

**ITEM No ...6.....**

**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE –  
11 JANUARY 2021

**REPORT ON:** COMMUNITY SAFETY AND JUSTICE PROGRESS REPORT 2019/20

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 26-2021

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report provides an overview of progress on Community Safety and Justice related activity in 2019/20. A previous update report was considered in August 2019 on progress in implementing the plan (Article IV of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 19th August 2019 refers).

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Community Safety and Public Protection Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the content of this report and the continued progress made in relation to Community Safety and Justice.
- 2.2 Notes that the effective delivery of Community Safety and Justice continues to be an important element of the City Plan and the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan.
- 2.3 Notes that this report provides the final Community Justice update of the 2017-2020 Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan.

**3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 None

**4.0 UPDATE**

**4.1 Reduced Levels of Crime**

- 4.1.1 Over the last 12 months, a number of successful initiatives have either continued or been newly implemented across the city. They aim to reduce most types of crime, as detailed in the paragraphs below.
- 4.1.2 The Scottish Violence Reduction Unit has been working in partnership with Police Scotland, and the Scottish Government. Adopting a public health approach to reducing violence, it is a national centre of expertise, made up of serving Police officers, civilian police staff, experts and people with lived experience. Motivated by the belief that violence is preventable, not inevitable, they work closely with colleagues and partners in health, social work, education and the third sector, to analyse the root causes of violence in Scotland and develop and evaluate solutions which can be up-scaled across the Country. Dundee currently has a Police Inspector seconded to the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, supporting amongst other things, the Navigators at Ninewells Hospital.
- 4.1.3 The Navigator programme was launched in Ninewells Hospital in January 2020 and was developed together by the Police Scotland Violence Reduction Unit and Medics Against Violence to engage with patients who have been affected by violence and/or substance and alcohol misuse, in order to try to break the cycle for those individuals who recurrently find themselves in the Emergency Department as a result. The Navigators complement the work of the medical and nursing teams by engaging with these patients and use a wide range of third

sector contacts and services outside of the Emergency Department to help support these patients change their lives. The aim is to break the cycle of violence for the individual, and ease the pressure that violence places on the NHS. The 2 Navigators working within Ninewells have been warmly welcomed by staff within the Hospital, who are already seeing the benefits of the work they do to provide help and support to patients who are vulnerable. This is not just beneficial for hospital staff, but also for Police Scotland and other frontline services and agencies by ensuring a holistic approach in engaging with service users, providing a safer environment for all. Their visible presence ensures patients are supported from the hospital into the community.

- 4.1.4 In October 2019, officers from across Dundee were involved in a week-long violence reduction operation during which 37 persons were arrested for a variety of violent offences. This activity complements high visibility patrols in key areas also providing reassurance to the community. Building on the violence reduction campaign a festive safety campaign was delivered in the month of December 2019. Preventative duties were identified for a proportion of officers on every shift of every day. In addition, this violence reduction operation also resulted in considerable seizures of controlled drugs which included 27.5 g of heroin, quantities of cocaine and cannabis. £10000 in cash was also seized as proceeds of crime. The operation also signposted persons to support services.
- 4.1.5 To overcome known cultural and social barriers to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Police in Dundee have hosted two, bespoke, interactive online safety/CSE/grooming Facebook events with the public. At both events, police and partners were asked questions about subjects such as gaming, engaging with overseas internet providers and parenting in the digital age. During the course of the two events, over 26,000 people were reached with 2970 active engagements. Police in Dundee are involved in a partnership with Barnardo's RISE project, Dundee which embeds a Child Sexual Exploitation adviser within the police structure. This pilot has been evaluated highly by the University of Stirling and is due for expansion into other areas of Scotland.
- 4.1.6 Work has been ongoing to raise awareness of County Line and Cuckooing activities to a number of front-line services in Dundee, through the Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS. County Lines activity is the practice of English based Organised Crime Groups, travelling to Scotland to sell class A drugs, using young or vulnerable people to deliver to customers. Closely related is Cuckooing, a term indicating the act of taking over a person's home by intimidation/coercion, exploitation or violence, to use as a safe house or accommodation for a drugs courier. Although outwith the reporting period 2019-20 in 20-21 Dundee has received funding to establish the Sidestep project to offer intensive support to young people vulnerable to contact with organised crime. This will be reported on within next year's annual report.
- 4.1.7 Operation Aardwolfblue resulted in the arrest of several nominals from Manchester, the safeguarding of child victims and prevention work being carried out at a Dundee hotel where crimes had occurred. This was an operation focusing on an organised crime group from Manchester involved in the exploitation of young people in Dundee and the supply of drugs. Officers from Dundee also presented at the national Human Trafficking Conference in Scotland about the successful prosecution of a female Chinese national, convicted of the trafficking and exploitation of females across the Dundee area. Operation Aardwolfblue involved a high degree of multiagency co-operation, particularly with the Children and Family Service, to ensure that the care and protection needs of the young people involved were addressed and supported during the Operation.
- 4.1.8 The Scottish Government has recently published reconviction rate figures for the 2017/18 offender cohort. The two key reconviction rates are the '1-year reconviction rate', which is the percentage of offenders who are reconvicted in a year and 'average number of reconvictions per offender'. Reconviction rates in Dundee have continued to decline, which marks an overall eleven-year downward trend. They moved from 25.4% (2016/17 cohort) to 25.0% (2017/18 cohort). The average number of reconvictions per offender rose from 0.43 to 0.44 in the same time period. The Dundee figures for the 2017/18 cohort are better than the Scottish average of 26.3% and 0.46 respectively.

