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MINUTE of MEETING of HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM held in the VICTORIA HALLS, HELENSBURGH on FRIDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2013

Present: Councillor Vivien Dance (Chair)

Stephen Doogan – Area Governance Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Robert Cowper – Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Argyll and Bute Council
David Rae – Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)
Sgt Alan Dickson – Strathclyde Police
Andy Markey – Roads and Amenities
Jo Rains – Environmental Health Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Katie Dobson – Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis
Belinda Ruthven – Area Governance Assistant, Argyll and Bute Council
Morevain Martin – Community Education
Station Commander Tony Meechan – Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
Jo Rains - Environmental Health
Fiona Johnston – Women’s Aid

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated from:-

Viv Smith – NHS
Paul McCann – Area Housing Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Inspector Claire Miller – Strathclyde Police
Lee Roberts – Trading Standards, Argyll and Bute Council

2. MINUTE OF MEETING 26 OCTOBER 2012

The minute of meeting 26 October 2012 was approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Local Media

Councillor Dance said that she had been very impressed by amount of coverage in local media highlighting and raising awareness of local initiatives and points of contact.

Scottish Youth Parliamentarian

It was noted that Katie Burke, Scottish Youth Parliamentarian had been unable to attend the meeting due to school holidays. She has agreed to provide a further update to a future meeting.

4. **GAS SAFETY INITIATIVE**

Jo Rains, Environmental Health Manager, provided the Group with an informative update on the recent Gas Safety Initiative project. She advised that visits to local businesses were carried out to highlight concerns in the first instance. Advice and information is provided where there are areas of concern in order that they are fully informed on the requirements and where there is evidence of non-compliance, enforcements can be issued.

The lack of suitably trained engineers on the Health and Safety side and people carrying out work outwith their scope were particular areas of concern and Jo informed that funding for the enhanced training of engineers was being applied for through Highlands and Islands Enterprise to assist with training.

Jo advised that every commercial operation and private rented sector should be certified and that commercial catering is an area which had not been fully concentrated on in the past, but that this was now improving. Village halls were not classed as major catering outlets but that as part of their insurance they would require regular servicing of appliances.

Jo informed that the council website was now updated with all this and other information. A press release had also gone out in December and had been picked up by URTV.

The Group was encouraged to raise awareness with their relevant partners wherever appropriate.

Action: Belinda will circulate link to document following the meeting.

5. **PARTNER UPDATES** **RAPE CRISIS**

Katie Dobson, Support and Development worker for Argyll and Bute Rape Crisis provided a brief outline of her role. Since taking up post in June 2012, she had since been developing workshops and presentations at HMNB Clyde, speaking to new recruits on issues such as the effects of abuse and the referral process. Katie had also been working with Centre 81 providing point of contact with S1 – S6 children.

As part of the TESSA project, similar workshops to those previously discussed had been held and these had concentrated on issues such as internet safety, grooming and trafficking. Drugs, alcohol and vulnerability of children were also covered.

Service user forums and partnership group working similar to that being carried out in Dunoon are currently being developed, targeting drug dependants and mental health patients as these are particular areas where abuse can frequently arise.

In Helensburgh HART have been involved in art therapy and walks to

build confidence and provide continuing support and it was suggested that they be invited to future meetings.

Issues that had been raised through the TESSA programme included the discovery that many of the S1 pupils have Facebook accounts etc. and they were asked how they had gone about accessing this and a current media campaign is raising awareness of the potential dangers at present.

Robert mentioned same initiative in Dunoon with primary schools, had produced similar findings and that the project has relevance and pertinence across all age groups. He suggested that there may be some scope here around a local Initiative on internet safety awareness in younger age group.

Morevain suggested that Katie should also contact Enable to discuss appropriate programmes etc. and Councillor Dance will send contact details to facilitate this.

SFR

Following a request at the October meeting to provide update on key focus of fire safety visit, Tony Meechan informed that the statistics would appear to indicate that the message was now getting across as there was a substantial reduction in the number of incidents. There had also been a reduction in the number of declined Home Fire Safety Visits and this was largely due to word of mouth. There was some concern around the lack of visits and referrals to those at higher risk, especially those dependant on drugs and alcohol and Tony was keen to remind those making home visits to be vigilant to potential dangers. Post Domestic Incident Response, crews will liaise with neighbours to reassure etc. use this opportunity in positive manner by offering them the HFSV service.

