SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE AND SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD

MINUTE of Meeting of the POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE AND SAFER COMMUNITIES BOARD held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells on Friday, 9 November, 2018 at 9.30 am

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Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull (Chairman), D. Moffat, N. Richards, E. Robson, H. Scott, E. Small, Ms M Simpson - Voluntary Sector and Mr M. Dickson – NHS Borders

Apologies:- Mrs J Mulloy- SBHA, Mr D. Scott – SBC.

In Attendance:- DC Chief Superintendent L Clark, Inspector A Hodges, Police Scotland; Group Manager - M Jaffray, LSO S Gourlay, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service; Ms W Marsden, Partnership Intelligence Analyst SBC, Mr G Jones, Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager SBC, Ms S. Smith, Communities & Partnership Manager SBC, F Walling, Democratic Services Officer SBC.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board. Councillor Scott nominated himself and was seconded by Councillor Richards. Councillor Moffat nominated himself and was seconded by Councillor Robson. On a show of hands Councillor Scott was appointed.

DECISION
AGREED that Councillor Scott be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board.

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

2.1 There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 31 August 2018.

DECISION
APPROVED the Minute.

2.2 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE**

With reference to paragraph 3.2 of the Minute, Chief Superintendent Clark advised that a briefing on the armed response deployment model would be given to the Board early next year. The Chairman emphasised the importance of receiving an early update on the condition and funding of CCTV across the Borders.

DECISION
NOTED

3. **PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES ON SERVICE MATTERS - POLICE SCOTLAND**

3.1 Chief Superintendent Clark gave an overview of service matters and an update on recent appointments. She advised that Will Kerr had been appointed as the new Deputy Chief Constable responsible for local policing, Paul Anderson, as Assistant Chief Constable – Local Policing East and Criminal Justice and Superintendent Angus MacInnes, was responsible for partnership work. The Chief Superintendent also referred to the Change Network event which was held recently and included proposed new technological devices and changes at constable level. An update would be arranged for the next meeting. Recent activity included the national response Operation Moonbeam, during the week of Halloween and Bonfire Night, which was well managed and successfully delivered locally. As highlighted in the report there was a challenge in the form of an increase in motorcyclist fatalities in the Borders following accidents in the area. Four of these involved motorcyclists from outwith the area and work was being commissioned to investigate ways of engaging with motorcycle tourism organisations and magazines to raise awareness of risks. Mr Jones confirmed that this was also being discussed at the road safety working group.

3.2 Inspector Hodges then presented Police Scotland's Scrutiny Report for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018, copies of which had been circulated with the Agenda.

3.3 Domestic Abuse – During the period there had been a reduction in domestic abuse incidents which was a positive reflection of partnership working and also of the rollout of new TecSOS devices as part of safety planning. Work with partners through Multi Agency Tasking & Coordination (MATAC) groups was targeting multiple abusers to ensure best outcomes and correct signposting to services.

3.4 Road safety – It was disappointing to see a 100% increase in fatalities in the Scottish Borders. Six of these accidents related to motorcycles, four being from riders residing outwith the area. It was hoped that the motorcycle programme introduced into Drivewise this year and the interest in rolling out Drivewise in other council areas would positively impact these figures going forward. Police Scotland had also implemented the programme 'Lose the Blinkers' to educate drivers and horse riders about safety on the roads. The initiative 'Pop-up Bob', was referred to by Members as being an effective tool against speeding, particularly in rural settlements. Inspector Hodges advised that if Members had requests for use in specific areas this should be communicated to police.

3.5 Violent Crime – There had been a 20% reduction in Serious Assault over the period, positively reflecting work being carried out by police and partners to reduce violent crime. The serious assault detection rate for the Scottish Borders was 80%. Deployment plans were being monitored and adapted to ensure robust policing of the night time economy particularly over the Festive period.

3.6 Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) – There had been a slight fall in all anti-social behaviour incidents. Police were continuing to work in partnership with the Council to implement the ASB process which successfully targeted prolific offenders. New mobile CCTV cameras had been trialled at various locations to tackle youth ASB. The resource was now available for use across the region to assist with tackling ASB and crime.