## 4.2 **Reduced Levels of Domestic Abuse**

- 4.2.1 In response to disproportionately high levels of domestic abuse across the city, there was a particular focus on both targeting perpetrators and providing helpful support to victims. A range of initiatives were similarly maintained or developed, these include Safe and Together, the Caledonian System and Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) meetings.
- 4.2.2 Safe and Together continues to make an impact in Dundee. A practitioner forum to develop skills and confidence in the delivery of the framework was established in the last reporting year and this forum has since made progress. Partners including Dundee Community Justice Service, (CJS), Dundee Women's Aid (DWA), Multi-agency Independent Advocacy (MIA), Court Liaison and Police have been working to map the experience of women when going through the court process with a perpetrator, identify where they could improve that experience for her (particularly on ensuring her voice/views are present throughout proceedings and key risk and safety information is shared). A meeting was organised with a local Sheriff to begin identifying changes that could be implemented but this has had to be postponed meantime due to Covid 19 restrictions. In the meantime, the Scottish Government Justice department have invited a proposal submission for a court advocacy service in Dundee.
- 4.2.3 In addition, Community Justice Service (CJS) is represented on the Violence against Women partnership and has been an active participant in the Gendered Services Group. CJS also link closely with the Commercial Sexual Exploitation group and are assisting in the development of fast track pathways and multi-agency guidance for supporting women involved in Commercial Sexual Exploitation.
- 4.2.4 The first full year of the Caledonian Programme in Dundee has had a major positive impact on perpetrator work and support offered to women. In the year before Caledonian (2018-19) there were only 9 CPOs with a Domestic Abuse Programme Requirements. In 2019-20 there were 23 Caledonian requirements and 18 Respect Requirements (total 41). The total 41 is over 300% greater than the previous year. Of the 23 Caledonian Requirements 5 orders have been revoked, 1 related to further Domestic Abuse and 4 were due to general offending/non-compliance.
- 4.2.5 Whilst delivering an evaluated and accredited programme to address perpetrator behaviour, the Caledonian Programme also provides a structured system of support to victims and children impacted by domestic abuse and two voluntary agencies, Action For Children and Perthshire Women's Aid deliver work with women and children as part of an integrated partnership approach. The Caledonian Programme has also enhanced how information is gathered for Court reports and how risk assessments are undertaken with all Community Justice staff receiving training in the Spousal Abuse Risk Assessment tool (SARA 3). This incorporates the nature of the domestic abuse and the perpetrator characteristics alongside victim information and evidence of patterns of behaviour over time, as opposed to reporting on an incident in isolation. All Domestic Abuse Offence Court Reports now require the worker to complete SARA3 (Spousal Abuse Risk Assessment) and require the report writer to attempt contact with the victim, alongside the Caledonian women's worker. The figures for the Women's worker for the same period are therefore higher than the number of men who are on Caledonian or Respect Requirements: Women's worker - 92 women referred (including 2 where a man lived in Fife and a woman in Dundee), 14 unable to trace, 78 contact attempted, and 61 engaged in at least one support discussion.
- 4.2.6 As well as the adoption of the Caledonian Programme, Dundee City Council also employs a preventative Domestic Abuse Resource Worker who offers voluntary programme work with men who have not been convicted but agree they want to address their own behaviour. The referrals come from Children's Services and taps into the fact that some men begin to understand that their behaviour is problematic when the negative impact on their children is highlighted.

