

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 May 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

Subject:	Outcome of the Review of the Safer South Lanarkshire Board
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ◆ update Executive Committee on the outcome of the review of the Safer South Lanarkshire Board completed during 2022/2023
- ◆ seek approval from Executive Committee for the revised terms of reference for the Safer South Lanarkshire Board to be implemented

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): -

- (1) that the contents of this report be noted; and
- (2) that the revised terms of reference for the Safer South Lanarkshire Board be approved and implemented from 18 May 2023.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Safer South Lanarkshire Board (the Board) was established in 2013 by the Council's Executive Committee to ensure the Council and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) met new statutory requirements arising from the recently introduced Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
- 3.2. Administered by the Council on behalf of the CSP, the Board aims to facilitate and enhance cooperation between community safety partners who operate in South Lanarkshire. It has no independent legal status, operating within the wider Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.3. Following a review of the South Lanarkshire Community Plan in 2022 and the subsequent launch of the new Community Plan 2022 - 2032, the CSP was advised that the previous reporting requirements directly from the Board to the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB) were no longer necessary. As such, the CPPB requested that the CSP undertake a review of the Board which aimed to ensure the role and remit remained appropriate and beneficial for partners within the CSP.

4. Structure of Review

- 4.1. Facilitated by South Lanarkshire Council's Housing and Technical Resources, the review has been completed throughout 2022/2023, aligning with the initial time commitment provided to the CPPB.
- 4.2. The review focussed only on the role and remit of the Board and involved the following aspects:
 - ◆ existing remit and structure of the Board presented to new Board members
 - ◆ research into other local authority area structures regarding scrutiny and performance reporting of police, fire and anti-social behaviour services
 - ◆ discussions with Board members and wider community safety partners to understand their preferred priorities and focus for the Board
 - ◆ discussions with wider community planning partners to understand how the functions of the CSP interact with wider partnership remits and structures
- 4.3. Updates on the progress of the review have been delivered to the Board at its meetings on 12 September 2022 and 12 December 2022, with members noting the progress made and agreeing the timescale for completion.

5. Outcomes of the Review

- 5.1. Following completion of the review and removal of the requirement for reporting community safety measures directly to the CPPB, it is proposed the Board reverts to focusing on three of its original key functions. These are:-
 1. Conducting regular review and scrutiny of police performance against priorities set within the Lanarkshire Local Police Plan.
 2. Conducting regular review and scrutiny of fire performance against priorities set within the Local Fire Plan.
 3. Monitoring progress within the statutory South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy and associated partnership activity.
- 5.2. Each of these functions formed part of the original remit of the Board when established in 2013 and will enable it and its members to fulfil statutory obligations from the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 in delivering effective scrutiny of police and fire services operating in South Lanarkshire.
- 5.3. Police and Council statutory obligations through the Anti-social Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 also require strong governance arrangements to ensure partners are delivering against agreed targets and priorities and supported by the partnership Anti-social Behaviour Strategy Implementation Group (ASBIG), the review identified that the established structure of the Board continues to be the most effective method of achieving this.
- 5.4. In addition, agreement was given from discussions with Board members that the CSP Budget should continue to be considered by the Board separately as part of individual partner budgets on an annual basis. As such, the Board, supported by the Safer South Lanarkshire Steering Group (SSLSG), will continue its role as approver for the allocation of the annual budget, and continue to receive an annual evaluation report on how the funds have been spent by partners and impact made.

