

SAFE GLASGOW PARTNERSHIP'S MINUTES.

Glasgow, 19th March 2026.

Safe Glasgow Partnership.

Present: Bailie Paul McCabe (Chair), Councillor Holly Bruce, Councillor Marie Garrity, Councillor Greg Hepburn, Councillor Elaine McSparran, Bailie Christy Mearns, Councillor Malcolm Mitchell (substitute for Councillor William Graham), Councillor Jill Pidgeon and 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; Stephen McVey, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; David Sheil, Wheatley Housing Group; and Lesley Gordon, Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network.

Also present: Bailie Anne McTaggart.

Apologies: Councillor William Graham and Councillor Davena Rankin, Glasgow City Council and Lesley Gordon, Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network.

Attending: L Sclater (Clerk); K Baxter and M Smith, Communities Team, Chief Executives Department; L McDonald, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; Group Commander Craig Campbell, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; and S Baber and A Fehilly, GCC Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability.

Chairs remarks.

- 1** Bailie McCabe opened the meeting by
 - (1) expressing the Partnerships' thanks to all fire fighters and emergency responders for their hard work and dedication in their response to the Forsyth Building fire in Union Street;
 - (2) sending condolences to the family of the one fatality at a fire in Carnoustie Street;
 - (3) sending best wishes for a speedy recovery from a sudden illness to Rhona MacLeod, Safe Glasgow Partnership Officer; and
 - (4) indicating that although on hold for now, Partnership members should attend, if their diaries permit, the visit to the Police Training Centre at Jackton when a new date had been arranged.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

2 The minutes of 27th November 2025 were submitted and approved.

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership Governance Framework – Membership update noted.

3 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Legal and Administration providing an update on the membership of the Safe Glasgow Partnership, advising that

- (1) Bailie Christy Mearns and Councillor Greg Hepburn had been appointed as members replacing Bailie Seonad Hoy and Councillor Graham Campbell respectively; and
- (2) Superintendent Nigel Thacker had been appointed as substitute member for Police Scotland replacing Superintendent Ryan McMurdo.

Safer Drug Consumption Facility - Presentation by Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Partnership noted.

4 The Partnership heard and noted a presentation by Lynn McDonald, Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership providing an update on the operation of the Thistle, Safer Drug Consumption Facility since its opening in January 2025, advising of

- (1) the number of people who had accessed the service since its opening;
- (2) a statistical breakdown of the services accessed, the number of injecting episodes, the substances used and how many medical emergencies had been managed from the facility; and
- (3) the number of clients engaging with the service and examples of their positive experiences of utilising the service.

Glasgow Hate Crime Working Group - Update noted.

5 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding the progress made on the delivery of the Hate Crime Working Group (HCWG) thematic Action Plans: Preventing, Reporting and Responding, advising

- (1) that a new Hate Crime Policy Officer, located within Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability had been appointed in September 2025, and that the Terms of Reference and Action Plan of the HCWG had been reviewed alongside the membership;

- (2) 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;
- (3) of the HCWG's involvement in the Hate Crime Awareness Week which ran in October 2025 and the anticipated priorities of the 2026 programme, as detailed in the report; and
- (4) of the HCWG's involvement in the Glasgow Partners' Conference: Building Resilience: Communities, Cohesion and Shared Responsibility which would take place on 2nd June 2026, and would serve as a platform to consolidate partnership learning and accelerate collective action.

After consideration, the Partnership noted

- (a) the report;
- (b) Hate Crime Awareness Week 2025 feedback; and
- (c) the date of the Partners Conference.

Youth Justice Strategy Group - Update noted etc.

6 There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities providing an overview of the Youth Justice Strategy Group (YJSG), advising

- (1) that the YJSG had been formed initially in 2010 and comprised of all of the partners involved in the youth justice context at that time, but due to changes in supports and services across Glasgow and Scotland there was now a need to review the Strategy going forward;
- (2) that given the policy landscape in Glasgow had changed since the establishment of the group, the membership had been reviewed and a review of the role and function of the group had commenced;
- (3) of the current members of the group, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that the Strategy, moving forward, would focus on the group's collective commitment to supporting children who came into conflict with the law through early intervention, prevention and holistic family support, and would align with national frameworks such as Getting it Right for Every Child;
- (5) that a performance framework would be developed which would support the group in monitoring patterns in offending to help guide the work undertaken by the group and partners, as well as a mechanism to highlight work carried out by partners in order to demonstrate the positive outcomes they achieved for the people they work with and the impact they had on reducing reoffending in the city;

- (6) of the changes to national and domestic law which had been passed during 2024 which aimed to treat children involved in the justice system as 'children first' and would ensure where children came into contact with the criminal justice system the approach would be trauma-informed and appropriate to their age and stage of development;
- (7) that a short-life working group had recently been established to consider the remit of the YJSG within the current national and local context, and the group recognised the need to aim to reduce the need for statutory interventions by addressing the root causes of youth offending and provide relevant support through collaborative networks, community-based services and multi-agency partnerships; and
- (8) that the group would focus to draft a Youth Justice Strategy for the city which would build upon existing local strategies and provide greater detail on how these would be implemented across youth justice systems, ensuring that there was a youth justice strategy which was comprehensive, actionable and aligned with broader policy goals, whilst addressing the needs of children and their communities.

