Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Impact of police reform on local policing

Written submission from Renfrewshire Safer and Stronger Thematic Board

Please find enclosed a response to the Justice Sub - Committee call for evidence on the impact of police reform from the Renfrewshire Safer and Stronger Thematic Board following consultation among the constituent partner agencies and organisations.

The impact of police reform on the police services in our area

It is considered that it is still early in the implementation process to adequately assess the impact on the police services provided in our area. The Council has a Housing and Community Safety Policy Board which now has an oversight and scrutiny function in relation to local police and fire and rescue services. The local Police Plan has been presented to the Housing and Community Safety Policy Board by the Area Commander. In addition, a Safer and Stronger Theme Board has been established through the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) which has strategic responsibility for delivery of the CPP objectives and outcomes for community safety and public protection. The Safer and Stronger section of the Community Plan was developed in partnership with all community partners, in particular Police Scotland and the objectives and priority actions were developed as partnership objectives, requiring the involvement of a partnership approach to delivery, and a detailed partnership action plan specifies actions to be undertaken. Police Scotland was heavily involved at a senior level in developing and agreeing the action plan and is the lead agency for delivery of appropriate actions. There is a link through the community plan to the local police plan.

The Governance structure also has links to Serious Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism, which is managed on a partnership basis between Police Scotland, Renfrewshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council and Inverclyde Council.

These arrangements are expected to improve the scrutiny and effectiveness of local policing.

While it is recognised that there has been a necessary focus on transition arrangements due to the establishment of the single force, in general terms there has been no noticeable detrimental impact on local police services. During this period of change the Council has progressed the establishment of a flexible, integrated partnership hub for community safety and public protection, including a new state of the art CCTV and integrated control room, which is being developed and funded by the Council and Police Scotland.

Have local policing services improved; remained the same or deteriorated since 1 April

As stated above, it is still considered early in the process of evaluating the impact of the new organisation on local policing. However the arrangements are in place to
better assess this, and there have been no noticeable detrimental impacts on local police services.

**Have local policing services been designed to address the specific needs of our local area and has there been any change in approach since 1 April**

As detailed earlier, there is a link through the community plan to the local police plan. Work on reviewing and influencing the three year local policing plans due to be implemented in April 2014 will be, to an extent, a measure of the effectiveness of these new arrangements, since it should address the needs of our local area reflecting the analysis of information on crime and community safety in Renfrewshire.

Andrew Jamieson  
Regulatory Services Manager  
Community Resources  
10 January 2014

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