



# **An Evaluation of the Inverclyde Initiative.**

**Report prepared for Strathclyde Police Force**

**By**

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**PREVIEW**

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Chapter One: Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Chapter Two: Methodology</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Chapter Three: Literature Review</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Chapter Four: The Inverclyde Initiative</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Chapter Five: A Concerned Community</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Chapter Six: Promoting Change</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Chapter Seven: Evaluating the Initiative</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Chapter Eight: Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Chapter Nine: Summary Findings</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Bibliography:</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Guardian Angel</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Appendix 2: New Horizons</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Parents Focus Group/Telephone Interview Guide</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Appendix 4: Youth Focus Group Interview Guide</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Appendix 5: Partner Organisation Interview Guide</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Appendix 6: Police Interview Schedule Guide</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Appendix 7: Summary of Participants</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Appendix 8: Police Consultation Questionnaire</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Appendix 9: Inverclyde Initiative - Proposal and Costings</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Appendix 10: Strathclyde Police's Safety Zone Partners</b>	<b>87</b>

<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Table 1:</b>	
<b>Annual Crime Statistics for the Year 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March, 2001-2008 for the KC Inverclyde Sub</b>	
<b>Division</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Table 2:</b>	
<b>Reduction in the Number of Youth Disorder</b>	
<b>Calls Received</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Table 3:</b>	
<b>Profile of Youth Attendees at the Inverclyde</b>	
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Table 4:</b>	
<b>Attendance at the Initiative</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Table 5:</b>	
<b>Attendees' Satisfaction with the Initiative</b>	<b>47</b>

## CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This research was conducted for Strathclyde Police to evaluate the Inverclyde Initiative. This initiative was run by Inverclyde Sub-division in the Greenock area which had been identified as having significant youth disorder problems, including that of gang activity but more generally a problem with on-street disorder characterised by under-age drinking and a knife-carrying culture.
- 1.2 The Inverclyde Initiative is an innovative approach to policing, focused on addressing the problem of groups of youths deemed to be 'at risk' and the associated issues of 'child protection', which aimed to raise parents' awareness of the activities their children are involved in; challenge youths' behaviour patterns; educate them to the dangers they are placing themselves and others in by pursuing such activities; provide them with information and opportunities to encourage them to adopt positive life choices; and inform on community opportunities to reduce the likelihood of re-offending.
- 1.3 Strathclyde Police developed the Initiative in accordance with ACPOS' Public Reassurance Strategy and delivered it in conjunction with their Community Planning partners through a multi-agency approach<sup>1</sup> following the ethos for Community Planning and the Single Outcome Agreement<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.4 This initiative is consistent with the current Scottish Government's campaigns: Safer Streets (2008), and Get It Right for Every Child (2008). Safer Streets, which was originally launched by the previous administration – the Scottish Executive – is aimed at tackling at the local level the specific concerns, issues and needs of individual communities. For example, since its launch in 2001 it has targeted issues of public transport, crime, violence and anti-social behaviour to

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<sup>1</sup> This included partnership working with, for example, James Watt College, Council, Education, Health, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and others. See appendix 10 – Strathclyde Police's Safety Zone Partners.

<sup>2</sup> A Single Outcome Agreement is the means by which: 'Community Planning Partnerships agree their strategic priorities for their local area and express those priorities as outcomes to be delivered by the partners, either individually or jointly, while showing how those outcomes should contribute to the Scottish Government's relevant National Outcome' (SOA Guidance 2008, p5).

support the development of safer, vibrant and prosperous communities.

- 1.5 The plan was delivered in partnership with their ASIST<sup>3</sup> partner agencies and in tandem with the Guardian Angel/New Horizons<sup>4</sup> programmes. The Initiative was structured specifically on the one hand to address local policing and community concerns about youth gang activity and anti-social behaviour; and on the other to raise awareness of self-harm and the risks these youths were exposing themselves to through a Lifestyle, Learning and Leisure approach: the delivery of a combination of education, information about available positive life choices, and diversionary activities.
- 1.6 This type of multi-agency approach, the police have found - providing information on risks, health, education and employment alongside information on alternative leisure activities and extended support programmes for those most at risk - has had a significant impact for individuals and the community alike.
- 1.7 Therefore in order to evaluate the efficacy of the Inverclyde Initiative in meeting its aims it was important to gather information about the concerns and needs of the local community, including those of the young people, on: what it is like to live there; gang activity, gang membership, territorial relationships, violence; their perceptions and experiences of the Initiative including the information and services that were on offer; and what effect it has had for them.
- 1.8 The research accordingly aimed to establish:
  - baseline information on crime levels before and after the Inverclyde Initiative;
  - the views of the police, their partner agencies, young people and their families about what it is like living in Greenock;

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<sup>3</sup> Anti-Social Investigations Team (ASIST). The team consists of one senior investigator and four investigators, including a serving police officer who is seconded to the team for a period of two years. A dedicated solicitor is also part of the team. The team was established in January 2004 and to date has investigated approximately 8,700 complaints of anti-social behaviour.

<sup>4</sup> More detailed information on these two youth programmes – Guardian Angels and New Horizons – can be found in Appendices 1 & 2.

- the role of the media in disseminating and supporting this initiative;
- the perceptions of parents and young people on the effects of youth crime particularly that of gang, violent, and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods;
- their views and perceptions on the success of the Initiative in tackling these behaviours within the local areas;
- what youths need to discourage them from engaging in these anti-social behaviours; and
- what they need to encourage them to make attitudinal changes towards making more positive life choices.

1.9 Significantly, this Initiative was introduced and run without any additional budget. It was developed creatively by the police and pursued by them through a process of encouragement and leadership with their partnership agencies. For evaluation purposes and where appropriate, reference will be made to relevant internal monitoring/progress reports maintained by the police over the period the Inverclyde Initiative ran.

1.10 Chapter two will describe the main methods utilised in the research, and chapter three, in the form of a brief literature review, will identify key characteristics of community policing, youth offending and anti-social behaviour including gangs and violence in Scotland and summarise the main findings of a selection of academic and other research reports. Chapter four will provide an overview of the Inverclyde Initiative outlining its main aims, objectives, implementation, media strategy and outcomes. In chapter five the concerns of the community are highlighted. Chapter six discusses changing attitudes and behaviours and chapter seven the success of the Inverclyde Initiative. Chapter eight draws conclusions and makes recommendations for moving forward. Chapter nine provides a summary of the findings.

## CHAPTER TWO      METHODOLOGY

### Introduction

- 2.1 There were five stages to the research. Stage One consisted of an overview of and briefing on the Inverclyde Initiative by Strathclyde Police. Stage Two involved a brief review of existing literature. In Stage Three data was collected from parents and young people through focus groups, face-to-face interviews and telephone interviews. Stage Four involved telephone interviews with the partner agencies who had participated; the Editor of the local newspaper was also included as the police had incorporated a media strategy. Stage Five involved face-to-face and telephone interviews with police officers who were involved in the development and delivery of this initiative. The interviews and focus groups were an important source of information.
- 2.2 Members of the research team also observed the geographical area in which the Initiative ran. They visited the local areas and drove around to better understand the concerns of the local communities in relation to vandalism, graffiti, and groups of youths hanging around the streets. However, at the time of writing it has not been possible for the researchers to witness the provision that was put in place for young people in the Safety Zone of the Initiative as this evaluation is being carried out after the Initiative had been run.
- 2.3 The time scale for this evaluation – 6 weeks - precluded the opportunity to conduct a survey of all the parents and young people who attended. Therefore the quantitative data reported in Chapter Five is taken from an exit survey carried out by Strathclyde Police.
- 2.4 Information on community perceptions and concerns over youth anti-social behaviour and knife crime collected from our sample survey (see appendix 6) was augmented by attendance at the Inverclyde Knife Crime Conference held in Greenock Town Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.
- 2.5 The researchers are also willing to attend any future weekend sessions of the Initiative – the aspirations of the multi-agencies involved are for the opportunity to continue to run it regularly in future.



- 2.6 Qualitative research provides a unique tool for studying what lies behind or underpins behaviour and attitudes, and for studying the dynamics that affect outcomes of policy<sup>5</sup>. Carrying out fieldwork in a variety of ways leads to interaction at different levels between the researcher and the participants, and between participants. Therefore what is found is not 'sweeping generalisations but deeply contextualised meanings of the participant's experiences'.<sup>6</sup> This enhances understanding and counterbalances the concerns that quantitative research often leaves many questions essential to the evaluation and development of social policy misconceived or inadequately understood<sup>7</sup>.
- 2.7 The report documents and analyses the experience and views of parents, young people, police officers, and partner organisation representatives giving prominence to their own words. Although clearly this evaluation does not reflect the views of all the young people in the Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow areas, nor of all the young people who attended the Initiative, every attempt was made to ensure that as wide a range as possible of parents and young people - referrals and volunteers<sup>8</sup> - was achieved.
- 2.8 The study is based on qualitative data obtained from face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews and focus groups carried out in Greenock, which is characterised by housing schemes of differing size and varying levels of urban deprivation. Of particular interest is how youths feel this innovative policy and service providers have addressed their concerns and supported them in adopting positive patterns of behaviour.

### **Stage One: Overview and Briefing**

- 2.9 Immediately prior to commencing this evaluation the researchers attended Greenock Police Station for a briefing presentation by Strathclyde Police on the Inverclyde Initiative: its aims and objectives;

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<sup>5</sup> Ritchie, J. & Lewis, J. (eds) (2003) *Qualitative Research Practice*. London: Sage

<sup>6</sup> Maykut, P. and Morehouse, R. (1994) *Beginning Qualitative Research: A Philosophical and Practical Guide*. London: The Falmer Press.

<sup>7</sup> Ritchie, J. & Lewis, J. (eds) (2003) – *ibid*.

<sup>8</sup> 'Referrals' was the name used to identify those young people whom the police encountered engaging in risky behaviour. 'Volunteers' was the name used to identify those young people who attended the initiative voluntarily having heard about it from the police, community wards, friends, or the local newspaper.

the issues for policing youths in the Inverclyde area; and the rationale for the Initiative.

## **Stage Two: Literature Review**

- 2.10 This brief review of literature examines policy documents, published research, and other documents. It offers a summary of what is known about youth anti-social activity in Scotland; the concerns and needs of the community in addressing youth disorder; and the policing and political policy responses to this in Scotland. The literature review provides the background against which the Inverclyde Initiative has emerged and was developed in accordance with ACPOS's Public Reassurance (2007) and Youth (2004) Strategies and the Scottish Government's Safer Streets and Get It Right for Every Child campaigns. It also contributed to the study by identifying emerging themes in the literature relevant to the research issue. It informed the development of research tools at Stage Three, Four and Five as well as contributing to the statistical and research context for the study.

## **Stage Three: Focus Groups and Interviews with Parents and Young People**

- 2.11 Fieldwork at Stage Three comprised a total of 2 focus groups. These groups were held separately: one with parents, one with young people who voluntarily went to the Initiative. 15 individuals were invited to participate in each group session. Participation was by no means taken for granted and no incentive was offered but food (pizza) and soft drinks were provided to encourage attendance. All groups were held in the conference suite at the local leisure/swimming centre – The Waterfront.
- 2.12 Interviews were held with a number of young people who had been referred to the Initiative. These interviews took place at a mutually agreed place and time. On some occasions parents/guardians of the young people were present and contributed to the interview process. The presence of the parents/guardians was at the discretion of the young people concerned.
- 2.13 Parental agreement for access to the young people under the age of 16 was negotiated by the police on our behalf.

