

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 7 JUNE 2006**

### **IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

**Joint Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and Superintendent Liz Weir, Strathclyde Police “UC” Sub Division.**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1. To advise the Forum of the outcome of the Improving Community Safety Implementation Group: Community Planning – Improving Community Safety Action Plan.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 1.0. East Ayrshire’s Community Plan brings together partners from the public and voluntary sectors with the community to work together to better plan, resource and deliver quality services that will meet the needs of people that live and work in East Ayrshire between 2003 and 2015.
- 2.2. The Improving Community Safety Theme is guided by the overall principles set out in the Community Plan, therefore, by planning together, working together and achieving together we can actively tackle the issues that cause greatest public concern.

#### **3. CORE SECTION**

- 3.1. In order to streamline and promote community safety activity throughout East Ayrshire, the Improving Community Safety Implementation Group, led by Supt. Liz Weir, was set up to determine and implement action plans as set out in the community safety strategy.

- 3.2. At the last meeting of the Group on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006 the Improving Community Safety 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Performance Report: 2005/2006 was discussed. Summarised below are the key achievements for 2005/06. Of the 43 outputs, 32 have been fully achieved, 8 largely achieved, 2 partially achieved and 1 output has not been achieved.

- 3.3. Summary of Key Achievements and Progress

Work against the targets and actions set within the Improving Community Safety Action Plan has shown significant progress. Summarised below are examples of key achievements for 2003/05.

1. A downward trend in victim crime from 8,892 victim crimes at the baseline to 7,475
2. An increase in detection of public order related offences from a baseline of 1,960 to 2,799
3. 24 young people have been involved in the Fast Track Children's Hearings
4. Fatalities and serious injuries in road accidents have been significantly reduced from 140 to 93; on target for meeting the Government target of reducing casualties by 40% by 2010
5. Child road casualties have reduced from the 2003 baseline of 28 to 14
6. Further initiatives have been put in place which have been successful in contributing to the reduction of road casualties, including :
  - . traffic calming at the entrance to all communities with 30 or 40 mph speed limits on the strategic road network
  - . 20 mph advisory zones
  - . 2 government annual speeding campaigns have been supported
  - . 36 primary schools have participated in training and resources and activities have been offered to all educational establishments
  - . A pre-driving course has been developed for secondary pupils
  - . Travel surveys have been completed in 58 schools and safety audits in 54 schools
  - . A School Travel Co-ordinator has now been appointed and educational measures have been implemented in 34 schools
  - . 2 local and 2 national campaigns have been supported each year to increase safety and security in homes, including the Danger Detectives experiential learning programme to raise the awareness of children in primary 6 in 46 primary schools and 3 special schools of the dangers which surround them and how to be safe. In addition, presentations have been delivered to 6 community and voluntary groups
7. In 2003/04, the number of malicious calls to Strathclyde Fire & Rescue was reduced by 1% and in 2004/05 there has been a reduction of 272 in secondary fires caused by willful or deliberate fire raising
8. The Grass Fires Initiative, operating in Cumnock and Doon Valley and involving 1,000 pupils, has had considerable success in reducing the incidence of willful fire raising.
9. Unfortunately, with 2 fatalities from dwelling house fires in 2003/04 and 3 in 2004/05, the target of reducing fatalities has not been achieved. Reporting statistics in relation to this target does not highlight the significant amount of effort which goes into keeping the number of fatalities from accidental dwelling house fires so low, therefore, it will be reviewed and revised to make it more meaningful.

10. Non-fatal casualties in accidental house fires have reduced from 20 in 2003/04 to 12 in 2004/05
11. Accidental dwelling house fires have reduced to 79 from the baseline of 93, a reduction of 15%.
12. 32 retail establishments have been visited each year by officers of Strathclyde Police and the Council's Trading Standards section to raise awareness of firework abuse and encourage retailers not to sell fireworks to under 18s. In addition, the Community Safety Partnership funded a public firework display free to members of the public
13. Public safety and access to public transport have been improved by the establishment of Quality Bus Corridors, with 25 traffic signals now giving priority to buses, and the implementation of pedestrian access measures
14. New equipment has been installed in 12 play parks. In addition, 6 new parks and sports walls have been installed and multi-use games areas in Onthank and Shortlees have also been completed.

### **3.4 Forthcoming initiatives**

- 3.4.1 The UP2U bus has had a total refurbishment and it is anticipated a new programme of visits and events will be progressed in the Summer of 2006. The bus will be renamed the "Youth Express".
- 3.4.2 Strathclyde Fire and Rescue have installed a sprinkler system in the home of a vulnerable family in Crosshouse. The Brigade is actively seeking funding to extend the provision of domestic sprinklers.
- 3.4.3 The launch of the t.a.r.d.i.s mobile internet facility will be held at Lochside House Hotel, Friday 9th June 11a.m. until 2p.m. Cathy Jamieson, MSP and Sandra Osborne MP will both attend along with other VIP's and guests.
- 3.4.4 A 16 Page full colour Community Safety Newsletter is being published and will be distributed with the Ayrshire Extra newspaper to 5000 homes in East Ayrshire. 3000 copies will also be delivered in bulk to local offices etc to cover areas such as New Cumnock and Bellsbank.
- 3.4.5 The Street Sport Express will facilitate a number of venues and will include Football, basketball, hockey, handball and much more. All activities are free for 10 - 18 years. You will find the van in areas including Galston, Hurlford, North West Kilmarnock, Catrine, Cumnock, Muirkirk, Auchinleck, Logan, Stewarton, and Shortlees.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. The cost of implementing initiatives will be met from existing resources and applications made for funding from outside sources.

**6. LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. Nil

**7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. Nil

**8. CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1. It was agreed that the co-ordination of all community safety activity should be passed through the Implementation Group.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1. The Forum is recommended to:
- (i) note the contents of this report

W Stafford  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services  
Superintendent Liz Weir  
Sub Divisional Commander, "UC" Sub Division

WS/EW/AW

19<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576111 and ask for John Crawford
2. Implementation Officer – Ann Williams