JAG JOINT REVIEW GROUP

CONCLUDING REPORT

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
Contents

Introduction
Background to the Joint Action Group and JAG Joint Review Group 3
Membership and Remit of the Joint Action Group 4

Summary of Status of the Joint Action Group Recommendations
Reducing alcohol consumption before and after matches 5
Tackling violence, bigotry and alcohol misuse associated with football 8
Respecting and enforcing the rules and regulations of football 14
Exploring and understanding new fixture scheduling opportunities 16
Using football’s positive influence to impact on behaviour change 18

Useful Information
Useful links 20
INTRODUCTION

Background to the Joint Action Group and the JAG Joint Review Group

The Joint Action Group (JAG) was created following a request from the then Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police, Stephen House, for Scottish Ministers to convene a round table discussion involving senior officials from the Police, Celtic and Rangers, and football’s governing bodies.

This request was made on 3 March 2011 in the immediate aftermath of a Scottish Cup replay between Celtic and Rangers at which 35 people were arrested for a variety of sectarian, racial and breach of the peace offences.

The JAG was established following a Football Summit hosted by former First Minister, Alex Salmond MSP, on 8 March 2011. The group comprised of senior representatives from the Scottish Football Association, Scottish Premier League, Scottish Football League, Rangers Football Club and Celtic Football Club, along with Scottish Ministers and officials from the police and Scottish Government. The Group was tasked with taking forward the eight point commitment plan agreed at the football summit.

The JAG held its first meeting on 15 March 2011, and continued to meet throughout the remainder of 2011 to support the development of the Scottish Government’s Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Bill and to consider and agree further measures to tackle unacceptable behaviour associated with football in Scotland.

In July 2011, the JAG published a report containing 41 recommendations which significantly progressed the original eight proposals set out at the Football Summit in March 2011. At the final meeting of the JAG, on 6 December 2011, the group published a report on the progress it had made on delivering against those 41 recommendations. The group also pledged its commitment to continuing its work on tackling unacceptable conduct in football throughout 2012.

This work was continued on the group’s behalf by the JAG Joint Review Group (JRG), which undertook the responsibility for carrying forward the oversight and management of the JAG’s recommendations. This group was chaired by the Scottish Premier League, with representation from the Scottish Football Association (as vice-chair) and all other organisations represented on the JAG as well as Supporters Direct Scotland.

This report represents the conclusion of the work of the JAG and JRG and provides the concluding status of all 41 JAG recommendations.
MEMBERSHIP AND REMIT OF THE JOINT ACTION GROUP

Membership of the Joint Action Group

The membership of the Joint Action Group comprised of all signatories of the joint statement made at the Football Summit held by the First Minister, namely:

- Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Chair)
- Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Public Health and Sport
- Stewart Regan, Chief Executive - Scottish Football Association
- Neil Doncaster, Chief Executive - Scottish Premier League
- David Longmuir, Chief Executive - Scottish Football League
- Peter Lawwell, Chief Executive - Celtic Football Club
- Martin Bain, Chief Executive - Rangers Football Club
- Stephen House, Chief Constable - Strathclyde Police

Remit of the Joint Action Group

The remit of the group consisted of the eight commitments agreed at the Football Summit on 8 March 2011.

1. To support the introduction of tough new measures to reduce alcohol consumption before and after games, and to make a significant contribution to the longer term effort to tackle Scotland’s alcohol problem
2. To ensure that all those involved in matches are fully aware of their legal responsibilities
3. To consider the expansion of Football Banning Orders and the clubs’ own codes of conduct to respond to criminal behaviour of fans away from the grounds specifically on domestic abuse
4. To ensure that the Police have the support of all parties to the enforcement of the law in relation to public order including on the internet. This would include consideration both of the consistency of the policing of football in Scotland and the potential role of a dedicated Football Intelligence Unit
5. To support the expansion of the excellent existing community and social partnerships between the “Old Firm” to take every opportunity to demonstrate mutual respect and cooperation
6. To ensure that the existing rules and regulations of Scottish football are rigorously applied and respected
7. In light of information provided by the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police, to explore jointly and understand the practicalities of new fixture scheduling opportunities to minimise damage to communities
8. To offer full support to all the work by clubs, authorities and police to work with communities to address alcohol misuse, sectarianism, racism, domestic abuse and violence
SUMMARY OF STATUS OF THE JOINT ACTION GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were put forward by the JAG with the intention of enabling all supporters to maximise their enjoyment of the game, whilst also putting in place measures to tackle the behaviours of the small minority of supporters who seek to both tarnish the reputation of Scottish football and disrupt the enjoyment of the matchday experience for the vast majority of well-behaved supporters.