- 4.2.7 Police in Dundee undertook a review of the Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating (MATAC) meetings, a multi-agency review process targeting perpetrators. This was designed to ensure consistency was in place across the Division and Scotland, and highlights the successful disruption and enforcement work this process achieves. Following recent reviews at a national level, awareness raising has taken place amongst Police and partners about the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DSDAS) which has been underused. This awareness raising has led to an increase in the number of authorised disclosures to potential victims of domestic abuse.
- 4.2.8 Work to develop and design a new Violence Against Women Partnership website providing a range of information for members of the public and professionals also commenced during 2019/20. This includes information about the range of services available in the city and through national arrangements to support people impacted by domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women including women, children and young people, men, people who identify as LGBTI, people from minority ethnic communities and non-binary people. The completion of this work has been delayed by the pandemic and will now be launched in January 2021. Alternative public awareness raising activity has taken place throughout the pandemic period to raise public awareness of the continued provision of supports and access routes.

### 4.3 **Develop Alternatives to Short-Term Prison Sentences and Remand**

- 4.3.1 Partners continue to develop a range of interventions across the criminal justice system in order to ensure that timely, proportionate and cost-effective responses can be delivered, increase community safety and improve outcomes for adults who offend. Some key points are as follows:
- The number of referrals for Diversion from prosecution cases continues to rise, moving from 129 in 2018/19 to 140 in 2019.20. The number of Diversion cases successfully completed has also risen, moving from 64 in 2018/19 to 67 in 2019.20.
  - Overall a smaller proportion of people received a custodial sentence following consideration of a court report. Instead, the Sherriff Court has imposed a higher proportion of community-based sentences.
  - Overall, 68% of all Community Payback Orders were successfully completed in 2019-2020. This is a reduction of 1% on the previous year.
- 4.3.2 Dundee Community Justice Service (CJS) offers national validated programmes such as Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) to address sexual offending. Co-located nursing staff are able to offer Drug and Alcohol treatment programmes and a specialist Women's team offers holistic support to women.
- 4.3.3 Consistent positive feedback has been received in relation to unpaid work, from both the individuals carrying out their work and from the recipients. In response to requests from members of the community, more than 50 projects & placements and over 30,000 hours of unpaid work were carried out at various locations across the city. There was a particular focus on constructing and refurbishing playground and public play park furniture as well as external furniture such as benches and tables for public spaces. In addition, the service continued to provide practical assistance to vulnerable groups and work included ground clearance for sheltered & supported tenancy residents, preparing food parcels and placements in charity organisation warehouses. People subject to unpaid work reported that it enabled them to adopt better routines and they valued the chance to contribute something back for others. Members of the community reported that they appreciated the positive impact as well as the good quality of the work.
- 4.3.4 The Other Activities element of unpaid work is delivered separately to the work of the Unpaid Work Project Team and Individual Placements. Unpaid Work Case Managers identify appropriate activities that would meet the criteria for Other Activity. These include employability programmes (including construction and hospitality) delivered by Dundee's Employability

Pipeline services, including Community Benefits initiatives. Needs specific interventions are run by voluntary organisations or via college where these are not already part of another Requirement or treatment programmes. For example, alcohol or drug counselling, recovery group participation, mental health support appointments, health screening appointments etc. Literacy and Numeracy programmes. There are also gender specific activities for women which include a programme of Beyond Mentoring groups run by the same agency as delivers our formal Mentoring services. These groups include self-care, living skills, mental health & wellbeing.