3.7 Drugs and Alcohol Misuse – Police Scotland were continuing to work to reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse within the community. This included actively working with the Licensing Board and Licensing Forum to finalise a new licensing policy for the Scottish Borders.

3.8 Protecting People – With reference to the 22.8% increase in missing person incidents Inspector Hodges advised that this was a positive reflection on the continued work being carried out by the police and partner agencies in identifying missing persons from an early stage. In response to a question he confirmed that most of the persons reported missing were located. There were no outstanding this year. There was a plethora of reasons for people going missing – all were treated with the same seriousness with relevant referrals

being made to appropriate agencies and trained officers. Police were continuing to pilot the distress Brief Intervention scheme in partnership with NHS Borders and Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH). This had resulted in positive intervention for residents in the Scottish Borders.

3.9 Acquisitive crime – There was a 27% decrease over the period in housebreaking and theft compared with the same time last year. The detection rate for Acquisitive Crime was 35% and for housebreaking was 23.5%. Information was being shared with Police forces within Northern England and police were continuing to conduct road checks on main arterial routes to detect, disrupt and deter criminals travelling in the area. Continuing use of media outlets, including SB Alert, warned residents about scams and opportunistic thieves in the area.

3.10 Demand Analysis – There had been a decrease in the number of crimes reported. However this reduction in crime did not correlate to a reduction in demand for police in the Scottish Borders. A significant proportion of work carried out did not end with a crime report submitted, for example many incidents where concerns for the wellbeing of a person resulted in numerous hours of searching, attending hospitals and completing appropriate referrals to partner agencies for support.

3.11 In response to a question about whether Police Scotland were satisfied with the level of data sharing between agencies, Inspector Hodges advised that, compared with other areas, the Scottish Borders had an effective level of data sharing. It was recognised, in discussion about the positive information on Domestic Abuse, that there was an issue about sustainability of the Council's services that supported police in this work. In response to a request for more data on alcohol and substance misuse, Inspector Hodges explained that statistics could be provided if these were considered useful. A gender breakdown could be included. Chief Superintendent Clark advised that figures would be provided if available but that a lot of statistics in this area were nationally validated. In noting that racially aggravated crime was slightly up the Chairman asked if a breakdown of hate crimes could be provided. With regard to the issue of assaults on emergency workers, Inspector Hodges emphasised the zero tolerance of this type of behaviour. Part of the Festive plan would be to have an increased officer presence at the BGH. In response to a question in relation to the police Community Action Team, Inspector Hodges believed that the team appeared to be effective in responding to local issues and that the public seemed to be more willing to report Anti-social Behaviour to these officers working at a local level.

DECISION
NOTED:-

(a) the report; and

(b) that in future reports data, if available, would be included on drug and alcohol misuse and a breakdown of hate crimes would be provided.

4. **PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES ON SERVICE MATTERS - FIRE & RESCUE**

4.1 There had been circulated copies of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) Local Plan Performance Report. Local Senior Officer (LSO) Gourlay began the report by explaining that the SFRS Chief Officer was due to retire at the end of March 2019. Interviews would be taking place shortly for his replacement. Positive areas of progress within the Transformation programme included the introduction of new Rapid Response Units in the form of 7 ton trucks with ultra high pressure specialist lances. There were currently 10 units across Scotland predominantly in isolated northern areas, an advantage being that these could be manned with just 4 officers

4.2 Group Manager (GM) Jaffray then presented the SFRS Local Plan Performance Report for the period 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda. He firstly referred to a large fire that had occurred on a farm near Kelso, in September, where additional resources had been brought in which included engines from Northumberland. He thanked all the crews and retained firefighters involved. GM Jaffray went on to identify the headline outputs for the period relating to the SFRS priorities:-

4.3 Reduction of 'Dwelling Fires' – SFRS attended 44 dwelling fires over the period, a slight increase of 1 from the same period last year. Seven of the fires were started deliberately. 48% of the fires originated in the kitchen with almost all involving cooking or cooking appliances.

4.4 Reduction of 'All Fire Casualties' – There had been 8 fire related casualties so far in 2018. This was the same as the figure for the corresponding period last year. Further analysis showed that five casualties went to hospital for precautionary checks suffering from smoke inhalation. Three casualties received first aid at the scene and required no further treatment.