- 2.14 A number of parents were also contacted and interviewed by telephone because of the low attendance rate at the organised focus group. This was felt necessary to provide a broad spectrum of perspectives from parents whose children had different experiences of engagement with the Initiative.
- 2.15 All participants in these focus groups and interviews were selected and recruited by Inverclyde Police from families in the Inverclyde area who had attended the Initiative and who had indicated at that time to the police that they were amenable to being contacted for evaluation purposes at some point in the future.
- 2.16 These focus groups and group/individual interviews provided an excellent forum for generating discussion about the experiences of safety and other community concerns of particular interest to the parents and young people and provided many interesting and insightful points. Core topic guides were used as the basis for discussion (See Appendices 3, and 4).

#### **Stage Four: Interviews with Partner Organisations**

- 2.17 Telephone interviews were conducted with partner agency representatives and the Editor of the local newspaper who all participated in the Initiative. A core topic guide was used (see Appendix 5) to access these individuals' perceptions of the Initiative. They were in the best position to assess how well they felt it addressed the issues and concerns of the communities they serve and the needs of the young people to tackle patterns of violence and anti-social behaviour. Interviewing this group soon after the running of the Initiative would allow for them to be able to reflect on their experiences of delivering services and on the actions and reactions of the young people and parents they were in contact with.
- 2.18 These interviews were of particular value in identifying and clarifying the difficulties, including facilities, funding and staffing, faced in providing services for all young people including the 'troubled' and 'troublesome'. They were also central to understanding and identifying the issues for future policy development in the field of youth services.

## Stage Five: Interviews with the Police

2.19 Face to face interviews were conducted with a number of police officers who had been involved in the developing and delivery of the Initiative. These interviews took place at the end stage to allow the researchers to clarify any issues or ambiguities that emerged in the data collection process regarding implementation (See Appendix 6 for interview guide).

2.20 The focus group/interview schedules all covered 7 main areas of interest: experiences and concerns of living in this particular area; feelings of safety and concerns about anti-social behaviour; education and aspirations; leisure activities; perceptions of and membership of gangs; experiences of the Initiative; and future developments. All participants were encouraged to express views on these topic areas:

- *experiences* covered neighbourhood and community concerns;
- *safety* included location, time of day and what/who reduced/increased feelings of safety but also aimed to examine young people's perceptions of what 'safety' meant;
- *aspirations* encompassed the support and advice available to the young people through community, education and employment services;
- *leisure activities* evoked discussion on what facilities were available, their suitability, and barriers to using them.

Discussions on youth anti-social behaviour, including that of their identity in the community, were encouraged and in particular they were invited to talk about what they liked and disliked about the area and the facilities that were available to them. The core topic guides were supplemented with specific probes and techniques in order to ensure wide-ranging discussion of the issues that participants felt were significant. In this way the focus group method could avoid some of the skews, areas of neglect and assumptions that limit some existing research.

2.21 They also provided a format for discussion of service delivery and perceptions of partnership working.

2.22 All participants in focus groups were verbally briefed on the purpose of the research and asked to read and sign consent forms at the

beginning of each group discussion. Similarly, all participants in the telephone interviews were verbally briefed and their consent sought prior to the actual interview taking place. The research team worked to the ethical guidelines of the British Sociological Association, The British Society of Criminology and Glasgow Caledonian University.

- 2.23 All focus groups and some interviews were digitally recorded with consent to allow for subsequent transcription and analysis. Telephone interviews were not recorded but copious notes were taken, as indeed they were also taken where interviews were not recorded, for analysis purposes.
- 2.24 All transcription was carried out by the researchers.
- 2.25 Appendix 7 provides summary details of the research participants.

## CHAPTER THREE LITERATURE REVIEW

### Introduction

3.1 This chapter examines a range of literature including policy documentation, academic and other research reports outlining developments in respect of community policing, partnership working, performance measurement, and recent attempts to address youth offending and anti-social behaviour, gangs and violence in Scotland. It is not a comprehensive review but offers a summary of what is known about youth anti-social activity and disorder; media representations and community concerns; and the policing and policy responses to this in Scotland. Therefore it provides the background against which the Inverclyde Initiative was developed in accordance with ACPOS's Public Reassurance and Youth Strategy and the Scottish Government's Safer Streets and Get It Right for Every Child campaigns.

### Youth Offending

3.2 Youth crime, violence and disorder have consistently been linked to issues of social deprivation, poor housing, low educational attainment, drug and alcohol abuse and poor employment prospects. However explaining these relationships, Oldfield et al (2009) point out, has been constrained by an over-reliance on quantitative research which inadequately explores any causal relations. Mooney and Neal (2009) note that '[i]n the specific field of community safety "all too frequently high crime communities are perceived to be full of 'problem people', not people who may have problems (Foster, 2002:168).'

3.3 Furthermore, Muncie (2009:13) states, 'young people tend to be a perennial source of anxiety. Law and order enthusiasts, for example, have persistently warned us of 'new' delinquent syndromes in which youth seems to delight in crudity, cruelty and violence.' Youth offending continues to be of concern for many communities: in particular in relation to the perceived rise in gang, alcohol-related and knife crime as being a significant youth problem.

3.4 Determining true levels of youth offending is difficult because of changes in policing practice or the law, changes to the procedures of reporting and recording of offences, and changes in public opinion/tolerance. The Scottish Government Social Research (2008c:18)

report indicates that 62% and 45% respectively of their respondents believe that the behaviour of young people today is worse than it was in the past and that they feel young people have no respect for older people. Interestingly though, the statistics show that it is only 20% (approximately) of the youth population who are thought to be troubled or troublesome.

- 3.5 The nature of the 'gang', Muncie (2009) argues, is peculiar to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, is diverse, takes a variety of forms; it may be joined for protection; yet inter-gang conflict is endemic and further concerns have been voiced about knife crime. These issues can have profound effects on the life-choices and chances for young people who are brought up and caught up in a gang, knife crime culture, including affecting mobility within and between areas and employment opportunities (FronDIGOUN et al 2008).
- 3.6 The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) Report, *Breakthrough Britain: Dying to Belong* (2009), claims that over the last decade there has been a failure on the part of central and local governments to tackle gang activity. Consequently it has become entrenched in some of the most deprived communities to the extent that 'Police in London and Strathclyde have each identified 171 and 170 gangs respectively (ibid:19) and a study conducted by MORI in 2007 states that there has been a '50% increase in school age children reporting having carried a knife (Eades et al (2007) cited in CSJ 2009:20)'.
- 3.7 Forsyth et al (2007) argue that while 'the scale of alcohol-related physical activity in residential neighbourhoods appears to be large' there is also a need to look beyond the issue of provision alone and include social factors such as deprivation as well. Galloway et al (2007) highlight how young people who engage in street drinking rarely recognise the dangers they are placing themselves in. Furthermore, McKinley et al (2009) highlight the significance of alcohol as a contributing factor to the criminal activities of young men within the prison populations.
- 3.8 Consequently crime and disorder and community safety are significant areas of concern for communities, with a large number of people believing that young people are a problem within their area (Hill and Wright, 2003). This has led to the issue being given high priority by the

Scottish Government<sup>9</sup>. A number of publications regarding youth justice and youth offending are available in Scotland. *It's a Criminal Waste – Stop Youth Offending Now* (Scottish Executive 2000) set recommendations for Youth Justice in Scotland. The report claimed that, while the principles underpinning the Children's Hearing System were fundamentally sound, practices and resources to support them had fallen behind the times and change was overdue (Whyte 2007:159).

### **Media Representations**

- 3.9 Media reporting has been central in bringing to the public's attention the problem of youths and youth offending and in particular there has been an increased focus on gangs and knife crimes (Lovell and Evans, 2006). The media have informed public perceptions and understanding, and increased awareness but have on occasion also created public misunderstanding (see for example Jempson, 2001). As Reiner (1997:190) points out, the media '...manufacture the news (Cohen and Young, 1973), create moral panics about folk devils (Cohen 1972), stigmatize outsiders (Becker 1964), and amplify their deviance (Young 1971), [and] thus legitimise the drift to a law and order society (Hall 1979) and a more authoritarian style of policing the crisis (Hall et al 1978).' Roberts (2001) argues that media attention on 'race, ethnicity and crime vilifies young black men as a group' and Ericson (1991:74) that the 'news media are as much an agency of policing as the law-enforcement agencies whose activities and classifications are reported on'. However, as Muncie (2004) notes, the problematising of young people by the media is not new but has been a theme in Britain for centuries.
- 3.10 Technological developments have increased our exposure to violence. The multi-media – internet, film, drama, cartoons – also inform our understanding and experiences of violence.
- 3.11 Media reporting which focuses on youth behaviour and perceived disorder has been identified as in some cases fuelling youth disorder and in others increasing fear amongst young people (Fronidigoun et al 2007). Young people point out that they only seem to get a bad press and little if any cognizance is taken of their positive involvement in community activities.

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<sup>9</sup> Previously the Scottish Executive.



- 3.12 It is therefore argued that media reporting disproportionately represents crimes of violence (Reiner 1977:199 & 2001:4) and 'presents the most serious and violent crime as the product of individual choice and free-floating evil, diverting attention from any links to social structure or culture' (Reiner 1997:224).
- 3.13 Conversely, Sparks (2001) points out that their interest in blame 'can on occasion be turned to good effect in calling the powerful to account', while Leishman and Mason (2003) argue that 'harnessing the media effectively to promote the police can in all likelihood do more to provide symbolic reassurance to more of the public for more of the time'. Recent examples of effective media strategies by the police for increasing public reassurance and confidence in policing was evidenced in the approach taken in the Enhanced Policing Plan (Frondigoun et al 2008).

### **Community Safety**

- 3.14 Community safety policy is one of a number of initiatives governments have developed to address crime and related problems of disorder and insecurity, public attitudes and perceptions about crime and the fear of crime; and to increase public reassurance by effectively tackling crime and disorder. It has grown slowly in importance and significance in the UK since the 1980s and now stands as the essential core of a collection of strategies (Gilling, 1997, Crawford, 1998; Stenson, 1998; Hughes, 1998, 2008). As Hughes (2002) observes, the rise of community safety raises the possibility of moving from narrow law and order agendas to more generalised visions of 'harm reduction' in the pursuit of justice.
- 3.15 The prevention of youth crime requires a combination of approaches which seek to address the development of criminality among young people, reduce criminal opportunities and act upon the social conditions that sustain crime (Crawford and Matassa, 2000). As such it is not merely the responsibility of the police, but requires the active involvement of various actors from the public, commercial and voluntary sectors, as well as of private citizens. This necessitates a 'pluralisation of responsibility' and a significant change in the way in which Government, organisations, and the public think and behave (Crawford, 1998).

- 3.16 The policing of youth and associated problems of anti-social behaviour, risk and the rising fear of crime have increasingly featured in community safety policy debates in recent years. The importance of partnership working and policing at community level were recognised as key elements in addressing these issues:

*'Agencies should focus on the identification, assessment, planning and management of children and young people. Those working with this group must take into account both the needs and risks of a child or young person...we expect the police and local agencies, working in partnership, to support and manage the needs and risks of young people and protect others in their community'* (Scottish Government, 2008).

