



Briefing Paper for East Ayrshire Police & Fire and Rescue Committee

FOR INFORMATION			
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Attachments: None			

Recorded Police Warnings

Purpose

At the Police and Fire & Rescue Committee meeting of 16 August 2016, the Committee requested information on the uptake and use of the Recorded Police Warning Scheme.

Background

The scheme was developed following revised Lord Advocate's Guidelines and aims to address minor offending behavior which was previously reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals' Service (COPFS) and very frequently resulted in either a non-court disposal or no action being taken due to the minor nature of the offence and circumstances.

In 2014/15, more than 45% of the cases reported to COPFS resulted in no proceedings being taken, or the Procurator Fiscal issuing a direct fine or other similar disposal. It is anticipated that the introduction of the Recorded Police Warning Scheme will substantially reduce the number of Standard Prosecution Reports (SPRs) being sent to COPFS.

The Recorded Police Warning Scheme is the first step in a three-tiered disposal process (Recorded Police Warning; Fixed Penalty Notice; SPR) and can be considered suitable for minor crimes and low level offences.

'Recorded Police Warning' (RPW) is the new name for the former 'Formal Adult Warning' scheme and the process has now be extended to include 16 and 17 year olds.

Once issued, an RPW will be held on the Criminal History System (CHS) for two years.

The warning is 'live' for three months from the date of the offence.

For those aged 18 years and over, a repeat offence within the three month period will escalate to a Fixed Penalty Notice and three warnings can be issued in a 12 month period.

For those aged 16 and 17 years, a second warning can be issued within the three month period before escalation and no more than 4 warnings can be issued in a 12 month period.

The new Recorded Police Warning system allows officers to make a decision on the spot whether or not an RPW is relevant and issue a ticket at the time. This will negate the need for letters to be retrospectively produced and signed by Area Commanders (or equivalent) across the organisation.

Key Findings

Since the commencement of the scheme on 11 January 2016, Ayrshire Division have issued 411 Recorded Police Warnings. Of that pan-Ayrshire figure, 151 were issued within East Ayrshire (37% of the total of RPW's issued).

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the content of this report.

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