

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 14 May 2019

Consultation response to the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Review of Policing

Item number
Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of the report and the response provided by Council officers.

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Report

Feedback response to the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Review of Policing

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is currently preparing the Annual Review of Policing for 2018/19 and the Annual Report. These documents publically report on how Police Scotland and the SPA have performed over the course of the year. This report outlines the Committee's formal feedback response to the 2018/19 survey distributed by the SPA.

3. Background

- 3.1 The SPA began conducting a review of scrutiny and governance in policing in September 2015 to ensure that accountability arrangements in policing remain robust going forward.
- 3.2 Police Scotland have commissioned an online survey of citizens and organisations to provide feedback on their operational priorities to inform the development of the 2018/19 Annual Police Plan.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The coordinated response to the feedback on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, as prepared by officers is included at Appendix 1 of this report. This response takes account of the actions being taken by services, and the Council's strategic priorities and outcomes.
- 4.2 The priorities of the 2018/19 Annual Review on Policing included in the consultation are:
- 4.2.1 Police Scotland's support for local scrutiny and engagement
 - 4.2.2 How well the local police plan reflected local priorities;
 - 4.2.3 How effective Police Scotland's reporting against the priorities has been;

- 4.2.4 Areas for improvement;
- 4.2.5 Examples of best practice; and
- 4.2.6 Scrutiny Arrangements.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Following the committee report, the feedback will be sent to the SPA by Friday 31 May to gather and understand responses reflecting the local authority voice.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 None to report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The response to the review has been developed based on engagement with all Council service areas relating to the annual review priorities.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 None to report.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1: Local authority views on the year in policing 2018/19.



Local authority views on the year in policing 2018/19

Name of your local authority: City of Edinburgh Council

During 2018/19 -

1. How effective do you think Police Scotland's support for local scrutiny and engagement with your committee has been, in the past year?

There was no formal arrangement in place for effective local scrutiny of police services in 2017/18, as a transition to locality working was taking place during this time. A dedicated Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee existed until March 2017 however, responsibility for scrutiny of local policing now lies with Edinburgh's four locality committees.

A formal process for Police Scrutiny developed following the change to committee structure in March 2017 with a desire to move reporting to a locality level. Police Scotland report on a bimonthly basis to the locality committees, enabling decision making, recognising examples of good practice and reporting on police activity within the local community - reaching a wider audience than just Committee members.

Each locality receives a monthly performance report detailing the crime rates and resolutions for each area. A ward update is provided on community policing. All local councillors and Community councils are present for this update and able to ask questions and scrutinise the data provided. Locality Community Improvement Partnerships (CIPS) are held monthly to address areas of concern, allocate partnership resources to targeted, strategic or tactical areas of interest and/or activity, develop plans for any future events or peak periods. All local partners sit on these groups, pool resources and lead on initiatives to promote early and effective interventions for communities and individuals.

Police Scotland are part of the Edinburgh Partnership, where their nominated member represents the strategic views of Police Scotland and supports the vision and aims of the Edinburgh Partnership.

The Edinburgh Partnership are currently setting up four Locality Community Planning Partnerships to deliver the locality improvement plans, where we will ask public bodies, such as Police Scotland, to nominate their representatives for these groups.

The locality improvement plans look at how each area can improve, based on five themes:

- place

- health and wellbeing
- children, young people and families
- community safety
- economy and employability

The plans also highlight geographical areas of greatest need and the actions required to effect positive change. The plans set out the key outcomes and how we aim to achieve them over a five year period.

Furthermore, Police Scotland are members of the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership, which oversees the development of the Community Safety Strategy and the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan.

2. How well do you think your local police plan reflected local priorities in 2018/19?

Local Police plans are created in consultation with the Council. Police Scotland are key stakeholders and contribute directly in the creation of the Council's local priorities within the Locality Improvement Plans. This process is currently under review, however a link to the current locality improvement plans can be found below:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20017/our_main_offices/1663/locality_improvement_plans

3. How effective has Police Scotland's reporting against the priorities in your local police plan been, in helping you understand how policing is performing?

A review of the existing information sharing agreement is currently awaiting approval following changes to data protection requirements in May 2018. This will ensure current practice is GDPR compliant.

The success of the additional Community Policing services provided through the Edinburgh Division of Police Scotland have been measured and assessed through a range of qualitative and quantitative measures contained within the Service Level Agreement. These are reported to Committee on a quarterly basis, via detailed progress reports by the Edinburgh Divisional Commander from Police Scotland, or their designated deputy. These may be varied or supplemented during the term of the partnership, by mutual agreement between the parties.