SFR's spring strategy will concentrate on smoking and alcohol and they will be working with partners including the Integrated Care Team, to share information. There had been liaison with local Dementia groups , AVA, Helensburgh and Lomond Carers. Grey matters group have been in station to participate in the Big Red Bus campaign The Helensburgh Advertiser been also been very helpful in promoting these initiatives as previously mentioned.

ACHA staff had also attended Big Red Bus and this has resulted in an increase of referrals. Attendance of Fire Service was very useful as some tenants would allow access to Fire Service that would not be given to ACHA staff.

ACHA staff should have fire safety indicators in mind when carrying out repairs etc. Tony offered to request risk rating forms from Colin McColl

Fiona suggested that many HART clients do not have fixed abode and that engagement with this group often meets with resistance.

Tony agreed to look into the legal obligation by landlords to provide smoke alarms and will report back to Group. Look at pharmacists to

distribute information to clients. Supermarkets were also approached in other areas.

Waitrose will be approached as they are keen to support local initiatives. 250 hours per year community service will also be offered from staff.

Action: Tony Meechan

STRATHCLYDE POLICE

Sgt Dickson, raised a couple of points regarding the previous issue on night time economy – He advised that two dedicated officers are on foot patrol and now cover later shifts and that their highly visible presence has had a positive result.

Maitland Court is now covered by a direct policing plan and through patrols through the area a reduction in reports has been seen. Noise and anti social complaints have also lessened. It was noted that residents don't always report incidents as they have a perception that nothing will be done and Sgt Dickson stressed that they should be encouraged to do so if further action is required to address.

Sgt Dickson informed that as of 1st April 2013, Strathclyde Police would no longer exist and would then be formally known as the Scottish Police Service – but will be locally known as Police Scotland. He could not provide much in the way of detail as the project was not yet finalised but provided a brief explanation of new arrangements. He reassured that 'L' Division would remain geographically unchanged and would form part of West Command and that day to day policing would also remain unchanged.

The new non-emergency contact is 101 and this is currently being highlighted in the media. It is anticipated that this will take pressure away from 999. The service is available 24/7 and there is a 15p flat rate for calls.

The mobile police office service will continue and this was recently given positive media coverage. Elderly residents are encouraged by its presence and it was suggested that the van could distribute leaflets on relevant local safety issues/initiatives. Sgt Dickson welcomed this.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

Environmental - Jo Rains provided a brief update on the distribution of noise complaints across the Helensburgh and Lomond, and Bute and Cowal areas advising that these compared 50% lower than Argyll as a whole and were particularly low in the Helensburgh area. She informed that the majority of Helensburgh referrals are for car parks and in particular, the Kidston area. Councillor Dance suggested that the presence of the Café should reduce this as the Café owner has CCTV installed. Sgt Dickson advised that police continue to carry out regular monitoring of the area.

Streetscene – Andy Markey, offered his assistance wherever it was required and Councillor Dance suggested that he should just keep up the good work that this service carry out on an ongoing basis. It was suggested that something should feature as an issue in local media and schools similar to initiative on Dog Fouling. Andy advised that feedback from the wardens is that it is difficult to catch offenders.. It was suggested that signage to highlight the fixed penalty fine of £40 for this might be effective. An initiative by the NHS to promote Health implications on dog fouling could also be beneficial.

Anti Social Behaviour – Robert Cowper

Robert informed the Group that the next round of the Cashback Initiative for youth work projects will be submitted from March to end April. The application process will be announced soon for projects expected to commence in July – June. The allocation to Argyll and Bute is 11k and there is no limit to number of applicants. Applications are assessed by an Argyll & Bute panel, Community Learning, Education and Youthlink Scotland and decisions are made on the criteria and how much is asked for. All information on this is available on the Youthlink Scotland website. This strand focuses on personal and social development which needs to be demonstrated by applicants of the 16 – 25 age group.

Action: Belinda to email link to Website

6. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The balance in the current account was noted as 613.92. Suggestions as to how this might be utilised were welcomed.

7. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates for remaining meetings for 2013 were agreed as:-

Friday 17 May

Friday 23 August

Friday 15 November

Venue to be confirmed and notified.

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