After consideration, the Partnership noted

- (a) the report; and
- (b) that regular updates on progress would be submitted to future meetings of the Partnership.

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

7 There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent Emma Croft, Police Scotland, providing an overview of the current performance of Police Scotland during the Quarter 3 period from 1st October to 31st December 2025, advising

- (1) of the continued drive forward with its Public Health Approach to policing that involved working closely with partners to support vulnerable members of the community;
- (2) that there had been a slight increase in overall violent crimes and slight decrease in detection rates compared to the previous year, with Police Scotland committed to working towards reducing those figures;
- (3) that hate crime detection rates had increased compared to the previous year, and recorded hate crimes had also increased compared to the previous year, with Police Scotland continuing to work with its partners to encourage reporting all hate crimes;
- (4) targeted campaigns continued in relation to student safety, violence against women and girls, gender-based violence and promoting safer communities;

- (5) of some of the work being undertaken in relation to counter terrorism and protecting vulnerable groups;
- (6) of the work being done to support various events including processions and protests, football fixtures and concerts;
- (7) of an update on the roll out of Body Worn Video, that could benefit the general public/victims in terms of evidence based situations and support officer wellbeing;
- (8) of the potential impact on the recent Scottish Government Budget 2026/27 which continued to be assessed; and
- (9) of a detailed breakdown of the complaints against police, violent crime, violence against women and girls, hate crime, and community wellbeing, as detailed in the appendices to the report.

After consideration, the Partnership

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) requested that Police Scotland look at whether they could incorporate statistical information relating to crimes against children into their quarterly update report, as requested by Bailie Christy Mearns.

Dispersal Zones – Update noted.

8 There was submitted and noted a report by Chief Superintendent Emma Croft, Police Scotland providing an overview of the Glasgow City Centre Dispersal Zone, advising

- (1) that a dispersal zone was introduced in Glasgow City Centre on 20th March 2026 for a period of 3 months in an effort to support a safe, welcoming city centre;
- (2) that the dispersal zone, as detailed in the report, was a preventative tool that would allow Police Scotland to take further proportionate, targeted action to address anti-social behaviour and associated criminality within the city centre and would assist police and partners to address issues that were of longstanding concern to residents, businesses and members of the public;
- (3) of statistical information in relation to crimes that had been identified through targeted policing operations that had been carried out from November 2025 and February 2026 following rises in violent crime, anti-social offences and crimes against society;
- (4) of the governance measures that had been put in place to support the introduction of the dispersal zone, the thresholds that had to be met by

individuals/groups before a dispersal order was imposed and the anticipated outcomes, as detailed in the report;

- (5) of the longer term activity that was planned to improve the feeling of safety within the city, which would result in an Environmental Visual Audit assessment being undertaken to support partner agencies and statutory bodies and identifying points of concern and would be shared live time with relevant stakeholders to support any immediate remedial recommendations; and
- (6) that following analysis of the success of other dispersal zones that had been used previously, it was expected that this multi-faceted approach to operational policing, combined with longer-term problem solving had the potential to improve the experience of those who lived, worked and visited the city centre, and would deliver against the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and support a number of community safety outcomes.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2025-26 – Quarter 3 performance noted.

9 There was submitted a report by Local Senior Officer Andrew Kenna, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing an overview of the current performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the period Quarter 3 2025/26, from 1st October to 31st December 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, deliberate fires, non-domestic fires, unwanted fire alarm signals, road traffic collisions, accidental dwelling fire casualties, non-fire casualties, road traffic collision casualties, homes fire safety visits and fire safety audits with the year on year change over the past 4 years along with details for each Glasgow City Council ward for the period;
- (2) that 28 non-fatal accidental dwelling fires casualties had been recorded, with tragically 2 fatalities recorded during the Q3 period;
- (3) that the service had assisted 112 individuals in non-fire emergencies which demonstrated the services' wider role in public safety;
- (4) the service had responded to 588 unwanted fire alarm signals for the period with student accommodations, residential homes and hospitals being the most frequent sources; and
- (5) that SFRS continued to promote campaigns outwith fire safety such as water safety, anti-social behaviour and first aid initiatives with its partner agencies.

Thereafter, Local Senior Officer Andrew Kenna provided an update on:-

- (a) SFRS Service Delivery Review – the consultation period deadline had been extended and with the forthcoming Scottish Parliament Elections taking place in May 2026, it was anticipated that the process would be completed towards the end of June 2026 and an update would be provided thereafter; and
- (b) Union Street Fire:-
 - (i) a co-ordinated agency response was utilised and the response phase was efficient, with all crews in attendance praised for their professionalism;
 - (ii) Glasgow City Council now had ownership of the building to carry out demolition of the building and ensure safety to the wider public; and
 - (iii) a factual evidence based review would be carried out following a full investigation.

Future meeting dates noted.

10 The dates and venues of the Partnership 2026 meeting dates were noted as follows:-

- (1) 18th June 2026 at 1400 hours via MsTeams;
- (2) 27th August 2026 at 1000 hours in person; and
- (3) 26th November at 1000 hours via MsTeams.