



REPORT TO: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE 7 MAY 2024

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of Community Safety Annual Report 2022/23 (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (G) (12) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to Community Safety and Anti-Social behaviour (including road accidents) in partnership with other public sector partners, voluntary sector and private sectors as appropriate.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) note the findings of the annual report; and**
- (ii) approve the recommendations within the report as set out in paragraph 3.7.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under the Antisocial Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 each local authority and the chief constable shall, acting jointly, prepare a strategy for dealing with antisocial behaviour within the authority's area. For Moray this is included within the Community Safety Strategy 2022-2026 as endorsed by the Community Planning Board on the 21 September 2022.
- 3.2 The strategy sets two priorities
- Reducing harms in our communities and
 - Safeguarding our communities
 - Withing these priorities are 18 thematic outcomes.

- 3.3 This is the first performance report for the Community Safety Strategy 2022-2026 which runs from September 2022 to the end of December 2023. The reporting year will be per calendar year going forward.
- 3.4 The Community Safety Strategy is delivered via partners' existing resources, which in the case of Moray Council is through the Community Safety Team. Antisocial Behaviour complaints made to the Community Safety Team are dealt with by 2 Community Wardens and 1 Housing Liaison Officer, a reduction of one Community Warden since the last report in 2018.
- 3.5 This report has been completed in consultation and with information provided by the CSSG partners. The completion of this report will assist the CSSG in assessing progress against the targets within the Community Safety Strategy, and to identify any areas for change, inclusion and improvement.
- 3.6 The first year following the approval of the Community Safety Strategy 2022-2026 has been mixed, with some notable successes, but also some challenges, as the partners have rebuilt their networks, alliances and working methodologies, following the Covid pandemic and cuts to budgets. Good progress has been made with delivery in many areas, but there has been, and still exists, issues with the accessibility of data, for monitoring some outcomes. Some of this has come as a result of changes made in the way individuals work, and or collect data, meaning that previously accessible data is no longer easily available.
- 3.7 The recommendations from the annual report reflect on the changes to the workforce and priorities throughout the pandemic and the subsequent increase in anti social behaviour and the response of the Council within the 24/25 budget process to increase the provision of Community Wardens. The recommendations within the annual report are:-
- Improve partnership working with individual partners and strategic partnerships across the system.
 - Move to more Dynamic Reporting and timeous partner updates for Community Safety Hub cases is needed to make the Hub more effective.
 - Development of new partnership projects that meet emerging need rather than 'business as usual', particularly around ASB.
 - Review the Outcome Measures to fit with a more focussed approach to Community Safety.
 - Consider the findings of the ASB Task and Finish Group, and report to the Community Planning Partnership.
 - Set up the Mental Health Task and Finish Group and then consider the findings and report to the Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.8 The Anti Social Behaviour Task and Finish Group which was set up in September 2023 to examine the increase in Anti Social Behaviour are developing proposals for action across the partnership to address the issues and this will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

Assists in building a better future for our children and young people in Moray. Empower and support communities to build capacity. Provide opportunities for people to be the best they can be throughout their lives with a strong and sustained focus on those individuals and groups in our society who experience the most disadvantage and discrimination.

(b) Policy and Legal

Annual report is a statutory requirement in terms of Antisocial Behaviour Etc (Scotland) Act 2004.

(c) Financial implications

None.

(d) Risk Implications

If strategy is not delivered, then there is an increased risk of increasing antisocial behaviour across all ages and tenures but particularly in youths. Increased antisocial behaviour or perceived antisocial behaviour reduces social interaction and economy which increases the risks of antisocial behaviour.

(e) Staffing Implications

None.

(f) Property

None

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

Not required as performance report

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

None identified.

(i) Consultations

Consultation on this report has taken place with the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), the Head of Economic Growth and Development, Chief Financial Officer, Georgina Anderson (Legal Services Senior Solicitor), Principal Climate Change Officer, the Equal Opportunities Officer and Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer) and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Strategy was written pre-pandemic without understanding the post pandemic effects on the population or individuals.

5.2 There has been significant staff changes within the partners and methods of working.

5.3 The annual performance report 2022/23 for the Community Safety Strategy 2022 -2026 identifies areas that have improved and areas that require improvement.

Author of Report: Karen Sievewright, Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: [SPMAN-813460984-552](#)