### **Collaboration and Partnership Working**

- 3.17 Sullivan and Skelcher (2002:1) argue that, 'partnership is the new language of public governance'.

*'The emergence of partnership working in the past few decades reflects a desire to move from the development of policy and the planning and delivery of services within fragmented organisational and professional silos to an integrated, multi-sectoral and multi-professional approach which will deliver improvements in outcomes. Following the election of the Labour government in 1997 the emphasis on collaboration, breaking down organisational and professional boundaries and the desire for social inclusion gained momentum across the public sector'* (Atkinson, 2005:2).

- 3.18 Percy-Smith (2005:1-13) demonstrates how this wider movement for better joining-up of policy and services has been a key theme running through recent policy developments in relation to children and young people in the UK. It is argued that since 1997 issues in relation to children and young people have moved higher up the political agenda with a growing recognition of the need for innovative approaches to the delivery of services that cross traditional service and professional boundaries.

- 3.19 In Scotland, community planning is considered a crucial component in the wider programme of public service reform and modernisation for local government and public service delivery (Scottish Executive, 2006). Though not a new concept<sup>10</sup>, community planning is a process of co-ordinated policy making and joint service delivery between the police service, local authorities and public agencies, representatives from the local community, voluntary and private sectors.
- 3.20 Under the framework of community planning, community safety became a priority for key agencies to work together to build 'safer, attractive, healthier, vibrant and economically attractive communities' (Scottish Executive 1999, Executive Summary). Local authorities and the police were encouraged to take a proactive lead in building safer communities by establishing local partnerships involving public, private and voluntary organisations.

### **Performance and the Single Outcome Agreement**

- 3.21 A strong development in Scotland across a range of policy areas, including youth offending and community safety policy, has been the growth of accountability mechanisms and governmental targets and outcomes (Munro, 2002). Community planning is also about getting added value from partnership working.
- 3.22 The Scottish Government and local government share an ambition for outcome focused planning and delivery of public services in Scotland. That ambition is expressed in the historic Concordat of November 2007 and in the successful development and agreement of Single Outcome Agreements between all 32 Councils and the Scottish Government by June 2008. Now, the performance of the police and other community planning partners is fed into the strategic 'umbrella' framework of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).
- 3.23 A Single Outcome Agreement is the means by which,
- 'Community Planning Partnerships agree their strategic priorities for their local area and express those*

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<sup>10</sup> Community Planning was given a statutory basis in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Prior to this, Area Team Partnerships and Social Inclusion Partnerships all involved networking and partnership between public, private and community sector agencies.

*priorities as outcomes to be delivered by the partners, either individually or jointly, while showing how those outcomes should contribute to the Scottish Government's relevant National Outcome'* (Scottish Government 2008a, p5).

- 3.24 The purpose of the SOA is to set out and describe how both the Scottish Government and Community Planning Partners will work towards improving national outcomes for local people in a way that reflects local circumstances and priorities.

### **Preventing Offending by Young People**

- 3.25 In 2002 the National Standards for Youth Services were set out in *Scotland's Action Programme to Reduce Youth Crime* and *National Standards for Youth Justice Services in Scotland*; services already in place were criticised by *Dealing with Offending by Young People* (Audit Scotland 2002). The report made clear that there was room for improvement if youth services are to be delivered and offending behaviour reduced. Alastair MacNish, Chairman of the Accounts Commission, claimed that, 'it is imperative that councils, the police and the Scottish Executive act together to prevent further problems with children who offend (Audit Scotland 2003, news release).
- 3.26 Following this, *Dealing with Offending by Young People: Performance Update* (2007:2) found that while 'increased funding and a stronger focus on youth justice services have delivered some positive changes, significant challenges remain'. Recommendations included ensuring that services are addressing local needs and reducing levels of offending behaviour, and highlighting the need for partners to develop coherent and integrated approaches to services for children (ibid: 31).
- 3.27 In 2008, this trend continued in the *Preventing Offending Behaviour – A Framework for Action*<sup>11</sup>:

*'As equal partners, we will focus on identifying and embedding what works, enabling good practice to*

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<sup>11</sup> The framework is formally owned by the Scottish Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS), Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and the Crown Officer and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) as key delivery agencies.

*spread, and demonstrating impact in improved outcomes for children, young people and communities. At every level, we will get better at partnership, using information, seeing holistically and acting strategically'* (Scottish Government 2008b:2).

- 3.28 This vision is not a new one but it does incorporate a shared commitment, within the context of a new kind of partnership as set out in the Single Outcome Agreement, to improve service delivery. The aim is to 'reject the polarisation of children's needs and community safety; but to champion them both' (Scottish Government 2008:2).

### **Young People – Local Level**

- 3.29 In accordance with the Scottish Government's National Standards for Scotland's Youth Justice Service, Inverclyde has developed a Youth Justice Strategy (2005-09). The Strategy relates to all young people from the age of 11 years to 21 years involved in either the Children's Hearing or Adult Criminal Justice System. The Youth Justice Strategy for Inverclyde reflects a partnership approach to dealing with young people within the justice system and has been influenced by the priorities set by the Inverclyde Alliance for the Community Plan, and in accordance with the Inverclyde Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.30 The area of concern for this study - Inverclyde - is identified as one of the most deprived areas in Scotland. Wards 2 and 3 fall within the lowest quartile of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), while the Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (2005) indicate that 19.2% of the total population of Inverclyde are income deprived and that 26.9% of people live within 0-500 metres of a derelict site (Scottish Neighbourhood 2006). These statistics also indicate that there is a higher than Scottish average number of admissions to hospital for alcohol and drug misuse: 1106.14 admissions compared to an average 722.66 per 100,000 population for alcohol and 268.56 compared to an average of 127.46 per 100,000 of the population for drug misuse (Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics 2001-2004).
- 3.31 Local crime statistics for the Inverclyde area indicate that in the period 2001–2008 there have been consistent issues with crimes related to violence and alcohol abuse; in particular crimes of Breach of the Peace,

Consumption of Alcohol and being Drunk and Incapable, and violent crimes including Murder, Attempted Murder, Serious and Indecent Assaults, and Vandalism and Fire-raising as is evidenced in Table 1 below.

**Annual Crime Statistics for the Year 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2001-2008 for KC Inverclyde Sub Division<sup>12</sup>**

Crime	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Anti-social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1
Breach of the Peace	1357	1301	1239	1286	1489	1411	1539	1585
Consumption of alcohol in designated places	227	168	166	179	194	300	350	1126
Drunk and Incapable	228	190	167	153	102	109	128	182
SVC – Attempted Murder	19	22	26	16	28	23	21	15
SVC – Murder (including Culpable Homicide)	2	6	4	10	2	3	7	7
Violence/Indecency Crimes	86	87	59	76	49	50	47	66
SVC – Serious Assault	156	193	190	214	197	157	173	166
Vandalism/Fireraising etc.	1434	1639	1870	2005	2368	2566	2346	2190

**Table 1**

3.32 While all of the crimes mentioned cannot be aligned entirely with offending youths, Inverclyde Police report that in the year 2007/2008 there were 2,600 incidents of youth disorder and 530 crimes. Much of this offending behaviour is associated with alcohol abuse, gang activity and territorialism. However, it is also understood that identifying the problem is only one part of the story.

3.33 The problem of youth disorder is reinforced in the public domain through general media reporting which identifies the problem as that of alcohol abuse and knife carrying and gangs as the report by Michael Howie of The Scotsman newspaper (2007) highlights below:

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.Strathclyde.police.uk/crimestats/search\\_stats/default.aspx](http://www.Strathclyde.police.uk/crimestats/search_stats/default.aspx). Accessed 16/3/09.

*Murderer struck on day he was freed early*

*BRENDAN Reilly, 19, from Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, stabbed David Wilson, in the town on 2 July, 2005.*

*Earlier that same day, Reilly had been released from a young offenders' institution after serving half of a four-month sentence for possessing a weapon.*

*It emerged during the trial that Reilly was a member of a gang which arranged fights with other groups in the area via the internet.*

*Detectives had one website closed down after they discovered photographs of heavily armed gang members, including Mr Wilson, 20, also from Port Glasgow, holding a butcher's knife.*

*Reilly claimed that when he encountered Mr Wilson, he thought there was going to be a fight. Reilly said: "David Wilson got out of a taxi. He lifted up his jumper and I saw a blade handle. Someone shouted, 'Let's do him'."*

*And Reilly added: "He challenged me in front of other people."*

*The teenager admitted stabbing Mr Wilson three times in the back, but said he was acting in self-defence.*

*A jury convicted Reilly by a majority verdict of murder and he was ordered to serve at least 15 years behind bars.*

*The judge said any one of a number of youths could have fallen victim to Reilly's "senseless violence", and that he was not convinced the teenager had any real remorse for taking a life.*

*After he was sentenced, Reilly taunted his victim's family from the dock with the words: "Fifteen years ... no bother." (Howie 2007)*

## Policy

- 3.34 The Inverclyde Initiative aimed to build on the success of previous initiatives in Scotland and elsewhere. Within Strathclyde Police there have been in recent years a number of initiatives developed to address youth offending and gang activity at the community level. For

example, Operation Reclaim in 2004, Operation Phoenix in 2007 and the Enhanced Policing Plan in 2008 which built on the principles of the success of the Glasgow City Centre Policing Plan.

- 3.35 Operation Reclaim was a partnership initiative set up in 2004 initially to tackle gang fighting, territorialism, anti-social behaviour and racially-motivated crime in the Red Road area of Glasgow. Since then it has been on-going in the surrounding areas of Springburn, Sighthill, Barmulloch and Royston. It focused on educating young people to the dangers they were exposing themselves to and providing diversionary activities (mainly football) in a safe environment.
- 3.36 Operation Phoenix was introduced in the Greater Easterhouse area of Strathclyde in 2007 and was focused on tackling the issues of territoriality, anti-social behaviour and gang activity. The aim was to provide a 7-week programme of activities that would encourage integration in a safe and fun environment to reduce barriers between young people and the police and perhaps more importantly to help build positive relationships between the young people for the ten territorial areas in Greater Easterhouse.
- 3.37 The Enhanced Policing Plan incorporated many of the principles of good practice identified in these two initiatives and the principles of intensive policing utilised in the policing of Glasgow City Centre. It aimed to reduce youth offending including alcohol abuse, gang fighting, knife crime and anti-social behaviour, and to reduce fear of crime and build public reassurance about it in their area. It involved, for example, high-visibility policing, increased community engagement with young people in schools and clubs, and a programme of diversionary activities delivered in partnership with the CPP to support and promote positive life choices.
- 3.38 Operation Staysafe which runs in England is a coordinated effort to help protect young people and to reassure the wider public that the police are dealing with issues that are of local concern. It is targeted at ensuring that young people who are out and about on the streets late at night and deemed to be at risk of becoming a victim, or being drawn into criminal behaviour, are returned safely to their parents/guardians. Where appropriate young people are referred to other youth support



agencies such as Family Support Teams, Parenting Programmes and Alcohol Awareness Projects.

