

## **Management Committee**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Public/Private: Public**



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## **Community Safety Partnership – Restructure Proposal**

### **1.0 Purpose**

The existing community safety partnership structure has been in place since c2000. This report details the current arrangement for community safety partnership working and sets out two alternative models better suited to delivering the priorities within SOA Outcome 6.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Community Planning Management Committee endorses the proposal to restructure the community safety partnership in line with model 3 set out in this report.

### **3.0 Background**

3.1 Outcome 6 of the Single Outcome Agreement 2013 -2023 sets out clear action and lines of responsibility to ensure communities are safe, strong and resilient.

3.2 The six short term outcomes within Outcome 6 will be delivered through work undertaken by a number of strategic partnerships, one of which is the Community Safety Partnership. All have responsibility for working to a range of thematic priorities, some of which are cross cutting priorities. This will require close collaboration to deliver effectively as well as for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

3.3 This report focuses on the Community Safety Partnership, which is currently structured in the form of five local Community Safety Forums. These are:

- Bute Community Safety Forum
- Cowal Community Safety Forum
- Helensburgh and Lomond Community Safety Forum
- Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum
- Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Community Safety Forum

3.4 Each forum is chaired by an elected member of the council and meets four times in the year.

3.5 Thematic areas of responsibility for the Community Safety Partnership are Disorder, Anti Social Behaviour and Violence; Personal Safety of the young, elderly and other vulnerable groups; Safeguarding the natural and built environment from fire, vandalism, graffiti, littering and dog fouling; Road and Water Safety; Community

Engagement in building safer communities. The Community Safety Strategy is the partnership framework for these priorities and coordinating partner's activities around them.

3.6 Anti Social Behaviour complaints are dealt with on an area basis by multi agency groups that are standing sub groups of the Community Safety Forums.

#### **4.0 DETAILS**

4.1 The five local Community Safety Forums, together with the Argyll and Bute Strategic Community Safety Partnership, have successfully delivered on community safety priorities and outcomes, but there are weaknesses in the current structure within the context of strengthened community planning and better partnership integration. These are:

- a) The area based structure of five forums ensures a strong focus on local issues but there is a degree of fragmentation which makes accountability for performance unclear.
- b) A lack of data hampers oversight, comparison and challenge.
- c) The meeting schedule of four meetings per year is insufficient to provide drive for community safety work streams.
- d) Partner attendance at some forums has declined which impacts on collaboration.

4.2 Two alternative structures have been identified as option proposals to address current weaknesses.

Model 2 - Policing Command Area Partnership Model which aligns with policing command areas (Appendix 2)

Model 3 - Argyll and Bute Partnership Model (Appendix 3)

4.3 Model 2 - Policing Command Area Model aligns community safety partnership working with policing command areas with the creation of two community safety partnerships

Oban, Lorn and the Isles; Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Partnership

Bute, Cowal and Helensburgh and Lomond Partnership

4.4 The role proposed for the two partnerships within the Policing Command Area Model, is to establish integrated and action focused work streams relating to Outcome 6 on a multi-agency tasking and coordinating basis. Partnerships will meet on a six week basis to work plan, problem solve and evaluate performance. Data and evidence will be gathered and shared to inform delivery and assess performance.

4.5 Each partnership will comprise representatives from community safety services and

stakeholder agencies in line with SOA 6 short term outcomes 1 to 6, and outcomes within the Argyll and Bute Community Safety Strategy. A lead person will represent the community safety partnership at Area Community Planning meetings in all council areas to fully engage and integrate with area community planning processes.

4.6 Restructuring community safety partnership working was discussed at area Community Safety Forum meetings. Concern was expressed by forum members that local context and focus on local priorities could be lost if the area forums are replaced. Model 2 retains an element of geographical alignment. The Anti Social Behaviour multi agency groups would also remain as area based groups to address complaints and, thereby, retain local context. They would also report to the Community Safety partnership tasking and coordinating partnership identified in Model 2.

4.7 Model 3 is the Argyll and Bute Partnership Model. This model differs from the Policing Command model only in that a single partnership, with the tasking and coordination function, is established. The main reason for including a single partnership model is in response to uncertainty around resourcing of two partnerships, as described in model 2, to meet on a six weekly basis.

4.8 Proposed within Models 2 and 3 is an SOA Outcome 6 Lead Officers group. The aim of this group is to provide strategic leadership for the community safety partnership and integrate community safety partnership working with other strategic partnerships and groups who share SOA Outcome 6 responsibilities.

