

# **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM - 6 DECEMBER 2000**

## **A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY IN EAST AYRSHIRE**

### **Report by Director of Community Services**

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

- 1.1 To advise the Forum of the proposed development of the community safety partnership in East Ayrshire with an emphasis on the strategic planning process.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Since community safety was adopted as a Council function in East Ayrshire in 1997 there have been a number of changes, both national and local, in the way services to the community are planned and delivered. In addition, recent national studies of the new community safety partnerships, by Audit Scotland and the Scottish Executive, highlight good practice and recommend ways to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of partnerships.
- 2.2 At the Forum's Key Issues Seminar, held on 13 April 2000, it was recommended that a strategic community safety partnership should be formed as an umbrella group and to ensure an holistic approach to community safety in East Ayrshire. It was also agreed that a meeting be held with the Depute Chief Executive to discuss the outcomes of the Seminar. Following the meeting with the Depute Chief Executive a report was submitted to the meeting of Senior Staff on 14 August 2000 when it was agreed to establish a strategic partnership group.

#### **3 DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 As Forum members are aware, the Community Safety Strategy is being reviewed in light of the changes and additional information briefly outlined in paragraph 2.1. A report on the strategy and the revised structure of the Community Safety Partnership has been prepared for consideration by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 30 November 2000. The issues outlined below form the basis of the report to the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.2 The draft strategy defines community safety as the protection of everyone's right to live without fear for their own or other people's safety, recognises that success is dependent upon a partnership approach and sets out a number of aims with related targets.

- 3.3 The Council Plan, particularly the key priorities in relation to a safe, stimulating and sustainable environment, and the service plans and targets of partner organisations will impact directly on the aims and targets of the Community Safety Strategy. The strategic partnership group will ensure the mainstreaming of community safety by integrating it into community planning, best value, service planning and delivery for all partners.
- 3.4 A study of community safety partnerships in Scotland, "Safe and Sound", published by Audit Scotland in May 2000, recommends that partnerships be represented at a strategic level by the local authority, police and fire services and the health board or trust. The role of the private and voluntary sectors, housing associations and racial equality councils should also be considered. A key role is played by elected members, not only in terms of political commitment and leadership, but also of their extensive local knowledge of community priorities and concerns.
- 3.5 It is suggested that the Community Safety Strategy will formalise a three tier partnership structure. The first tier would comprise the strategic partnership group, the existing Community Safety Forum would be confirmed as the operations group which would manage, task and implement actions and the third tier would be composed of appropriate task groups which would deliver on key priorities.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 It is proposed that any initiatives arising from the Community Safety Strategy would be met by partners' existing budgets or from external funding sources.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nil.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The review of the Community Safety Strategy and establishment of a three tier partnership structure accord with the Council's commitment to the protection of the weak and vulnerable and the promotion of social inclusion as set out in the Council Plan. In addition, these proposals are complimentary to the constitution of the Forum itself.

#### **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The consideration and refinement of the Strategy by the strategic partnership group will ensure the mainstreaming of community safety and

formalise links with partner organisations. The three tier partnership structure will provide further clarity of purpose and will ensure that community safety priorities are established, resourced, managed and actioned in an effective and cohesive manner.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that the Forum agree:-

- (i) to note the content of the report; and
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to make the necessary arrangements and submit a further report on the development of the Strategy and the partnership structure to a future meeting of the Forum for consideration.

William Stafford  
**Director of Community Services**  
As/cs2/forum12.2000/strategic plan report

23 November 2000

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Report dated 9 November 2000 by the Director of Community Services to the Policy and Resources Committee – 30 November 2000
2. “Safe and Sound” a study of community safety partnerships in Scotland published by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission, May 2000.
3. “Safe and Sound” self assessment good practice guide for community safety partnerships published by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission, September 2000.
4. “Threads of Success” a study of community safety partnerships in Scotland published by the Scottish Executive, November 2000.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 554391 and ask for Miss Alison J Smith, Principal Officer – Licensing and Community Safety.

**AGENDA**