

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 23 NOVEMBER 2023

Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel

Thursday 23 November 2023 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Clocherty, Crowther, Daisley, Law, Moran, McGuire, McCabe (for Brennan), Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Wilson presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director, Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Roisin Dillon	Trading Standards and Enforcement Team Leader
Anne Sinclair	Legal Services Manager (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Colin MacDonald	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

In attendance also:

Gordon McCreadie	Chief Superintendent, Local Police Commander Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Police Scotland
Damian Kane	Chief Inspector, Area Commander, Inverclyde, Police Scotland
David McCarrey	Area Commander, Service Delivery, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
Rod Anderson	Group Commander, Prevention & Protection, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Clocherty, McCabe, McGuire, Quinn and Reynolds attending remotely.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed the representatives from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Services to the meeting.

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

615 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 615

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Brennan, with Councillor McCabe substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

616 Police Scotland Performance Report 616

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 23 NOVEMBER 2023

Prior to the discussion on this item, Chief Superintendent McCreadie, the newly appointed Area Commander, provided Members with a summary of the challenges and local priorities for Police Scotland. There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Police Scotland during the reporting period 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023. During discussion on this item reference was made to the reporting of Domestic Abuse Crimes. Chief Superintendent McCreadie informed Members that this remains one of Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division's top priorities. The Panel was advised that Police Scotland in Inverclyde will participate in the upcoming '16 days' of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign by promoting local activity, proactively targeting offenders, and running proactive operational activity to prevent abuse and keeping people safe. It was noted that 114 missing person reports have been recorded in Inverclyde in the reporting period, an increase of 15.2% on the same period of 2022, all missing people were traced alive, with over 91% being traced within two days of the reporting period. Looked After and Accommodated Children featured in nearly 40% of missing person incidents. Chief Inspector Kane provided Members with an overview of The Philomena Protocol which is primarily targeted towards young people living in care facilities and foster homes and encourages carers, staff families and friends to compile useful information which could be used in the event of a young person going missing. Concerns were expressed by Members with regard to the reporting of the suspected drug deaths in the reporting period. Chief Superintendent McCreadie provided an overview of the preventative and enforcement work in place to attempt to alleviate this issue. Chief Inspector Kane gave assurance that enforcement in relation to drug dealing in Inverclyde is a matter of priority.

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

617 Scottish Fire & Rescue Performance Report

617

Prior to discussion on this item Area Commander McCarrey conveyed his thanks to Inverclyde Council and colleagues at Police Scotland in relation to Operation Moonbeam acknowledging the positive partnership relationships leading up to and on Bonfire night. He also referred to the positive reporting of the 68% reduction in Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals and acknowledged the successful partnership working in terms of communicating the new guidance to the public. The Panel was advised that ten young people completed the recent fire skills course delivered by the East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Community Action Team and encouraged Members to attend the course due to take place in Inverclyde early next year.

There was submitted a report on the performance and activities of Scottish Fire & Rescue Service during the reporting period 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023. Group Commander Anderson advised Members there is a downward trend in fire activity in Inverclyde. It was noted that there was a 12% reduction in the year-on-year indicator for deliberate fire settings. Group Commander Anderson answered a number of Members' questions regarding deliberate fire settings. He further advised that ongoing partnership working will continue to be undertaken providing education on fire safety.

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

618 Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Panel Update Report

618

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

Decided:

(1) that the updates on the following matters be noted (a) Police Scotland Online Child Sexual Abuse Campaign, (b) New Police Chief Constable, (c) HMICS Review of Police

LOCAL POLICE & FIRE SCRUTINY PANEL – 23 NOVEMBER 2023

Vetting Policy and Procedures, (d) HMICS Thematic Review of Policing Mental Health in Scotland, (e) 2023-24 Police Scotland Staff Pay Deal, (f) FBU Strike Action, (g) 5th November Action Plan, (h) Inverclyde Police & Fire Scrutiny Panel Letter to Cabinet Secretary and (i) Police Scotland Partnership Hub – Ministerial Visit.