The following recommendations are taken directly from the Joint Action Group Report, which was published on 11 July 2011.

PART A

Measures to reduce alcohol consumption before and after football matches

It is clear that excessive consumption of alcohol impacts negatively on behaviour at and around football games and for some time afterwards.

There are already a number of measures in place to reduce alcohol consumption at and around games. For example, the general sale of alcohol is not permitted in football stadiums in Scotland and football clubs already have rigorous procedures in place to prevent individuals under the influence of alcohol from entering their stadiums. Consumption of alcohol on supporters’ buses is already banned under existing legislation and, in some parts of Scotland, consuming alcohol in the street is not permitted. The JAG have considered these issues and feel that more can be done to apply and enforce existing measures and that there is a need to consider additional constraints on alcohol consumption around football.

1. The Licensed Trade’s offer to develop local strategies for promoting responsible drinking and safer communities within premises during the week prior to key matches is embraced.

Action complete, though ongoing monitoring required: A DVD has been produced by Football Coordination Unit for Scotland (FoCUS) for sharing with staff (Via Licensing and Violence Reduction Department and the Scottish Business Resilience Centre) in licensed premises which includes audio versions of the common offensive songs and chants along with the lyrics. This has come following post-match enquiries in N Division which identified that licensed premises staff do not recognise offensive behaviour when it is taking place in their premises.

FoCUS also met with the Force Licensing Department Chief Inspector and prepared a paper for the Scottish Government Alcohol Industry Partnership stakeholders, requesting that an appropriate single point of contact was nominated in the run up to the Celtic v Rangers League Cup fixture on 1 February 2015.
2. There be a co-ordinated approach to police enforcement in relation to alcohol and drunkenness on supporters' buses to robustly enforce legislation which will reduce the impact of alcohol within the stadium.

**Action complete:** Operation Ostler is integrated into football policing and is used in relation to appropriate fixtures. With the creation of Police Scotland, FoCUS developed and included guidance in the Football Policing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the responsibilities for cross-divisional operations. Road Policing have now appointed a Single Point of Contact who liaises with Divisions regarding locations and there is an easily understood process for securing resources.

In addition, Operation Synergy was implemented in December 2014 in response to Aberdeen fans travelling to Dundee and uses a coordinated response to address drunkenness at football through prevention, intelligence and enforcement, including the use of Operation Ostler.

3. Strathclyde police pilot a high profile campaign led by teams of trained and dedicated officers to make use of existing legislation designed specifically to target drunkenness and disorder within licensed establishments.

**Action complete:** The Alcohol Taskforce was created by Strathclyde Police and deployed operationally. Under Police Scotland, each Division has an Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit which is effectively the operational arm of the local Licensing Departments. These Units fall within the portfolio of each Division’s Superintendent Operations.

Deployment of Police Scotland Licensing staff is a feature of policing operations for high profile matches in several areas across Scotland.

4. Scottish Government and Licensing Boards consider creating additional conditions using the Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Act 2010 which will enable Licensing Boards to apply variations to opening hours for some or all licensed premises to restrict the sale of alcohol around high risk matches.

**Action complete:** This proposal would have allowed local licensing boards to restrict opening hours around certain matches by way of amendments to the licensing conditions. The Scottish Government consulted on this proposal as part of the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill but based upon the responses received, decided not to proceed with it.