3.39 Building on these successes the Inverclyde Initiative aimed to provide in partnership with other agencies an effective alternative to an enforcement-only approach for dealing with cases of youth offending including violence, knife-, alcohol-, and gang-related crimes. It involved:

- high visibility policing in key areas at critical times;
- providing a range of lifestyle, learning and leisure information programmes for local youth;
- providing a co-ordinated approach for making appropriate referral of offenders and potential offenders to other partner agencies; and
- encouraging the uptake of diversionary activities/support programmes to establish and promote positive life choices.

3.40 Locally derived police statistics shown in Table 2 below show that during the period that the Initiative ran there was a significant drop in youth disorder calls.

**Reduction in the Number of Youth Disorder Calls Received.<sup>13</sup>**

Date From	Date To	No Youth Calls	Avg No Calls	% Reduction	Remarks
03/04 Oct 08	28/29 Nov 08	155	17.22		
05/06 Dec 08	30/31 Jan 09	72	10.29	54%	Impact Xmas period, reduced calls
06/07 Feb 09	20/21 Mar 09	106	11.78	32%	

**Table: 2**

The figures show a reduction of 54% in youth disorder calls for the corresponding 9 periods after implementation of Phase 1. This extremely

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<sup>13</sup> The impact of the Inverclyde Initiative was measured by analysing the youth disorder calls received by Strathclyde Police command & control system STORM (system for tasking and organising resource management). All calls from members of the public are routed to one of three central call centres where an incident is created, passed to the respective sub-divisional controller and a police unit actioned; in accordance with call priority.

The areas identified for the Initiative were MMW 3 & 4 (multi member wards), Inverclyde North & South; however our system analysis is based upon sub-divisional beats which do not correspond exactly to the MMW structure.

encouraging figure should be tempered with the caveat that the period fell within the peak winter festive months when 'street' activity might be expected to decrease in any case. The second period after Phase 2 shows a reduction of 32% which may represent a more 'normal' mean result than the Phase 1 figure.

## CHAPTER FOUR THE INVERCLYDE INITIATIVE

### Introduction

- 4.1 The Inverclyde Initiative is an innovative approach to tackling youth offending in the MMW<sup>14</sup> 3 and 4, Inverclyde North and South of the Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow area. The purpose of the Inverclyde Initiative was:

*'To ensure the safety of children and vulnerable young people in Inverclyde and to make a positive impact on the quality of life within our communities'. (Strathclyde Police, Inverclyde Initiative Brief)*

It was developed around the themes of child protection and reducing youth offending.

- 4.2 It built on the success of a recent multi-agency Anti-Vandalism Project fronted by Strathclyde Police in Inverclyde. The anti-vandalism campaign had demonstrated the efficacy of a multi-agency approach and also highlighted how the local media could be used advantageously in disseminating and harnessing community support for such initiatives.
- 4.3 A multi-agency approach to a problem that enforcement alone had not discouraged was developed and a media strategy negotiated. The intent of the Initiative was, in a 'real time'<sup>15</sup> situation, to challenge anti-social and violent behaviour, raise awareness of the risk of such behaviour and provide information and advice on alternative life choices.
- 4.4 Its aims were, in 'real time', to:
- reduce the number of child victims of crime
  - reduce the levels of youth crime and anti-social behaviour
  - promote a multi-agency approach to addressing the safety of young people

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<sup>14</sup> MMW – Multi Member Wards.

<sup>15</sup> 'real time' in this context is a live process where within an hour of a young person being removed from a hotspot area and taken to a safe environment they are given restorative style counselling in the presence of a parent or guardian, and then given an opportunity to sample alternative lifestyle choices as opposed to the current bureaucratic process which can take up to 4 weeks and does not include offering alternative lifestyle choices.

- provide long-term sustainable solutions by
  - encouraging parental involvement
  - developing innovative methods based on early intervention and diversion
  - introducing young people to alternative positive messages and opportunities to increase their life chances.

### **The Plan**

- 4.5 The plan was evidence based on policing experience to engage positively with young people in the early evening on Fridays and Saturdays, to prevent and divert them from becoming involved in anti-social and alcohol/gang related behaviours later that same evening.
- 4.6 It was reliant on buy-in from the various agencies who work with young people in the Inverclyde Area. This itself was a difficult task as the organisations and agencies involved normally operate Monday to Friday within a 9am to 5pm time frame and a lack of funding for paying staff overtime had to be overcome. The Initiative was planned to run at the times when young people were out and about on the streets. Nonetheless support from the partnership agencies was forthcoming, encouraged by the innovative plan presented by Strathclyde Police.
- 4.7 Agreement was reached and resources within the partner agencies reallocated to provide the necessary support for the pilot of the Initiative. This took place in November 2008 and its success for all involved in the planning, organising and delivery of the Initiative was such that the partners were prepared to support the police in running the Initiative again over the festive period and into January 2009. The Initiative ran on the following weekends:
- Phase 1: 18:00-23:00; 21/22 & 28/29 Nov 08
  - Phase 2: 18:00-23:00; 23/24 & 30/31 Jan 09

### **The Venue**

- 4.8 One of the first issues that needed to be addressed was a location for hosting the Safety Zone, and the local Further Education College, the James Watt College, agreed to provide facilities for this. The Safety Zone was the hub of activity for the Initiative. This is where the counselling, information and diversionary activities were hosted on the evenings the Initiative ran. There were additional synergies with this particular partnership as the James Watt College, the principal further education provider in the area, saw the Inverclyde Initiative as a

potential referral route for young people into courses run by the college.

### **The Partners**

- 4.9 Partner agencies represented included: the James Watt College; the NHS School Team; Inverclyde Council, Inverclyde Education and Social Care; Careers Scotland; Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Community Safety; Inverclyde Leisure; Art & Drama; Port Glasgow Boxing Club; the British Army; Army Cadets; and Air Cadets.

### **Operational Plan**

- 4.10 There were two quite different strands to this Initiative: Volunteers and Referrals. Volunteers are those young people who after being encountered on the streets and provided with information about the Initiative chose to attend, and Referrals are those who were found to be engaging in anti-social or risky behaviour who were taken to the Safety Zone. The two processes are explained in detail below.

### **Volunteers**

- 4.11 Police officers and community wardens out in the pre-determined hotspot areas for anti-social behaviour were provided with information cards about the Initiative and any young people they came into contact with were made aware of what was going on at the Safety Zone and encouraged to attend. If the young person/s were keen to go parents were contacted by the police for permission to take them to the James Watt College.
- 4.12 Volunteers are young people who were found not to be engaged in anti-social behaviour, not to have been drinking, not in possession of drugs, and not to be carrying any weapons. They were, on the other hand, hanging around on the streets with nothing much to do and thereby precipitated calls to the police from the public about 'youths loitering' and 'youths causing annoyance'.
- 4.13 On arriving at the Safety Zone they were checked in and invited to explore the various information stalls and activities that were on offer. They could speak to a range of experts on issues of health, education, career prospects and educational opportunities; also to representatives from the Strathclyde Fire and Rescue about the dangers from fire and fire-raising; and to the army on entry and career possibilities. It was also possible to try out/engage in various activities such as football, boxing and to play computer games in the chill-out room. Information and workshops on Arts, Music and Drama were also accessible.

## **Referrals**

- 4.14 There was another process that ran in tandem with the volunteer process. This process involved young people who had been brought to the attention of the police because of their engagement in anti-social behaviour, alcohol/drug abuse or were considered at 'risk' in relation to the location in which they were found or people they were associating with. Young people in this category who were not charged with serious offences were brought to the Safety Zone and their parents were called and asked to attend.
- 4.15 Those charged with more serious offences were taken to a Police Station and not brought to the Safety Zone that night. However, on release they were invited along with their parents to attend the safety zone at the next opportunity if it was felt appropriate.

## **Chill Zone**

- 4.16 The referrals were also logged in and searched on arrival at the Safety Zone – weapons and alcohol were confiscated and put on display. After being checked in they were sent into a 'Chill Zone' where trained youth workers and mediators engaged with them until their parents/guardians arrived. The Chill Zone was a room designed to reduce anxiety and stress and had soft lighting, music and computer games.

## **Counselling**

- 4.17 Counselling was carried out in a private room and consisted of the referred young person, their parent/guardian, 3 counsellors – 1 each from the Police and Inverclyde Council, and a victim of knife crime who gave a personal testimony. The counselling began with a police officer asking the young person to explain to their parent(s)/guardian(s) why they were there. Perhaps surprisingly, all young people confessed truthfully to their parent(s)/guardian(s) about what they had been doing prior to being taken to the Safety Zone. They then progressed to counselling by restorative justice trained police officers on the dangers of alcohol and knife crime and the risks they were putting themselves and others at by their wayward behaviour particularly so in an area identified as a 'high risk' disorder hotspot. Parents were made aware through information provided by the Inverclyde Council Mediator/Counsellor of the impact that ASBOs, ABCs and SSSTs<sup>16</sup> can have on tenancies: at the extreme end of the

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<sup>16</sup> ASBO – Anti-social Behaviour Order; ABC – Anti-social Behaviour Contract; SSST – Short Scottish Secure Tenancies

scale families could lose their tenancy. Finally, before going through into the Lifestyle, Learning and Leisure arena of the Safety Zone the referred young people met with Mr John Muir, the father of murdered Damien Muir, who read a statement about how knife crime had affected his family when they lost their son to a mindless, unprovoked knife attack.

### **Lifestyle, Learning and Leisure Arena**

4.18 This arena provided an unstructured and informal opportunity for young people to seek out information on careers, health and education and on leisure activities as well as trying out or taking part in some sporting activities. The aim of this arena is to provide a Safety Zone that:

- raises awareness with regard to *Lifestyle*;
- offers access to *Leisure*; and
- creates the opportunity for *Learning*.

### **Follow-up Intervention**

4.19 This Initiative also ran in conjunction with other initiatives specifically designed as a follow-up to catch the most-at-risk young people brought into the Inverclyde Initiative. Details of all referrals from the Inverclyde Initiative were passed to Inverclyde Council's Safer Communities who run diversionary and behavioural change initiatives - Guardian Angel and New Horizons - and also Strathclyde Fire and Rescue who run a Fire Reach Programme. These follow-up initiatives provide a programme of on-going support for up to 40 people to help them make the transition to safer life choices.

4.20 The whole programme was supported with a media strategy to inform the local community of the Initiative and its agenda. The media strategy was developed to:

- increase public reassurance by advising the communities of Inverclyde that the agencies concerned were pro-actively seeking new and innovative ways of developing public services
- increase parental responsibility by stressing the importance of knowing the whereabouts of their children and the activities they were engaging in
- foster good citizenship amongst the young people by advising them through safety messages of their responsibilities as citizens

- encourage the adoption of positive alternatives to substance misuse, gang activity and anti-social behaviour amongst young people by advising them on what these alternatives are
- engender support for the Initiative to assist in any subsequent bids for funding future ventures.

4.21 Although this Initiative was concerned mainly with youth crime and disorder in Wards 3 and 4 in the Inverclyde Area, the young people who attended either as referrals or volunteers came from the wider geographical areas of Port Glasgow, Greenock, Gourock and Inverkip.



### Introduction

- 5.1 The entire community, parents, young people, police and partner agencies, all are concerned at the level and range of youth anti-social behaviour and 'risky' activities that are blighting the communities within the Inverclyde Area. A recent evening conference on Knife-crime, organised and hosted by the Greenock Telegraph and held in Greenock Town Hall, was attended by 500 or more local residents. It was a moving and informative evening which served to highlight both the level of concern about youth offending and knife crime in particular but also to highlight the commitment and community support for tackling knife crime in the Inverclyde Area. The Greenock Telegraph states that *'youth crime costs Scotland £92 million every year – which could be better spent on providing facilities'* (28/1/09:6)

### Media Support for the Initiative

- 5.2 The Inverclyde Initiative was strongly supported by the Greenock Telegraph. It ran extensive coverage during the period in which the Initiative ran and hailed it as *'a ground breaking initiative to combat youth disorder'* (26/1/09:1). The newspaper also ran a campaign in tandem with the Initiative to **'Keep our Kids Safe'** and **'Wipe Out Youth Disorder'**.
- 5.3 The Telegraph reported that *'[y]outh disorder has plagued Inverclyde for years and that during the Initiative around 70 litres of booze worth about £600 was confiscated'* (Greenock Telegraph, 26/1/09:5). Councillor Moran is quoted as saying *'[w]e know anti-social behaviour is something the people of Inverclyde are particularly concerned about'* (Greenock Telegraph, 27/1/09). Similarly Mr John Muir is reported to have expressed his concern saying that *'[t]his issue is nothing new and - contrary to suggestions – knife crime is not solely restricted to gang warfare.'* He campaigns for tougher sentences for knife crime offenders following the death of his son and strongly advocates that we *'need action on knife crime now'* (Greenock Telegraph, 26/1/09:9)
- 5.4 The newspaper also reports that while the police will continue to enforce the law this particular Initiative aims *'to give young people a chance to turn their lives around'* (Greenock Telegraph, 26/1/09:4). The purpose of the Initiative is to provide *'a safe environment – a neutral*

*place – where young workers can talk to kids and their parents'* (Greenock Telegraph, 26/1/09:6) in an attempt to prevent these young people becoming victims or an accused person.

- 5.5 The paper also highlighted that some of the local organisations had recorded an increase in interest. For example, they quote the local Colour Sergeant from the Army recruiting office as saying:

*'we have been inundated with enquiries since the pilot in November.....I have been running a "Try before you buy work experience" – a five day work experience to get an idea of what the army is like..... kids.....need a bit of guidance.....[m]any of them don't have great Standard Grades or qualifications and feel there are no great opportunities out there'. (Greenock Telegraph, 27/1/09:7)*

So far some 35 young people have been on such an experience and at the time of reporting in the newspaper - 27th January, 09 - a further 18 were on one of these experience camps.

- 5.6 Inverclyde Council's social protection team also run youth support initiatives such as Operation Guardian Angel which provides diversionary workshops for teenagers. According to the local newspaper these workshops include *'football, badminton, weightlifting, playing the drums, and beauty treatments'* (Greenock Telegraph, 27/1/09:5), which they state some young people referred from the Inverclyde Initiative have already become involved in.

### **Policing in the Community**

- 5.7 The police are aware that many young people lead complex lives and face many problems and were concerned with raising awareness of the risks to which they exposed themselves and others by their anti-social behaviour. Such anti-social behavioural patterns also have the effect of increasing fear of crime in the wider community.
- 5.8 Typically they report Friday and Saturday nights as being peak times for youth disorder. They identify the 13-16 year old age group as the most problematic, although they acknowledge that children as young as 8 and up to 18 have come to their attention because of anti-social, alcohol and gang related crimes and activities. From early evening up

until around 10/10.30pm most of the disorder they face comes from the youths.

- 5.9 They report that at these peak times youth disorder calls which are normally around 50/60 soar at the weekend to some 200 plus.
- 5.10 However, they also recognise that fear of crime has an effect on the reporting of crime and that with the advent of mobile phones there may be more of an immediacy effect on the part of the public. For example, *'an elderly woman walking her dog alone at night sees a group of young people hanging around and concludes that it must be trouble brewing so calls the police'* (#2). In some cases it is no more than a group of young people standing talking!
- 5.11 Nonetheless the police are aware of a changing culture amongst young people that involves the taking of alcohol and knife carrying which is potentially a deadly combination.

### **Young People's Views of their Communities**

- 5.12 Young people's main complaints are with the lack of or unsuitable facilities that are available in their local community. While the young people who participated in this study had a range of interests they unfortunately shared a limited and rather negative experience of youth provision. There are evidently good facilities within the Inverclyde area and a lot of good will and intent in organisations to provide activities, but the 13-16 age group in particular feel they have been forgotten.
- 5.13 There was strong criticism about the lack of information on what was available in the area: *'don't know where to go to find out what is on.....you might get information in the job centre or ..... maybe at the waterfront.....no, I don't know where I'd go.....don't know where to go'* (#7, #8, #11). It was suggested that maybe there could be a youth newsletter or the local paper could advertise all the local youth clubs that are on.
- 5.14 They are also concerned about the social environment they are living in. Some of them talk of not liking the other young people in their own neighbourhoods because they *'are pure mental'* (#7) and in other cases

they are simply *'just not nice people'* (#10) who get involved in *'all sorts of stuff'* (#8, #9), and *'we don't drink'* (#12)

- 5.15 Furthermore attractive facilities that were available could not be accessed by all youths because of gang and territorial issues, because of a lack of transport, or because these facilities were too costly. The youngsters claimed *'we can't use it because we will get battered if we go down there'* (#7, #8, #11, #13). They claimed that even if the police or community wardens were to be there they still wouldn't go and pleaded for facilities in their own immediate locale to be upgraded.
- 5.16 The main concern regarding accessing youth activities was travelling. Despite the criticisms about place – their local neighbourhood – many of the young people were reluctant to leave it which reflects a strong association with place and identity.
- 5.17 Community wardens were also criticised by some of the young people who viewed them as useless: because *'all they can do is call the police – they are useless'* and *'they boss you around too much and no matter where I go or what I am doing they are always on at you'* (#7, #9, #12). A number of young people, mainly but not exclusively boys, stated they would be reluctant to be involved in anything that was to be organised or overseen by the police or community wardens.
- 5.18 On the other hand some young people had a more positive view of community wardens and enjoyed the football that they were responsible for organising and running because *'it was safer to be there'* (#11) when it was an organised and supervised activity.
- 5.19 Young people in the 13-16 age group identified with a more grown-up culture, a café style culture, which was not catered for. They find themselves in a youth provision hiatus – wanting separate clubs from younger children. This should not be interpreted as a complete rejection of younger children, more a realisation that there is a need for them to access separate provision some of the time. Indeed many of the young people in the study reported that they did hang around with younger people because there was no one in their own age group where they lived – *'it is all younger people round where I say – I'm the oldest.....the others are about 12 or 13, maybe 15'* (#8).
- 5.20 While the cost of some facilities was an issue for some young people the majority were not overly concerned although they would all like

facilities to be low cost – admission cost of around ‘£1 or £2 or free’ (#7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13).

- 5.21 It also emerged that these young people had very limited horizons. For example, attending courses on offer in Paisley, Largs or Glasgow was rejected: *‘wouldn’t travel there ..... even if it had something I wanted...it is too far away’* (#7). Travelling relatively short distances was not an option. One of the young people spoke of how *‘the sports course was on in Largs’* and complained bitterly *‘there is nothing like it here and there should be more of that kind of thing’*(#7). However, when asked why they wouldn’t travel the answer was *‘just won’t’* (#7) and when we enquired if cost was the issue the reply was *‘no – there should just be more of that here’* (#7). It was blatantly clear that these young people are not prepared to travel outside of the Greenock area to access education or employment.

### Local Facilities

- 5.22 Many of the young people had previously been members of local youth clubs or groups like guides or scouts in the area in which they live but they now wanted something different. In particular they stated they wanted somewhere to *‘hang out’* (#7, #8, #12), somewhere where they could be treated like *‘adults and not like kids’*(#7, #8,#9, #12).
- 5.23 Ideally they would like a place where they can meet to play their music and not be corralled into organised activities. One young girl comments *‘I wish they would put a door on the bombies<sup>17</sup> to keep the draught out and then we could play our music in peace and it wouldn’t be so cold’* (#12).
- 5.24 This does not mean that activities were not requested, but that they would like a multi-purpose facility where they could choose whether to sit and talk, play music or take part in other organised activity if they felt like it.
- 5.25 Girls frequently made reference to wanting access to sports facilities - gym and basketball, and some were also interested in football or make-up or fashion classes, dance classes, music and drama.

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<sup>17</sup> The bombies – turned out to be old disused bomb shelters situated in waste ground beside reservoirs in the Larkfield district of the town.

- 5.26 Boys were mostly concerned with physical activities especially access to a gym and football facilities and to a lesser extent computer games. In fact one youngster complained that *'the skateboard park had better provision than our local pitches – we've not got floodlighting'* (#13).
- 5.27 All young people complained that in most of their local areas there were none or few of the facilities they would like although they did recognise that some of the facilities were available in the wider Inverclyde area.

### **Parents'/Guardians' Concerns**

- 5.28 Many of the concerns of the young people were shared by their parents/guardians in relation to the lack of locally available and accessible facilities. They also shared the young people's negative views about the social environment in which they lived.
- 5.29 Parents were concerned about the influence of local groups of youths on their own children in their neighbourhoods. One of the fathers commented that the people who live here are *'trouble, always have been and always will be and I don't want my children hanging out with them.....this area has always been like this.....ask anyone from around here and they will tell you that'* (#17).
- 5.30 Other parents were concerned that the lack of attractive things to do meant that their children were out on the streets with their pals. They stated that cost and access to facilities was not the problem. It was simply that *'[he/she] didn't want to do anything that was on offer. [He/she] used to go to various clubs when they were younger but once they turned 13 they wanted something different – and you can't force them to go to a club if they don't want to go'* (#18)!
- 5.31 Other parents who were dependent on public transport cite this as a problem for accessing some facilities because their particular neighbourhoods do not have frequent and reliable bus services – *'the last bus up here is 5.30 at night. After that the nearest you can get is a bit down the road and I don't think that is very safe for a young person on their own. I don't drive and taxis are too costly'* (#11).
- 5.32 One of the fathers expressed the view shared by many parents: *'I feel sorry for young people - there is nowhere for them to go, nothing that they want to do, and when they are out on the streets in a group of more than 3 they are stopped and challenged by the police. Three or*

*more it would appear constitutes a gang – that is ludicrous.....of course young people want to hang around with their mates’ (#18).*

- 5.33 Some parents were of the opinion that there was a need to *‘distinguish between the good kids and bad kids – a need to stop tarring all young people with the same brush’* (#11, #12, #13, #14, #15, #16, #18). This criticism was not targeted at any one organisation or the police but more generally at the entire community.
- 5.34 However, there was also a conflict issue running through their conversations because on some occasions parents were concerned about individual members of the group of friends their children were running around with: *‘the \*\*\*\*\* family, well it is a well known name in the Greenock area.....and when I heard he was one of the group.....I said you better keep way from him.....and she said.....then I won’t have any friends.....you are just as bad as the police.....he is alright really.....you just make judgements’* (#18). This concern is tempered by a realisation amongst the parents that *‘you have to let them live; you can’t keep them in all of the time’* (#12, #18) but it didn’t stop them from worrying.

