community safety strategies, which are responsive to community concerns, evidence based and led, and outcome focused.

The Partnership includes:

Aberdeen City Council (both Elected Members (4) and Officers)

Grampian Police

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

Aberdeen Safer Community Trust

Aberdeen Crime Prevention Panel

Neighbourhood Watch Association

Community Councils Forum

Aberdeen Victim Support

NHS Grampian

Joint Alcohol and Drug Action Team (JADAT)

Procurator Fiscal

Crimestoppers Grampian/Highland

Civic Forum (3 representatives)

There are also links with **Youth Justice Strategy Group**, **Aberdeen Racist Incidents Partnership**, **Aberdeen Domestic Abuse Partnership**, and other groups working on a range of community safety issues.

Councillor Martin Greig was appointed in May 2003 as the Chair of the Partnership and Chief Superintendent Albert Donald is Vice Chair.

aberdeen*utures*/Community Planning– the Safety Challenge Forum

Safety is one of the 14 Challenges of Aberdeen's Community Plan, and Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership is designated as the Forum to take forward the Safety Challenge. A briefing sheet on Community Planning is enclosed with this pack.

Challenge Forums are required to:

- lead on the specific challenge area for the City, by maintaining an overview of all the partnerships, strategies and plans;
- ensure that all stakeholders (including other relevant challenge forums) are regularly consulted on the challenge area, paying particular attention to consulting with communities and communities of interest;
- be responsible for the delivery of the targets and actions in the Community Plan relating to their challenge area;
- report regularly to The Aberdeen City Alliance on activity, progress towards targets and the development of new targets and actions.

Structure

In March 2003 the Partnership agreed that the time was right to move to a 2-tier structure:

- **Community Safety Partnership**
- **Task Groups**

Community Safety Partnership

This comprises high level members of all the partner organisations and currently meets every 3 months. The role of this group is to provide strategic direction in delivering Community Safety. This includes:

- taking forward joint work to tackle community safety priorities;
- overview of programmes on Problem Solving Plans;
- establishing and directing the work of Task Groups (including reviewing their effectiveness);
- addressing cross-cutting issues between Task Groups; and
- facilitating information sharing

Task Groups

There are currently four Task Groups –

- 1) Anti Social Behaviour Task Group**
- 2) Wilful Fire Raising Task Group**
- 3) Safer City Centre Task Group**
- 4) Sex Industry Forum**

The Partnership agreed that Task Groups would need to be appropriately set up and supported and have a clear remit and, where appropriate, timescale.

It was agreed that Task Groups would only be established through the Partnership if the following elements were in place:

- Clear remit agreed by the Community Safety Partnership.
- Lead agency/officer identified who would chair meeting of the Task Group, co-ordinate its work, provide administrative support, and feedback to the Strategic Group.
- Appropriate membership identified and agreed by partner agencies.
- Timescale for the Task Group – where appropriate. Task Groups could be short or longer term depending on their function. The Partnership can review the timescales where necessary.
- Budget issues – any initial budget required to be agreed by the partnership at strategic level.
- Reporting on progress/barriers to the Partnership.

1) Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Task Group

This Task Group oversees the work on developing and delivering the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for the City, including managing the ASB funding from the Scottish Executive (£1.7M+ in 2006/07). Work includes:

- 30 Community Wardens – managed by Grampian Police.
- Development of Aberdeen Families Project – intensive supervision and support to troubled and troublesome families, being operated by NCH Scotland.
- ASB Information Sharing Pilot Project – agreed an Information Sharing Protocol and processes for sharing information with key partners, plus commissioning and introducing a joint information sharing case management computer system – to be live in early 2007 as part of an Scottish Executive pilot.
- ASB Inspector, Sergeant, PC and ASB Analyst posts via Grampian Police.

- Extended operating hours for the Council's Neighbour Complaints Unit and remit extended to include private sector households.
- Extended Mediation Service to include private sector residents and tenants of registered social landlords operated by SACRO.
- Reparation Service operated by SACRO.
- Funding for local measures to tackle ASB.
- ASB Solicitors post in Council to provide legal services for all aspects of ASB enforcement action.
- Support Worker to provide support to tenants on Short Scottish Secure Tenancies due to ASB, to help them change their behaviour.
- Funding for operational costs associated with use of Police ASB powers – Dispersal and Closure of Premises

The following sub groups also operate:

- **ASB Cases Forum** – meets monthly to:
 - consider Problem Profiles produced by ASB Analyst, about complex ASB cases/issues;
 - share information in keeping with Protocol;
 - review cases where ASBOs have been breached to ensure follow up action has been taken;
 - restricted membership to reflect sensitive nature of information shared and legislature requirements;
 - community operating as a city-wide Cases Forum – will move to area based forums (North, South and Central) over 2007, with improved links to Neighbourhood Networks;
- **ASB Enforcement Forum** – meets 2 or 3 times a year as necessary to review operation and impact of enforcement measures, reviews relevant policy and practice.
- **ASB Information Sharing Project Board** – oversees/manages commissioning and implementation of computerised case management system to be used by partner agencies involved in managing ASB cases.
- **Case Conferences** – take place for most ASB cases before enforcement action is considered.