5. Scottish Government should consider introducing legislation (similar to the Licensing Act 2003 section 160, effective in England and Wales) which allows a senior police officer to apply to a court requesting the imposition of restrictions on licensed premises within an area where disorder is expected to occur.
**Action complete:** This proposal was also not progressed as part of the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill. This proposal would have afforded the police blanket powers to close all on and off trade premises within a specified area. As with Action Point A4 above, on applying variations to opening hours of licensed premises, the Scottish Government has decided not to proceed with this measure based on the consultation responses received.
PART B

Measures to tackle violence, bigotry and alcohol misuse associated with football through a consistent approach to policing at and around football across Scotland - supported by all those involved in the game

Tackling violence, bigotry and alcohol misuse associated with football is not a matter for the police (or any single agency) to deal with alone. Everyone involved in football, from the football authorities to individual supporters, wishes to ensure that the good reputation of Scottish football and of Scottish football supporters is maintained and improved and that our national game receives attention for all the right reasons.

It is recognised that the police play a crucial role in maintaining order and safety at football matches and that they are supported in this by Football Safety Officers, Stewards and supporters themselves. The low levels of recorded incidents of individual offending at football stadiums, relative to the number of people attending, demonstrates the importance and effectiveness of current policing and event management and the good conduct of the vast majority of those who attend matches. But some individuals continue to fall short of acceptable standards of behaviour. This extends beyond the match itself; evidence indicates increased incidents of antisocial behaviour/disorder, violence, domestic abuse and (to a lesser extent) bigotry in the wider community on certain match days. More research is needed to explore the links between football and violence and disorder in order that the most appropriate interventions can be developed and targeted correctly. Furthermore, the freedom and anonymity provided by the internet have been abused by some who use it as a vehicle for spreading messages of hate and inciting serious harm. This appears to be a growing issue which requires specific consideration.

The importance of a consistent approach to policing at and around football, and for that approach to be supported by all those involved in football, has been emphasised throughout the work of the JAG.

1. A National Football Policing Unit is established, enabling the Scottish Police Service to deliver a consistent approach when policing football in Scotland, co-ordinating football intelligence, enforcing football-related legislation and supporting post-match investigations. This Unit should incorporate the existing ACPOS Football Banning Order Authority to expand the co-ordination, management and application of Football Banning Orders. This Unit should also support the expansion of Anti-Sectarian and Unacceptable Behaviour Initiatives across Scotland at all identified high risk matches and should be in place for the start of the 2011/12 season.

Action complete: This action is complete, with formal establishment of the Football Co-ordination Unit for Scotland (FoCUS) following the former First Minister Alex Salmond’s announcement on 11 July 2011. FoCUS remains in place as part of Police Scotland’s Operational Support Division.

2. Any future extension of the initiative known as the ‘Football Depute Scheme’ as developed through the ‘Glasgow Pilot’ (i.e. the co-ordination
of FBO applications by a Procurator Fiscal in the area) is supported and participated in fully through training and awareness events delivered by the FBO Manager, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and Judicial Studies Committee of Scotland.

**Action complete:** There are three Football Liaison Prosecutors (FLP’s), in place, covering the East, North and West Federations. This fits well with Police Scotland’s structure also being based upon three command areas. FoCUS work closely with FLP’s including attendance at FLP meetings, which are chaired by Crown Office Policy Unit, and take place approximately every four months. In addition, operational matters are discussed on a regular basis as part of on-going business.

FoCUS and the Football Banning Authority Manager participate in events hosted by the Judicial Institute which see sheriffs observe the policing operation of football matches and attending pyrotechnic awareness seminars which are held at local football grounds in all three federations.

3. **As part of a comprehensive review of football-related legislation, the Scottish Government should consider amendments to legislation relating to Football Banning Orders which will support their expansion and enforcement.**

**Action ongoing:** Procedural actions are currently being taken forward with the agreement and assistance of the Scottish Court Service. Guidance in relation to Football Banning Orders is currently being produced, which will be issued to all court staff.

The Scottish Government led Football Related Disorder and Safety Group is considering Football Banning Orders legislation and will take changes forward where appropriate.

4. **ACPOS supports a consistent approach to policing football through the development of:**

   - a strategy to tackle hate crime, incorporating the proposed legislation, prior to the end of the 2011/12 season;
   - training around the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill (once passed);
   - good practice guidance in relation to Football Banning Orders, prior to the commencement of season 2011/12 with appropriate training/communications inputs to all staff delivered during the course of season 2011/12;
   - A toolkit which consolidates all legislation and guidance on football related offences, in liaison with the Football Safety Officers Association Scotland during the course of the season 2011/12, delivered prior to that season end.

