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**REPORT TO: POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
23 AUGUST 2018**

**SUBJECT: THEMATIC REPORT – MORAY POLICE SERVICE YOUTH  
VOLUNTEERS**

**BY: CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT CAMPBELL THOMSON, DIVISIONAL  
POLICE COMMANDER, NORTH EAST DIVISION, POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of Police Scotland Youth Volunteers within Moray.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (J) (4) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the monitoring of delivery of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services in Moray.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Police and Fire & Rescue Services Committee scrutinise and note the information provided in this report in relation to Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) particularly within Moray.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 PSYV is Scotland's newest uniformed youth organisation. They are groups of up to 24 young people, aged between 13 and 18 years, who are based in each Council area across Scotland.
- 3.2 Supported by Adult Volunteers, who must be aged 18 years or over, and led by a serving Police Constable, PSYV volunteer by performing stewarding-type duties at community and national events and assist local policing priorities through participation in leaflet drops and community safety events. To date the national events have included the Commonwealth Games, T in the Park, the Open Golf Championship, the Wickerman Festival and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

- 3.3 The purpose of PSYV is to:
- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst young people.
  - Encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship.
  - Support local policing priorities through volunteering.
  - Give young people a chance to be heard.
  - Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.
- 3.4 PSYV will provide an insight into policing, however there are no guarantees that this will lead to either paid or voluntary work within the wider Police family and PSYV is not recruitment focused.
- 3.5 The principles of PSYV are that each group should:
- Have 25% of their membership from a 'vulnerable' background.
  - Have a body of youth volunteers that represents the diversity of the area.
- 3.6 Youth Volunteers must sign up to:
- Attend weekly group meetings.
  - A minimum of 3 hours per month volunteering at community events or initiatives once their Initial Training Programme is complete.
- 3.7 Youth Volunteers follow a bespoke PSYV Award programme which is SQA accredited and their volunteering is recognised through the use of Saltire Awards.
- 3.8 Structurally PSYV nationally is split into three areas of North, East and West. Each area has a Sergeant Regional Coordinator whose role is to support the Group Coordinators in their area and link directly with the National Programme Manager at the Police Scotland College. The Group Coordinators have formal line management within their own Police Division.
- 3.9 PSYV is supported in all aspects of its programme delivery by YoungScot and YouthLink (Scotland).
- 3.10 The set up costs of groups are met from the national budget which draws funding from several sources. There is no direct funding of PSYV from Police Scotland budgets. The ultimate aim is for groups to become self-supporting through fundraising and by application to available funding streams.
- 3.11 Within North East Division we have well established PSYV groups operating in Aberdeen and Fraserburgh, and on Tuesday 6 March 2018 these were complemented with the addition of the Moray group who met for the first time at their base at New Elgin Primary School.
- 3.12 This inaugural meeting followed a recruitment process for Youth Volunteers that drew on support from the Moray Community Planning Partnership, the Buckie and Keith Locality Management Groups and the Buckie and Keith Locality Wellbeing Officer, and saw:
- Direct inputs to relevant years of academy age pupils.
  - A series of public 'drop in' events to allow interested young people to find out more.
  - Partners identifying suitable groups of young people to apply.

Use of social media platforms to publicise benefits of PSYV membership.

- Direct referrals from the Police and other partner agencies.

- 3.13 Each young person who wished to apply to join PSYV was asked to complete an application form which had to be endorsed by a parent/guardian. There was then a paper sifting process to identify a manageable number of applicants who were invited for interview. Successful interviewees were then offered a place with PSYV.
- 3.14 A similar process was undertaken for the recruitment of Adult Volunteers, which secured applicants from a variety of backgrounds and brought a vital mix of skills and experiences to the group. The Adult Volunteers are subject to the Protecting Vulnerable Group process for working with young people and attend a mandatory one day course on working with young people delivered by YouthLink (Scotland).
- 3.15 The Moray group's Initial Training Programme comprised sessions on subjects such as Police rank structure, radio procedures, physical fitness, drill, missing persons, teambuilding, first aid and health & safety, and culminated with a Passing Out Parade on Wednesday 6 June 2018 at Elgin High School.
- 3.16 In anticipation of a successful training period, the Group Coordinator PC Yvonne Squair has already secured volunteering opportunities over the Summer at the Rrrallye Car Show and Family Fun Day at Keith, the European Pipe Band Championships at Forres, the Speyfest Celtic Festival of Music & Dance at Fochabers and a litter pick at Spey Bay.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The Moray Council's responsibilities with regards to the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 are directly relevant to Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

This report is presented to the Moray Police and Fire and Rescue Services Committee within its remit for local scrutiny of the Police.

##### **(c) Financial Implications**

There are no identified financial implications.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no identified staffing implications.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no identified staffing implications.

**(f) Property**

Not applicable.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

Not applicable.

**(h) Consultations**

The Local Police Plan, upon which the performance is reporting, was subject to consultation with elected representatives, and was heavily influenced by on-going feedback from local communities within the Moray Council area.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 It is hoped that the PSYV in Moray continue to grow in numbers and continue to make a positive contribution to local communities in the local area.**

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Background Papers: None  
Ref: