



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

SAFER NORTH AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

Monday 10 August 2020 at 2pm
Microsoft Teams

Present

North Ayrshire Council

Councillor Anthea Dickson – Elected Member
Scott McKenzie - Senior Manager, Protective Services
Janeine Barrett - Senior Manager, Homelessness and Community Safety
David MacRitchie - Senior Manager, Criminal Justice Services
Shelagh Campbell - Team Manager, Homelessness and Community Safety
Brenda Walker - Lead Officer, Adult Protection
Jacqui Greenlees- Community Planning Officer

The Ayrshire Community Trust

Barbara Hastings – Chief Executive

Police Scotland

CI Brian Shaw (**Vice Chair**)
Sgt Andy Hogg

Scottish Fire and Rescue Services

Colin Clark, LALO

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Jim Montgomerie (**Chair**)
Yvonne Baulk, Head of Physical Environment
Kevin Paterson - Station Officer, Coastguard

1. Welcome and Apologies

In the absence of the Chair, JB took on the role of the Chair.

The Chair welcomed the group and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes from Meeting held on 2 December 2019

The minutes from the meeting held on 2 December 2019 were approved bar the correction of one typo on page 4.

3. Community Safety During Covid-19

The group agreed it would be useful to have a discussion on the lessons learned during the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to Community Safety.

JB felt that we are in a positive position in responding to emergency as a result of our history of strong partnership working, this enabled us to respond quickly and effectively together during the pandemic.

Police

BS gave an overview of crime statistics for the first 19 weeks of the financial year, he explained that the service has been focused on Covid-19 while trying to maintain business as usual. In the main, there has been a reduction across the majority of crime categories with a few exceptions compared to last year during the same period. There was some discussion around an increase in anti-social behaviour calls due to residents calling about neighbours breaching lockdown rules. This could be hard to strip out next year for performance management reporting.

AD gave an overview of her experiences during the pandemic and highlighted the partnership working taking place in the Locality Hubs across partners. A slight increase in counsellor complaints were noted, perhaps with community members keen to connect after isolating. AD was impressed with the speed of work taking place by teams to keep the community, especially those shielding, safe.

TACT

BH gave a perspective from the Third Sector. The start of lockdown was challenging due to the amount of people requiring support with food and prescriptions due to shielding. TACT were able to provide PPE to those requiring it.

TACT are currently going through their database to scope out support that organisations may need going forward. There was/ is some confusion around what funding is available for them. The main challenge has been for TSIs that work primarily face to face- TACT has been able to offer lottery funding to facilitate these organisations changing how they work to better accommodate social distancing measures. Overall BH noticed that the speed of funding being awarded has also increased and processes have been simplified.

Carnegie and other national organisations have been in touch for information around how communities have coped with the pandemic.

Adult Protection

BW gave an overview of how the pandemic affected vulnerable groups. A decrease in referrals was noticed at the start of lockdown. The team worked to provide information to redeployed staff to ensure they know the process for referrals. Referrals returned to normal after around 6 weeks. There has been concern nationally about hidden cases- a small number of cases came to light after lockdown but not a notable increase.

VAW

SC gave an input from the perspective of the VAW and Housing. In terms of the VAW Partnership, the group have continued to meet remotely, and Women's Aid continued to work throughout the pandemic. Work has been carried out with businesses for example we are participating in the national initiative to ensure pharmacies recognise the signs of abuse and can offer a safe space for women to seek help. The number of women presenting as homeless as a result of Domestic Violence has remained the same as last year despite an overall reduction in people presenting as

homeless. The Women's Aid advice line has not seen an increase in calls, however demand for refuge accommodation has doubled. As with other services, a level of unseen need is anticipated.

The Home Security project has continued to be active during lockdown, aiding with advice, alarms and security.

Child Protection

DM provided an input around child protection. This followed a similar trend to adult protection-figures reduced briefly but are now back at normal levels. The usual referrer for child protection is Education, however with schools being closed Police have been the main referrer during lockdown. An increase in referrals is anticipated when schools go back. Media campaigns about child and adult protection have ran in addition to a pan Ayrshire campaign to raise awareness. Training and information have also been provided to the Locality Hubs.

Protective Services

SM gave an overview on behalf of Protective Services. It has been a busy time for services enforcing Covid restrictions, with a steep learning curve. The Call Blocker project has not been rolled out further due to the challenges around maintaining the devices in people's homes, this may require an additional resource. A project is underway working with a Welsh local authority looking at a formula to analyse call blocker data to identify vulnerable community members. Pubs, bars and restaurants are mostly complying well with Covid guidance. Scottish Government will be releasing an updated FAQ on this to support authorities and businesses.

BS highlighted that there are two or three premises requiring repeat visits. More restrictions will likely be released later in the month. Police and partners will work with premises to ensure these restrictions are in place. There are currently dedicated officers visiting licensed premises every weekend, however this is proving resource intensive.

SFRS

CC provided an input on behalf of SFRS. CC advised that Charlie Tymon is now Station Commander. Risk Recognition training has been taken up by Women's Aid. SFRS are promoting this to any organisations that spend time in people's homes. SFRS saw an increase in incidents, likely due to people spending more time at home during lockdown. HFSV's were stopped during lockdown but these have now been restarted for high risk residences. CC highlighted that any partners wishing to receive training on the referral process for this should contact him directly.

4. SNAP Strategy Delivery

JB updated the group that Cabinet approval of the Strategy was postponed due to lockdown, however implementation should continue. There are two working groups- Prevention 1st and Gender Based Violence. JB posed the question of how best to get these groups up and running to start implementing the strategy.

It was agreed that:

- JB will send the Strategy, a draft monitoring framework and questions for the group to consider prior to the next meeting in four weeks' time.
- JB, BS and CC will meet to plan implementation of the working groups
- JB will send out a PR message for social media and the CPP website as to the current position and partners response throughout Covid.
- The group will meet in four weeks' time to regroup and plan finalisation and implementation

5. Safer Shores

BS highlighted that the process this year has been different due to Covid-19 restrictions, however beaches started to get busy again over July and the start of August. Driven through BTP, Scotrail and the Police there was some precautionary work undertaken. The North Ayrshire focus has been on Largs and Portencross, but numbers overall have been much lower this year. Guidance was provided to attending young people around Covid restrictions and safety. Schools return this week, so partners are not anticipating many more gatherings.

6. Bonfire Night Arrangements

Nationally, there will likely be another Operation Moonbeam this year. There will also be another local operation which will be planned jointly by SFRS, Police Scotland, Housing, Streetscene and Protective Services.

Currently legislation does not allow for mass gatherings, however the rules may change in time for Bonfire Night celebrations. The lack of mass gatherings may have a knock-on effect resulting in more private smaller gatherings. Once further guidance is released the group will be prepped.

7. Future Agenda Items

It was agreed the SNAP will meet again on Mon 7 September 2020 to discuss implementation of the SNAP Strategy.

8. AOCB

JG will send out the North Ayrshire People's Panel Report and Action Plan 2020 as well as a brief partner update from Community Justice.