
Report To:	Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee	Date:	09/03/2010
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment & Community Protection	Report No:	ECP/SCS/DH/10/032
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Subject:

Violence Learning Test Site Inverclyde - Violence Reduction Joint Action Group (JAG)

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of funding for, and the establishment of, a Violence Reduction Joint Action Group to affect positive cultural change on violence and weapon carrying in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Scottish Government awarded Inverclyde Council and its partners £50,000 to establish a Violence Reduction JAG as a violence learning Test site. The JAG will have a life of one year and its role is to scope and analyse service provision that impacts primarily on children & families and young people. Thereafter the JAG will work with service providers to develop synergies, fill gaps, remove duplication and improve services focused on violence reduction.
- 2.2 The Violence Reduction JAG is comprised of personnel from within Inverclyde Council Safer Communities, Inverclyde Council Social Work Services, Inverclyde Council Education Services, Strathclyde Police and Inverclyde Community Health Partnership working on a part time basis. The JAG will be overseen by the Community Safety Coordinating Group.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- Notes the awarding of funding and learning site status for Inverclyde.
 - Supports the establishment and development of the Violence Reduction JAG.

A further report on progress will be made to committee in due course.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Government approached Inverclyde Council to enquire if they would be in a position to conduct a scoping, research and learning exercise on the culture around violence in the area and on the services delivered that might effect a cultural change in violence including weapon carrying. The scoping and research project will identify processes that will allow services to target resources in a smarter and more effective way.
- 4.2 The request was on the back of the successful “No Knives - Better Lives” (NKBL) Campaign that Inverclyde hosted during the summer of 2009. No Knives - Better Lives was a two pronged approach, delivering the message that the consequences of carrying knives is not worth the risk, underpinned by an educational package delivered to second year students in several of the local schools.
- 4.3 The research and scoping exercise will be delivered by a Violence Reduction JAG which will consist of various public services which have a direct link with families and communities where a culture of violence exists.
- 4.4 The project primarily works towards the following national outcomes:
- Outcome 9 - We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger
 - Outcome 11 - We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

it will also contribute to:

- Outcome 4 - Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Outcome 6 - We live longer, healthier lives.
- Outcome 15 - Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs.

It should also help towards the delivery of most of Inverclyde’s Single Outcome Agreement local outcomes.

- 4.5 It is expected that this preventative and primary intervention scoping exercise will complement existing service delivery, such as enforcement and rehabilitation. These will remain priorities for the organisations dealing with the consequences of violence.

5.0 Developments to Date

- 5.1 The Scottish Government initially suggested the use of an external consultant to deliver the project. The Community Safety Senior Officers Strategic Group proposed instead that several existing key and knowledgeable staff from within the Community Safety Partners form a JAG to deliver the project
- 5.2 The Scottish Government accepted this proposal and has now awarded learning test site status and a grant of £50,000 the Council.
- 5.3 The members of the JAG were recruited in mid February and have started working on the project.
- 5.5 The Scottish Government will be providing an evaluation partner to work with the JAG in order to assess the effectiveness of the project.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance:

Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend	Virement From	Other Comments
00470	Violence Reduction	2009/10	6500	-	Scottish Government grant
00470	Violence Reduction	2010/11	43500	-	Scottish Government grant

As the £50,000 is inadequate to cover the full costs, a number of partners will absorb their contribution to staff costs because they recognise the worth of the project.

6.3 Legal:

None

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 All relevant partners and main service providers have be involved in the proposal development. All recognise the difficulties involved but see the potential worth of the project in making Inverclyde a better place.