### **Partner Agency Concerns**

- 5.35 Partner agencies were less concerned about the perceived lack of activities within the Inverclyde area and claim that there is a range of clubs and activities available but that some young people choose not get involved. This highlights the need for the voices of the young people to be heard and indicates that there is a disparity between what is provided and what is desired!
- 5.36 The partner agencies’ main concerns were, like the police, about raising the young people’s awareness of the risks to their own health and well-being and to the wider community from their engagement in anti-social, gang, and alcohol-related activities. They were also keen to promote what is available and to stress that most of the activities on offer are well attended. *‘We have to let the young people know that we are here for them – we are not out to get them. We can provide them with support and advice.’* (#20, #22, #23, #24).
- 5.37 Consequently, it would appear that there is a group of *‘harder to reach young people’* (#19, #20, #23, #24) whose interests are not being fully met. Their interests are less with mainstream youth activities but there are sterling efforts being made to engage with them through activities

such as Guardian Angel, New Horizons, The Prince's Trust, and Firereach.

- 5.38 Agency representative and youth workers were also concerned by the level of acceptance of the plight young people found themselves in. Young people they felt were too accepting of their lot: *'they suffered from low self-esteem and too often felt that because they had been in trouble in the past they had no future'* (#1, #2, #3, #19, #20, #26, #28). It is clear that there is an urgent need for a more structured and positive approach to youth engagement.



### Introduction

- 6.1 The Initiative's aim was to promote change through an information and opportunities approach. It was more concerned with raising awareness of the risks for young people; alerting parents to the activities that their children were engaging in; and promoting the opportunities for change. This chapter examines how the Initiative has changed and informed parents and young people as well as highlighting the scope for further change.

### Promoting Change with Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

- 6.2 Parents whose children were taken to the Initiative as referrals were for the most part grateful that they had been alerted to the activities that their children had been involved in – *'I'm glad \*\*\*\* was picked up by the police. That might sound bad to you but I didn't know what was going on and it could have been too late before I found out. \*\*\*\*\* is not a bad person and wasn't doing anything wrong but was with the wrong crowd. Who knows where that could have gone. \*\*\*\* doesn't appreciate how dangerous stuff can be. (#11, #12, #15, #18).*
- 6.3 Some of the parents were shocked to discover what their children had been up to. Others were supportive of the Initiative and hopeful that their children would now be more aware of the risks they were exposing themselves to and listen to advice. Only one or two of the parents we spoke to expressed discontent with the approach taken as they believed that their children were good children and had just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- 6.4 However, the latter group when probed supported the Initiative as they could all identify with someone they knew for whom it would have been beneficial: *'my \*\*\*\*\* didn't need to be there, it was a disgrace taking \*\*\*\*\* there but I could see how \*\*\*\*\* (a relative) could benefit from being taken there.....I told \*\*\*\* about it but I don't know if they took \*\*\*\*\* down.....I hope they did because \*\*\*\*\* is right on the edge and it could go either way .....you know be alright or take a turn for the worse.....'* (#16, #17).
- 6.5 The need for something like this, if not the actual Initiative itself, was clearly evident, to raise awareness of risks but also to promote or

showcase the opportunities that were available for young people in the Inverclyde area.

- 6.6 However, some of the parents were very critical of the current level of youth activities in the area. Costs of activities can be expensive especially if there is more than one child and they all want to do something two or three times per week at £5 a time. They were also particularly vocal about the difficulty in accessing suitable facilities/premises for young people to use. One of the mothers' stories, recounted below, is indicative of the difficulties willing parents face in providing leisure facilities/clubs in their neighbourhoods for the children and young people who live there:

*'I was willing and so were a couple of other people to run a club here (in her neighbourhood) but we couldn't get premises. We were told that we could apply for a grant but we needed more people involved. We discovered that there was another group in a similar position so we contacted them. We collectively thought that if we got together we could apply for a grant and run clubs on alternative nights in the different neighbourhoods. However, it then became apparent that this was not an option; we could only apply for the grant in one location. That was not going to happen as we both wanted something for the young people in each of our own areas. So it fell through' (#11).*

- 6.7 Bureaucracy came in for much criticism. Parents report that there is a lot of good will and commitment in the various communities to support young people but turning that commitment into successful action is almost impossible. They were also very critical of the '*costs*', '*opening times*' and the '*planning of facilities*' in the community – '*they don't consult the people enough .... they just give you what they want.....and you are supposed to be grateful*' (#11, #13,#15,#16,#18). For example, football pitches, good pitches that were just up the road, had no floodlighting which meant that '*children could only use them at weekends during the day and in the summer months*' (#11). This was felt to be a waste of public monies as well as an example of poor planning.
- 6.8 Many of the parents were annoyed at the way in which young people were treated. They had nowhere to go, they were not listened to, and

they were all tarred with the one brush: if they were out on the street they were trouble irrespective of what they were doing.

### **Promoting Change with Young People**

- 6.9 The reaction of young people to the Initiative was for the most part very positive. They all felt it was a good idea and provided a safe place to be. *'You need somewhere like this. I think it should be on all the time. I like it and I would come if it was on again but it should have more stuff.....or different stuff'* (#7, #8, #9). While the activities on offer at the James Watt College were welcomed and the majority of young people said that they would attend the Initiative or something similar if it were to be put on again, it was clearly evident that there is also a need to meet the demands of the young people at the local community level.
- 6.10 However, not all of them would be prepared to go on a regular basis. There were a number of reasons for this including issues of transport; lack of activities to attract them; dislike of policed activities; and a dislike of organised activities. They would however, sometimes *'drop in for information .... to find out what was going on and that..'* (#7, #8, #10, #12) and it would be dependent on whether their friends came how often they came: *'I suppose I would come if \*\*\*\*\* came'* (#7, #11, #12). However, they were adamant that it needed to be varied if it were to become a regular event both in the information that was available and the activities that were on offer. Foam discos were a favourite and young people would like to see them run about once a month. Visits out of town were also a highlight, especially to places like the X-scape at Braehead and the Cinema in Glasgow.
- 6.11 Young people were eager to see the Initiative being run in different locations within the town. It should be taken into the *'schemes as well and not just run at the James Watt College all the time.....my mates wouldn't go to it there'* (#7, #8, #11, #12). There was a smallish group who were adamant that they would not attend any activities if the police were present. This highlights the sensitivities between the police and some of the young people in the area as well as signalling the importance of other partner organisations taking the lead role in the provision of future events to embrace the wider youth populations.
- 6.12 Many of the young people expressed disbelief at the amount of alcohol and weapons that had been confiscated and put on display. They reported that not only were they shocked but it made some of them feel *'scared'* and others reported it made them feel *'bad'* (#9).

- 6.13 Young people who had been referred also commented on the effect the counselling had had on them. It made them think and reflect on their behaviour and some said it made them *'cry'*. Others reported it had made them think *'cos before you didn't think ..... You didn't really know what you were doing. No one really cared'* (#8, #12). However, now that they had attended the initiative it had made them realise what they were doing and that they could change: *'it makes you want to try and do better'* (#7, #8, #9, #13).
- 6.14 One of the participants reported that the Initiative had completely changed her life around. She had thought that nothing good could happen because she had *'been in trouble with the police and had a record an' all that'* (#8). Now she felt good about herself and much more positive about her future. She is involved in training through the Prince's Trust and involved in sport which had made her realise that *'people were interested in her'* and helping her to help herself. *'It just makes you feel great to know that people want to help you'*. She reports that *'I feel brilliant now and want if possible in the future to be able to help other young people and prevent/encourage them not to go down the road that I took because it only leads you into trouble and you feel really down and bad about yourself all of the time'* (#8).

### **Promoting Change in Agency/Service Delivery**

- 6.15 The partner agencies were keen to promote the current Youth provision in the area. They report that they provide quite a diverse range of activities and there are actually *'a lot of things going on'* (#3, #5, #6, #14, #20, #22, #24). Youth service providers and workers report that the real issue is in *'raising awareness of what is available and in encouraging young people to become involved'* (#2, #14, #24, #28). They contest the perception of facilities such as schools being under-utilised after normal school hours. Many of the local schools *'are at, or nearly at, full capacity in terms of lets'* (#6) in the evenings. It was also pointed out that while the Inverclyde Academy was a new facility the *'old lets from the 2 schools which closed have transferred their community activities to the new school'* (#6).
- 6.16 There is a collective acceptance that few if any of the statutory/community/voluntary organisations in the area provide youth activities on Friday or Saturday evenings. However it is recognised that this needs to be addressed but that there are barriers to doing so: contractual and funding issues are cited as the two main

barriers for providing flexible/extended provision of youth activities. Statutory service providers' employee contracts effectively mean that any weekend work qualifies as overtime and they simply don't have the funds.

- 6.17 The statutory services are focused on '*providing services for the whole community*' (#6, #22, #28) and while sports facilities are open in the evenings Monday to Thursday when there is a high demand for facilities, they close early on Friday and Saturday evenings when demand for youth facilities is high.
- 6.18 The evidence suggests that youth workers/providers are trying to engage with and meet the needs of young people but it would appear that there is a mismatch between what they think young people want and what the young people are saying that they want. Emphasis on delivery of service is on structured activities: to improve health, life chance or employment prospects whereas young people want a '*café style environment to chill out in*' (#7, #8, #12).

## CHAPTER SEVEN EVALUATING THE INITIATIVE

### Introduction

7.1 The chapter examines the evidence on the efficacy of the Inverclyde Initiative in changing young people's attitudes and behaviours. The Initiative was premised on engaging pro-actively with young people and their families by providing information and advice on how to adopt positive life choices. This chapter discusses the findings of Strathclyde Police's consultation questionnaire on the services provided at the James Watt College; the partnership agencies' perceptions; public support as reported in the local newspaper; and the perceptions of young people and their parent(s)/guardian(s) on the effectiveness of the Initiative in encouraging young people to adopt positive life choices.

### Strathclyde Police's Evaluation of the Initiative

7.2 Young people who attended the Initiative were invited to complete a questionnaire – Inverclyde Initiative 'Have Your Say' Consultation Questionnaire (see Appendix 8). In total 88 questionnaires were completed and the results of this are outlined below.

7.3 The table below, Table 3, shows the gender split, range of ages and ethnic origin of the young people who attended the Initiative either as a volunteer, referral or were escorted to the Initiative by Strathclyde Police. The majority of attendees were volunteers, who were young white Scottish males in the 12-15 year old age group.

#### Profile of Youth Attendees at the Inverclyde Initiative<sup>18</sup>

	Gender	Age					Ethnic Origin		Attended Safety Zone		
		Under	12-	16-	18-	White	Other	Voluntary	Escorted	Referred	
		12	15	17	25	Scottish	White Scottish				by the Police
Male	72	3	59	7	3	71	1	47	19	6	
Female	16	0	14	2	0	15	1	11	5	0	

Table 3.

<sup>18</sup> Statistics were drawn from the results of an internal Consultation Survey carried out by Strathclyde Police during the period in which Phase 2 of the Initiative ran. Phase 2 is the subject matter of this report.

- 7.4 As stated previously there were 2 phases to this Initiative. Phase 1, the pilot phase, ran in November 2008; Phase 2 was brought in to run over the festive period. Table 2 below gives an overview of the number of young people who were engaged with over both phases.

**Attendance at the Initiative.**

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
Referrals	41	48	89
Volunteers	163	138	301
Total	204	186	390

**Table 4.**

- 7.5 In total some 390 young people attended the Initiative, the majority (301) of whom were volunteers, which serves to highlight the need for services for young people on Friday and Saturday evenings.

