

To: AIRDRIE & VILLAGES LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP		Subject: JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT
From: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES		
Date: 16 TH JANUARY 2013	Ref:	

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Airdrie & Villages Local Area Partnership on progress with Community Safety in the locality and the joint work carried out in the priority areas by the Local Community Safety Sub-Group over the last period incorporating 1st September – 30th November 2012.

2. Background

2.1 The Joint Community Safety Report reflects the impact which the Local Area Team Community Safety Sub-groups are making in the area.

3. Proposals/Considerations

3.1 Appendix 1 shows information and actions which have been considered by the local Community Safety Sub-Group for the period September, October and November 2012. This includes a 'hotspot' map highlighting crime and antisocial behaviour issues in the priority ward area.

3.2 The report also includes statistical analysis of incidents in the defined area including trends and detection rates for the current period, the preceding three months and the same period last year.

3.3 The Partner Action Plan for the area is also appended providing a summary of agreed actions taken by partners to address some of the issues identified.

4. Promoting Positive Outcomes

4.1 Excellent partnership activity continues in Whinhall, Airdrie. A community survey was recently undertaken with over 200 responses which are currently being analysed. The findings will contribute to the development and delivery of community safety, estate management and community engagement priorities within the area. When the survey is fully analysed it is envisaged priority will have to be given to both short term and longer term priorities.

In the town centre, work is ongoing to identify and resolve problems where a number of locations are being used for drug abuse. Partners are engaging with owners to restrict access to some of these areas.

- 4.2 During September and October, Strathclyde Police continued its "lifeskills" programme with youths in Airdrie and Coatbridge. The life skills programme is about working with young people and exploring the expectations they have of society and the expectations that society has of them. The aim of the life skills programme was to work with the young people in the community to help break the cycle of violence. Through investing in our young people and recognising the positive contribution they can make to our communities today, we can build safer and stronger communities for tomorrow. The programme aimed to foster better relationships between young people and the police so that young people are more likely to report crimes and provide information to solve them, and less likely to be involved in criminal activities. Young people are not the problem, but the solution.

The life skills programme was about empowering the youth of North Lanarkshire to promote a positive image of youth and encourage pro social behaviour. The programme ran over a 12 week period involving all Airdrie/Coatbridge secondary schools who took part in field trips and had guest speakers to explore topics that affect youth and help dispel myths i.e. that all youths are "hoodies". The groups visited Bothwell Castle, Summerlee Heritage Park, the police museum and local sheltered housing complexes to discover how the past still has an effect on society today.

There were guest speakers on motivation, restorative justice prison life and substance abuse to help the youth make the correct life choices.

During the 12 week programme, there was a mixture of class based activities and field trips. Working with Strathclyde Police, there were a variety of partners each offering a positive input to the programme. Morrisons Scotland worked with the groups to explain how the workplace works, the many different departments and roles within the workplace, what is expected from young people and what they should expect in return. Summerlee Heritage looked at the recent past of Monklands and how the role of young people in society has changed, further back in the past was explored by the visit to Bothwell castle where Scotland's turbulent history was explained and how it still affects society today.

The groups also visited local sheltered housing complexes to discuss with older people the issues that affect them and how they survived being young. Visits to the police museum and contributions by the restorative justice team and the prison staff looked at the life choices and the outcomes if the wrong choices are made.

- 4.3 The end of October saw Strathclyde Police and NLC Trading Standards carry out numerous joint enforcement visits to premises within North Lanarkshire who were licensed to sell and store fireworks. This worked well with a number of companies provided with corrective safety advice. This contributed to all fireworks events held across North Lanarkshire to run smoothly. To assist in policing the events, police officers were provided with "Alcohol Test Strips" through funding provided by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership in order to test some of the drinks being consumed at organised events.