



**Report by Superintendent Brian Gibson, Safe Delivery & Improvement Group
Chair**

Community Planning West Dunbartonshire: 4 February 2021

Subject: Safe Delivery & Improvement Group – progress update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members on the progress of local outcomes within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-2027 being delivered currently by the Safe Delivery & Improvement Group (DIG).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027 identifies 5 priority local outcomes that seek to deliver the vision of a West Dunbartonshire that's "*a great place to live, work and visit*"

- 3.2 The DIGs have been set up as the outcome focused supporting structure for the community planning partnership. Each group is made up of key agencies, who are working together to support delivery of the vision while working within the parameters of Community Planning West Dunbartonshire to promote the value of working in partnership, summarised as:

- Realising added value of working in partnership;
- Enabling existing and new partnership working to deliver outcomes;
- Providing a strategic overview which acknowledges interfaces and dependencies;
- Mitigating the shifting social and financial impact of decisions to other partners.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1 The current key aims for the Safer West Dunbartonshire DIG are:
- Improved community justice outcomes ensure Dunbartonshire is a safe and inclusive place to live;
 - All partners deliver early and effective interventions targeted at reducing the impact of domestic abuse;

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- Residents live in positive, health promoting local environments where the impact of alcohol and drugs is addressed;
- Our residents are supported to improve their emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Improved community justice outcomes ensure Dunbartonshire is a safe and inclusive place to live

- 4.2 Since the last update in August 2020 the position remains very much unchanged in respect of this outcome. The response to COVID has placed unequalled levels of demands across all the criminal justice partners, responding to early release of prisoners while managing core work with absence and shielding related to COVID reduced staffing levels. Likewise work to develop third sector community based support to reduce reoffending has not been practical during the epidemic. Therefore there remains a number of actions outstanding. Discussions with Community Justice Scotland indicate that this position is generally reflected across the country and have advised that additional funding has secured National Coordinator roles, who will in the early part of 2021 look to engage with local coordinators to assist in the development of recovery plans.
- 4.3 On an operational level, working closely with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership, the Community Justice Coordinator has assisted in establishing the ADP Justice Settings Sub-Group. This aligns community justice and alcohol and drugs improvement activity, avoiding duplication. Third Sector partners DACA and Alternatives, supported by the Health Improvement lead, successfully bid to the Drugs Deaths Task Force to establish an Arrest Referral Scheme to operate at Clydebank Police Office. Now at commissioning stage, this service will provide easy access, at the earliest stage of the criminal justice system, to statutory and third sector substance use support services, in the first instance. Onward referrals to wider service provision will also be incorporated.

All partners deliver early and effective interventions targeted at reducing the impact of domestic abuse

- 4.4 The West Dunbartonshire Violence Against Women's Group has continued to develop and deliver against local priorities. The VAWG is currently jointly Chaired by Detective Chief Insp Grant MacLeod and Annie Ritchie, Manager Fieldwork Services HSCP. Work has continued throughout the pandemic very much focused on responding to the specific challenges that have arisen to COVID restrictions to ensure that the multi-agency interventions continue to support those in need. Reporting in terms of the Equally Safe Outcomes continues and is now an embedded part of the groups function. Existing actions within this outcome are being delivered against.
- 4.5 Current governance provides for the VAWG to report to the Public Protection Chief Officers Group and to the Community Planning Partnership via the Safe DIG. Against the backdrop of existing governance there is a requirement to consider the need for a Violence Against Women Partnership providing strategic oversight. This action is currently sitting with the Detective Superintendent for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire to discuss with appropriate partners at strategic level and the VAWG Chair.

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Residents live in positive, health promoting local environments where the impact of alcohol and drugs is addressed

- 4.6 The Substance Use Prevention Strategy 2018 – 2027 is now well established providing annual updates in years 2019 and 2020. The Safe DIG on review now consider that the work involved in the delivery of the Strategy is now embedded into business as usual. However should there be notable developments or substantial change to strategy this can be brought back to the Safe DIG. Moving forward the Safe DIG acknowledges the ongoing broad spectrum work of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and the need to support and promote this work through to the CPP. Following a recent meeting with the Head of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Addictions it was agreed that an appropriate representative from the ADP would attend the Safe DIG.
- 4.7 While the Substance Use Prevention Strategy 2018 – 2027 provides the framework for a holistic approach to addressing substance misuse there will be ongoing priorities. The recent statistical data on drug-related deaths in Scotland and a variety of reports indicating increased alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic suggest that when we move to the recovery stage there are likely to be significant challenges. The Safe DIG will provide a conduit between the ADP and the CPP with a view to developing a Recovery Strategy that can be shared with the CPP membership to inform and drive a cohesive community approach.