- 4.3.5 Although unpaid work is largely focussed on providing reparation to the community, both the work itself and 'Other Activity' can make a marked contribution towards helping individuals move forward in their lives. During this current reporting year, pathways have been sustained for referral to employability screening services and engagement with Dundee's employability pipeline. From November 2019 a worker from Access to Industry has based themselves within Friarfield House, offering employability support to individuals working with CJS.
- 4.3.6 Dundee CJS has been a consistent contributor to and partner in the multiagency daily Non-Fatal Overdose discussion, providing information and agreeing interventions where CJS is the best placed agency. This is a multi-agency group, established in November 2019. This developed an assertive outreach response engaging with every person who experienced a non-fatal overdose within 72 hours. The daily call has also raised awareness of the range of agencies available to support and prompted greater understanding of each other's roles.
- 4.3.7 In 2019, there has also been a pathway developed, enabling the Community Mental Health Team Nurse (CMHT) nurse to directly refer to the Crisis Intervention Team at Carseview, for Community Justice Service clients who need crisis assessment and potential treatment and support. The Crisis team, also refer CJS clients who are assessed as needing ongoing support but not crisis support, back to the CMHT nurse at CJS.

#### 4.4 **Road Safety**

- 4.4.1 Safe Drive Stay Alive Roadshow took place at Caird Hall, Dundee in November 2019. Over the 2 daytime shows, crucial road safety messages and life skills were delivered to the audience via a mixture of a filmed scenario, hard hitting road safety television adverts and using real personnel on stage affected by Road Traffic Collisions from Emergency Service Personnel to local family members affected by tragedy. The shows were delivered to 1216, S5 Dundee Secondary School Pupils from across the city including students from Dundee & Angus College. This was a multi-agency event involving partner agencies from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS and the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service.
- 4.4.2 During 2019-20, Police in Tayside Division have implemented a fresh approach in response to Road Safety. Efforts will be coordinated under the principles of Operation CEDAR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce), a road safety scheme which has been successfully delivered in both the north east of Scotland and the Highlands and Islands. CEDAR will build on established road safety practices and provide a focus for agencies across Tayside to work together to make our roads safer for all. Operation CEDAR is also the guiding principles of the Tayside Road Safety Forum partnership strategy demonstrating the commitment of the forum's members to work together to deliver positive road safety outcomes for our communities.

#### 4.5 **Community Safety**

- 4.5.1 A targeted, multi-agency North East Alternative Learning Experience Programme with Braeview Academy pupils was held at Blackness Road Fire Station. Police Scotland, SFRS Community Action Team, the Dundee City Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team, and Blue Watch from Blackness Road Community Fire Station all contributed to a successful initiative. The scenario-based learning event focussed on anti-social behaviour including deliberate fire setting. An informative "Braeview Secondary Fires Film" was produced by Police Scotland,

SFRS, Dundee City Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the S2 drama group at Braeview Academy. The film follows the journey from a wheelie bin fire exploring the dangers associated, through to far reaching consequences of being arrested, interviewed and charged with wilful fire raising. The film was first shown as part of a multiagency safety day at Braeview Academy in June 2019.