More detailed information on priorities and targets are contained in the ASB Strategy and the **ASB Local Outcome Agreement**.

The 2005/06 ASB Annual Report highlighted the following:

- **Reductions *in antisocial behaviour directly linked to homes***

Neighbour dispute calls to Grampian Police reduced by 11%.

Complaints to Grampian Police and the Noise Control Team about noisy music have surpassed targets with only a very slight increase of 13 over the year and significantly reducing trends from 1st January 2006.

- **6.5% reduction in recorded racially aggravated conduct or harassment charges**

In four Community Wardens areas reductions are in excess of 50%. Use of Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) have directly contributed to a reduction of 58% in the Tillydrone and Woodside area.

- **9% reduction in recorded drunk and incapable incidents**

In the Northfield and Cummings Park Community Warden area incidents reduced by 48%.

- **Reductions in antisocial behaviour in Community Warden areas**

Recorded vandalism incidents have reduced in all first round funded Community Wardens areas. Drunk and Incapable, Urinating in Public and racially motivated incidents have reduced in total across all Community Warden areas.

During the year Community Wardens carried out 12,518 priority patrols to antisocial behaviour 'hot-spots' and made 2847 reports to community safety partners.

- **Increased effectiveness of ASBOs**

The number of ASBOs breached during the year reduced to 24% from 57% and the total number of ASBO breaches reduced by 8%.

- **Areas for Improvement**

There are number of areas where performance must improve so that final targets will be achieved. These are for incidents in relation to:

- Breach of Peace
- Urinating in public
- Wilful fires
- Vandalism
- Road Traffic incidents at the Beach Boulevard
- Motorcycle incidents

2) **Wilful Fireraising Task Group – led by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service**

This successful group has been operating for 3 years and reduced wilful fires by 36% across the city and 53% in 'hotspot' areas in 2004/05. This involved joint working between Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, the Council (Neighbourhood Planners, Waste Collection Services, Housing Management), and Grampian Police (Police and Community Wardens) to raise awareness, educate the public to reduce combustible materials being left in communal/public areas and arranging for materials to be removed.

The group has also worked on reducing fires in the Gramps, particularly over the summer. In 2006 there were only 17 fires in the area compared with 69 in 2003.

3) **Safer City Centre Task Group**

In response to a request in February 2003 by the Scottish Executive, Aberdeen City Council and other partners agreed to co-fund a Safer City Centres initiative in the city and a detailed management plan was produced.

Aberdeen City Council and its partner organisations support this initiative, which will build on the work already under way in the city centre area to improve safety and the environment.

The project is managed as a Task Group of Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership. The Task Group reports to the Community Safety Partnership, and includes representatives from the City Council, Grampian Police, and the JADAT. Aberdeen City Centre Partnership, which includes the private/retail sector in the city within their membership, is also represented on the Task Group.

Partners in Aberdeen, including the City Council, contributed 50% of the resources for the project, to match the contribution by the Scottish Executive. The budget for the project is £198,364 over 4 years to May 2007 funding a co-ordinator post based in the City Council. In 2007/08 the post will be funded via ASB funding.

Priority work includes:

Night Time Economy

- Introduction of **Transport Marshals** from December 2005 – as part of the Safer Streets Problem Solving Plan 2005/08 – at key weekends.
- Improved night time transport - weekends.

- **Alcohol Action researcher** working with residents, alcohol trade, customers etc to identify ways of reducing binge drinking and associated violence and anti-social behaviour – commences 2007 – part of the Safer Streets Plan.
- **Best Bar None Awards** – encouraging bars and nightclubs to play their party in reducing alcohol-related disorder.

Day Time Economy

Reducing business crime by:

- Collating and circulating information about known offenders, radio link, serving of Exclusion Notices.
- Staff training and advice.
- Portable CCTV – starting in 2007 (funded by the SE Safer Cities Programme).

