

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
5 November 2019

IRVINE, 5 November 2019 - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

John Glover, Todd Ferguson, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan and Donald L. Reid.

In Attendance

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

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent M. Hargreaves, Chief Inspector B. Shaw and Chief Inspector G. Campbell (Police Scotland); Area Commander I. McMeekin and Station Commander A. Brown (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

Apologies

Jimmy Miller.

1. 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.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 3 September 2019 was confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the opportunity to welcome Councillor Donald L Reid back to the Committee following his recent illness.

4. Presentations

4.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Services

The Committee received a presentation by Area Commander Ian McMeekin and Station Commander Alan Brown on deliberate fire setting.

The presentation provided a range of information, which included:-

- Areas of concern in Kilwinning, Stevenston and Ardeer/Chemring;
- A range of work undertaken in Kilwinning and Stevenston to prevent fire setting that included visual audits, diversionary activities, increased Police presence, a protocol to provide Police with incident information, targeted activity by fire crews and a joint anti-social behaviour presentation at local secondary schools;
- A multi partnership meeting and action plan that had been developed for Ardeer/Chemring;
- An update on interventionist and educative work with an individual who had been charged with several incidents of fire raising;
- Partnership discussions between Police Scotland, SFRS and the North Ayrshire Development the Young Workforce Project Officer;
- Fire Reach Course; and
- Firesetters Intervention.

The Committee was also provided with data on deliberate fire setting incidents that showed a decrease over a 3-year period in the Stevenston and Kilwinning areas.

Stevenston	2017/18	127
	2018/19	109
	2019/20	95
Kilwinning	2017/18	77
	2018/19	93
	2019/20	61

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- Partnership working with a range of agencies in preparation for Bonfire night, that includes removing bonfires that have been erected;
- The Fire Reach Project that provides training and development opportunities for young people, who may become involved in fire related anti-social behaviour, to try and change attitudes and perceptions;
- Ten instances of fire setting in the Stevenston area that had been attributed to one young man, who had now positively participated in the Fire Reach Project; and
- Notification to Police Scotland of all instances of deliberate fire setting.

The Committee thanked Scottish Fire and Rescue Services for the very informative presentation on deliberate fire setting.

Noted.

4.2 Police Scotland

Chief Inspector George Campbell provided a presentation on Police Scotland's Contact Assessment Model (CAM) that was developed to enable the most appropriate and proportionate policing response at the first point of contact.

The presentation provided information on:-

- Areas that won't change, such as the response to urgent and critical incidents, focus on protecting the public and the most vulnerable in our communities and officers' ability to engage and be visible in the community;
- Areas that will change, such as the removal of default call grading thereby empowering staff to make decisions based on facts and circumstances, and based on a THRIVE assessment, which encompasses Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability and Engagement;
- How we might respond – immediate action, prompt response within 4 hours, local policing appointment or non-attendance and some examples of incident types with the current model response and the proposed model response;
- Positive feedback following the introduction of the model in Lanarkshire/Dumfries and Galloway; and
- The introduction of CAM in Greater Glasgow division in October 2019, which has seen significant reductions in deferred incidents, increased in proactive patrols and improved management of incidents.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- The improved management of incidents by Area Control Room staff, that allocates each incident based on the Thrive assessment and replaces the previous call grading practice;
- A missed incident relating to a car that had crashed down an embankment;
- The introduction of the Thrive model in Ayrshire in late January 2020; and
- The roll-out of new mobile technology that will allow Police Officers to access a wide range of Policy systems while out on duty.

The Committee thanked Police Scotland for the very interesting presentation on the Contact Assessment Model.

Noted.

5. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates

The Chair raised pedestrian safety concerns relating to the narrow footpath and increased traffic on Dalry Road, Kilwinning. He also referred to the recent pedestrian incident on this stretch of road. The Committee was advised that this is a trunk road and alterations to the road or footpath are the responsibility of Transport Scotland. Following the pedestrian incident, the Council have offered support to those who witnessed or have been affected by the incident on Dalry Road.

The Chair enquired about youth disorder in Dalry, which included youths congregating at bus shelters, vandalism to bus shelters and passing buses. Police Scotland reported that eight young people had been detected for various crimes in Dalry and that a letter expressing the concerns of Police had been handed to the parents/guardians of 58 young people either involved in or on the periphery of anti-social behaviour.

The Committee was advised that the location of bus shelters is a matter for Strathclyde Passenger Transport. Bus companies have advised drivers to use their judgement where there are groups of youths congregating at bus shelters and to drive past if necessary.

Noted.

6.1 Performance Report: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided an update on the progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

The report advised that Station Commander Raymond Fallon, Kilwinning Community Fire Station has been temporarily promoted to the role of Group Commander within the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland Local Senior Officer Area. He has been replaced, on a temporary basis, by Station Commander Craig McFie.

A copy of the North Ayrshire Performance report from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2019 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The report identified an 1.6% increase in activity levels across North Ayrshire compared to the previous year. Attendance at false alarms and special service incidents accounting for 34% and 13% respectively. Progress against the six agreed performance indicators noted that two indicators are above the three-year average due to a rise in activity. One indicator has seen a reduction in its respective three-year average of more than 21% and three others have reduced by less than 9%, 4% and 1% respectively.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue's Strategic Plan, published on 1 October 2019 and attached at Appendix 2 to the report, will initiate a review of all 32 Local Fire and Rescue Plans across Scotland.

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

- The installation of a linked alarm in a domestic property where the resident may not be able to respond to a standard alarm; and
- The retained duty system data that included the number of personnel and contracts in place.

Noted.

6.2 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 2018 to 30 September 2019.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 3.7% rise in the total number of crimes. Contextual information was provided in respect of domestic abuse incidents, reporting of hate crime, an slight decrease in violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour, and increase in the number of detections for serious organised crime, terrorism and domestic extremism, protecting people at risk from harm (including the use of online platforms to communicate indecently and increased reporting of non-recent crimes), road safety and road crime, housebreakings, public confidence and user satisfaction (that included complaints about the Police).

The Committee expressed their appreciation for the excellent work done by Sergeant Joe Murdoch in the Garnock Valley and all Locality Sergeants throughout North Ayrshire.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.