- 5.5. The review also considered other aspects of the Board's current remit that had been gradually expanded since 2013. It identified that many of these were already being progressed through different partnership arrangements already in place, and the wider remit impacted the Board's ability to deliver on its original functions.
- 5.6. Details for each of these other aspects, and the proposed outcome for each following the review, is summarised below. A key part of this process was to confirm with relevant lead partners that there would be no negative consequences caused as a result of removing these areas from the Board's remit:-
- ◆ Following discussion with and agreement from representatives of the Community Justice Partnership, regular reporting requirements currently delivered to the Board will no longer be maintained. These instead will be aligned through the Public Protection Chief Officers Group (PPCOG), allowing the required direct reporting to the CPPB to continue. Representatives from the Community Justice Partnership will, however, continue to be members of the Board to provide updates on key developments or activity and with the aim of ensuring alignment between the Community Safety Partnership and Community Justice Partnership
 - ◆ Following discussions with and agreement from Police Scotland, confirmation has been given that they are already leading partnership activity to tackle issues associated with each of the drugs and road traffic priorities through the South Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) and the Lanarkshire Road Safety Forum
 - ◆ In addition, work to tackle issues associated with the existing domestic abuse priority is also being progressed within the South Lanarkshire Gender Based Violence Partnership, with partners agreeing its removal as a CSP priority would reduce duplication that has occurred between the two partnership structures
 - ◆ The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is currently undertaking its own review of the Unintentional Injuries Group, ensuring membership, remit and priorities within continue to be appropriate following changes to personnel within the service. The outcomes of this will initially be presented to the SSLSG with consideration to be given as to how it can continue linking with the CSP. Further updates will also be provided to the Board as appropriate through the Local Fire Plan updates
- 5.7. Taking account of the outcomes of the review, the revised terms of reference for the Board have been detailed at Appendix 1.
- 5.8. The Board endorsed the proposed changes to the terms of reference on 13 March 2023 and an update on the outcomes of the review was also provided to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 22 March 2023.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. Following approval by Executive Committee, the terms of reference for the Board will be notified and terms of reference updated from 18 May 2023.
- 6.2. Discussions will be held with members of the Board to help identify any development or training needs to assist in delivery of the proposed revised remit, including the enhanced scrutiny functions of both police and fire services in South Lanarkshire.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. There are no employee implications associated with the report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. There are no financial implications associated with the report.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

9.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

10. Other Implications

10.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1. The Community Safety Partnership is committed to ensuring that equalities issues are mainstreamed and will act in a manner that is consistent with legislation.

Stephen Gibson

Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)

26 April 2023

Previous References

- ◆ 22 May 2013, Executive Committee
- ◆ 12 September 2022, Safer South Lanarkshire Board
- ◆ 12 December 2022, Safer South Lanarkshire Board
- ◆ 13 March 2023, Safer South Lanarkshire Board
- ◆ 22 March 2023, Community Planning Partnership Board

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact: -

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Appendix 1

Proposed revised Terms of Reference

Title	Safer South Lanarkshire Board
Membership	South Lanarkshire Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members (5) • Housing and Technical Resources • Community and Enterprise Resources • Education Resources • South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership
	Police Scotland
	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
	NHS Lanarkshire
	Victim Support Scotland
	South Lanarkshire Community Health Partnership / ADP
	South Lanarkshire Community Justice Partnership
	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Chair	<p>South Lanarkshire Council will appoint a Chair from the five elected members appointed to the Safer South Lanarkshire Board.</p> <p>The Chair will be able to nominate another Safer South Lanarkshire Board member as a substitute Chair from the other members when they are not able to attend.</p> <p>The role of the Chair is to ensure that the agenda business is properly dealt with and clear decisions are reached. There is a responsibility to ensure that the views and opinions of all participants at the meeting are allowed to be expressed and that they contribute to the outcomes of the meeting.</p>
Remit	<p>The remit of the Board is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct regular review and scrutiny of police performance against priorities set within the Lanarkshire Local Police Plan 2. Conduct regular review and scrutiny of fire performance against priorities set within the Local Fire Plan 3. Consider the priorities and objectives for policing and fire services within South Lanarkshire and ensure these are aligned with wider local and national priorities and targets. 4. Monitor progress within the South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy and other statutory functions of both the council and the police relating to anti-social behaviour. 5. Maintain an overview of and ensure appropriate allocation and evaluation of the Community Safety Partnership Budget, as agreed annually.