4.9 Membership of the SOA Outcome 6 Lead Officers Group would comprise a lead officer representing the community safety partnership and a representative from the following partnerships and groups:

Counter Terrorism CONTEST Group

Serious and Organised Crime Interventions Group

Argyll and Bute Local Resilience Partnership

Violence Against Women Partnership

Child Protection Committee

Argyll and Bute Road Safety Group

Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Partnership

4.10 The valuable contribution to community safety by interested groups, including Crime Prevention Panels and Neighbourhood Watch schemes, is recognised. Interested groups would continue to influence and shape community safety through membership of Area Community Planning Groups and delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement Local. It is not expected these groups will also attend each and every community safety tasking and coordination group meetings (as proposed in models 2

and 3) but their attendance would be on a periodic planned basis within the yearly schedule of meetings.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 This report acknowledges the role the community partnership has played in making communities safer.

5.2 With work taking place to strengthen community planning it is an appropriate time to review the way in which community safety partnership working is structured and the effectiveness of this. When assessed within this context the current community safety partnership structure has identifiable weaknesses.

5.3 The alternative models and design proposals set out in this report would embed the community safety partnership within community planning and ensure greater coherence, collaboration and integration.

## 6.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	SOA Outcome 6
Consultations, Previous considerations	Argyll and Bute Council DMT and SMT.
Resources	Existing resources partners have committed to deliver outcomes agreed within SOA Outcome 6.
Prevention	There is a risk that SOA Outcome 6 will not be fully achieved if community safety partnership working is not strengthened and better integrated.
Equalities	Contributes to equality outcomes identified in SOA outcome 6 to improve the safety of all groups and reduce outcome inequalities.

Outcome Lead - Chief Superintendent Helen Swann, Police Scotland

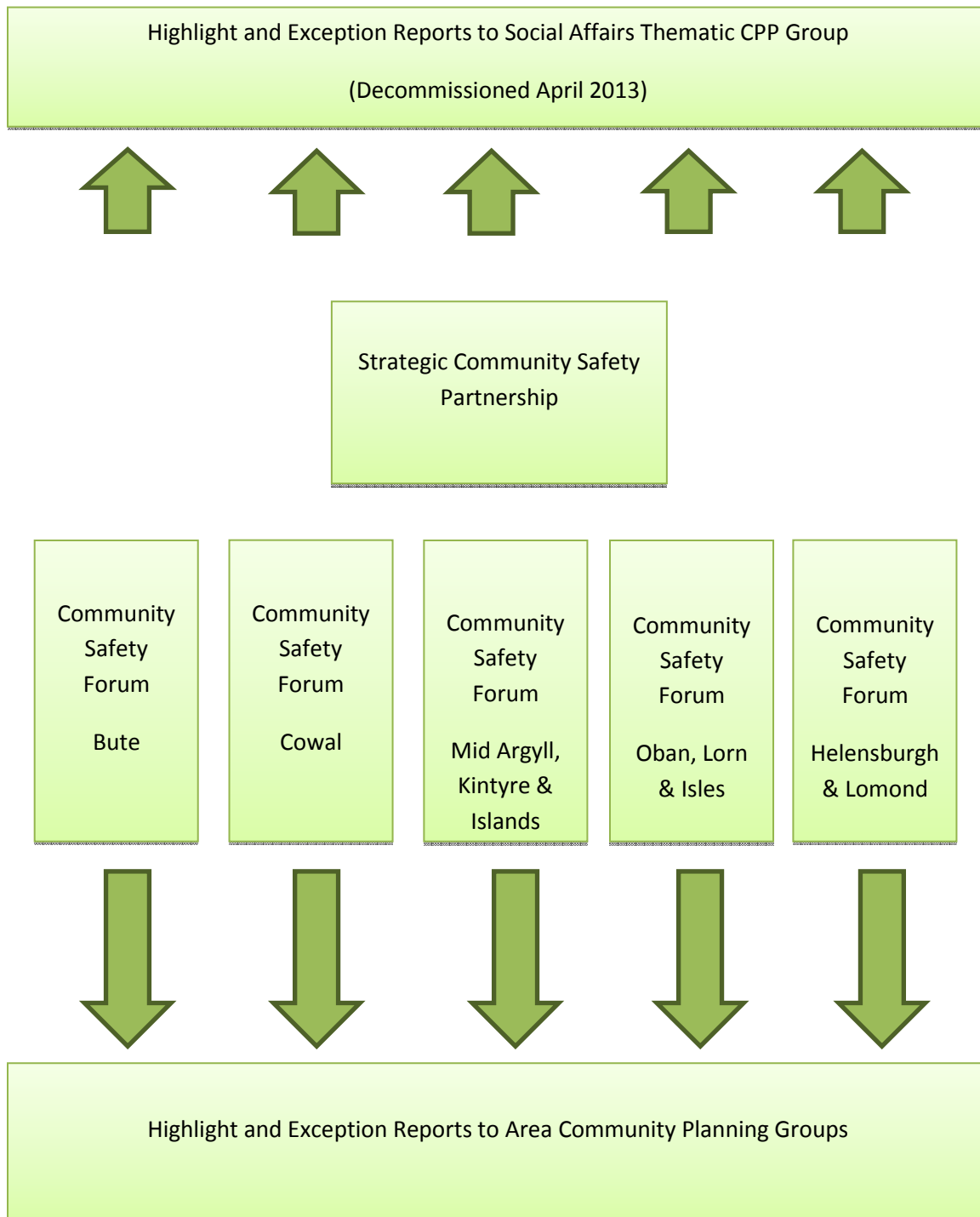
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## References