4.5 Reduction of 'All Deliberate Fires Excluding Dwellings' – There had been 82 deliberate fires over the period, a decrease of 33 from the same period last year. Galashiels and District experienced 31% of all deliberate fires across the Scottish Borders, however this was a welcome decrease of 44% for the ward area compared to the same period last year. The majority of these fires involved grass, scrubland and woodland which may partly have been attributable to the prolonged dry period earlier in the year.

4.6 Reduction of 'Special Service Road Traffic Collisions' – During the first two quarters of 2018 SFRS had attended 41 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), 3 more that the same period last year. There had been 23 RTC related casualties with one fatality during Quarter one. On 13 occasions SFRS used Hydraulic Rescue Equipment to extricate casualties.

4.7 Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties' – There were a total of 44 attendances by SFRS at non-fire related incidents: 8 effecting entry; 4 assisting other agencies; 23 RTC casualties; and 9 others including rescues from water, flooding etc.

4.8 Reduction of 'False Alarm – Equipment Failure' – The figure contained within the report related to Equipment Failure as this was the cause of the majority of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents. There had been 484 UFAS incidents in the period, a slight reduction of 4 compared with the same period the previous year. A UFAS champion had been appointed and tasked to analyse statistics and look at trends in an attempt to reduce the number of UFAS calls.

4.9 In response to a question about the SFRS 'cardiac arrest' project GM Jaffray advised that this had been stopped in October 2017 and was part of national negotiations. He hoped the initiative would be re-established and expanded; there would be an effort to ensure the stations and officers involved would maintain their skills to support this emergency response.

4.10 GM Jaffray then went on to advise on Prevention and Protection Activities. Copies of a report detailing figures from the Quarter 1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018 had been circulated with the agenda. GM Jaffray explained that enforcement audits and home safety visits had veered off ambition targets set in 2014 due to focusing resources on those properties at greatest risk. Fire Safety Enforcement Audits had been carried out on those properties identified as high risk. Although other audits were below target this would be addressed over the coming months with no negative impact on agreed workloads. SFRS were currently reviewing local Home Fire Safety Visit targets, how they were determined and how they were reported. Members of the Board welcomed SFRS partnership working which was outlined in the report. Home Fire Safety Visits were

generated via several pathways involving partner agencies. Referrals from partners were key to identifying individuals most at risk of fire within the home. In response to a question about youth engagement GM Jaffray confirmed that the service was continuing to work with the TD1 youth group in Galashiels. It was proposed to roll-out the scheme in other areas although the format may be changed.

DECISION
NOTED the report.

5. **SAFER COMMUNITIES UPDATE AND KEY ACTIVITIES**

5.1 There had been circulated copies of the Safer Communities Performance report covering the period from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018. Mr G Jones, Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager, highlighted the main points:-

5.2 Priority 1 – Reduce the level and Impact of Gender Based Violence through effective partnership working. Referrals to all the Safer Communities based domestic abuse services had increased in the year to date when compared to last year. The increase was in part due to all services being fully resourced. Recent corporate change had created a vacancy for the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) coordinator post.

5.3 Priority 2 – Reduce the level and impact of Substance Misuse through effective partnership working. It was noted that the SBC funded Community Action Team (CAT) had been active in enforcement activity both in relation to property searches under warrant and on street intelligence led stop and search activity. The 'don't buy it, don't supply it' campaign would continue throughout the 2018/19 Festive period in digital form.

5.4 Priority 3 – Reduce the level and impact of crime and antisocial behaviour through effective partnership working. The year to date trends across crime, ASB and vandalism had all shown an improvement compared to the same period last year. The decrease shown in referrals to mediation and reduced success rate was in part a reflection of changes in internal operating processes. Mr Jones added that there may be an improved way of reporting this.

5.5 Priority 4 – Reduce the level and impact of poor driver behaviour through effective partnership working. With the approach of winter advisory material would be circulated through social media relating to vehicle preparation and driving considerations. Part of the Drivewise training covered some of these components.

