
Report To:	Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee	Date:	23 June 2022
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	P&F/04/22/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 This 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.
- 2.3 Updates are provided from the Scottish Police Authority Board and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services Board.

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 [26th May 2022](#) and considered several updates, including:-

- Independent Advisory Group: Coronavirus powers
- Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Mental Health Strategy
- Mental Health Pathway (MHP)

4.2 Independent Advisory Group: Coronavirus powers

The work of the Independent Advisory Group set up to review Police Scotland's use of temporary powers relating to the Coronavirus crisis has come to an end. The Authority will host a webinar on 4 August on the policing of Covid-19, and lessons learned for the future with key contributions from Police Scotland, partners and academia.

4.3 Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Police Scotland reported to the Authority in January about its intention to develop a VAWG strategy setting out how it will contribute to tackling this crime in all its forms. To inform the strategy, the Authority and COSLA will co-host a seminar with key stakeholders. Michelle Miller, Chair of the Policing Performance Committee, will co-host the seminar on behalf of the Authority on Tuesday 28 June at Tulliallan Castle. The agenda has been well developed with Police Scotland and COSLA, and work is currently ongoing on the invitation list to ensure that the right mix of stakeholders are invited. Police Scotland's strategy will be reported to an Authority meeting later this year.

4.4 Mental Health Strategy

A strategy draft has now been considered and approved by members of the Mental Health Governance Group and has been circulated to external partners for consultation and comment.

4.5 Mental Health Pathway (MHP)

The Mental Health Pathway (MHP) involves collaboration between Police Scotland, NHS24, and the Scottish Ambulance Service, with the key objective to provide the correct response to a mental health incident at the first point of contact.

The first phase of the MHP was launched in 2020, which enabled C3 Division to effectively assess and refer members of the public who had phoned 101 or 999 while in mental health crisis, directly to the NHS24 Mental Health Hub, ensuring the appropriate support and response was provided.

In March 2022, phase two 'test of change' was launched within West Command area. This followed successful completion of joint agency training between NHS24 and Police Scotland, and means that five Mental Health Nurse Practitioners are now co-located with mental health trained police officers across the Resolution Teams situated within C3 Division in Glasgow.

As part of phase two, where mental health is believed to be a factor, calls are triaged to provide professional medical advice designed to improve outcomes and earlier access to the right care for those in mental health crisis. An outcomes based evaluation of this phase will be undertaken.

5.0 THE SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE BOARD

- 5.1 The SFRS held a board meeting on the [28th April 2022](#), which included:-
- Grenfell Tower Fire Update
 - The Gaelic Language Plan 2022-2025

5.2 Grenfell Tower Fire Update

Following the Grenfell Tower fire tragedy in June 2017, the following key points were highlighted:

- Significant progress made during this reporting period including the delivery of a series of training exercises to test the fireground and operations control procedures.
- Phase One action plan has been completed and was being implemented across the Service.
- Closing report to be presented to the next meeting (31 May 2022) and will include a presentation on how the Service has developed and improved the high-rise firefighting procedures.
- HMFSI were currently undertaking a thematic inspection of High Rise Buildings.

5.3 The Gaelic Language Plan 2022-2025

A report was presented to the Board seeking approval for the 2nd iteration of the SFRS Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) to meet statutory duties as set out by the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. Highlighting the following:

- Amendments made following public consultation
- Breakdown of translation costs incurred to date.
- High level aims detailed within Section 3 of the GLP.

The Board welcomed the revisions to the Gaelic Language Plan 2022-25 and queried the reasons for the late submission for approval. The Board were informed of the impact Covid had, as well as the debates at the SLT had resulted in the tight timescale.

The Board noted the costings associated with the plan and questioned whether this was appropriate use of public funds. It was noted that the costings within the report were based on spend to date.

Regarding dual signage, the Service would consider this as and when any existing signage required replacement or alternatively, on specific priority locations i.e. museum. The Board were informed of the public opinion was divided on this topic, however, the Service were required to meet our legislative requirements under the Gaelic Language Scotland Act 2005

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Financial Implications

One off Costs

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					

6.2 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.

6.3 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources issues associated with this report.

6.4 Equalities

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

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

IF this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision –

Has there been an active consideration of how this reports 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

(c) 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

6.5 Repopulation

There are no direct repopulation issues associated with this report.

7.0 Consultations

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

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 There are no background papers associated with this report.