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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Local Police &amp; Fire Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>19 September 2019</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>P &amp; F/13/19/HS</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update report (September 2019)</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee on current and emerging issues relating to Police and Fire and Rescue Services.

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to be made aware of national initiatives, reviews and consultations and, where appropriate, to inform members' consideration of future agenda items relating to Police and Fire and Rescue matters.
- 2.2 This report is intended to draw these elements together with a view to informing and shaping future meeting agendas as appropriate and raising awareness of emerging issues.

This report provides updates for the following:

- Scottish Policy Authority Board and Committee;
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS);
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Board
- Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate; and
- Audit Scotland

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire and Rescue matters.

**Ruth Binks**  
**Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development**

## 4.0 SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY (SPA)

- 4.1 **SPA Board and Committee Meetings:** The June meeting of the SPA Board was held on 26 June 2019 in Edinburgh. In addition to the regular standing items it also considered a final report from an Independent Advisory Group on Stop and Search (IAGSS). The agenda and associated papers for this meeting can be viewed using the following link: [26 June 2019](#)

The final report from the Independent Advisory Group on Stop and Search provided SPA Board Members with an overview of the IAGSS 12 month review of the introduction of the 'Code of Practice for Stop Search' (the Code) and the future assurance of stop search by Police Scotland.

A link to the full paper (248 pages) is provided here: [Stop and Search - Final Report from Independent Advisory Group](#) The following general points are noted for information:

- Stop and search remains a valuable policing tactic which helps prevent, investigate and detect crime. In March 2015, following a series of recommendations, Scottish Ministers established IAGSS to work with Police Scotland and other interested bodies to advise ministers on the use of stop and search in Scotland and develop the Code to underpin the use of the tactic. The Code was implemented in Scotland in May 2017;
- The specific purpose of the review was to examine evidence on how effectively the Code was operating since implementation with particular focus on four key areas: (i) identifying any potential gaps in the legislation around young people and alcohol, (ii) identifying any other potential gaps in the legislation or lack of clarity in the Code, (iii) whether there has been any increase in the use of Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and (iv) searches of individuals with protected characteristics; and
- The IAGSS findings were reported to the Scottish Government and published on 13 June 2019. There were several broad findings and included the following; (i) the introduction of the Code has been successful in terms of improving the effectiveness and proportionate use of stop and search in Scotland, (ii) there is a more reliable and accurate system of recording stop search, (iii) an increase in the recovery of illicit items searches conducted with a greater standard of reasonable suspicion leading to a change in culture that encourages and promotes public confidence and legitimacy in the use of the tactic.

Section 2 of the report also highlights changes following the implementation of the Code at Police Division level and specifically to the Police Division of Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (K Division) notes some of these changes. The review periods were between June 2016 to May 2017 (a full 12 months before the implementation of the Code) and June 2017 to May 2018 (12 months after the implementation of the Code).

- Following the start of the review periods the number of stop searches within K Division declined significantly during the twelve months preceding the introduction of the Code and continued during the first twelve months of the Code;
- Following the implementation of the Code, there was an increase in the percentage of positive police searches; and
- Over the review period there was a significant fall (27%) in alcohol-related incidents involving young people. There was also a reduction in the total number of alcohol-related incidents involving all ages.

A 'Children and Young People' section in the report noted operational scenarios faced by Police Officers across Scotland. There is note of issues across Inverclyde during summer 2018. A previous paper submitted to the Committee on the responses to large-scale youth gatherings in Inverclyde between 2015 and 2018.

P&F/05/18/HS

The August meeting of the SPA Board was held on 21 August 2019 in Stirling and considered regular standing items. A copy of the papers can be accessed using this link: [21 August 2019](#)

## **5.0 HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND (HMICS)**

- 5.1 Annual Report 2018-19:** The Annual Report was published in June 2019 and set out HMICS' approach to scrutiny as well as its scrutiny activity during 2018-19. Members have been provided with regular updates regarding scrutiny at previous committee meetings.

A copy of the annual report can be accessed using this link: [Annual Report 2018-19](#)

## **6.0 SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD (SFRS Board)**

- 6.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Board:** The most recent meeting of the SFRS Board was held on 27 June 2019 in Fort William. The SFRS Board considered regular standing items. A copy of the papers can be accessed using this link [27 June 2019](#)
- 6.2** The Scottish Fire & Rescue Board has provided advance notice that the Board Meeting on 31 October 2019 will be held in Inverclyde.

## **7.0 HER MAJESTY'S FIRE SERVICE INSPECTORATE**

- 7.1 Inspection of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service's Management of its Fleet and Equipment Function:** A report by HM Fire Service Inspectorate was published and seeks to look at the operation of SFRS Fleet Management and Equipment Function and the way that SFRS delivers its automotive and engineering responsibilities throughout Scotland.

The report, which can be accessed using this link: [Inspection Report](#), has four themes around (i) vehicle management strategy, (ii) procurement of vehicles and equipment, (iii) the role and operation of the workshop function and, (iv) end users: fire stations and specialist staff. Each theme has an accompanying findings, conclusion and recommendations.

## **8.0 AUDIT SCOTLAND**

- 8.1 Principles of Community Empowerment:** A report by Audit Scotland on Principles of Community Empowerment was published in July 2019 which aims to raise awareness of community empowerment and promote a shared understanding across scrutiny bodies to support high quality community empowerment. A copy of the report can be accessed here: [Principles of Community Empowerment](#)

Community empowerment is relevant to the future of the public sector. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires community planning partners to secure the participation of community bodies in community planning, in particular those who represent the interests of people who experience inequalities of outcome from socio-economic disadvantage. Whilst this document is relevant to the wider community planning partners, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland and Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate are signatories to the document. The report will be considered by the Inverclyde Alliance Board at its meeting on 7 October 2019.

## 9.0 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

9.1 None

## 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?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	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

This structure is intended to protect and assist the local communities.

## 11.0 CONSULTATIONS

11.1 None.

## 12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 None.