Strategies and Plans

The Community Safety Partnership has also produced the following key documents:

- **Towards a Safer Aberdeen – Community Safety Strategy for Aberdeen**
- **Problem Solving Plans:**
 - Safer Homes
 - Safer Streets
 - Safer Environment

1) Community Safety Strategy

The Community Safety Strategy sets out priority areas for a safer community by addressing **environmental, physical and social community safety issues** including:

- **Reducing the opportunity for crime and offences to be committed**
- **The prevention of accidents**
- **Reducing fire deaths, fire related injuries and fires in domestic properties**
- **Reducing the fear of crime, harassment and intimidation**
- **Providing support to those who are victims of crime or anti-social behaviour**
- **Developing and maintaining a framework for close working between all the agencies, business organisations and communities involved.**

The quarterly and annual Antisocial Behaviour Outcome Agreement Monitoring Reports contain a wide range of information on hotspots, programmes against targets.

In December 2004 the partnership considered the guidance from the Scottish Executive on the **Community Safety Award Programme 2005-2008**.

2) **Problem Solving Plans**

The funding guidance required **problem-solving plans** for up to three local evidenced based community safety priorities to be produced and submitted to the Scottish Executive by 31 January 2005.

The local safety priorities were identified at the Community Safety Partnership meeting on 3 December 2004 as

- **Safer Homes (home accident prevention, home fire safety and home crime prevention)**
- **Safer Streets (alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour on city streets)**
- **Safer Environment (vandalism)**

It was agreed that substance abuse be considered as a causal factor as necessary in each of the 3 problems. Youth Provision/diversion could be considered where appropriate, but should be part of wider mainstream provision to ensure sustainability and effectiveness.

Detailed 3-year plans were produced and agreed with the Scottish Executive to address these 3 priorities. They contain a range of interventions lead by a range of partner agencies and involving joint working.

Interventions include:

- **Safer Homes**
 - Home accident, fire prevention and home security audits for 800+ homes per year.
 - Provision and fitting of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, grab rails and other equipment to reduce accidents and security equipment.
 - Awareness raising campaign.
- **Safer Streets**
 - Transport Marshals for 20 weekends per year to help reduce disorder in the city centre 10:30pm – 4:00am.

- **Safer Streets/Environment**

- Purchase of portable CCTV equipment for hotspot areas for antisocial behaviour/vandalism.
- Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer – commenced late 2006.

The 2005/06 Monitoring Report highlighted:

- 300 households in areas at risk of repeat housebreaking received home security packs;
- 500 hours of crime reduction advice provided;
- 4,000 student safety packs distributed;
- 25% reduction in housebreaking in target areas;
- 200 home safety audits and 163 pieces of equipment fitted to help reduce home accidents (trips, slips, falls, accidental poisoning etc).

The 2006/07 Monitoring Report is currently being prepared.

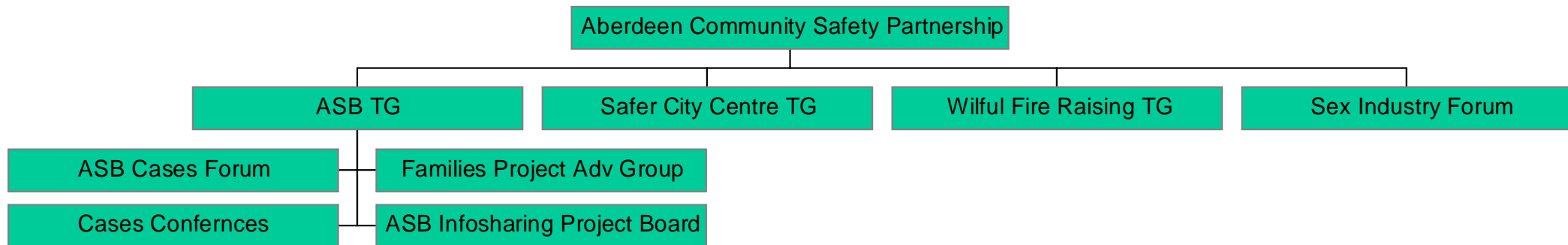
Copies of the Community Safety Strategy and other documents are available on the community planning website www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk

Support to Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership

The partnership is supported by Leslie Brown, Community Safety Strategist, and Sgt Andy Verreydt seconded to the Council from Grampian Police. The Council also has an Anti Social Behaviour Strategy Officer to co-ordinate work around the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy. In 2007 the Council will have a Neighbourhood Community Safety Manager in each of its 3 Area, North, South and Central, to help ensure that ever more progress can be made in tackling antisocial behaviour and other community safety issues.

Should you have any queries, suggestions for future partnership agendas, or wish any further information please contact them on

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- Strategic Groups linked to the Partnership**
- Youth Justice Strategy Group
 - Aberdeen Racist Incidents Partnership
 - Home Safety Aberdeen
 - Domestic Abuse Partnership

Explanation:

ASB = Anti Social Behaviour
 TG = Task Group
 Adv = Advisory