



Meeting	Policing Performance Committee
Date	18 September 2024
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	COSLA Update Report
Presented By	Cllr Maureen Chalmers
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

This paper provides the SPA Policing Performance Committee with an update on key areas of COSLA’s work of interest to the Committee. The update focuses on strategic developments and cross-COSLA activity that links to policing.

Feedback from PPC Members would be welcome on the items covered in the paper and specifically on any additional areas that Members would wish to see covered in future COSLA updates.

Members are invited to discuss the report.

1. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 1.1 COSLA is currently involved in work across a range of community safety issues, including:

Processions

COSLA joined the Action Group on Processions set up by the Scottish Government to specifically work through the conclusions and recommendations of the [November 2022 report](#) from the Short Life Working Group's on Processions.

Following agreement of the final draft of the Report between Scottish Government, COSLA and Police Scotland, the Scottish Government published the [Report](#) of the Action Group on Processions on 24 June 2024. The report sets out six actions which have all been accepted and are being taken forward by Scottish Government in partnership with COSLA and local authorities, Police Scotland and independent experts.

Hate Crime

COSLA is represented on the Scottish Government's Strategic Partnership Group (SPG), which was established in April 2022 to ensure a multi-agency, strategic approach towards the development of the Hate Crime Strategy. The Hate Crime Strategic Partnership Group supports the implementation of the Hate Crime Strategy, and the activity in its associated delivery plan.

The Strategy includes a commitment for Scottish Government to work with COSLA to develop a toolkit of resources for local authorities and their partners to help address hate crime and build community cohesion. COSLA are currently working in collaboration with Scottish Government to deliver a range of engagement sessions with stakeholders working with communities effected by hate crime, to help inform the toolkit. An initial draft of the Toolkit is due to be taken to the COSLA Community Wellbeing Board in December 2024.

Antisocial Behaviour

In November 2023, the Minister for Victims and Community Safety announced that she was convening an independently chaired group of experts and practitioners to consider the effectiveness of current approaches to tackling antisocial behaviour (ASB) and develop proposals for a more strategic approach based primarily on prevention.

COSLA Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing, Cllr Maureen Chalmers, and COSLA Spokesperson for Children and Young People, Cllr Tony Buchanan, met with the Co-Chairs of the newly formed Group in March 2024, where discussions took place on a need to focus on prevention, being mindful of resources and budget pressures in local authority, the need for local responses when considering consistency, ensuring those with lived-experience inform the work, and taking a multi-agency approach.

The Scottish Government are in the process of facilitating a range of engagement sessions, including a recent session for elected members held in August 2024. The initial findings from the review are expected to be shared toward the end of 2024.

Fireworks and Pyrotechnics

COSLA was involved in the development of [guidance](#) for local authorities to set up Firework Control Zones (FCZ) and has worked with Scottish Government to agree the methodology for distribution of funding to local authorities to support the implementation of designated FCZs.

COSLA has also worked together with SOLACE and Police Scotland in the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Police Scotland and local authorities. The MoU is designed to ensure a consistent approach across all 13 local policing divisions and 32 local authorities to respond to data requests. Not all local authorities currently have areas being considered as FCZs but the MoU enables data sharing agreements to be implemented should they receive a case for an area to be designated as a FCZ. The MoU will also assist on those occasions where an area being considered as a FCZ overlaps more than one local authority. The document outlines the expectations and responsibilities of both Police Scotland and local authorities.

Counter-Terrorism Prevent

COSLA are members of the Prevent Sub Group, a multi-agency governance group that holds the strategic lead for the co-ordination and support of Scotland's approach to safeguarding vulnerable individuals from being drawn towards violent extremist narratives and terrorism. The Scottish Prevent Sub Group also assists with supporting specified authorities in Scotland to deliver the requirements under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) (the 'Prevent Duty').

Local authorities play a crucial role in the delivery of Prevent across Scotland, providing support, training and take a role in handling

Prevent casework alongside multi-agency partners such as police, health and education.

The Prevent Duty Guidance for Scotland has been refreshed this year and became statutory on the 19 August 2024. The refreshed guidance is available online: [Prevent duty guidance for specified authorities in Scotland - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-specified-authorities-in-scotland)

2. COMMUNITY JUSTICE

- 2.1 COSLA continue to work with Scottish Government and partners to support the delivery of the revised National [Strategy for Community Justice](#). We facilitate collective political scrutiny of the Delivery Plan by local government through our Community Wellbeing Board, and we are involved with various strands of work in the plan.
- 2.2 The Strategy commits to shifting the balance between custodial and community disposals. With Scotland's prison population still amongst the highest per capita in Western Europe, this year emergency measures have been enacted to enable the early release of prisoners.
- 2.3 COSLA has been a member of the Prison Population Leadership Group since it was established in 2023 in response to the emerging situation around the rising prison population. Through this we have worked alongside partners on various workstreams to address the pressures in prisons and to identify any pressures the shift of balance will place on community justice.
- 2.4 We have been involved in the preparation and roll-out of the emergency release measures and have been engaged in work to identify lessons learned from this exercise. We have also participated in the consultation in relation to long-term prisoners.
- 2.5 COSLA will continue to work with partners and the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, which has committed to continue supporting a sustainable reduction in the prison population and the introduction of a Bill which will propose changes to the release process.

3. EQUALLY SAFE

- 3.1 [The Equally Safe Delivery Plan 2024 – 2026](#) was published on the 13th of August. The Plan was launched via a joint Ministerial and COSLA Spokesperson visit to Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis Centre, where [Kaukab Stewart and COSLA Spokesperson Cllr Maureen Chalmers spoke about the priorities outlined in the plan.](#)

3.2 COSLA’s commitments in the plan include working with partners and stakeholders to take forward the establishment of a public health approach to preventing VAWG; to developing a flexible and stable funding model for VAWG services which reflects the ambitions of Equally Safe; to further support the development of trauma and VAWG informed workplace practices; to strengthen links between VAWG and other areas of Public Protection and to establish a clear governance structure for Equally Safe delivery. COSLA has also committed to the development of a programme of work across COSLA to addressing gender inequality through policy scrutiny, development, and decision-making processes.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no personnel implications in this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

7. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no reputational implications in this report.

8. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no social implications in this report.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 There are no community implications in this report.

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no equality implications in this report.

11. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no environmental implications in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to discuss the report.

