

ANGUS COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2002
COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2002/2003

Report by the Chief Executive

ABSTRACT

This report recommends that the Policy & Resources Committee approve the Angus Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Action Plan 2002-2003

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy & Resources Committee:

- a) Approve the Community Safety Action Plan produced by the Angus Community Safety Partnership for the year 2002-2003.
- b) Approve the expenditure of the Community Safety Partnership Fixed Award provided by the Scottish Executive on the Safe Angus for Everyone initiative, and the Safe as Houses initiative as recommended by the Angus Community Safety Partnership.
- c) Note that a further award of variable grant is still outstanding.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Executive has provided funding for Community Safety initiatives through the Community Safety Partnership Award Programme, partly in a fixed format for three-years, and partly in a variable format, which will change each year. The variable amount will be based on the success the Community Safety Partnership has in formulating and working towards its Action Plans.

Fixed Grant Award

A sum of £74,353.66 has been made available to the Angus Community Safety Partnership. It is suggested that this be utilised in the following way:

Safe Angus for Everyone

Safe Angus For Everyone tackles vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse by young people by incorporating diversionary worked and enforcement.

It has now almost completed its second year and many lessons have been learned which have resulted in reasonable significant alterations to the original format.

One of the main alterations is the fact that for over a year the initiative has almost totally operated in Brechin as opposed to covering the whole of Angus as was initially intended. This has been due to the fact that the most important component has been identified as the dedicated outreach work carried out by the Development Worker. The establishment of links with the community takes considerable time and therefore cannot easily be directed to emerging "Hotspots" identified through the statistical analysis.

Brechin was identified at an early stage as being the biggest problem area and therefore resources were targeted here. The result has been a significant downward trend to the number of incidences of vandalism and the associated costs.

Continued funding would allow the project to expand and it is proposed initially, to maintain links in Brechin with a part-time Development Post and to create another post to develop links in another town to be identified through crime analysis.

Safe as Houses

Safe As Houses is a crime reduction initiative and reduces the fear of crime by providing security equipment recommended through police crime prevention surveys. It also embraces home safety by providing smoke alarms, message in a bottle and first aid kits.

It has been almost entirely funded from charitable contributions. Limited funding has allowed the scheme to operate in Forfar, Kirriemuir and Brechin and the evaluation carried out at the end of the first year has been extremely positive.

It is proposed to extend the scheme to cover the whole of Angus, which will naturally require additional resources. Angus Care and Repair are prepared to continue to operate the scheme in partnership with Tayside Police, Tayside Fire Brigade and Angus Council and have intimated that to do so, will require an additional staff post and vehicle.

Both initiatives form a considerable part of the Angus Community Safety Plan and fit the criteria as laid out by the Scottish Executive for the Community Safety Partnership Award.

3. INFORMATION

The Community Safety Plans (Appendix 1) have been produced in draft format for forwarding to the Scottish Executive and await approval from Angus Council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

There are no Human Rights issues arising from this report.

6. CONSULTATION

All departments have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this paper.