
Report To:	Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee	Date:	24 March 2022
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	P&F/02/22/HS
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Subject:	Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report		

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 Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report informs committee of local and national initiatives, reviews, and consultations and, where appropriate, informs Members of potential future agenda items relevant to Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue and local impacts.
- 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.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD

4.1 The meeting of SPA Board was held on the [19th January 2022](#) and considered several updates, including:-

- Recording of sex and gender in policing
- National Speeding Campaign
- Naloxone – national roll out
- Policing Response to COVID 19 – Operation Talla

The following SPA Board meeting took place on 23 February 2022, however reporting timescales did not allow for a full update to be included in this report.

5.0 RECORDING OF SEX AND GENDER IN POLICING

5.1 The Authority has been clear that it expects Police Scotland to comply with all relevant legislation and professional guidance in relation to sex and gender data recording. We also expect all such data collection to be consistent with the European Statistics code of practice, in that data collection must be carried out in a way that treats all people with dignity and respect.

6.0 NATIONAL SPEEDING CAMPAIGN

6.1 Between Monday 17 and Sunday 30 January, a National Speeding Campaign took place, designed to influence driver behaviour through a combination of education and enforcement activity. Following a communication phase involving online and media messaging, Road Policing Division officers, supported by colleagues from Local Policing Divisions and Safety Camera Unit partners, provided a high profile presence on the roads, leading to the detection of over 2,600 speeding offences and engagement with a number of drivers.

7.0 NALOXONE – NATIONAL ROLL OUT

7.1 In 2021 Police Scotland commenced a Test of Change for the carriage and use of Naloxone intra-nasal spray by officers. This was in response to year on year increases in drug-related deaths in Scotland, with statistics indicating that opioids are a potential contributory factor in a high percentage of such deaths. Naloxone is an emergency antidote which counters the effects of overdose from opioids such as heroin

7.2 Between March and October 2021, Naloxone was used by officers to provide first aid on 51 occasions.

7.3 Further discussions decided that all operational officers in Police Scotland will be trained and equipped with Naloxone intra-nasal spray. Formal announcement of this decision was made on Thursday 17 February 2022.

8.0 POLICING RESPONSE TO COVID-19 – OPERATION TALLA

8.1 In November 2021, Police Scotland stood down dedicated Operation Talla support structures, with business as usual functions assuming ownership of residual COVID-19 response arrangements. This was in response to the operating environment at that time, which saw community infection rates under control and the impact on policing as a result of the pandemic greatly reduced. Notwithstanding this position, the command structure was maintained to provide continued strategic oversight in respect of Operation Talla.

8.2 In December 2021, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 became prevalent in Scotland. As a result of the increase in community infection rates across the country and associated self-isolation requirements, Police Scotland experienced significant increases in absence levels. Due to the changing operating environment, support structures for Operation Talla were re-established to co-ordinate the organisational response, and support officer and staff health and wellbeing.

9.0 SPA LOCAL AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

- 9.1 Dates for the SPAs local authority regional engagement plan have been confirmed, with the West Division meetings scheduled for Wednesday 15 March, 22 March & 6 April between 4pm and 6pm for all Members of the Committee via MS Teams. SPA Officials will be in contact to discuss arrangements and agenda items. Officers are available to support relevant Elected Members in the engagement plan.

10.0 THE SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE BOARD

- 10.1 The SFRS held a board meeting on the [16th December 2021](#), which included:-
- Reducing unwanted fire alarm signals: Consultation results and recommendations for responding to automatic fire alarms
 - SFRS Plan - The Gaelic Language Plan
- 10.2 A special public meeting on the [13th January 2022](#) with a purpose of seeking approval from the Board to increase the budget allocation and proceed with the delivery of the West Asset Resource Centre at Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS) Headquarters (HQ)/National Training Centre (NTC), Cambuslang based upon costs received from the Framework Contractor at £13.0m. This includes Environmental & Sustainability.
- 10.3 The following SFRS Board meeting took place on 24th February 2022, however reporting timescales did not allow for a full update to be included in this report.

11.0 REDUCING UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS CONSULTATION

- 11.1 The public consultation on options for responding to AFA's ran for a period of 12-weeks from 19 July 2021. A detailed Communications Plan, setting out the approach that would be employed for targeting staff and external stakeholders to raise awareness of the options and maximise responses during the consultation period, was developed.
- 11.2 The 12-week public consultation concluded on 11 October 2021, with a total 567 responses received by the Service and around 200 engagement activities conducted during the consultation period to raise awareness and seek feedback.
- 11.3 Implementation of the preferred option, is planned to start in April 2022; however, through the consultation feedback and other factors, there are valid reasons for now considering a delay to this implementation date.

12.0 THE GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN

- 12.1 The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) established the Gaelic Language Board (Bòrd na Gàidhlig) with the powers to require public authorities to prepare, consult on, and submit for their approval, a Gaelic Language Plan (GLP). This provision was designed to ensure that the public sector in Scotland plays its part in creating a sustainable future for Gaelic by raising its status and profile and creating practical opportunities for its use.
- 12.2 Since the inception of our GLP:-

- Completed an employee survey, of the 380 respondents, 98 employees self-identified as having some Gaelic language skills ranging from basic greetings to fluent in speech, reading and writing.
- 10 of those employees advised that they initiate conversations in Gaelic every day with members of the public.
- SFRS revised Corporate Parenting Plan ensures that children and young people and care leavers with Gaelic, receive the same opportunities as those with other languages.
- External funding provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig enabled us to work in partnership with a leading Gaelic speaking trainer, to develop a suite of Gaelic Awareness modules. Awareness of this training has been shared with other emergency services and the 32 Local Authorities. South Lanarkshire Council has rebranded the training and is using it to increase Gaelic awareness within their workforce and we have had interest from another three local

authorities. To date 507 employees have completed the Gaelic Awareness Course.

- External funding provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig enabled us to produce the Home Fire Safety Visit Booklet and postcard in both Gaelic and English.
- The UFAS Public Consultation was produced in both Gaelic and English, we also distributed a number of messages across our social media platforms in Gaelic specific to the UFAS consultation.
- The corporate promotion on social media of a video containing two employees speaking Gaelic reached 14,942 people with 304 direct links to the video itself
- Local Service Area plans have been translated into Gaelic in areas where Gaelic is mostly widely spoken.

13.0 ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY

13.1 In support of SFRS's Environmental Policy 2020-2030 and Energy and Carbon Strategy 2020-2030, the following low carbon elements which were not included in the June 2020 design will now be included within the new proposed design brief:

- Electrical vehicle charging
- Solar array/energy storage (reduce electricity costs on site)

14.0 IMPLICATIONS

14.1 Finance

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

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 (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

14.2 Legal

In respect of section 10 of this report, section 45(5) of the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 notes; A local commander must provide to the local authority such— (a)reports on the carrying out of police functions in its area (including by reference to any local policing plan in force for the area), (b) statistical information on complaints made about the Police Service in, or the policing of, its area, and (c) other information about the policing of its area, as the local authority may reasonably require.

14.3 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources issues associated with this report.

14.4 Equalities

None at this time, although recognition will be given to the wider and associate equalities agenda

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 change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Fairer Scotland Duty

IF this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision –

Has there been an active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals
X	NO

15.0 Repopulation

15.1 There are no direct repopulation issues associated with this report.

16.0 CONSULTATIONS

16.1 There were no consultations required outwith those noted in the report.