

**LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2020**

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**Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday 19 November 2020 at 3pm**

**Present:** Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Curley, Jackson, MacLeod, J McEleny, McVey, Moran, Quinn, and Wilson.

**Chair:** Councillor McVey presided.

**In attendance:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Interim Head of Service, Public Protection and Covid Recovery, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, Mr I Hanley (Community Safety & Resilience), Ms R Dillon (Safer Communities), Ms A Sinclair (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Ms D Sweeney and Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services) and Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety.

**In attendance also:** Chief Superintendent A Murray and Chief Inspector D Reilly (Police Scotland) and Local Senior Officer J McNeill and Group Manager D McCarrey (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).

The meeting was held by video-conference.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener conveyed his appreciation and thanks on behalf of the Committee to Chief Inspector D Reilly and Chief Superintendent A Murray on their last Committee meeting. The Convener congratulated Ms Reilly on her promotion and wished Mr Murray well in his retirement.

**The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Board.**

**510 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 510**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Murphy.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**511 Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Performance Report 511**

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 July to 30 September 2020.

Prior to reporting on this item, Group Manager McCarrey thanked Police Scotland colleagues and wished them well for the future, acknowledging the positive working relationships which had formed between both organisations locally.

Group Manager McCarrey advised the Committee of the steps which had been taken to identify and assist vulnerable members of the public and reduce their risk from accidental dwelling fires and it was anticipated that this early intervention would have long term benefits. Group Manager McCarrey also explained that the increase in the number of dwelling fires and deliberate fire settings was linked, and connected to wider incidents which had been addressed in a joint operation with Police Scotland. In relation

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to unwanted fire alarm signals, Group Manager McCarrey advised of his intention to contact the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development in order to create an educational programme which can be piloted in one school.

During the course of discussion on this item, reference was made to incidents which had occurred outwith the reporting period on 5 November and in particular a bonfire in the Larkfield area which had resulted in the deployment of additional Police resources. Thanks were expressed to Mr Martin McNab, Interim Head of Service, Public Protection and Covid Recovery, and his team for their assistance, and this was echoed by the Convener. Reference was also made to two fires which had occurred very recently within the disused Greenock Arts Guild in Campbell Street, Greenock and Group Manager McCarrey emphasised the importance of working in partnership with the local authority and premises owners to ensure that such buildings are made, and remain, lockfast.

**Decided:** that the information contained in the report be noted.

### 512 Police Scotland Performance Report

512

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April to 30 September 2020.

Chief Superintendent Murray provided updates on Operation Tell, the Police response to the recent fire incidents, and also on the Police response to the Covid pandemic. Referring to the item in the report on missing persons, in particular the significant decrease in the number of Looked After and Accommodated Children going missing from care homes, Chief Superintendent Murray acknowledged the positive working relationships which existed between Police Scotland and Social Work services and which helped with the early identification of risks.

During the course of discussion on this item reference was made to a recent national report from the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Barnardo's Scotland on the sexual exploitation of children involved in the Children's Hearings system, and it was agreed that Police Scotland will submit a report to the next Committee on the position locally. Chief Inspector Reilly also provided an update on the Fearless campaign.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the information contained in the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to Police Scotland to provide a report on child sexual exploitation and the safety of children within Inverclyde to the next Committee.

### 513 Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee Update Report (November 2020)

513

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on current and emerging issues relating to both Police and Fire & Rescue Services.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the current and emerging national issues relating to Police and Fire & Rescue matters be noted; and
- (2) that the response to the Independent Advisory Group on Police use of Temporary Powers relating to the Coronavirus crisis as detailed in section 6 of the report be approved.

**514 Local Police Plan 2020-23: K-Inverclyde****514**

There was submitted the Inverclyde Local Policing Plan 2020-23 by Police Scotland for approval by the Committee before submission to the Scottish Police Authority.

**Decided:** that the Plan be approved.