

SAFE GLASGOW PARTNERSHIP'S MINUTES.

Glasgow, 28th August 2025.

Safe Glasgow Partnership.

Present: Bailie Paul McCabe (Chair), Councillor Holly Bruce, Councillor Graham Campbell, Councillor Marie Garrity, Councillor William Graham, Bailie Seonad Hoy, Councillor Elaine McSporran, Councillor Davina Rankin, Councillor Catherine Vallis, Glasgow City Council; Chief Superintendent Emma Croft, Police Scotland, Local Senior Officer Andrew Kenna, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Darren Lambie, GCC Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; Lynsey Smith, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; Jennifer Anderson, Wheatley Housing Group; and Lesley Gordon, Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network.

Apologies: Councillor Jill Pidgeon and Diane Gillies.

Attending: L Sclater (Clerk); R MacLeod and M Smith, Communities Team, Chief Executives Department; Superintendent John Menzies, Police Scotland; Group Commander Craig Campbell, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; and Sean Hanlon, GCC Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability.

Chairs remarks.

1 Bailie McCabe opened the meeting by thanking Councillor McSporran for agreeing to continue in the role of Bonfire Safety Champion for the Safe Glasgow Partnership.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

2 The minutes of 19th June 2025 were submitted and approved subject to noting that

- (1) the Chair had circulated a detailed response to this Partnership explaining that it was outwith the Partnership's remit to carry out a consultation on the policing of protests in Glasgow, as previously requested by Bailie Hoy;
- (2) the Chair would continue working with the Communities Team and Chief Superintendent Croft to explore further ways to enhance the scrutiny duties of the Partnership to fulfil the challenge detailed in the Council's Strategic Plan; and
- (3) as a consultation was outwith this Partnership's remit on this subject, Bailie Hoy requested that a community engagement exercise be carried out on the policing of protests instead of a consultation, with Bailie McCabe indicating

that both requests by Bailie Hoy were of a similar nature and that he would therefore arrange an offline meeting with herself, Councillor Bruce and Chief Superintendent Croft to provide an opportunity for them to raise their concerns.

COSLA Community Justice Scotland and Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum – Updates noted.

3 The Partnership heard and noted a verbal update by Bailie McCabe in relation to the COSLA Community Justice meeting held on 12th June 2025 and the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum held on 7th August 2025 indicating that a fuller update had been circulated to the Partnership for information.

Bonfire Planning presentation noted.

4 There was heard a joint presentation by Group Commander Craig Campbell, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Chief Superintendent Emma Croft, Police Scotland and Darren Lambie, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) regarding the Bonfire 2025 planning arrangements, advising that

- (1) preparations were underway for Bonfire night 2025, with multi-agency meetings already having taken place, that included officers from NRS, SFRS and Police Scotland to discuss and progress plans, look at emerging intelligence and any actions required to mitigate risk during this period;
- (2) SFRS, in conjunction with Police School Engagement Officers, would continue their well established engagement and education approach by visiting all secondary and primary schools across the city to engage with pupils, focussing primarily on safety but also on the potential for anti-social behaviour that could occur during this period;
- (3) Police Scotland would have extra officers on patrol in the lead up to and including Bonfire night; and
- (4) based on lessons learned from previous years, cleansing teams from the Council would be in place in the lead up to and on Bonfire night, to assist with clearing potential sites.

After consideration, the Partnership thanked Group Commander Craig Campbell, Chief Superintendent Emma Croft and Darren Lambie for their joint presentation and welcomed the ongoing preparations from all multi-agency partners.

Police Scotland - Local Policing Plan 2023-26 - Performance for Year 3, Quarter 1 noted - Request to Police Scotland.

5 There was submitted and noted a report by Chief Superintendent Emma Croft, Police Scotland, providing an overview of the current performance of Police Scotland during the Q1 period from 1st April to 30th June 2025, advising

- (1) of some of the work being undertaken in relation to protecting vulnerable people, events, crime and serious and organised crime;
- (2) that all policing sub-divisions in Glasgow were now fully trained in the use of Compassionate Distress Response Service;
- (3) that user experience surveys continue to remain high in Glasgow and there had been an 11% drop in complaints;
- (4) of the slight increase in Hate Crime statistics, which was due to the change in the recording system, with this being the first quarter that the comparison has been made directly with the same period as the previous year;
- (5) that whilst there had been a slight increase in violent crime during this quarter, there had been a reduction in murder and homicides;
- (6) of an overview of the policing of protests, from looking at legislation with regard to European Convention on Human Rights as well as the engagement prior to and following protest; and
- (7) of officer wellbeing, and the professionalism shown during a particularly busy period, that included carrying out normal daily duties, cancelling rest days and travelling all over Scotland, as well as policing high profile visits.

After consideration, the Partnership requested that Chief Superintendent Croft

- (a) circulate to this Partnership, Police Scotland's briefing document on protests;
- (b) investigate what further information could be provided to this Partnership in relation to the briefings Police Officers were issued with prior to policing protests;
- (c) circulate to this Partnership, information on 'Close Pass'; and
- (d) add a section on building trust and the ongoing work with communities on Hate Crime to the quarterly update report.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2024-25 - Quarter 1 performance noted.

