

Report To:	Safe , Sustainable Communities Committee	Date:	26 October 2010
Report By:	Corporate Director Education & Communities	Report No:	S&IC 62 /10/DH
Contact Officer:	Drew Hall	Contact No:	714272
Subject:	Joint Action Group (JAG) Progress Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the progress and development of the Joint Action Group (JAG) to affect positive a cultural change to violence in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report seeks to update committee on the development and progress of the Joint Action Group (JAG) since it was established in February 2010.

- 2.2 The Scottish Government chose Inverclyde as a test site for a project to look at reducing the culture of violence in the area and to carry out research, a scoping of services, consultation with services and a redesign of service provision where appropriate , the project is due to cease in February 2011.

[Min Ref
09/03/10
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- 2.3 The JAG consists of professional practitioners from Inverclyde Council Education and Communities and Community Health and Care Partnership and Strathclyde Police who have been working well together to investigate the range of issues that might positively affect a cultural change in violence, weapon carrying and aggressive behaviour. The JAG is currently analysing information gathered , with a view to agreeing with service providers , service changes that will help positively change the culture to violence in Inverclyde

- 2.4 The Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinating Group is the steering group for the JAG and they are given quarterly update reports. The Scottish Government are also given quarterly update reports on the progress of the JAG against agreed short term outcomes (Appendix 1).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee

- a. Note the contents of this report.
- b. Receive update reports in line with those to the Scottish Government.

John Arthur
Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 Inverclyde recently piloted the Scottish Government initiative “No Knives Better Lives” from which there was the development of a learning test site to research the culture of violence, aggressive behaviour and weapon carrying in the area, how services are delivered around these issues and how might these be improved to help change the culture of violence.
- 4.2 Through various discussion between Safer and Inclusive Communities and the Scottish Government it was agreed that a multi agency group should be formed to research, carry out a scoping exercise, and look at service redesign around violence and the culture of violence that exists in the area.
- 4.3 The Violence Reduction Unit is a key partner in the JAG and they will provide a “Problem Profile” during early August 2010. The reason that it has taken 5 months to produce a problem profile is due to the collation (or lack) of local data within services. All agencies and services collate data differently and the database systems all work in isolation even within the organisation. Data Sharing protocols has also caused difficulties in collating relevant historical information to produce a problem profile however, the statistician will work with the figures that the JAG has managed to collate and provide Inverclyde with the report based on these.
- 4.4 The Scottish Government has also appointed a consultancy agency, ODS to assist in conducting the evaluation of the JAG and the processes used to achieve the agreed short term outcomes. They will provide the report to the Scottish Government at the end of the JAG in early 2011.

5.0 Outcomes

- 5.1 The agreed outcomes between the Community Safety Co-ordinators Group and the Scottish Government are:
- We understand how violent behaviour develops
 - We have a clear picture of existing Inverclyde support services, referral practices and how this matches current needs
 - Partners in Inverclyde are more aware of violence and their role in tackling it
 - We have strong working relationships between agencies and services, with better data sharing practices
 - We have evidence of existing innovative approaches we can learn from
 - We understand the barriers to tackling violent behaviour locally
 - We can share lessons with national partners to help tackle issues outside local control
- 5.2 The five distinctive parts of the project are:
- Scoping – this has resulted in a service directory and lifeline map of services and from the seminar on 21 September 2010
 - Review – to collate strengths weaknesses gaps and synergies there is a consultation being sent out to practitioners to ask their point of view and this will be developed at the seminar
 - Service redesign- taking practitioners suggestions and negotiate changes in service delivery

- Implementation – adapting the changes
- Evaluation – ODS evaluating the whole process

6.0 Obstacles to Date

- 6.1 There has been several difficulties in the operation of the JAG including the following;
- Services releasing most appropriate practitioners to participate for the allocated time per week
 - Data Collection recorded in different formats, on different systems, very little cohesion between them, some information not recorded at all
 - Issues around the Data Sharing Protocol
 - Having a clear understanding of the expectations of the project between different services and agencies

7.0 Progress to Date

However there have been some positive work from the JAG which is still on going

- Service Directory
- Literature Review
- Service Life line Chart
- Good communication and discussions between the JAG members to break down some of the barriers to working
- Inter partnership seminar on 21 September 2010
- Consultation with over 300 practitioners through survey monkey
- Problem profile from Violence Reduction Unit

More detail is included in the update report to the Scottish Government in Appendix 1.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Finance:

Costs will be contained within existing service provision and funding allocation

6.2 Personnel:

None currently

6.3 Legal:

None

**Quarterly Update Report to Scottish Government
Inverclyde Joint Action Group
October 2010 submission**

1- We understand how violent behaviour develops.

- JAG members have continued to amass a body of academic evidence, primarily around pathways into offending from the early years up to juvenile offenders. A consolidation of this work is to be an Academic Literature Review, currently in the process of being developed (see Draft copy, attached as Addendum 1).
- JAG arranged and hosted a one-day conference for all local partners: Partnership Working: Affecting the Culture of Violence in Inverclyde. The speakers (Dr Christine Puckering, Professor Fergus McNeill, and Detective Superintendent John Carnochan) addressed the need for early intervention, promoting desistance and meaningful partnership working.

2- We have a clear picture of existing Inverclyde support services, referral practices and how this matches current need.