**Action complete:** The Hate Crime Strategy (National Strategy for Policing Football in Scotland) is in its third iteration and is shared with partner organisations.
FoCUS delivered training across the Scottish Police Service prior to implementation of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 (OBFTC) as well as delivering inputs to stewarding companies. It was stipulated that all officers deployed on the first match day following commencement of the legislation much have viewed the training video in order to be deployed at a match. This work has been further developed into a presentation delivered at the Scottish Police College initial leadership (Sergeant) course and also by means of an e-learning package entitled 'Football – Dealing with Criminality' which is available to all Police Scotland officers.

The Football Banning Orders (FBO's) SOP has been reviewed, revised and re-published as Police Scotland guidance. New guidance on preparing packages for summary application FBO's was developed in 2014.

The Football Toolkit was produced within the deadline set by the JAG. It has since been superseded by the Football Policing SOP in 2013.

5. Measures are put in place to support police investigations targeting internet e-hate crime. This should include: legislative amendments to require registration of internet enabled equipment and agreement on the evidence which will be accepted to support convictions for these offences.

Action complete, with ongoing monitoring required: FoCUS developed a joint protocol with Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) which was approved in January 2013. This protocol allows for early involvement of the FLP’s in decision-making about football-related online hatred.

With the split of FoCUS into separate Operations and Intelligence functions and the training of FoCUS staff on use of open source online material, the Unit is able to capture online evidence and make enquiries to identify suspects.

There is now a shared understanding of the evidence which police can provide and also of the evidence required for court purposes, however this is a constantly developing area.

Aside from Section 6 of the OBFTC Act, there have been no significant legislative changes regarding online hatred.

6. A single standard information sharing protocol is adopted between all SFA member clubs and the local police commanders to include effective two-way communication in time for the commencement of the 2011/12 season.

Action complete, though ongoing monitoring required: A template was circulated prior to the end of season 2011/12. This has subsequently been reviewed twice, with the most recent template circulated in September 2014.
In addition, FoCUS has in conjunction with Information Management produced a Police Scotland Force Form to record the sharing of information and has also developed guidance for officers who may have responsibility for sharing information. A further form for sharing of information in respect of FBO’s is under development in conjunction with Legal Services and Information Management at Police Scotland.

FoCUS also researched the requirements upon clubs to register with the Information Commissioner prior to processing data and these have been circulated to clubs with the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL) to ensure all are in compliance prior to Police Scotland sharing information with them. This said information can be shared on an ad hoc basis without an ISP if circumstances justify a disclosure.

There is also work ongoing to establish which Police Scotland representative is the most appropriate one for sharing information (e.g. Divisional Commander, Ops Planning supervisor) with a policy decision required once this work is complete.

7. That spectator safety content is incorporated into the coaching badge programme at the earliest opportunity.

**Action complete, with ongoing delivery of training:** Since 30 October 2011, Police Scotland have worked with the SFA to provide input, based on the match commanders briefing, to participants in the SFA B Coaching programme. Police Scotland’s input is being delivered by the FoCUS Chief Inspector. The course dates for 2015 have now been arranged.

8. That all SFA member clubs agree and adopt a single code of conduct for players, coaches and other officials in Scottish football prior to the end of season 2011/12.

**Action complete, with ongoing monitoring:** This action was completed. All member clubs have signed up to this code of conduct and it will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

9. The Police and Scottish Government and Supporters Direct Scotland (SDS) jointly build upon the research conducted by SDS to develop a national strategy to ensure that all supporters are aware of their responsibilities prior to the end of season 2011/12.

**Action complete:** The Scottish Government appointed James Proctor as Project Manager for the National Football Supporters’ Charter. FoCUS attended a number of the organised group sessions where the proposed Supporters Charter was discussed and provided insight into the police position on offensive behaviour. The [Supporters Charter](#) was launched in January 2013.

10. All SFA member clubs agree and adopt a single code of conduct for supporters to be implemented prior to the end of the 2011/12 season.
and including a commitment to impose and enforce appropriate sanctions upon supporters involved in football-related offending.

