



**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP AWARD PROGRAMME**

PROBLEM SOLVING PLANS

2005 – 2008

**Safer Homes
Safer Environment
Safer Streets**

Introduction

Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership at their meeting on 3 December 2004 considered the guidance from the Scottish Executive for the Community Safety Award Programme 2005-2008. Aberdeen's allocation is £184,000 per year.

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

The Scottish Executive is expected to confirm funding allocations at the end of February 2005.

Consideration of Evidence

In determining what the local priorities should be, the meeting considered and discussed relevant statistical information available from the Community Safety Audit 2001 and current information from partner organisations. They considered progress made in tackling issues such as housebreaking, wilful fires and autocrime, the need to sustain such progress and other ongoing work in these and other areas.

Grampian Police indicated that their commitment to using the National Intelligence Model had led to a 40% reduction in housebreaking over the last 2 years. They indicated that police calls about vandalism were very high and that this was also a significant issue for the Council.

It was proposed that one of the problems should be a plan around Safer Streets, tackling violence and fear of violence in the streets including alcohol related violence/binge drinking issues, taking in the city centre and other relevant hotspot areas across Aberdeen. This reflected evidence of increasing problems, and community concern.

Safer Homes was proposed as one of the problems, to include home accident prevention, home fire safety and home crime prevention. Almost 50% of admissions to A&E were due to home accidents and while the community may not identify it as a priority there was clear evidence that it was a significant community safety issue, with disadvantaged communities, young children and older people at particular risk.

Vandalism was proposed as the 3rd community safety problem, given the high number of Police calls and the costs to the Council, other partners and organisations such as First Bus. This would tie in to work nearing completion in the Council on producing an anti-vandalism strategy. There was also significant community concern about vandalism. The Council's Corporate Management Team sub group on vandalism would be involved as appropriate.

The meeting agreed that the above 3 problems be agreed as the 3 local community safety priorities.

A more detailed summary of information used in this process and in preparing the Problem Solving Plans is contained in each plan. Further detail can be obtained through the Community Safety Team Manager.

Producing the Problem Solving Plans

A Problem Solving Plan Group was formed including representatives of key services and partners, including the community and voluntary sector partners. The Group met on 20 December 2004 to carry out some initial work and agreed that a day workshop be held on 20 January 2005 to prepare the required Plans. Grampian Police volunteered to host the meeting and provide facilitators and refreshments. Partners were asked to ensure that relevant staff attended, and that properly worked up proposals in keeping with the Scottish Executive guidance were brought to the workshop.

The workshop produced outlines of the details required in the Plans. The Plans were then completed fully by lead officers and approved at the Community Safety Partnership meeting on 28 January 2005.

Each plan includes a number of interventions, each with detailed inputs, output and outcome measures and a financial plan. In two interventions – Safer Streets Alcohol Action Researcher and Safer Environment – anti vandalism bus – the interventions are still at a planning stage and more detailed output and outcome targets will be defined by the completion of the development phase.

Each plan gives details of partner commitments to each intervention, as well as items requiring Community Safety Partnership Award Programme funding. The plans demonstrate a high level of commitment in terms of staff time, other funding and resources to delivering the targets in the plans, as well as a commitment to partnership working.

It should be noted that the priorities build on existing work and priorities of partner agencies.

Outcome Targets

Each plan includes SMART (Specific, Measurable, Action oriented, Realistic and Time specific) outcome targets for the overall plan and for the specific

interventions where appropriate. Further definition of NHS related targets in Safer Streets is still awaited.

The targets take account of the nature of the intervention(s) proposed the scope of these interventions, and/or the volume of the problem being addressed. For example the Safer Homes outcome target of a 1% reduction in home accident-related admissions to A&E reflects both the nature and scope of the proposed interventions and more importantly the volume of such admissions – almost 50% of all A&E admissions relate to home accidents, and therefore a 1% reduction will impact on a significant number of people.

Community Consultation

Partner organisations carry out a range of consultation exercises with local communities, which help to inform the strategic plans of each agency as well as Community Planning and Community Safety plans.

The Council has split Aberdeen into 3 areas (North, South and Central) and is producing 37 Neighbourhood Action Plans using the Planning For Real process where communities can identify and prioritise local issues. Each Plan does/will include a Community Safety section.

Aberdeen's Community Plan was drawn up following extensive community consultation which was collated in a report called 'You Said It'. This exercise is currently being reviewed to produce a feedback report to the community on progress.

The above processes all highlight community concern that vandalism and anti-social behaviour, including alcohol related violence in the city centre is tackled.

The Community Safety Partnership also includes representatives from the Civic Forum – the community voice in Community Planning – who were involved in the process of producing the Problem Solving Plans.

The Partnership is keen to encourage community involvement in tackling local community safety and recognises the need to raise public awareness of steps they can as individuals or as groups to improve safety in their communities.

Both the Safer Homes and Safer Environment Plans include significant levels of interventions around publicity, public awareness and education. The partnership will ensure that these proposals are planned together to increase effectiveness and avoid duplication or confusion, as well as identify any savings which can be redirected to direct provision (eg of safety equipment).

The partnership has included a small grants budget of £10,000 per year for initiatives by local groups to tackle any of the 3 identified priorities. This input has been included only in the Safer Environment plan for ease of reference/monitoring.

The small grants will be managed on behalf of the partnership by Aberdeen Safer Community Trust who successfully managed a similar partnership small grants budget for 2002-2005.

Links to other Funding/Strategies

The 3 priorities selected for Aberdeen City all contribute to improving Quality of Life for the citizens of Aberdeen. The interventions identified in the plans complement and/or add to work developed through Quality of Life funds.

Two of the 3 priorities – Safer Environment (vandalism) and Safer Streets - link to the work of the Partnership's Anti-Social Behaviour Task Group and the Scottish Executive funding of measures to tackle anti-social behaviour. This will add value to existing work in these areas and increase resources available.

It is expected that this funding will attract additional funding from the private sector and other sponsors. In 2002-2005 over £17,000 such additional funding was secured.

Lead agencies will identify any opportunities for additional sponsorship or support including from the private sector.

Aberdeen City is not eligible for Better Neighbourhood funding.

The Plans and targets reflect our Community Plan, local Policing and Fire & Rescue Service Plans and the draft Community Regeneration Strategy and Regeneration Outcome Agreement.

The plans also address aspects of Communities of Interest Plans in the city, including

Children's Services Planning – young children as a target group in reducing home accidents

Racial Equality and LGBT Plan – racist and homophobic vandalism can be targeted

Older People – older people as a target group in reducing home accidents, reducing fear of crime and improving safety in the streets.