- 4.5.2 In October 2019 a pilot project called the Young Tenants' Group was launched. This was a joint initiative with Community Safety and Social Work, with the Antisocial Behaviour Team and Through Care After Care (TCAC) Team taking lead roles. The pilot aimed to help and support young people moving on to their first tenancies, or newly in their first tenancies after a number of previously failed tenancies and antisocial cases. Regular meetings were set up between partners and the Antisocial Behaviour Team, including TCAC and Lettings, to discuss allocations for care leavers in an effort to create sustainable tenancies. Other partners involved included Tenancy & Estate Housing Support Team, Police Scotland, Violence against Women partnership, Dundee Money Action and Addaction and they covered a variety of topics aimed to help the young people and provide information on where to seek ongoing support.
- 4.5.3 The first group was a success, with many of the young people involved continuing to work with the key officers and all of the young people who completed the pilot project are in tenancies. Whilst there have been some issues along the way, these have been able to be fixed to the satisfaction of the neighbours and the young people. Initial outcomes included a reduction in enforcement action by the Antisocial behaviour Team, more tenancies sustained, a more collaborative approach to handling complaints regarding young care leavers and young tenants in general and improved working relationships. This project is focused on helping the young tenants understand what is safe behaviours for them and minimising risk, demonstrating what is acceptable behaviour in terms of managing a tenancy responsibly, introducing the young tenants to all the support networks available and building relationships with staff who can help them. This work was funded by the Community Safety Commissioning Fund. Plans to continue with further groups were made for 2020, however, have required to be put on hold meantime.
- 4.5.4 The Scotty Centre Project was formed in November 2018 to support local areas with regard to street sex workers. To effectively help those vulnerable groups of women, whilst balancing community concerns, a focused partnership approach was formed by We Are With You, Maryfield Community Police Team and the Maryfield NHS Keep Well Team. The Scotty Centre Project offers women a safe place to drop-in and access a range of support options including substance use, health assessments, benefit and housing advice. They also have access to food, toiletries, sanitary products, condoms and clothes. The project is open access with no referral required and the woman can drop in by themselves. In 2019/20, there were 36 interventions as a result of the drop-ins. The project is open from 7.30pm-10.30pm - currently on a bi-monthly basis.
- 4.5.5 A Multiagency Prevent Professional Concerns Case Conference table top exercise was carried out in June 2019. The event was organised and led by the Local Authority and the aim was to develop awareness of the reporting of concerns, multi-agency responses and general safeguarding practice in the context of radicalisation. It helped ensure the preparedness of partners for dealing with a Prevent Professional Concern referral.
- 4.5.6 Following the findings of the Drugs Commission in Autumn 2019, a multiagency Non-Fatal Overdose Group was established in Dundee and convened in November 2019 with representation from both statutory and third sector partners. It has since transformed the way in which incidents are responded to in Dundee and has led to the development of an inter-agency tasking and co-ordination process that provides an informed approach to decision making around persons at risk. All persons identified are discussed in a multi-disciplinary forum every weekday by teleconference and a bespoke, patient-centred, assertive outreach plan agreed with an identified partner taking the lead. Each person is thereafter offered unique support considering all aspects of health and social holistic care provision, examples of which include the provision of food parcels, assertive outreach, harm reduction advice, naloxone training or assistance to attend appointments. The group continues to deliver and enhance

partnership working, leading the way with a compassionate effective response to people in distress, improving the likelihood of continued engagement with services and reducing the risk levels attached to taking illicit drugs and repeat overdose incidents.

- 4.5.7 The Community Wardens continue to work closely with local Police Officers across Dundee where youths have been involved in antisocial behaviour. High visibility patrols and community engagement has been ongoing to address issues and provide public reassurance. In addition, in the reporting period, Community Wardens supported Police Officers in delivering leaflets warning members of the public about email scammers. This was following some reported incidents and as a preventative approach.
- 4.5.8 In addition, the City Centre Ambassadors help to ensure that the city centre is a safe and welcoming place for visitors and residents. They assist vulnerable members of the community through joint working with the City Centre Community Police team and Parish Nursing staff, sign-posting individuals to support agencies. Their daily patrols also help identify pockets of antisocial behaviour and graffiti, allowing the matters to be swiftly dealt with and ensuring that the public realm remains clean, tidy and attractive.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

- 5.1 In summary, this report shows that good progress has been made by local community safety and justice partners in 2019/20. This includes work in relation to reducing levels of crime, reducing levels of domestic abuse, developing alternatives to short-term prison sentences, road safety and community safety. Efforts will continue and future reports on progress will be provided as appropriate.

## **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at [www.dundee.gov.uk/ia](http://www.dundee.gov.uk/ia).

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

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