

MINUTE OF MEETING OF SAFER & STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP

THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2010

COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

PRESENT

Councillor E McGillivray (Chair)
Councillor D Ross
Councillor R Shepherd
Councillor D Stewart
Mr R Cameron
Chief Inspector H Mackie
(substituting for Sharon Milton)

The Moray Council
The Moray Council
The Moray Council
The Moray Council
Grampian Fire & Rescue
Grampian Police

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Wright

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor M. McConachie, Mr A. Keddie, The Moray Council and Mrs L. Tait, NHS Grampian.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs D. McLean, Emergency Planning Officer (in respect of Item 2), Housing Strategy & Policy Manager, Local Authority Liaison Officer, Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Mrs D Skene, Project Officer, Mr D Westmacott, Apprentice Committee Services Officer and Mrs C Carswell, Committee Services Officer

1. MINUTE OF MEETING DATED 3 DECEMBER 2009

The minute of 3 December 2009 was submitted and approved as an accurate record.

2. EMERGENCY PLANNING PRESENTATION

Mrs D. McLean, Emergency Planning Officer gave a presentation on the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, how it was used and enforced from planning through to assessing whilst providing the public with information. She also explained the roles of some of the Groups and what the local arrangements were for emergency planning and answered questions raised by Members.

Councillor McGillivray thanked Mrs McLean for her informative presentation.

3. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT - QUARTER 3 MONITORING STATEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with an update against the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) milestones relating to the Safer & Stronger theme as at the end of December 2009.

Following consideration the Group agreed to note the:

- (i) update of performance regarding the milestones due to be completed by December 2009, relating to the Safer and Stronger theme; and
- (ii) progress of each Key Action and the overall progress made against each Local Outcome at the end of the third quarter.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES - PROGRESS AGAINST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 2009 TO DECEMBER 2009

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager providing the Group with an update of performance against Safer Communities performance indicators and providing the Group with an update of activity undertaken by the four Safer Communities Operational Groups in relation to tackling Community Safety priorities.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised the Group that the increase in noise complaints may be due to the fact that the public were aware that actions could be taken therefore this did not cause concern.

In response to a question from Councillor Ross as to whether Councillors were classed as customers as he had never received a questionnaire after using the service, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator confirmed that they would be and that he would ensure questionnaire were issued to Councillors.

Following consideration the Group agreed to note the performance against Safer Communities performance indicators and activity undertaken in relation to Safer Communities.

5. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REPORT - PROMOTING POSITIVE OUTCOMES: WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager bringing to the attention of the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group, the recently

published Scottish Government report 'Promoting Positive Outcomes - Working Together to Prevent Antisocial Behaviour in Scotland' and how The Moray Council were addressing the aims and recommendations within the publication.

In response to a question from Mr R Cameron, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that they do utilise the statistics with regard to wilful fires and a member of staff from Grampian Fire & Rescue would be utilised to run a course to enable early intervention.

Following consideration the Group agreed to :-

- (i) note the Strategic Aims identified in the Promoting Positive Outcomes report and the strong links between tackling Antisocial Behaviour and achieving the National Outcomes 9, 10 and 11; and
- (ii) provide feedback on the current strategy in relation to the priorities set out in the national strategy as this would inform the review of the strategy scheduled for September 2010

6. COMMUNITY WARDEN - ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY COMMUNITY WARDENS IN MORAY

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager highlighting activities undertaken by the Community Wardens in Moray for the period 1 April 2009 until 31 December 2009 and initiatives carried out to address priorities identified in the Community Safety Citizens Panel Survey.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that the "Adopt a Street" pilot had been successful in Forres and would be rolled out to other areas in Moray. There was to be a "Green Dog Walkers" pilot launched in Forres in May 2010 for a three month period and already the Community Warden had 50 volunteers. He advised that he planned to visit Community Councils to get them on board and support the scheme.

The Group noted that there was differences in the total number of core activities being undertaken by Community Wardens and the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator advised that some of the Wardens were not keeping proper records and this had been raised with the Wardens in December. Therefore it was hoped that the next report would have more accurate readings.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager suggested that a report on the progress of the pilot be brought back to the next meeting to see if it would be possible to roll the scheme out to other areas over the summer months.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:-

- (i) note the current initiatives undertaken by the Community Wardens;

- (ii) a report coming back to the Group in June regarding the “Green Dog Walkers” pilot and whether it could be rolled out to other areas over the summer

7. SAFER STREETS CAMPAIGN

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Policy Unit Manager highlighting the actions taken in relation to the December Safer Streets Campaign 2009.

Sergeant Moar advised that following the evaluation it was noted that for future campaigns there should be a focus on the weekend before Christmas as this was often the office night out and also that the time should be brought forward as there were indications that young people were obtaining alcohol before 10pm.

Sergeant Moar also advised that the ambulance stationed on the High Street has been well received and having medics on site to deal with the victim, this freed up the police’s time to deal with the offender. He advised that figures had been requested from Accident & Emergency as to the type of admittance they had over the festive period.

Chief Inspector Mackie advised that he would suggest that the campaign be organised earlier on in the year to ensure that everything was in place for the beginning of the festive period.

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager advised that the evaluation was reported to the Scottish Government to allow them to see how the monies were spent and she suggested that a joint press release be done on the success of the campaign.

Following consideration the Group agreed to:-

- (i) note the actions taken by the campaign to reduce alcohol fuelled street disorder; and
- (ii) a joint press release being issued on the success of the scheme.

8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

There was submitted and noted an action sheet from the Special Community Planning Board Meeting on Wednesday 10 February 2010 and Community Planning Board Meeting on Wednesday 4 March 2010.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group will be held on 10th June 2010.