Our residents are supported to improve their emotional and mental health and wellbeing

- 4.8 The Action within Outcome 4 while significantly impacted by the pandemic have been completed or have become part of related work. Working as part of the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board Multi-Agency Distress Collaborative continues. The focus on the 2017 pilot programmes (Lanarkshire, Borders, Inverness and Aberdeen) was superseded by the recognised need to respond to people in Distress during the COVID 19 pandemic period. The result was a nationwide response for people presenting in distress to the Mental Health HUB at NHS 24. Local initiatives to provide distress intervention such as the Hope Café were not viable under COVID 19 restriction. There will be a need to reconcile what statutory and third sector support is available as we move towards a recovery stage and support and signposting can be supported by CPP structures. Likewise the new NHS Mental Health Triage HUBS will need to be considered in our recovery response. These HUBs have provided a significant support especially out with normal operating hours both as a receiving facility and as a support facility often reducing the need for persons to attend hospital. There is likely be opportunity to work with these HUBs to improve understanding of local services.
- 4.9 The West Dunbartonshire Suicide Prevention Group WDSPG has continued to operate throughout the epidemic with a focus on the COVID 19 short term recommendations as provided by the National Suicide Prevention Leadership Group. The WDSPG has developed a digital newsletter to ensure that partners are kept up to date on national and local suicide prevention issues. In terms of a community response to mental health and well-being there will be a continued need for suicide prevention training and much of this will be structured into the Choose life programme of work. The role of the Safe DIG will be to create a platform where information from sources such as Adult Protection and Child Protection Committees, Strategic Suicide Prevention Group, Vulnerable Persons Multi-Agency Forum and

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other DIGs to allow identification of priority areas in providing a response to suicide engaging the full Community Planning Partnership.

5.0 Additional Matters

5.1 The Scottish Government released the Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy. The priorities of the strategy were to reduce the number of accidental drownings and to contribute to the reduction of water related suicides. While West Dunbartonshire is not statistically high in term of such incidents there have been several tragic drowning incidents. For this reason a Water Safety Sub Group has been established in order to:

- Identify appropriate partners to inform properly on outdoor water risks in the West Dunbartonshire area.
- Identify existing ongoing work to improve water safety both locally and establish good practice guidelines to be supported by the CPP.
- To develop a WDC Water Safety Strategy aligned to Scotland's Drowning Strategy.

The Water Safety Sub group will provide an initial update to the CPP in April to highlight progress.

5.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour Sub Group continues to meet and address problematic issues with a partnership approach. It was identified that the West Dunbartonshire Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy was out of date and needed updated to reflect a range of changes relating to resources and procedures across all the partners. An updated Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy has been tasked to the Safe DIG. The first stage has been to analyse and report on current anti-social behaviour trends to inform priorities. The strategy will also be updated to reflect current partners individual commitment and response to anti-social behaviour.

6. People Implications

6.1 None, all activity is delivered through the existing teams of the Community Planning partners

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications from the updates detailed in this report.

8. Risk Analysis

8.1 The responsibilities contained within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 are fundamental to planning and delivery of better services. The partners' commitment to the Safer DIG is an acknowledgement that the importance of this work is recognized.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

9.1 An EIA is not required as this is a progress update on a range of activities.

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9.2 The Safe DIG considers that key to developing the Outcome themes in the next 12 months, we must consider the amplification of existing inequalities as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. *The economic impacts of the of the pandemic have not been felt equally across the population, but have interacted with existing divides by income, age, gender and ethnicity and in many cases exacerbated existing inequalities. The health impacts of the virus have also not been evenly spread, with higher death rates among certain occupations, ethnic minority groups and poorer localities. (Institute of Financial Studies, COVID-19 and inequalities, 2020).* This consideration will be applied to all work going forward and where appropriate an EIA will be carried out.

10. Consultation

10.1 This is an update on areas of work relating to the current objectives of the Safer DIG. Consultation is carried out relevant to each project and initiative, as appropriate by the action lead / partner agency.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 This report confirms that the CPWD continues to deliver against the outcomes set in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. However the impact on resources and operational capacity as a result of COVID 19 cannot be underestimated and there will be challenges in delivering against objectives planned in a pre COVID environment.

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Appendices: Safe DIG action plan – progress report

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: ALL