

Argyll and Bute Safer Streets Project 2009-10 Evaluation Report

Section 1: Project Details		
Local authority	Argyll and Bute Council	
Activity Title	High Visibility and Additional Policing in Argyll and Bute Towns.	
<p>Summary of activity. The Safer Streets project funding allowed significant additional activity to be delivered in Argyll and Bute's six main town centres in Oban, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Rothesay and Helensburgh during the festive period. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre High Profile and Visible Policing to deter and tackle crime and anti social behaviour • Targeting Off Sales and Licensed Premises to address alcohol related disorder and violence • Targeting youth and adult street drinkers to tackle anti social behaviour and violence • Enhanced CCTV surveillance of 'hot spots' to deter and detect offenders • Targeting drink driving behaviour to deter and detect offenders <p>The aim of these activities was to increase crime detection, discourage potential disturbances and to reassure the public and make them feel safer.</p>		
<p>Were there any significant changes to the work set out in the application to the Scottish Government and for which funding was agreed?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No</p>		
Project Start Date 6 th December 2009	Project End Date 3 rd January 2010	Grant Claimed £12,121
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Section 2: Making a Difference

2.1 How did this Safer Streets activity contribute to one or more of the outcomes in the [National Performance Framework](#) and any relevant local outcomes and indicators to help individuals and communities feel and be safer, by reducing alcohol-related violence and disorder?

Additional and high visibility policing during the busy festive period contributed to a number of local outcomes to reduce alcohol related violence and disorder in our main towns. The Argyll and Bute Community Safety Strategy and Strategic Assessment 2009-2012 established priorities which are being actively addressed by Community Safety Partners. The four crimes, by type, where offending rates are numerically the highest are Breaches of the Peace, Vandalisms, Assaults (minor) and Road Traffic related offences. Many of these offences are concentrated in

the main towns within Argyll and Bute which reflects the fact that these areas are the largest population centres. Consumption of alcohol is a significant factor in relation to Breach of the Peace offences and Minor Assaults. The strategic assessment also shows that much of the violence within Argyll and Bute occurs in town centres and is closely linked to the night time economy.

The Safer Streets activity contributed towards Argyll and Bute Community Safety Partnership Priorities to:

Ensure Neighbourhoods and Towns are Safe from Violence, Anti Social Behaviour and Disorder

Planned Outcomes

- reduced anti social behaviour, disorder and alcohol related disorder in towns
- young people diverted from anti social behaviour, disorder and alcohol related disorder
- reduced fear of anti social behaviour and disorder

Tackle Vandalism and Criminal Damage within Communities and Towns and Ensure the Environment is Respected and Valued

Planned Outcomes

- reduced vandalism and criminal damage within public spaces
- improved public confidence in agencies ability to reduce and respond to criminal damage within public spaces

Improve Road Safety and Promote Safe Driving

Planned Outcomes

- reduced road traffic collisions
- increased awareness of road safety issues and development of responsible driving habits

These priorities contribute to outcomes in the Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement and National Outcomes as follows:

Vibrant Communities – safe supportive communities with positive culture and sense of pride in the area (SOA)

National Outcome 9 – we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger

2.2 What did you learn from this project?

As well as tackling offending behaviour a key focus of the Argyll and Bute Safer Streets project was improve public perception of safety and, thereby, people's confidence in the response by services. The project is viewed as a success from the quantitative data gathered as part of the evaluation. However, the full extent to which the public felt safe and were reassured is less clearly defined within the evaluation of the project. More generally, while the high visibility element of this project results in greater direct engagement with the public, from a resource perspective this is often balanced with an intelligence led problem solving approach to community safety matters. For this reason a challenge, acknowledged and addressed in other ways by Community Safety Partners, is the potential for a gap to emerge between public perceptions of what is being done to ensure personal or community safety and, on the other hand, partners' perspectives on effective ways to make people and communities safe.

Section 3: Mainstreaming

3.1 How did the project contribute to or enhance partners' mainstream services response to local needs?

The Community Safety Partnership has developed, as a mainstream response to local needs, a multi agency intelligence based problem solving approach to tackling anti social behaviour within neighbourhoods, towns and hotspot areas. Responses are based around a balanced use of Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement action.

The Safer Streets project contributed to the achievement of the Community Safety Partnership's priorities for town centres which are shaped by data from partners and the concerns of residents about personal and community safety. The relevance of these priorities was reinforced in a recent public consultation exercise by Strathclyde Police in 2009 in which consultees identified assault, violent crime and drunk and disorderly behaviour (including vandalism) as significant concerns and matters they considered to be high priorities for the police.