**Action complete:** All SPFL and SFA member clubs have common “minimum standard” ground regulations in place.

11. **Minimum Standard provisions should be incorporated within the ticket sale conditions of all SPL-member clubs as well as in the ground conditions to enable consistent enforcement.**

**Action complete:** This action came into force for tickets printed with effect from the start of Season 2013-14.

12. **The role of SPL match delegate is reviewed with the aim of placing emphasis on the off-the-pitch events such as crowd behaviour, liaison with the police match commander, player behaviour pre and post-match, stewarding and policing tactics.**

**Action complete:** This is now standard practice.

13. **A more formal liaison between the SFA and SPL over the system of Match Delegates is developed.**

**Action complete:** This is now standard practice.

14. **Increased understanding of the roles and responsibilities of police and stewards within football grounds is developed through better briefing of other stakeholders in the game.**

**Action complete, with monitoring ongoing:** Prior to and shortly after the implementation of the OBFTC Act, FoCUS delivered briefings to stewarding companies at their request, generally as part of the match day briefing process.

The National Strategy for Policing Football in Scotland (Hate Crime Strategy) provides details of key roles and responsibilities at football and is shared with key stakeholders.

The Police Scotland ‘Football – Dealing with Criminality’ e-learning package and inputs which are delivered to frontline officers and supervisors provide guidance to officers on where their responsibilities lie and where stewarding responsibilities lie.

The Football Safety Officers Association Scotland (FSOAS) is a key partner for Police Scotland and the recent creation of an operational subgroup which involves both FSOAS and Police Scotland will ensure that a close working relationship continues.
15. The Match Commander protocol for briefing players, coaching staff and others be approved and implemented immediately, along with an associated warning poster.

**Action complete:** The briefing document and associated Lord Advocate’s (LA) Guidelines have been circulated by FoCUS to Local Policing Areas (LPA’s) prior to each new football season. LPA’s then take responsibility for delivering this briefing as each new season starts or at other times when circumstances require it.

16. The Scottish Government commissions academic research into the relationship between football and domestic abuse in Scotland. This research would inform future strategies by the police and partner agencies, ensuring that appropriate interventions are developed and targeted effectively.

**Action complete:** The Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) published a Scottish Government commissioned report highlighting a correlation between football matches and domestic abuse on 28 November 2014. The research for this report was carried out by academics at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow Caledonian University. The study explored the experiences, attitudes and beliefs of victims and perpetrators of domestic violence towards football and related violence in public and domestic settings.

17. JAG partners continue to co-operate with ACPOS Domestic Abuse Working Group to build upon and promote the initiatives in relation to domestic abuse, including all Scottish Police Forces considering adopting appropriate analytical tools to identify and address football-related offending.

**Action complete, with monitoring ongoing:** Following a FoCUS input to the (then) ACPOS Domestic Abuse Working Group, reciprocal guidance on making links between football offending and domestic offending was included in the Football Policing Toolkit (now Football Policing SOP) and the Domestic Abuse Toolkit.

Findings from the SCCJR report published in November 2014 recommended that further research be carried out and this may inform future development of this work.
PART C

Measures to ensure the rules and regulations of football are respected and enforced, supported by consistent and transparent governance arrangements.

It is essential that everyone involved in football has a clear understanding of, and respect for, the rules and regulations which govern the game and the decisions made in reliance on them. These rules need to be clearly framed and communicated, administered effectively and decisions made fairly and consistently.

1. **A formal working party or sub-committee is established, charged with the periodic review of trends and behaviours affecting the game in Scotland and the review of existing rules regarding clubs' responsibilities and appropriate ways of sanctioning unacceptable conduct.** This forum should include representatives from football, government, the police and supporter groups and may provide a mechanism for the development and delivery of a constant, co-ordinated approach in tackling anti-social behaviour within football.

   **Action complete:** The board and member clubs of the former Scottish Premier League (SPL) approved several rule changes on Unacceptable Conduct, the changes were approved by the JAG at their [meeting on 6 December 2011](#). The rule changes were announced on the [league's website](#) on 19 December 2011. These rule changes began during season 2011-12, where the definition of 'unacceptable conduct' was extended to include supporters making reference to terrorist organisations. The club guidance section which sets out minimum standards in relation to Unacceptable Conduct was also expanded.