5.6 Priority 5 – Reduce the level and impact of incidents in the home through effective partnership work. This partnership work was led principally by SFRS. Options had been considered to update Crucial Crew, the annual safety event for P7 pupils. An online resource had been identified, written by education practitioners with input from subject experts. The content reflected all the safety subjects that were relevant to local children and aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence. The next stage was to consider how best to introduce an interactive component to the High School transition visit for P7 pupils. In a discussion about Crucial Crew Members recognised the impact of the event and lasting impressions for Primary School children when this was held over a day at Springwood Park. Members hoped the value of that element would not be lost in a revised format. Mr Jones explained that in looking for a way forward that maintained the spirit of the event consideration also needed to be given to the overall cost, particularly with regard to transport. There was an opportunity to provide a version of the experience when P7 pupils undertook their visits to the High Schools. In response to a question from Councillor Robson, Mr Jones agreed to provide the cost details for the single day's Crucial Crew event and also a link to the online digital resource set up by Glasgow City Council which delivered the same material and which was linked to a youth award.

5.7 Members discussed further the impact of the Police CAT in the six month period since its launch. They recognised that the team was effective in that it was tasked locally and it

increased police visibility in communities, particularly in respect of responding to ASB, drug related issues and parking concerns. Mr Jones reported that, to date, approximately 80 constituency issues had been passed to the CAT from elected Members and the Council's Safer Communities Team. Inspector Hodges added that if, following a task set by Members, the team were sent to one area due to a particular issue this created the opportunity to look at other issues that may be causing problems in the area. The response was focused and community based.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the report.

(b) AGREED that further information be provided to Members on the cost of the single day's Crucial Crew event as organised in past years and on the revised format of delivery being considered.

6. **PRESENTATION - STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT ON SAFER COMMUNITIES IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS**

6.1 Mr Jones explained that the presentation was to describe work being carried out to revise reporting arrangements for the Safer Communities Team, which were linked to the Community Plan and the Police Scotland and SFRS Plans. It was apparent that some existing Priorities were not as relevant as they ought to be, based upon the composition and activities of the team. Agreement was requested from the Board to develop the performance indicators being used so that the scrutiny function could be fully discharged and information reported upon was based upon what the team actually contributed towards. This would be effective from the next financial year and would give clarity of purpose and demonstrate value. Partnership Intelligence Analyst, Ms Wendy Marsden, gave the presentation which began by showing the structure within the Scottish Borders Safer Communities Team including the link with partners and the Safer Communities Team core responsibilities. The Strategic Assessment Process involved reviewing progress against existing priorities; establishing the current situation through analysis of information; detailing findings and recommendations; considering future developments; proposing future priorities; and consulting with partners and team members to agree and refine priorities. Essentially the work linked to the Community, Police and Fire plans, and work of the Alcohol and Drugs partnership, all of whom were co-located partners.

6.2 The presentation went on to list key findings since 2015 and proposed priority areas in respect of crime and ASB; gender based violence; and injury prevention. Key changes in the priorities from 2015 were as follows:-

- problematic drug and alcohol use would be a theme that cut across all areas of work but would no longer be a separate priority; and
- injury prevention would have a broader scope than currently and would encompass all aspects of safety within and outside of the home.

The next steps were to develop a workplan to deliver the identified priorities ; review performance indicators to ensure there was an accurate measurement of activity progress; and to revise the risk register and link risks to the delivery plan. Final proposals would be brought back to the Board for endorsement.

6.3 Members of the Board welcomed the review of reporting arrangements. It was recognised that the role of the Local Authority was to support partners and that the review may take away some of the duplication with other plans. Mr Dickson suggested that priorities also be linked with the Mental Health Plan, Back To Basics training on falls prevention and the Director of Public Health's Health Strategy.

DECISION
AGREED the approach being taken by the Safer Communities Team in the review of priorities and reporting arrangements.

CLOSING REMARKS
As this was the last Board meeting for Inspector Hodges, who was shortly retiring from Police Scotland, the Chairman thanked him for his valuable contribution to meetings and expressed the Board's best wishes for his future.

7. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday 8 February 2019 at 9.30 am.

DECISION
NOTED

The meeting concluded at 12.40 pm