The activities developed as part of the Safer Streets project in Argyll and Bute, therefore, were activities that enhanced mainstream responses and core Police action plans for Policing town centres. The project by nature was a proactive and highly visible response and, therefore, also contributed to the Community Safety Partnerships reassurance strategy and in building public confidence in services.

The Safer Streets project had a positive impact on communities and the following are examples of high profile and proactive activity which contributed towards peoples safety and detection of crimes:

Effective use of Anti Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices in all towns which reflects the priority given to tackling this behaviour and enabled Police to deal with a greater number of anti social behaviour offences

Attention at taxi ranks, railway stations and bus links to monitor and facilitate peaceful dispersal of patrons and minimise disruption to town centre residents

Considerable focus on road safety including additional speed, vehicle and driver checks which had a positive impact on driver behaviour. This resulted in a positive reduction in driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs with a total 10 persons charged with this offence including 3 in Dunoon and Campbeltown. In Rothesay speed checks were carried out in identified streets where there concerns about driver behaviour.

High visibility Policing in Oban at Hogmany which resulted in only one recorded disorder offence while approximately 2500 people gathered in the town to attend three large scale events.

Alcohol confiscations including four litres of alcohol confiscated from minors in Lochgilphead and an adult charged with supplying the alcohol. Eleven litres of alcohol was confiscated in Helensburgh.

High visibility foot patrols in retail areas during peak shopping times to deter retail theft, dishonesty offences and personal theft and to reassure the public

Substantial increases in visits to licensed premises in all towns

High visibility foot patrols in the streets identified within the Strategic Assessment as known hotspots for disorder and disturbance in all towns

N.B. Appendix 1 contains a quantitative breakdown of Safer Streets project activity and offences detected by area.

3.2 What positive impact has activity had on mainstream services? How have you been able to identify this?

Data has been provided by Strathclyde Police on a number of key areas of offending behaviour which demonstrates the positive impact of the planned town centre activity. For the duration of the project (6/12/09 to 3/1/10 crime figures were compared to offences committed at the same period in 2008-09 for all of Argyll and Bute area:

23% reduction in Breach of the Peace offences

13% reduction in Assaults (minor)

44% reduction in offences for driving whilst under the influence of drink or drugs

The number of Serious Assaults was reduced from 9 recorded incidents in 2008-09 to 6 recorded incidents in 2009-10

Drunk and Incapable offences remained at 5 recorded offences in both periods.

3.3 Do you think this activity should be mainstreamed? If so, what plans are in place to enable this to happen?

As noted at 3.1 above a key benefit of the Safer Streets project is that it allowed for considerable enhancement of core Police action plans and added to the mainstream problem solving measures by the Community Safety Partnership to prevent and tackle alcohol related disorder. The Community Safety priorities identified in section 2 are addressed on an ongoing basis but resources can be stretched when there is an increase in the number of people within town centres such as during the festive period. The Safer Street project is a welcome additional resource to establish targeted increases in capacity to prevent and tackle alcohol related offending behaviour and, thereby, make people feel safe and benefit the local economy at a key time of year for local businesses.

A level of additional funding would, ordinarily, be required in order to increase capacity for specified days at particular times of the year as similar to the methods within the Safer Streets project.

Declaration

I certify that I am authorised to submit this progress report on behalf of the local authority. The information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

K Philip

Position

Local Authority Liaison Officer

Name

Sergeant Keith Philip

Date

12th March 2010

**Argyll and Bute
Safer Streets Programme 2009-2010**

High Visibility and Additional Policing in Argyll and Bute Towns

	Rothesay	Dunoon	Oban	Campbeltown	Helensburgh	Lochgilphead	Total
FIXED PENALTY NOTICES							
Breach of Peace	3	6	23	8	3	3	46
Street Drinking	2	6	0	2	2	1	13
Urinating in Public	4	11	3	9	4	0	31
	Rothesay	Dunoon	Oban	Campbeltown	Helensburgh	Lochgilphead	Total
Visits to Licensed Premises	189	132	179	97	69	29	671
	Rothesay	Dunoon	Oban	Campbeltown	Helensburgh	Lochgilphead	Total
STOP SEARCHES							
Drugs	30	28	56	31	14	8	167
Alcohol	21	91	145	65	16	12	350
Knives	10	21	20	18	14	4	87
Offensive Weapon	17	11	10	13	11	2	64
	Rothesay	Dunoon	Oban	Campbeltown	Helensburgh	Lochgilphead	Total
Reported Cases	22	25	42	37	19	12	157
Crime Reports	18	47	67	49	34	19	234
	Rothesay	Dunoon	Oban	Campbeltown	Helensburgh	Lochgilphead	Total
Speed Checks	23	26	28	24	26	15	142