   Whilst developing the Supporters’ Charter (launched in January 2013), the SPL also carried out a full audit of the means used by each member club to communicate supporter conduct policy to their supporters.

2. **An Independent Judicial Panel for the handling of all sanctioning and quasi-judicial functions of the SFA is established.** This is designed to assure all stakeholders that justice is administered by the SFA, expeditiously, fairly and in accordance with all applicable legal standards.

   **Action complete:** Where a charge of breach of the Unacceptable Conduct rules is made against a member club, the case is automatically referred to an independent commission. Prior to the merging of the leagues, the SPL produced a consistently worded tannoy announcements which is still read out at stadia approximately 5-10 minutes prior to the start of a match. The statement is concise and has a positive and encouraging tone.

3. **New rules preventing public comment by Club Officials on appointed referees prior to match days are developed.**
4. The timeous, concise and transparent communication of disciplinary
decisions and reasons is implemented. Supported by the introduction of
new IT reporting mechanisms to permit referees to quickly record and
send disciplinary information to the SFA following a match.

   Action complete: This is covered by the terms of the SFA’s Judicial Panel
   Protocol.

5. A formal reporting protocol between the SFA and referees is developed
to ensure absolute clarity and consistency in the reporting of all match
related incidents that come to or are brought to the attention of the
match referee is introduced by the SFA.

   Action complete: Meetings were held between the SFA’s Compliance Officer
   and senior referees. This is now covered by the terms of the SFA’s Judicial
   Panel Protocol.

6. Refereeing decision/Laws of the Game explanations via the SFA website
   are reintroduced.

   Action complete: Information on the Laws of the Game is available on the
   SFA’s website.

7. A Refereeing Professional Development Award is made available in
schools and colleges through a partnership between the SFA and SQA.

   Action complete: This award was announced jointly by the SFA and Scottish
   Qualifications Authority on 7 July 2011.

8. A national ‘respect’ campaign is launched, targeting schools,
supporters groups and general public more widely.

   Action complete: The SFA launched its Focus on Football campaign at the
   beginning of the 2011-12 season.
PART D

Measures to explore and understand the practicalities of new fixture scheduling opportunities to minimise damage to communities

It is important to highlight that football is not the root cause of violence, bigotry or alcohol misuse. The causes and consequences of these problems extend well beyond football and require greater examination and understanding. However these issues can, unfortunately, manifest themselves around the time of football matches. It is therefore important to ensure that consideration is given to the practicalities surrounding fixture scheduling and the opportunities this may provide to minimise damage to communities.

1. The SPL have a formal meeting with a representative of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) prior to the finalisation of the SPL fixture list in early June, to discuss any potentially problematic fixtures.

   Action complete, with monitoring ongoing: FoCUS coordinate all discussions regarding the new season fixtures, collating submissions from each Division and then meeting with the SPFL staff who produce the fixture schedule. This has worked well for the past three seasons and it is anticipated that the process will continue. In addition, FoCUS coordinates all proposed fixture changes for TV throughout the season.

2. The New Year “Old Firm” derby match will be rescheduled to the evening of Wednesday 28 December 2011.

   Action completed, with monitoring ongoing: This match was played on the evening of Wednesday 28 December 2011. The fixture has not been played since this date due to Celtic and Rangers playing in different leagues, however this proposal will be revisited if and when this match is played in future seasons.

3. The post-split Old Firm Derby match will be scheduled in consultation with a representative from ACPOS, prior to finalisation of the post-split SPL fixture list.

   Action complete, with monitoring ongoing: Agreement to undertake this consultation was achieved along with a number of fixture setting matters in June 2011.

   There have been no first team Celtic v Rangers league fixtures since 2012 and as such, this consultation process has not been tested. In the event of both Clubs playing in the SPFL in the future this process could be applied as previously agreed.

4. The post-split SPL fixture list will include one mid-week fixture round.
Action complete, with monitoring ongoing: Agreement to undertake this was achieved along with a number of fixture setting matters in June 2011. This action will be revisited with each new season.

