
Report To:	Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee	Date:	18 April 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	P&F/04/19/HS
	Chief Superintendent Divisional Commander (K Division)		
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott	Contact No:	01475 715459
Subject:	Scottish Police Authority Visit to Inverclyde (27/28 February 2019)		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) visit to Inverclyde on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 February 2019.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In advance of the SPA Board Meeting in Inverclyde, board and staff members from the SPA met Elected Members, staff from Inverclyde Council and Police Scotland and members of the public on Wednesday 27 February 2019.
- 2.2 The Board Meeting of the SPA took place at the Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock on Thursday 28 February 2019.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the information contained within the report regarding the visit of the Scottish Police Authority to Inverclyde.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

Gordon Crossan
Chief Superintendent- Divisional Commander (K Division)

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 created the SPA and set out its five core functions:

- to maintain the Police Service;
- to promote the policing principles set out in the 2012 Act;
- to promote and support continuous improvement in the policing of Scotland;
- to keep under review the policing of Scotland; and
- to hold the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland.

4.2 SPA Board Members David Crichton and Mary Pitcaithly and SPA staff met with a range of partners on Wednesday 27 February and the undernoted (sections 5 through to 8) provides members with a briefing of the events held in Inverclyde.

4.3 The SPA Board Meeting was held in the Beacon Arts Centre on Thursday 28th February and section 9 provides members with a briefing of the Board Meeting.

5.0 MEETING WITH POLICE SCOTLAND

5.1 Chief Superintendent Crossan and members of the K Division Senior Management Team welcomed the SPA Board to a meeting at Greenock Police Office. SPA Board members were provided with an overview of the local area, the policing priorities for the local area and some of the challenges with mental health and addictions and the role of the Police and partners to change the culture. There was also an opportunity to discuss many of the positive partnerships between the Police and partners in Inverclyde.

6.0 MEETING WITH INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

6.1 The Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council and the Convener of the Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee hosted a meeting with members of the Council's Corporate Management Team, the Vice-Convener, Divisional Commander, Area Commander and SPA Board Members at Greenock Municipal Buildings.

6.2 SPA Board Member David Crichton took the opportunity to thank Inverclyde Council for hosting the event. David explained the role of the SPA, created under the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 which acts essentially as a buffer between Policing and Government. David spoke of the initial challenges and the substantial changes in the last year with the recruitment of a new Chief Constable, SPA Chief Executive and Accountable Officer and SPA Board Chair. The SPA have been hosting Board Meetings across Scotland in the previous year as well as taking the opportunity to visit areas and meet with local Police, local authorities and local communities to see what is working well and where are the opportunities to be innovative and creative.

6.3 The Convener spoke of the recent administrative changes to the local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee from a sub-committee focusing on the scrutiny of police and fire plans to a full Committee with the additional remit of wider community safety issues. The Convener noted previous issues around the frequent change in Area Commander in Inverclyde but also the positive work highlighting the work of the local community policing teams and the Police Constable working with schools.

6.4 The Chief Executive raised the disparity of CCTV funding from Police Scotland to local authorities citing examples where there had been considerable investment to local authorities and others, like Inverclyde, where the local authority has contributed significant investment to the CCTV infrastructure. There was a general discussion about the issue of funding of CCTV across Scotland as well as a current piece of work being carried out on behalf of national partners.

- 6.5 There was then a discussion regarding the challenges of policing in Inverclyde and both the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development and Corporate Director, (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership provided an overview of some of the challenges in Inverclyde. The Corporate Director, (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership spoke of the current work around the HSCP Strategic Plan and some of the proposed 'six big actions'. There continued a discussion around partnership working in Inverclyde and both Corporate Directors cited examples of partnership working with public sector bodies, the third sector and commissioned work with partners across Inverclyde.
- 6.6 Other items discussed within the meeting included the role of the Community Policing Teams in Inverclyde, the work of the Schools based Police Officer, the current model of police officer numbers across Scotland and the roll-out of Participatory Budgeting in Scottish local authorities.

7.0 INVERCLYDE 'GOOD PRACTICE' EVENT

- 7.1 SPA Board Members had an opportunity to meet with a range of partners across Inverclyde showcasing some of the work with Police Scotland, partners and community members.
- 7.2 There was an input from the schools and residential homes officer who works across the authority area discussing the job role and some of the successes over the previous years.
- 7.3 There was an input from a Police Scotland Inspector and Chief Inspector on the introduction and development of the Community Policing Team across Inverclyde focusing on the positive impact they have had across Inverclyde.
- 7.4 The Head of Service for Children's Services & Criminal Justice, Inverclyde HSCP introduced staff from Inverclyde HSCP and Your Voice Inverclyde to discuss some of the work with young people in Inverclyde. A highlight of this was the work of 'Project 22' which was to raise the voice of refugee children in Inverclyde through meaningful engagement, empowering children to feel that their rights, views and experiences are encouraged, valued and respected. Part of this was the creation of an interactive comic 'Inverclyde Adventures with Gogo and Celestia' which featured awareness of hate crime and how this could be reported. There was also an input from one of our New Scots young people who spoke about the project and the influence staff has had on the person since coming to Inverclyde.

8.0 COMMUNITY EVENT

- 8.1 The SPA hosted a community event in the Inverclyde Community Hub (CVS Greenock) with a number of community based organisations including Community Council, Tenant & Resident Associations, Inverclyde Youth Council and the Inverclyde 'Proud to Care' (young carers) Group. This event was in the form of workshops and those attending had the opportunity to discuss what is working well in Inverclyde with policing and opportunities for improvement.

9.0 SPA BOARD MEETING

- 9.1 The February board meeting of the Scottish Police Authority was held on [28 February 2019](#) in the Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock and in addition to the regular standing items also considered the following matters: Brexit Contingency Planning and British Transport Police - Devolution of Railway Policing Update.

10.0 IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Finance

There are no financial implications.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With effect from	Annual net impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

10.2 Legal

There are no legal implications.

10.3 Human Resources

This report does not impact on Human Resources.

10.4 Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

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YES (see attached appendix)

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NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

10.5 Repopulation

There are no repopulation implications.

11.0 CONSULTATIONS

11.1 None.

12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 There are no background papers.