Whilst it is recognised that the Community Policing resource delivered through the Service Level Agreement contributes to reducing crime and the fear of crime, as well as antisocial behaviour, there is not always a direct or obvious correlation, because other Police resources, both locally and nationally, also contribute to such reductions, as do the contributions from Council services and other partner agencies.

4. During 2018/19, do you think policing's performance in your area has improved, stayed about the same, or has dipped?

We have not received any data/statistics from Police Scotland during 2018-19 centrally. This is as a direct result of Police Scotland having responsibility to provide data directly to the Locality committees during 2018-19.

5. What are the top three things about policing in your area, which are working really well?

The partnership approach with the Council's Family and Household Support Service which focuses on prevention, early intervention and diversion. This has been developed with the funded Family and Household Support Officers, Community Police Officers and the Youth Justice Officers. A daily briefing is held locally with Police Officers to review any incidents from the previous day that may benefit from a partnership approach, combined intervention and/or action. Several forms of intervention are at the disposal of officers, including mediation, targeted support for the most vulnerable adults and families and a coordinated approach to supporting and managing the most persistent callers (police).

6. What are your top three priorities for improvement, linked to policing in your local area?

The Council, Police Scotland and key partners are currently developing a three year Community Safety Strategy within Edinburgh for the period 2020-2023. A strategic assessment using data and intelligence from a range of sources, including Police Scotland will be used to inform a set of strategic priorities and future activity focused around effective, targeted early intervention, prevention, enforcement and community engagement and participation activity. By working in partnership there will be access to improved data helping us to develop a better understanding of the current community safety landscape both in terms of scale and scope of the issues Edinburgh experiences, as well as the current ways in which we coordinate our response. Importantly the assessment will highlight any gaps in areas that need an effective city wide response.

The size and scope of the assessment is still to be determined. A small working group is currently reviewing all community safety issues with a view to identifying possible areas of concern. At this moment in time, the priorities being explored, discussed and considered as part of the Community Safety Strategy include; impact and response to cybercrime, young people affected by crime, and tackling antisocial behaviour and specifically noise.

7. Are there any examples of good practice or innovation in your local area you want to highlight, and that could be adopted as good practice in other council areas? Please provide details below.

The partnership approach with the Family and Household Support (FHS) service, as mentioned in answer 5. Joint working between partners has fostered a shared

understanding of approach, which recognises difference in role and remit, but seeks to secure the best outcomes for Edinburgh's citizens. Maintaining tenancies, increasing safety, social mobility and reducing the impact of mental health and drug and alcohol on families, households and community relationships is the cornerstone of this approach. The model recognises need, vulnerability and strength in both the victims and alleged perpetrators of such behaviours, supporting them to make positive behavioural changes that increase quality of life and avoid further disruption, such as eviction. Some case specific examples include:

Case Study 1: Supporting a Vulnerable Adult to achieve Independent Living

Information provided during daily Police Briefings identified serious concerns related to the health, wellbeing and safety of an elderly male tenant. By adopting a multiagency case management approach, FHS staff successfully engaged with the male, despite having a history of offending behaviour compounded by alcohol and substance dependency.

In building a supportive relationship based on trust, information came to light that revealed the male was under considerable pressure to support serious and organised crime activity by storing weapons and drugs within his home. FAHST Officers and FHS Staff worked closely with the male to help him safely manage visitors to his tenancy, a panic button was also installed by Police Scotland for his safety. FHS staff supported the male to reduce his rent arrears as to avoid the risk of eviction by securing a successful Housing Benefit appeal, income maximisation of welfare benefits and to engage with a Recovery Hub.

Over the last 12 months the service has seen a positive transformation in the circumstances of the male service user. His general health has improved greatly as he no longer chooses to drink alcohol and has successfully reduced his methadone prescription. He is now able to enjoy his home and safely manages his visitors. He has also rebuilt relationships with family members who now support him to manage independent living.

Case study 2: The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) supports the development of themed Community Improvement Partnerships to develop a strategic approach to resolving issues within Edinburgh. The Motorcycle Community Improvement Partnership (CIP) monitors and addresses city-wide motorcycle theft, harm and associated antisocial behaviour. Partners meet every two months to deliver a joined up and streamlined approach with committed partnership working central to the process.

In 2016, a joint decision between Police and the Council was made to resurrect and revitalise the #StrongerNorth brand along with its support structures and methodology of place based targeted partnership and community collaboration.

Aiming to address key issues and direct resource to areas of greatest need. The #StrongerNorth banner is a widely recognised community banner behind which combined partnership working has secured hard earned community support and confidence, this additional tasking and coordinating capacity is being added to the wider effort in support of the Motorcycle CIP.