5. A more formal liaison between police and SPL over information regarding possible threats is developed.

Action complete, with monitoring ongoing: The JAG initiative has produced a better understanding by stakeholders of each other’s roles. This will require to be developed into a formal understanding of how to take this forward.

Relevant partners attend the Police Scotland Football Working Group as well as the Football Related Disorder and Safety Group which is chaired by the Scottish Government.

There have been a small number of threats identified since the JAG was concluded, either to individuals or to events, and these have been dealt with through briefings by Specialist Crime Division coordinated by FoCUS.

There are established Police Scotland protocols for dealing with threats to individuals or events and provided these are applied correctly in football as in any context, the risk of any particular threat should be minimised.
PART E

Measures to better utilise the positive influence that football can have and the opportunities it presents to achieve behavioural change

Throughout the JAG process, it has been clear that football in Scotland has a positive influence, can be used successfully to change the lives of individuals and can bring benefits to local communities and Scottish society more widely. These issues require careful consideration to ensure that opportunities, skills and resources are used to their best effect. It is crucial that the JAG recommendations are considered in the context of wider social policies and are integrated into these policies, where relevant.

1. There is early identification of the role that football/sport can play when initiatives are being considered at policy level, and that consideration is given to the early classification of the type of programme involved (Prevention, Early Intervention, Enforcement, Rehabilitation), supported by accurate identification of the target audience - recognising that unacceptable behaviour occurs throughout Scotland.

**Action complete, with delivery ongoing:** The Scottish Government continue to do this extensively through its CashBack for Communities programme. Since the inception of the programme in 2007, £24 million has been invested in sporting activities and facilities projects. Football related projects include the Bank of Scotland Midnight Leagues and CashBack Sevens, among others.

2. Resources should be targeted at successful football club-based and football-authority led initiatives, e.g. club based learning centres, on a national basis.

**Action complete:** The SPFL Trust works with all 42 SPFL clubs to deliver projects across 22 Scottish local authority areas, reaching a population of 4.48 million people. The Trust empowers member clubs to create opportunities at the heart of Scotland’s communities, delivering on its four key pillars of activity which represents the areas in which it wants to see positive change, namely health; citizenship; achievement and participation.

3. The number of campaigns and initiatives being supported centrally by the SPL should be limited to several selected at the outset of the season, with a focus on those, including (for season 2011/12), the Show Bigotry the Red Card campaign and an anti-domestic violence campaign.

**Action complete:** SPFL initiatives are agreed upon prior to the beginning of each season.

4. Consideration should be given to whether those who have offended, or are at risk of prosecution, and can be identified as being football
supporters, should be required to attend football-based programmes for example, as part of their rehabilitation.

**Action complete:** The Scottish Government provides funding to SACRO’s anti-sectarianism service as part of its £9m investment in community projects to tackle sectarianism in Scotland. The service aims to tackle the problems caused by intra-Christian sectarianism and to reduce its corrosive effects on Scottish society. The service is available to any person aged 12 or over who has been charged with committing a sectarian offence.

The programme would normally be expected to be completed within 14 weeks and helps participants understand why they behave in a specific way and to take ownership of their behaviours and attitudes to ensure positive behavioural changes, so as not to repeat the crime.

5. **There is provision of sustained Government resource over longer periods to programmes whose objective is behaviour change of offenders.**

**Action complete, with ongoing delivery:** The Scottish Government Justice and Safer Communities Directorates continue to deliver on this proposal through a range of initiatives such as Caledonian System and Reducing Reoffending.
USEFUL LINKS

Agendas and minutes of meetings of the Joint Action Group

Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 - First annual report (2012-13)

Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 - Second annual report (2013-14)

Community Experiences of Sectarianism - Research Report

Football Summit Joint Action Group Report

Full recommendations from the Joint Action Group

Joint Action Group - previous progress report (covering July to December 2011)

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

Rules of the Scottish Professional Football League

Scottish Football Association - Fans’ Charter

Scottish Football Association - Judicial Panel Protocol

Scottish Football Association - Laws of the Game

Scottish Professional Football League - Membership Criteria