N/A

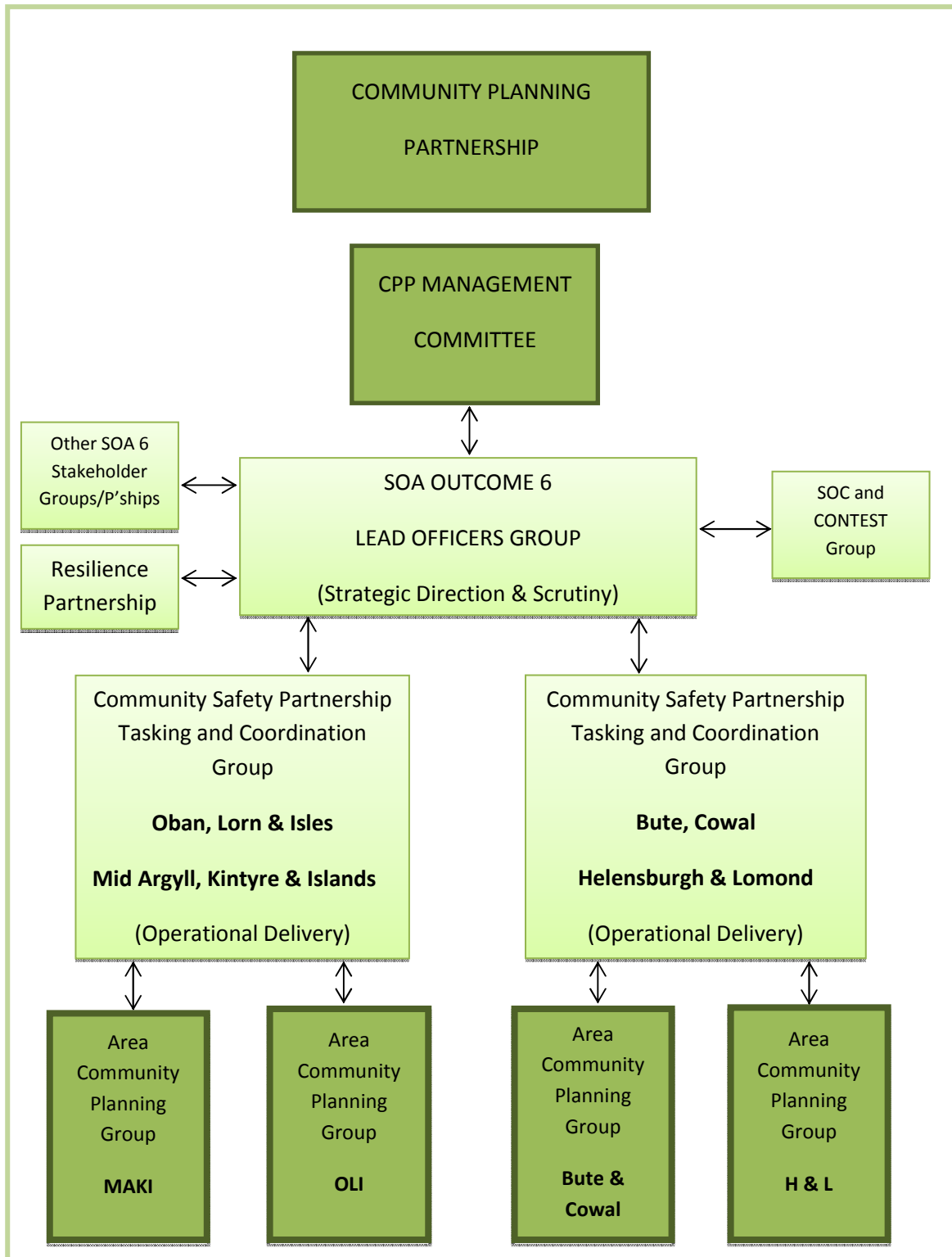
## Appendices

### Appendix 1 Model 1 – Existing Community Safety Forum Model SOA 6 “People Live in Safer and Stronger Communities”



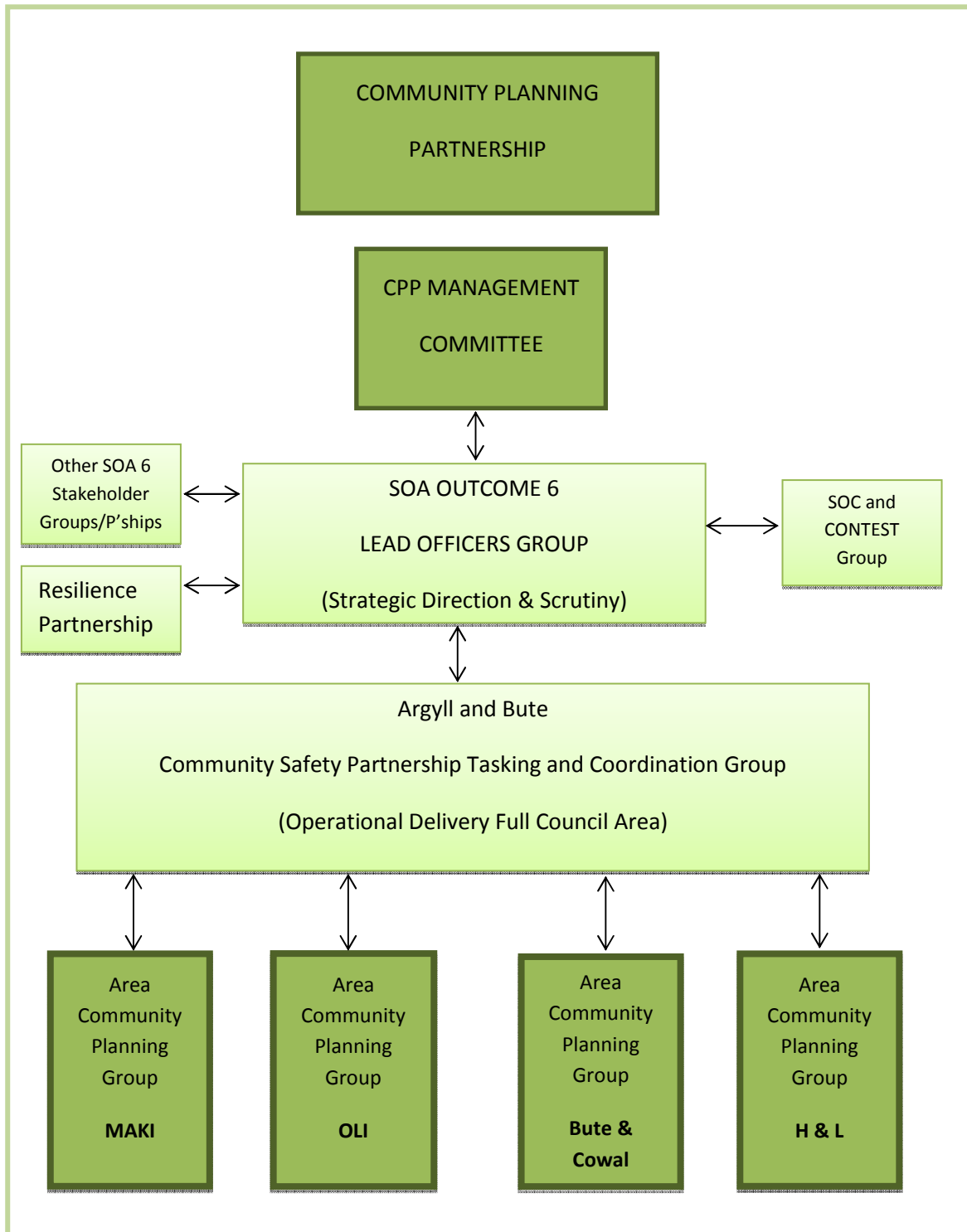
## Appendix 2

### Model 2 - Policing Command Area Partnership Model 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

**Appendix 3**  
 Model 3 - Argyll and Bute Partnership Model  
 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.