

Local Community Safety Partnership Working In Fife – A Coordinated Approach

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The issue around how community safety partners work together at a local level, delivering local solutions, is one which has proved problematic to many community safety partnerships across Scotland. Fife now operates a business solution to this issue which delivers real progress.

Fife's Area Community Safety Coordinating Groups operate in all seven of the county's administrative areas and use an analysis and tasking philosophy taken from the NIM business model, but adapted to reflect the diverse partnership approach needed in community safety partnership working. The process was first piloted in Kirkcaldy and rolled out to all other areas in late 2010.

The monthly cycle starts with the analysis of all the partnership data available to the Community Analysts team. This analysis is used to create seven tactical assessments tailored to the needs and priorities of each area and containing recommendations for actions and identifying which service(s) should take the lead on the task. Feedback on tasks is managed through a central monthly turnaround system designed to influence the next tactical assessment whilst retaining a sense of corporacy and ownership.

In 2010 Frank Gibson, a Development Officer with Fife Community Safety Partnership, undertook a research fellowship with the Scottish Community Safety Network using the experience of practitioners involved in the Area CSC Groups as his subject.

There emerged, from the research, a clear indication that participants are gaining a benefit from the process in the way of improved service delivery through the establishment of community safety priorities and their role in the wider agenda. The success of the whole process is dependent on several factors being in place, namely:

- A comprehensive Information Sharing Protocol (ISP).
- Data is sourced from as wide a partnership spectrum as possible.
- The tactical assessment must be relevant to the area community safety priorities.
- Central administration of the tasking process.

Overall, the implementation of this model of partnership working in the community safety field has been viewed as a success by those involved. It is too early to properly evaluate the impact on the various community safety issues being experience in the seven areas but it is safe to say that there remains a positive feel in the groups about what can be achieved.