**Attendees' Satisfaction with the Initiative.**

	Satisfaction as a %
Options on offer were of interest	77
Event was of benefit to young people	100
Agreement to take part in future events	73

**Table 5.**

- 7.6 Table 5 above shows that of those in attendance at the Initiative and who filled in a questionnaire 100% report that the event was of benefit to young people. Over three-quarters (77%) agreed that the options on offer were of interest to them and just under three-quarters (73%) indicated that they would be willing to take part in future similar events.
- 7.7 The majority of the young people indicated that their main interests in what was provided in the Safety Zone at the James Watt College were as follows: Army Cadets (15), Army (6), Fire Safety (6), Football (4), Health (3), Air Cadets (2) and 1 boy (each) was interested in Boxing, Careers, Games, Internet Bus, Sports and Everything. Girls' interests were in Fire Safety (4), Health (3), Boxing (2) and 1 girl (each) was interested in Army Cadets, College Info., and Games.
- 7.8 Young people also indicated that they would like to see the following provision being made available in Inverclyde: Football (26), Youth

Club Provision (7), Sport (4), Paintball (4), Boxing (3), Everything (3), Skate Park (3), Cadets (2), Music (2), and Go-Karting (1).

- 7.9 It is also noted that the *'Inverclyde Initiative helped the police to gather vital information about how and where youths get alcohol'* and that during the period of the Initiative *'several adults were arrested for drinking in the street and for drug offences; 20 anti-social behaviour orders were issued for drinking in the street; 2 people were charged under the misuse of drugs act; 2 cases of loitering, 1 breach of bail, 1 person was put on a warrant and 82 weapon searches and 21 drug searches were carried out'* (Greenock Telegraph, 28/1/08:6&7).

### **Media Coverage and Public Response**

- 7.10 The Greenock Telegraph also ran an on-line poll and report 91% support for the Initiative which according to a police spokesperson has *'made a significant impact on Youth Disorder: 64% reduction in the 1<sup>st</sup> week; 83% reduction in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week and 54% reduction in the subsequent weeks'* (Greenock Telegraph, 27/1/09:4). Strathclyde Police also are quoted as reporting that *'[w]e have noticed crime levels have been coming down in the area in the past few weeks, especially serious assault and attempted murders.....it may be a knock-on effect from the high levels of policing provided in the area through the Inverclyde Initiative.'* (28/1/09:7).
- 7.11 Public opinion was also reported in The Greenock Telegraph (29/1/09:8). The following is a selection from these comments which highlights support for the Initiative, more youth facilities, and calls for the Initiative in other parts of Inverclyde:

David Gallacher, 68, of Greenock, said: *'It is excellent. They complain there is nothing to do but keep causing mischief. Anything that tries to bring these youngsters back into everyday society can only be a good thing.'*

Shannon Porter, 12, of Greenock, said: *'It is good to keep young people off the streets, but I think there is enough to do if people want to. There's youth clubs everywhere in Inverclyde.'*

Billy Porter, 68, of Greenock said: *'It is a great idea, especially because the police talk to parents as well. But I don't think there's enough facilities. Inverclyde Council should be spending more money to give them somewhere to go.'*



James Wilson, 58, of Greenock said: *'I see crowds of 20 of them hanging about at 3am. You see them in the Strone and up Kilmacolm Road throwing stones at the cars and taxis. I can't see it making a difference. It is just going to be a big joke for them.'*

Janice Graham, 47, of Greenock said: *'It's a good idea. My son's 16 and I think it is good they are taken to the College and shown other things they can do. Slaemuir is getting bad - gangs are hanging about drinking on the cycle path.'*

Danielle McGowan, 20, of Port Glasgow said: *'It is good because people get into trouble hanging about. The project is good because it shows young people what else they can do and if the police bring it to the Port it will calm things down a bit.'*

- 7.12 The public support for the Initiative reported in the local press was also clearly evident at the Knife Crime Conference. The strength of public feeling was almost palpable in the Town Hall. Those in the audience who spoke were clearly concerned about youth crime and disorder in the Inverclyde area. They were also clearly supportive of the police and youth workers but the Judiciary was heavily criticised. The public opinion expressed was that the court and sentencing proceedings were not robust enough and that rehabilitation and monitoring of bail conditions were woefully inadequate.
- 7.13 There were also calls for Crimestoppers to go into the schools to promote citizenship and to *'educate young people on how to stay safe and protect themselves'* (#31).
- 7.14 A number of people expressed the view that there was also a need for parents to be made to *'take account for their (children's) actions'*. The feeling was that we live in a *'blame culture'* which it was suggested meant that some could avoid *'taking responsibility'* (#31).
- 7.15 There was a strong support for the need to *'enforce sanctions. This needs to come from the Government down. If they can stamp out smoking, why can't they stamp out knife crime?'* (#31).

- 7.16 Others stated that it was *'time we stopped glorifying the NEDS'...*and that we all *'have a public duty to inform'* (#31).
- 7.17 It was clear that the public welcomed the support and commitment of the Police and Procurator Fiscal's Office to take robust action on knife crime through the arrest and prosecution process. They also generally welcomed the support for youth and leisure services announced by the Provost. However, the overriding message was support for the campaign for tougher sentencing and sanctions for those who carry knives or engage in committing knife crimes: *'If they do the crime they should do the time and not be let off or get out on bail/licence or whatever.....'* (#31).

### **Young People, the Initiative and Change**

- 7.18 The majority of the young people that we spoke to had enjoyed their experience of the Initiative, although some reported *'I was a bit disappointed that there was not more to do'* (#7, #11). This complaint was mostly from girls who would have liked more information and access to arts and crafts or dance classes.
- 7.19 Those who had been taken or referred to the Initiative and been through the counselling process reported that it had made a difference to them – *'it makes you more aware....you just don't think, you just go out and drink'* (#7, #8). Some, as is evidenced in the case studies below, have gone on to join some of the groups such as the Boxing Club and Army Cadets as a direct result of their experience at the Initiative. Others have simply changed their patterns of behaviour and who they now hang around with.
- 7.20 In particular a number of young people reported being very moved by meeting Mr John Muir. His testimony about the murder of his son and how it has affected his family had quite an impact on the young people's perceptions and understanding of not only the danger they are exposing themselves to but the upset and trauma it causes to families. *'He made me cry.....I felt sorry for him.....you don't think about how these things can hurt other people'*(#7, #8, #9).
- 7.21 The majority of the young people in this study said that they would like to see the Initiative continued: *'aye, I think it should be on all the time'*(#7, #8). They liked having somewhere safe to go but they would like to see what was on offer varied: *'I would come all the time....but it*

*might get boring.....they would need to have different things on' (#7, #8). The feeling was that they would lose interest if it was just the same themes all of the time.*

- 7.22 Some other young people reiterated that they would be less inclined to attend on a regular basis but felt that the Initiative should be continued nonetheless as they would use it infrequently to seek advice/information from time to time. Others were disinclined to attend because of travel difficulties – in one of the areas in Larkfield the last bus to the stop nearest to the home of one young person is around 5.30pm. Transport after that ends further down the hill and he and his family don't think it is always safe to have to walk from there.

### **Case Studies of Young People and Change**

- 7.23 This section provides 4 examples of young people's experiences and how they have made lifestyle changes as a direct result of the Inverclyde Initiative.
- 7.24 Only one of the young people we spoke to had no recollection of the Inverclyde Initiative. *'I remember the police coming and going with them and then the next thing I knew was waking up in a cell – I can't remember anything.* When probed on how he had got so drunk he replied, *'someone said "there's the police" so I drank the whole bottle before they arrived so that I wouldn't get caught with it' (#13).* He knew he had been there and did attend the following week with his mother but on the initial occasion he freely admitted to being too drunk to remember. He now has changed his patterns of behaviour and claims to have given up drink. Instead of hanging around the streets like he did before he now spends time with other members of his family and friends playing computer games and sometimes organised football. He is considering a career in the armed forces.
- 7.25 One young girl who was known to the local police had felt *'there was no hope for me.....I had been in trouble, done stuff and had a record so didn't think I could do anything'.* *'I was a problem, but then I came here (Inverclyde Initiative) and it has turned me round .... I don't go out and drink on the streets anymore.....I only drink sometimes and I do that in the house now.'* Since going to the Initiative she has taken up sports and would appear to have a natural talent which is being nurtured locally. She is also on a course with the Prince's Trust and thinking about going to work for a relative with whom she had previously worked. This young girl, a confident and intelligent young woman, believes that the Inverclyde Initiative is *'brilliant.....it changed*

me' but she also identifies how it could help others. *'Having somewhere to go would stop people getting into trouble in the first place.....and my friend who is in the hospital just now with pneumonia might not have got ill if she had somewhere to go and not had to hang about out on the streets'*. She is also keen to help other young people: *if I can, aye, I'd love to dae that.....help the young ones and all that.....that would be great.....cos I can't believe the difference in me.....it's just brilliant'* (#8).

- 7.26 The Greenock Telegraph also reported on two young men who had experienced the Initiative as referrals. They had been taken to the Initiative after being found in a group of young people who were drinking in the street. Both these young men support the Initiative and believe it should be continued – *'...it's a good idea to get people off the streets and get them a job'*, although one of them did state that he did not think it would stop him drinking. They stated that they were *'...not trying to cause trouble but if people fight us we're not going to back down'*. However, one of them is considering a career in the army because *'there is more chance of me dying here getting stabbed in a fight. I might as well get paid for it in the army'* and the other one would *'rather be in a safe place.....It's been educational, I've got leaflets on how to stop smoking, the college courses and the Prince's Trust'* (Greenock Telegraph, 26/1/09:5)
- 7.27 In another article they highlighted the case of a 15-year old boy who had been a volunteer at the pilot session in November, but in January he was *'caught hanging out with the wrong crowd [and] although not engaged in any illegal activity'* was brought to the Inverclyde Initiative as a referral. They report that he *'has now joined his school's football team and goes to Youth Connections two times a week'* (Greenock Telegraph, 26/1/09:4).

## Parents

- 7.28 Parents generally welcomed the Initiative at the community level but expressed mixed views of it at a personal level. Where the differences lay were in their acceptance/understanding of how their individual children came to the attention of the police.
- 7.29 Parental views ranged from *'I am glad that the police picked .....up \*\*\*\*'* (#12, #13, #18) because *'I had no idea that was what was going on'* (#12, #18). Many of the parents who attended to collect their children reported that they thought their child was *'round at a friend's'* (#12, #16, #18). On arriving at the Initiative some parents have reported

being shocked to find out where their children had been and what they had been doing when they were picked up by the police.