- JAG members have undertaken analysis of the referrals received by Inverclyde partners in relation to parenting programmes. Handling Children's Behaviour referrals demonstrated low needs of parents (6% with substance misuse difficulties, 8% with mental health problems) but higher needs of young people (28% having diagnosed behavioural issues). The higher tariff Mellow Parenting Programme evidences higher level of parental need (36% with substance misuse issues) and high levels of statutory agencies involved in families (86% having three or more agencies involved).
- Through structured practitioner desk top interviews, there has been a directory of services completed outlining current services for people living in Inverclyde affected by violence or aggressive behaviour. This service directory highlights an outline of the current interventions, services and programmes that are available in the area.

3- Partners in Inverclyde are more aware of violence and their role in tackling it.

- In addition to the interviews there was a subsequent qualitative questionnaire sent to 300 practitioners, with more than a 50% return rate to identify views and opinions, strengths and weaknesses of the current practices and processes and also to give an indication for areas for improvement.

Appendix 1

- As above, the JAG arranged and hosted a one-day conference for all local partners: Partnership Working: Affecting the Culture of Violence in Inverclyde. The facilitated workshop discussions and the post-conference evaluation forms all evidenced the success of the event in bringing together all partner agencies, and the need for further multi-disciplinary training and discussion forums to enhance understandings of each other's roles and responsibilities. Mairi McFarlane, Head of King's Oak Primary, Greenock advised : "I came away fired-up, and reassured that what I am trying to do is right. Christine's presentation reinforced the importance of early intervention and made the connection with what happens with poor attachment. John's presentation has given me confidence to work in a way which is often misunderstood as being soft. Both speakers have inspired me to take the work that we do here in the school further".
- The legacy of the Conference was confirmed by Linda Wilkie, Early Years Manager: "An excellent conference - all early years staff need to hear these messages. Next step - a conference for early years staff with the same inspirational speakers - to ensure that people on the ground recognise the early stages and the impact of violence and thus can start to make small changes the culture of violence in Inverclyde".
- JAG members have highlighted the need for basic Child Protection Training to become a core requirement for non-traditional staff groups. Safer and Inclusive Communities have begun discussions with Inverclyde Child Protection Committee in relation to rolling out a programme of training to previously untrained staff.

4- We have strong working relationships between agencies and services, with better data-sharing practices.

- The work of the JAG has prompted partner agencies to consider adopting more responsive and collaborative services: a multi-disciplinary Inverclyde grouping have secured funding for a Resilience Project to be piloted in the Port Glasgow. Based on the Small Estates Taskforce previously piloted in England, the model uses local views and opinions to design rapid interventions. It also gives equitable footing to the views of professionals working in the area alongside those of residents. Phase one of the project seeks to "understand deprivation at the local level and its impact, by interviewing residents, professionals, senior officers to allow the collation of a report to highlight the specific aspects of the local deprivation". It can be anticipated that information-sharing processes and protocols will improve as a result of this project, and that wider benefits throughout all partner agencies will be felt in the longer-term.
- As previous noted, the Conference provided evidence about the extent to which staff valued the opportunity to meet colleagues from partner agencies.

Appendix 1

- From the Conference, one strong theme was around the uncertainty surrounding information-sharing protocols, and recognition that improved data-sharing would be beneficial to all parties. As a result, the JAG has secured access to training for all Inverclyde partners, and is currently in negotiations as to when the training will commence.

5- We have existing innovative approaches we can learn from.

- At the Conference, speakers underlined the success rate of existing early-intervention projects, such as Mellow Parenting, and the skill-set used when working with involuntary clients. Delegates reported feeling positive about local approaches being recognised.
- JAG members have met with Heather Clark (Scottish Government, Early and Effective Interventions) in relation to redesigning existing early intervention processes in line with effective practice

6- We understand the barriers to tackling violent behaviour locally.

- The JAG completed a scoping exercise, aimed at identifying the extent to which violence is a problem in Inverclyde. Data was used from the Police, Reporter to the Children's Panel, Education and Procurator Fiscal, and considered the frequency and gravity and geographical locations of violence incidents, in addition to the profile of convicted offenders and sentencing trends for violent offenders. The resultant "Problem Profile" illustrates the tensions between decrease in murder rate, yet unacceptably high levels of violent crimes. See Addendum 2.

7- We can share lessons with national partners to help tackle issues outside local control.

- As previously stated, JAG members have met with Heather Clark, Early and Effective Interventions, Scottish Government, and through this contributed to wider national discussions around the challenges and solutions leading to best practice.
- Since inception, the JAG has worked closely with Chief Inspector Ian Morris, Violence Reduction Unit. Ian has acted as a conduit for information flow between Inverclyde and other pilot groups nationally. In addition, following the Conference, the Violence Reduction Unit have given permission for their website to host post-conference material, including podcasts of all three speakers and their presentations, and documents relating the Joint Action Group. Through this site, it is hoped that the work of the JAG will reach, and be accessible to, a nationally broad audience.

Appendix 1

Lessons to be learned:

Whilst the conference attracted a number of staff from Inverclyde there is a concern that key staff members were not present, and as a result crucial gaps may appear when seeking support to implement re-design.

The conference feedback, whilst relevant in some areas suggested nothing new that the JAG do not already understand

The scoping exercise may never be complete with a number of projects introduced since its conclusion.