Following the submission of a formal business case in June 2017, the City of Edinburgh Council procured four off-road motorcycles. The funding of the motorcycles has come from the Partnership Agreement between the City of Edinburgh Council and Police Scotland Edinburgh Division for the provision of resources and services to tackle antisocial behaviour.

The motorcycles are specialist vehicles and require to be used by eight appropriately trained Police Officers, called the ORBIT team. Specifically directed toward the prevention, disruption and detection of motorcycle related crime and disorder in hard to reach areas as well as providing high visibility re-assurance in vulnerable public locations such as parks, paths and housing estates under the recognised partnership initiatives: 'Soteria' and Stronger North.

Furthermore, a new process has been developed for identifying people of concern who are coming to the attention of agencies regarding antisocial behaviour and criminality. This is a development of previous practices sometimes called "Top 10" or "Youth TACs". This now involves discussion including both young people (Stronger North Children) and young adults (Stronger North Families), the latter of which will include Criminal Justice Social Work colleagues to ensure that young adults are being identified and worked with.

This multi-pronged partnership approach has led to significant decreases in Motorcycle related crime and ASB in Edinburgh.

The Service Level Agreement between the City of Edinburgh Council and Police Scotland represents the clear intentions of the parties in relation to the provision of community policing services in Edinburgh in line with agreed local priorities and in supporting local communities. The Agreement includes a provision for a Youth Justice Officer (Police Sergeant) whose key roles and responsibilities include:

- Ensuring the provision of information based on police systems, to inform the work of the Young People's Sub-group of the multi-agency Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP).
- To contribute to strategic planning through participation in the Young People's Sub-group of the ECSP.
- To work with lead officers in partner services to highlight and address organisational issues requiring resolution.
- To act as a single point of contact on operational police issues relating to young people who offend.
- To support the day-to-day multi-agency work with young people who offend across the city.
- To support the operation of the Whole Systems Approach for young people age 16 plus who are offending.
- To ensure that the officers of Police Scotland work within the Getting it Right for Every Child model of assessment, planning and engagement with young people who offend.
- To ensure that appropriate information held by Police Scotland is shared with colleagues in relation to antisocial behaviour and offending by young people.

The Youth Justice Officer contributes both operationally and strategically to work within the agreed Council frameworks for young people which has been recognised as best practice.

8. What would you like to see the SPA to do more of, to help you in your scrutiny role and to support better local outcomes?

Information sharing agreements would benefit from the ability to cross reference data from multiple sources. The joint analysis of statistical data could aid detection rates in order to operate effectively and provide early indicators for diversionary activity and/or conviction.

Current scrutiny and governance about local policing is overseen by the Culture and Communities Committee. Which then feeds into Community Planning through the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership. Police Scotland engages with and helps steer public protection committees, partnerships, membership and representation in the Edinburgh Chief Officers Group. Funded officers are embedded in the Family and Household Support Service.

About your local scrutiny arrangements

9. How would you describe your local scrutiny arrangements for policing?

- Dedicated Policing or Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee/ Sub Committee
- Scrutiny committee looking at wider range of services
- Community Safety Committee / Community Planning Sub Committee
- Full Council
- Political lead and strategic discussion at full council or committee, and local discussion at area / neighbourhood level
- Other – please describe

Elected members represented in all of the above forums with the exception of public protection groups.

10. How many elected members are regularly involved in your local police scrutiny processes?

All Councillors are involved in the scrutiny of Police Scotland within the Ward through the Locality committee, each of the four localities receive a report from the local commander and are able to ask questions and receive response relating to the issues within that locality rather than on a city wide basis, this supports policing at a local level, promotes community planning and greater accountability.

11. Is there any additional information or feedback you would like to share?

What we do with this information.

Data you provide will inform an overview in the Annual Review of Policing.

The information provided will not be disseminated to any other third party out with the Scottish Police Authority without written permission. As in previous years we would appreciate your participation in allowing the authority to publish your examples and feedback within the Annual Review of Policing.

Please select below:

I am happy for the information provided to inform the Annual Review of Policing

Yes/ No

I am happy for specific examples and feedback from this local authority to be included in the Annual Review.

Yes/ No

Details of our Privacy Statement can be found at:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/about-us/privacy/>

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. Responses and any queries should be sent to SPACommunityAccountability@spa.pnn.police.uk by Friday 31st May.

If you have any queries or comments about the process, please contact the Community Accountability Team Eleanor Gaw, 01786 896886 or Fiona Miller 01786 896 966.