

**Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
20 November 2018**

IRVINE, 20 November 2018 - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Donald L. Reid, Todd Ferguson, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan and Jimmy Miller.

In Attendance

A. Craig, Senior Manager, Legal Services and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent P. Main and Inspector J. Convery (Police Scotland); Area Manager J. Scott and Group Manager K. Hankinson (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); and Karyn McCluskey (Community Justice Scotland).

Chair

Councillor Donald L. Reid in the Chair.

Apologies

John Glover and Angela Stephen.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair advised on the illness of Vice-Chair Glover, and the Committee offered his best wishes for a speedy recovery. He also took the opportunity to welcome Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland to the meeting and gave a short biography of Karyn's career.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 21 August 2018 was confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates

The Chair provided a verbal report on his attendance at the Cosla Conveners Forum on 6 November and highlighted the following:-

- the Metropolitan Police have been observing Glasgow as a good example in terms of reductions in knife crime and murders;

- the second chance philosophy which stipulates everyone deserves a second chance to reform depending on circumstances;
- 65% of the prison population who reoffend are young people who have been in care;
- the commencement of the Navigator Project based within hospital emergency departments in Glasgow and involving volunteers who support people to move away from violent lifestyles;
- CCTV projects across Scotland;
- leadership and governance arrangements of the Police Scotland Board;
- 7 new SPA Board Members;
- how to deliver change in policing;
- performance measurement and evaluation; and
- Brexit and uncertainty around European arrest warrants and joint working with European Police.

Noted.

5. Presentation: Community Justice Scotland

The Committee received a presentation from Karyn McCluskey, Chief Executive, Community Justice Scotland offering an insight into the vicious cycle of crime often associated with the use of short prison sentences.

The presentation highlighted the following:-

- recorded crime levels are at the lowest level since 1974;
- the reoffending rate has fallen to an all time low;
- we are dealing with vulnerable members of society who are in chaos due to addictions etc;
- our prison population is still rising, despite crime levels reducing;
- Scotland are still utilising community sentences;
- youth crime down 78%;
- what works within the restorative justice system to transform young people's lives;
- the high instances of alcohol related death;
- challenges in relation to youth suicides and mental health issues;
- services are not easily accessible;
- 45% of the Scottish public have identified prevention as the main objective of the community justice system; and
- the future model for change to transform Scotland going forward.

Ms McCluskey also advised the Committee on prevention work which has taken place throughout North Ayrshire involving Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and indicated that social media is not a representation of perception across Scotland in relation to this topic.

Members asked questions and were provided with information on the following:-

- that there is a requirement for jail sentencing but this is a very small number;
- areas across Scotland where engagement work is taking place, including an Alcohol Court in Glasgow looking at repeated alcohol addiction crimes;
- whether the tagging system is effective and the use of GPS and alcohol tagging;
- work to improve Throughcare services and the removal of the Turning Point resource; and
- the need to review the repeat interview process in relation to children who are involved in domestic abuse cases to allow recording of children's observations to be shared with all necessary parties.

The Chair thanked Ms McCluskey for an informative and interesting presentation.

Noted.

5.1. Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service which provided an update for quarter 2 on progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan and gave other key Fire and Rescue updates. A copy of the North Ayrshire Performance report from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The report identified a 7% increase in activity levels across North Ayrshire compared with the corresponding period in 2017, and an 8% increase in terms of the preceding three year average. False alarms accounted for 48% of all activity within North Ayrshire, with fire related activity and special service activity accounting for 44% and 12%, respectively. Review of performance against the six agreed performance indicators noted that four indicators were above the three year average due to a rise in activity, one had seen a reduction in the respective three year average of more than 5% and a further one indicator had reduced by less than 5%.

A letter issued by the Director of Prevention and Protection to the Chairs of Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland, providing an update on the progress of the Building Safer Communities Programme, was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The report also provided an update in terms of (i) the recently completed fire fatality analysis for the 2017-2018 period and (ii) the publication of the Fire and Rescue Incident statistics 2017-2018, attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

Area Manager Jim Scott and Group Manager Kenny Hankinson also reported verbally on:-

- no recorded acts of violence against the crews in and around Bonfire night;
- the proactive partnership work with Police Scotland in the lead up to Bonfire night;
- the analysis of the successful intervention work with schools in relation to unwanted fire alarm signals;

- proactive measures, including staff alerts, which cut down on attendances by Scottish Fire and Rescue Services and the need to replicate this across schools in North Ayrshire; and
- the conclusion of the recruitment process for a replacement for Chief Officer Hay and that an announcement is anticipated.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the priority in moving to the 'safe and well visits' through training and partnerships;
- whether campus cops were useful in assisting with reductions around unwanted fire alarm instances;
- reasons for the high instances of unwanted fire alarm signals in the Stevenston area;
- partnership links and representation on each of the Locality Partnerships which feedback local issues and areas of vulnerability; and
- the level of understanding the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have of vulnerability within the communities of North Ayrshire.

Noted.

5.2 Performance Report: Police Scotland

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 October 2018.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's positive performance over the course of 2017/18, including a reduction of 2.7% in terms of total crime. Contextual information was provided in respect of domestic abuse incidents which remain a priority in terms of partnership working, reporting of hate crime, violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour, serious organised crime, protecting people at risk from harm, road safety and road crime, public confidence and house breakings.

Chief Superintendent Paul Main also reported verbally on:-

- Colin Convery substituting for Brian Shaw for a short period of time;
- the commencement of the domestic abuse 16 days of action;
- hate crime report for the whole of Ayrshire which would be passed to the Clerk for issue to Members;
- circumstances around robberies where a breakdown will be submitted to the meeting of the Committee in January 2019;
- to allocate a meeting to consider in detail the continuing rise in crimes of a sexual nature in relation to the relationship between the offender and the victim and on numbers of physical sexual assaults;
- the varying skill set required from officers in relation to investigating past crimes as opposed to forensically evidence based crimes from the present;
- an offer for a verbal briefing to Committee on the nature of complaints made against the Police;

- housebreakings maintaining a record low at domestic properties but otherwise increasing in relation to schools, hospitals, industrial buildings etc; and
- that the Police Authority meeting scheduled provisionally for 30 January 2019 would take place in East Ayrshire and involve the Chairs of the 3 Ayrshire Police Fire and Rescue Committees.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the sexual offending data and the possibility of a meeting to discuss this in more detail;
- the increase in the number of officers who carry tasers and training provided; and
- the protocol for medical assessment on a person who is tasered.

The Committee agreed that (a) Chief Superintendent Main provide hate crime report information for the whole of North Ayrshire to the Clerk for circulation to Members of the Committee; and (b) that detailed robbery breakdown statistics be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 22 January 2019.

The meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.