
Report on the Community Safety Partnership

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group on progress towards establishing a new community safety partnership structure and the rationale for this undertaking.

2. Recommendations

The Area Community Planning Group notes the content of this report

3. Background

Community Safety partners, individually and jointly, have a strong record in making Argyll and Bute a safe place to live.

The Community Safety Partnership is responsible for delivering the priorities of the Community Safety strategy which, in turn, makes a key contribution to SOA 6 outcomes to ensure communities are safe, strong and resilient.

The prevailing partnership structure for community safety was established in c2000 and consisted of five local area Community Safety Forums each meeting four times in the financial year.

4. Detail

Certain short term outcomes within Outcome 6 rest with the Argyll and Bute Community Safety Partnership. Community Safety Partnership priorities are:

- Tackling Disorder and Anti Social Behaviour
- Safeguarding Personal Safety of the Young, Elderly and other Vulnerable groups
- Protecting the Natural and Built Environment from Fire, Vandalism, Graffiti, Littering and Dog Fouling
- Road and Water Safety
- Engaging with residents to build safer communities

Also within Outcome 6 there are outcomes where other partnerships have lead responsibility but the cross cutting nature of these require close collaboration between partnerships including the Community Safety Partnership.

In the early part of 2014 lead partners within the Community Safety Forum evaluated the existing community safety partnership structure. This was carried out to assess proficiency of the Forums to deliver on all of the responsibilities within SOA 6. Weaknesses identified were:

- Having 5 local forums provides a strong focus on local issues but resulted in a degree of fragmentation making accountability for performance unclear
- Data was limited which hampered oversight, comparison and challenge
- The meeting schedule of four meetings per year is insufficient to provide drive for community safety work streams
- Declining attendance at forum meetings impacted on opportunities for collaboration and joint planning

Under the direction of the SOA Outcome 6 lead from Police Scotland a new community safety partnership model was proposed. Reports were made to Argyll and Bute Council Senior Management Team (March 2015), Community Planning Partnership Management Committee (March 2015) and all five Area Community Safety Forums (May to September 2015).

A diagram of the new structure is attached as Appendix 1 'Community Safety Tasking and Coordinating Partnership'.

The partnership met for the first time in July 2015 and a second meeting was held in September 2015. Roles and responsibilities have been agreed and the partnership chairperson (Police Scotland Area Commander) and vice chairperson elected.

Police Scotland will fulfil the role of lead Community Safety Partnership representative at Local Area Community Planning Community Planning Group meetings.

The Community Safety Tasking and Coordinating Partnership will work plan, problem solve and evaluate performance. Data and evidence will be gathered to inform delivery and assess performance against SOA 6 outcomes.

5. Conclusions

Community Safety partnership working has a strong record of success in Argyll and Bute.

The prevailing partnership structure remained largely unchanged from around 2000 until the middle of this year.

The new Community Safety Partnership aligns community safety within

the community planning framework which will sharpen scrutiny and accountability and, in turn, drive forward community safety work streams and action for SOA 6 outcomes.

6. SOA Outcomes

SOA Outcome 6 People Live in Safer and Stronger Communities

Contributes to Short Term Outcomes 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6

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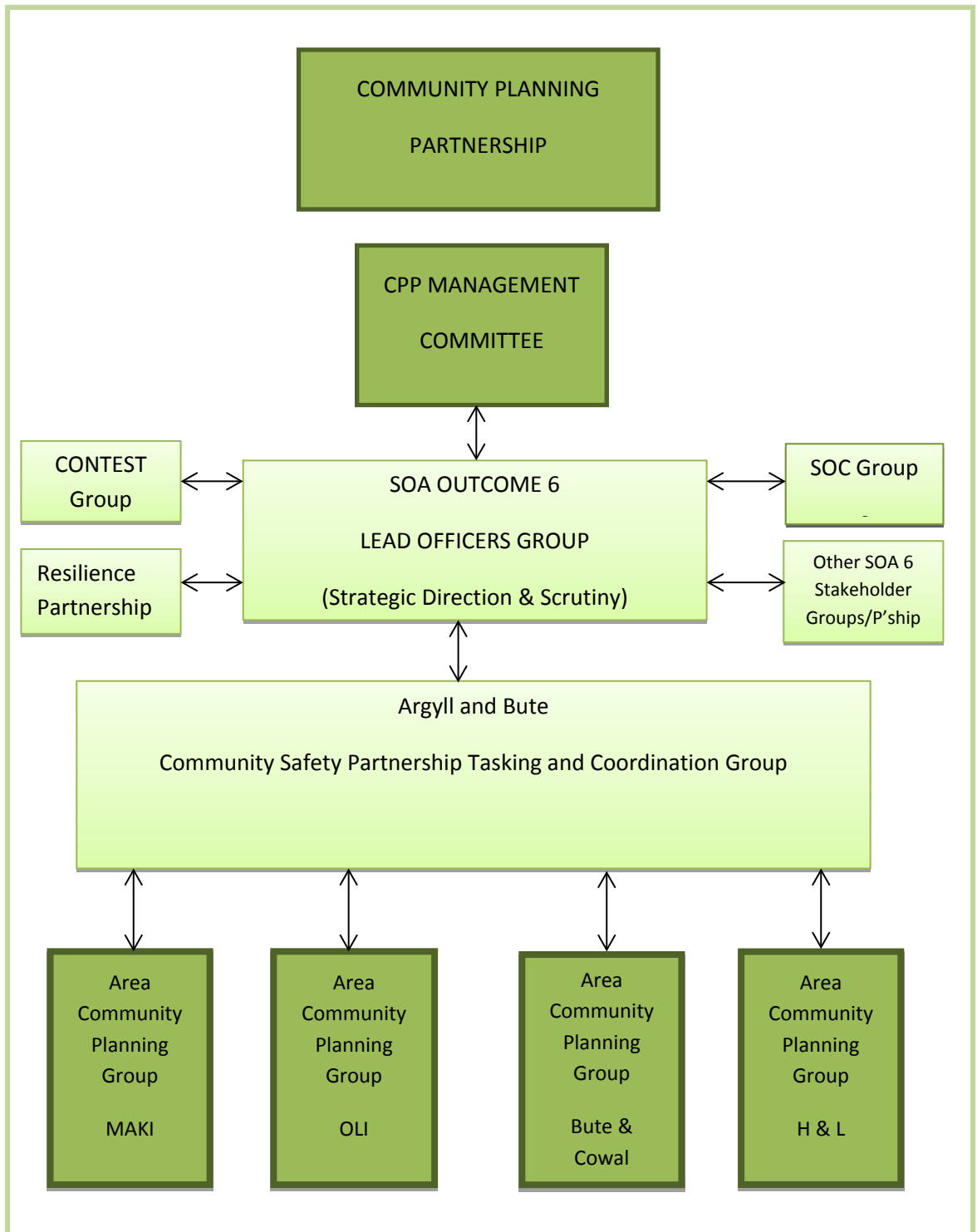
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Appendix 1 Community Safety Tasking and Coordinating

Partnership for SOA 6 “People Live in Safer and Stronger Communities”



Lead Officers Group Comprises leads from – Argyll and Bute Community Safety Partnership, Argyll and Bute Resilience Partnership, Counter Terrorism CONTEST Group, Serious and Organised Crime Interventions Group, Violence Against Women Partnership, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Child Protection Committee, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Partnership, Argyll and Bute Road Safety Group.