

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 27 OCTOBER 2005

IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

**Joint Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and
Supt. Liz Weir, Sub Divisional Officer, East Ayrshire**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the committee with information, on a bi-annual basis, with progress made on the six aims contained within the Improving Community Safety Action Plan.
- 1.2 The six aims included in the Improving Community Safety Strategy are:-
 - reducing crime – violent crime, drugs misuse, anti-social behaviour and vandalism
 - working with young people to reduce the likelihood of being involved in crime
 - maintain and improve public safety
 - promote road safety and reduce road accidents
 - develop safety initiatives to help people feel more safe and secure
 - improve safety in neighbourhoods and homes

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. 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. By planning together, working together and achieving together the issues that cause greatest public concern can be tackled
- 2.3 In order to streamline and promote community safety activity throughout East Ayrshire, the Improving Community Safety Implementation Group, led by Supt. Liz Weir, Strathclyde police was set up to determine and implement action plans as set out in the Improving Community Safety Strategy.

- 2.4 At a meeting of the Implementation Group on 21st June 2005 and following the 2nd Annual Review Performance Report and Action Plan Review, it was determined that it would be appropriate to provide information regarding the Action Plan to Local Area Committees on a bi-annual basis.

3 CORE SECTION

- 3.1 The following aims will remain the broad focus for 2005 – 2007:

- Aim 1 – to focus on reducing crime. What has emerged from the last two years work is the need to focus activity more towards violent crime, drugs misuse, anti social behaviour and vandalism, and considerable effort has been made by Strathclyde Police to reduce crime.
- Aim 2 – to work with young people to reduce the likelihood of being involved in crime. There has been an increase in youth diversion schemes in East Ayrshire to include working with Community Wardens and East Ayrshire Leisure Services to provide sporting initiatives including Night Leagues and Street Sport Express.
- Aim 3 - to maintain and improve public safety. It has been identified through various surveys that the fear of crime in East Ayrshire remains high. Actions contained within this aim include more effective use of close circuit television, reducing the fear of crime by effective use of anti social behaviour funding including development of the Community Warden scheme. Measures are also being taken to prevent injury due to misuse of fire works.
- Aim 4 – to promote road safety and reduce road accidents. Targets have been met to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured and good progress in being made particularly with child safety.
- Aim 5 - to develop safety initiatives to help people feel more safe and secure. Actions under this aim relate to fire and home safety. A proactive approach is being taken by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue to educate members of the public in fire safety. Ongoing initiatives are being undertaken by the Partnership to provide home safety and security to those most vulnerable.
- Aim 6 – to improve safety in neighbourhoods and homes. Actions relating to this aim include home safety, neighbourhood safety, domestic abuse and improving health, and ongoing initiatives are being undertaken to meet this aim.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Costs will be met from existing resources

5. LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 This report gives an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership through the Implementation Group.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is recommended to:

i) note the contents of the report.

W. Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood
Services

Superintendent Liz Weir
Sub Divisional Commander
Strathclyde Police "U" Division

WS/AW

5th October 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should speak to John F. Crawford, Head of Protective Services. Email: john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Implementation Officer: Ann Williams