6 There was submitted and noted a report by Local Senior Officer Andrew Kenna, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, providing an overview of the current performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) for the period Quarter 1 2024/25, from 1st April to 30th June 2025, advising

- (1) of the progress made in relation to local fire and rescue plan priorities on the prevention and reduction of accidental dwelling fire, unintentional injury or

harm, non domestic fires, unwanted fire alarm signals and prevention and protection activities along with details for each Glasgow City Council ward;

- (2) that accidental dwelling fires across Glasgow had continued to decline which could be attributed to proactive fire prevention and public engagement from both operational crews and the community action team;
- (3) that despite ongoing prevention efforts, deliberate fires had shown a slight increase this quarter and were often linked to antisocial behaviour;
- (4) that tragically there had been 1 fatality during this quarter, with SFRS indicating that they had not been informed at the time of the incident and were working closely with the care home to ensure that appropriate reporting procedures were understood and followed in future;
- (5) of the continued decrease of unwanted fire alarm signal calls (UFAS) since the introduction of the policy change in July 2023, with the majority of UFAS incidents coming from residential care homes, student halls of residence and hospitals; and
- (6) of the response to recent organised crime incidents across Glasgow involving the use of fire as a weapon, with SFRS continuing to work in close partnership with Police Scotland colleagues to enhance community safety and resilience.

Health and Social Care Partnership approach to contextual safeguarding – Update noted.

7 There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Service for Justice Social Work and Public Protection, Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership regarding its approach to contextual safeguarding, advising

- (1) that contextual safeguarding recognised that young people may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation in environments beyond their family home;
- (2) of the several areas of contextual safeguarding that had been in focus in recent years, as detailed in the report;
- (3) of the young people profile and the grooming and control tactics used;
- (4) of the multi-agency collaboration and work with schools, youth services, police, housing and community organisations to share intelligence and coordinate responses; and
- (5) of the place-based interventions, peer group work, challenges identified and of the next steps.

Hate Crime Working Group – Update noted.

8 There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding an update on the work of the Hate Crime Working Group, advising

- (1) of the makeup of the multi-agency group that had been embedded with Glasgow Community Planning Partnership structures, and whose purpose was to encourage and co-ordinate partnership approaches to Hate Crime;
- (2) the vacant role of Hate Crime Policy Officer had now been filled and the successful candidate was due to commence their post in September 2025;
- (3) that many of the workstreams in the Hate Crime Strategy 2018-2028 had been on pause due to the vacant post, however these would continue now the post had been filled; and
- (4) of the details of Hate Crime Awareness week that would take place from 11th-18th October 2025.

After consideration, the Partnership noted that

- (a) the new Hate Crime Policy Officer would review ways to expand the inclusion of different communities in Hate Crime Awareness week in the future; and
- (b) the information for Hate Crime Awareness week would be circulated to this Partnership once it had been finalised in early September 2025.

Victim Support Scotland – Update noted.

9 There was submitted and noted a report by Superintendent John Menzies, Police Scotland, providing an overview of the work of Victim Support Scotland, advising that

- (1) Victim Support Scotland (VSS) was Scotland's largest victim oriented charitable organisation that worked closely with Police Scotland and the Scottish Government to support victims and witnesses of crime;
- (2) the VSS process was voluntary for victims and witnesses of any crime, which Police Scotland now offered on an informed consent process to comply with GDPR requirements;
- (3) the referral pathway had been improved by utilising upgraded systems of both Police Scotland and VSS and now provided a single point of contact whilst making the process more efficient for both organisations;
- (4) there was an integrated VSS champion officer embedded within every operational policing department across the Greater Glasgow Division;

- (5) referral acceptance rates in Glasgow had increased in 2025 compared to the previous year, with both years being above the national average when compared to other policing divisions across Scotland: and
- (6) Police Scotland would continue to work with VSS at a local and national level to raise awareness, improve the referral process and ensure people that need practical and emotional support during the criminal justice process had the opportunity to receive this in a way that meets their needs.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) thanked Superintendent John Menzies for his report; and
- (b) agreed that it would be beneficial to have someone from VSS present for any future input on the subject.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Service Delivery Review Consultation update noted – Preferred option approved.

10 There was submitted and noted a report by Community Justice Manager, Communities Team in relation to the current Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Service Delivery Review consultation on their options for change proposals, advising that

- (1) SFRS had initiated a 4-year Strategic Services Review Programme (SSRP) in 2023 due to budget challenges faced by the service;
- (2) in August 2023, the Council had hosted an online information event for this Partnership as well as all Glasgow elected members to go through the temporary changes that SFRS were proposing;
- (3) in April 2024, the community were invited to in-person information sessions at some SFRS stations and an online survey was also undertaken to discuss the future changes;
- (4) all Glasgow elected members and this Partnership were invited to an online information session in May 2024 held by Glasgow City Council to discuss the future changes; and
- (5) a final information session was held in August 2025 with all Glasgow elected members and this Partnership invited, in relation to the current change proposals and thereafter a follow up session just for this Partnership was held to discuss and complete the consultation questions and decide on which option this Partnership would support.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) approved the consultation response selecting Option 1 which had been the consensus of the members that attended the additional Partnership session;

- (b) noted that Councillor Campbell did not support proposal Option 1, indicating that his preference would have been Option 2; and
- (c) noted that the consultation was open until 16th September 2025, with everyone encouraged to complete it on an individual basis.

Date of next meeting noted.

11 The Partnership noted that the next meeting would be held on 27th November 2024 at 10.00am, by video conference.