- 7.30 On the other hand some parents reported that initially *'I was annoyed at getting called to the police stations'* (#13, #17) while other parents were *'concerned and worried about what had happened to their child'*(#12, #18).
- 7.31 Parents also expressed concern about the media blackout at the start of the Initiative: *'we had no information about what was going on...we didn't know the Initiative was running.....if we had known it might not have been such a shock to get a phone call saying, "This is Strathclyde Police; we have \*\*\*\*\*. Can you come to the James Watt College right away'* (#13, #17, #18).
- 7.32 Parents were also mindful that young people *'will experiment'* (#18) with, for example, alcohol, and were keen to point out that their children would not normally engage in such activities. *'I might not know exactly where \*\*\*\*\* is but they are not let out and ignored....they have to be in by a certain time and I would know if they had been doing anything really wrong'* (#18).
- 7.33 There was however, universal approval of the process and information that the young people were given at the Initiative in relation to the dangers that substance abuse and gang-/knife-carrying practices can land young people in. *'I found it really tough in the talks bit, but everyone was very nice and keen to let you know that they were there to help. That man John Muir, who lost his son, that bit was really hard...it was....really...powerful.....made you really understand. No, no.....I think it was a good thing'*. This mother went on to remark that *'things were different now, her \*\*\*\*\* was never a bad person but had obviously been in a position where it could have gone either way.....now \*\*\*\*\* doesn't go out on the streets and does other things'* (#13).

### **Organisations' Experiences of Supporting the Inverclyde Initiative**

- 7.34 Most of the organisations who were in attendance at the Initiative reported that they were generally in contact with young people on a daily basis through their work. Most had links to the schools and provided services in relation to careers, further education and health related issues including sexual health, general health, and substance abuse.

- 7.35 The Initiative, they reported, allowed for engaging with young people in a different format: *'it is much less formal at the James Watt College; we can talk to individuals or young people and their pals or parents and we can give them specific advice rather than the general, more structured approach we deliver in school'* (#26). The perception is that it *'encouraged young people to talk about issues that they perhaps were less confident to talk about in a formal or group environment'* #20). This was identified as a positive experience for both young people and their parents.
- 7.36 Changing young people's outlooks on life was something that they identified as a journey. In other words the Initiative was a step on a journey – *'for some it might be a first step; for others it might have a more profound effect'* (#20). Therefore the organisation representatives feel there is a need to have continued support or follow-on events to assist young people in *'continuing to making the transition from risky behaviours into more positive ones'* (#20, #23, #26).
- 7.37 While most of the organisations were extremely supportive of the ethos of the Initiative, delivering a service at the events in the James Watt College was extremely difficult. As previously mentioned lack of funding and contractual issues were central to this. Resources are stretched in most organisations and in some cases more inflexible than others. The majority of these organisations were able with the *'goodwill and support of the organisations and individual staff members who volunteered'* (#19, #21, #23, #25, #27, #29, #30) to work at the Initiative to *'juggle resources'*. Their main concern is that while they would in principle support future initiatives they may not be able to do so unless funding can be secured – *'there is only so far that you can stretch resources and people might not be willing to volunteer all of the time'* (#19, #23, #26).
- 7.38 The police are a 24-hour, 7-days a week service and so for them it was much easier than it was for their partner organisations to redirect resources to support the running of the Initiative. *'It was simply a matter of reorganising the shifts'* (#1, #2, #4).
- 7.39 Everyone has identified the need to secure funding to support the continued running of this initiative; especially if they are to meet the service demand that they believe exists among the young people of Inverclyde.

## Case Study of Reactions to the Initiative

7.40 Below is a construction of the collective voices of the organisations who contributed to the Inverclyde Initiative. It provides a contextualised glimpse of the actions and reactions of all the players: police, organisation representatives, parents and young people:

Their observations were:

Young people were brought to the Initiative, some a wee bit boisterous, cheeky or rude and others were somewhat cowed. They were checked in and taken to the Chill Zone where they were supported by Youth Workers. Few showed any real appreciation of the dangers they had been exposing themselves to.

*One young lad had been brought in because he had been caught with a crowd who had been drinking – it was unclear whether or not he had also been drinking.*

Parents were called and asked to attend. Some arrived furious that their child had been brought to the Initiative. Others were annoyed to have been called out on a Friday or Saturday evening and others were worried and concerned about what had happened to their child. Those who observed these proceedings report that some of the parents were extremely rude and mouthed off - shouting or raising their voice - at the police.

*The boy's father arrived and he was reported to have been particularly rude to the police about having been dragged down to the James Watt College.*

They report that the police remained polite and courteous throughout the entire process. However, comment was made that they (the police) should not have had to put up with some of the 'stuff'.

Once the parents had arrived and had the situation explained they were taken through into the Chill Zone

with the young person and the young person had to explain to their parents in a supportive environment why they were there. Many parents were shocked and/or angry to hear what their child had been up to. They were then given counselling on the dangers of engaging in anti-social behaviour as well as hearing the testimony of a father who lost his son as a result of knife crime.

*The young boy explained that he had been hanging around with friends who were drinking but that he hadn't been. He claimed they were just walking along.*

*The police then explained that when they had picked him up the crowd he was with were walking towards another crowd. After lifting the young people the police then found a knife. This they produced and explained the dangers – someone in one of the groups had been armed with a knife. That same person might have used it. The victim could have been anyone of the group.*

All of the above was delivered in a supportive and non-confrontational tone. It has been stated that there was no lecturing tone to the counselling. The emphasis was on supporting and encouraging young people to be aware of the dangers and opportunities for changing.

Young people and their families were then free to use and explore the information services and leisure activities that were on offer before leaving.

The observations are that very few left without thanking and in some cases apologising to the police for their behaviour when they arrived; parents because they had no idea what their children had been doing and they were now relieved that they were safe.



*This father was one of those who was very much of a different mind when he left with his son. He apologised and thanked the police (#5, #20, #23, #24, #26, #27).*

Apparently he was not the only one!

## CHAPTER EIGHT      CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Introduction

- 8.1     This chapter outlines the main points to emerge from the Initiative. In particular it will highlight its success and make recommendations for continued refinement and development of the Inverclyde Initiative as an innovative and effective policy for protection, early intervention and policing of young people.

### Successes

- 8.2     It is evident from the crime statistics made available by Strathclyde Police that the Inverclyde Initiative has played a crucial role in reducing anti-social behaviour amongst its young people and in particular it has reduced the number of calls reporting youth disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- 8.3     Young people, parents, youth organisations, the police and the wider community have all given their support to this initiative and would like to see it continued.
- 8.4     The Initiative has increased interest in and up-take of leisure activities and has increased interest in career advice, education, and prospects amongst the young people of Inverclyde. It has boosted their self-esteem and confidence in making the transition to choosing a positive lifestyle.
- 8.5     Some young people have reported taking up new activities such as boxing and army cadets which they previously did not know were available.
- 8.6     The delivery of the programmed activities of the Initiative has also removed barriers to police engagement with young people in partnership with their families.
- 8.7     It has raised awareness of what is currently available and highlighted the disparity between this and what some of the harder-to-reach young people would like to see provided.
- 8.8     Some young people had taken up, are or are thinking about applying for, other skill-building courses like the Prince's Trust or the Skills Academy.

- 8.9 There is a high demand for Inverclyde's community wardens and Leisure Centre's mobile football sessions to be continued and if possible extended to meet current demand.
- 8.10 A number of people have remarked that there is a lot less trouble on the streets: '*things are quieter around here*' (#11, #15, #16).
- 8.11 Inverclyde Council has made a commitment to improving current, and complementing with new, leisure facilities that will be available for all in their community to use.
- 8.12 It has also provided a framework for improving channels of engagement and communication between those who work with young people, and for engaging with the young people they serve.

### **Barriers**

- 8.13 There is one significant barrier to the continued success achieved thus far and it is that of resources, and in particular funding. There is plenty of support and goodwill towards the Initiative but unfortunately that alone will not secure the commitment of the partner agencies to be able to deliver their services in the future. To this end there is in Appendix 9 an outline proposal and costing for running this Initiative three times a year in each of the 6 MMW's in Inverclyde. Total costs would be in the region of £490,000/£500,000.

### **Recommendations**

- 8.14 It is highly recommended that every effort be made to secure funding to enable Strathclyde Police to continue in partnership with local organisations to run the Inverclyde Initiative.
- 8.15 Youth agencies and organisations should consider looking at ways of building in flexibility to service and provision of facilities that is better able to meet the needs of local youths.
- 8.16 There is a clear and urgent need to address the lack of affordable and accessible facilities in the traditional out-of-hours period on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- 8.17 Further engagement and consultation with young people on the facilities they would like is necessary as there appears to be disparity

between what is provided and what the young people want, particularly those in the harder-to-reach categories.

- 8.18 There is a clear demand for a diverse range of youth facilities which needs to be addressed.
- 8.19 Serious consideration needs to be given to the young people's requests for somewhere to '*chill out*'.
- 8.20 Issues of territoriality need to be addressed through encouraging engagement between rival groups or gangs within and across communities.
- 8.21 Public transport provision in some areas could be improved.
- 8.22 Admission costs to youth facilities need to be given serious consideration as they are currently felt to be too expensive.
- 8.23 Alternative methods of advertising youth events and activities need to be examined in order to reach the targeted population.
- 8.24 Communities need to pull together to better understand the differing needs and concerns of different age groups.
- 8.25 Some parents need more support and information to enable them to help their children make positive life choices as well as being encouraged to be more vigilant to the activities some of their youngsters are engaging in.
- 8.26 More organisational support is needed to support local residents in helping their own communities provide appropriate leisure services for young people.
- 8.27 Statutory and community organisations must continue to engage with young people to better understand their complex lives particularly in relation to education, territoriality and self identity.
- 8.28 Youth engagement programmes are a partnership responsibility and this needs to be reflected in the leadership of future youth provision.

### **En Fin - The Secret of its Success**

- 8.29 The secret of the success of this Initiative would appear to be in that it is delivered in *'real time'*. The police are reported as saying, *'it worked so well because.....[we contacted] parents straight away and [spoke] to them face-to-face instead of sending them a letter to their home a week later'*. Coupling this approach with information and support for young people provided them with an exit strategy from engaging in anti-social behaviour and knife crime. *'It provided the opportunity for young people to turn their lives around'* and gave them the opportunity or *'second chance'* to embrace positive life choices. The Initiative has raised young people's awareness of danger, opened doors for improving lifestyle, provided information on learning and leisure pursuits, reduced anti-social behaviour, increased opportunities, and had a significant impact in changing the life chances for a number of young people.

## Chapter Nine Summary Findings

1. There is tremendous support from the entire community for the Inverclyde Initiative and a strong desire for it to be continued.
2. It has reduced calls about anti-social behaviour in the area by around 50%.
3. The police and their partner agencies have developed a policy that is flexible and therefore transferable to other locations and problems because the principles of the Initiative can be applied to addressing specific issues at the local level.
4. Incorporating a media strategy into the plan has improved police/community engagement and fostered local support for addressing youth issues.
5. The Initiative has provided the opportunity for young people on the edge to adopt more positive life choices.
6. The delivery of the Initiative in two streams – volunteers and referrals – meant that it was inclusive of all young people and their parents in the community.
7. The formal approach – Chill Zone - for those who were referred in a supportive and informative environment was welcomed and would appear to have had more of an impact on young people and their families than the more traditional forms of policing.
8. In the less formal arena - Lifestyle, Learning and Leisure – the partner agencies report improved engagement with young people and their families. It provided a format for interaction which encouraged some to discuss issues and seek advice that they would have been less likely to raise in a formal presentation in, for example, school.

9. It is evident in the findings that there is some disparity between what youth activities are currently available in the Inverclyde area and what the young people want.
10. There is also considerable evidence to show that many of the young people were unaware of what is on.
11. There is a need to develop a clear dissemination strategy of all youth activities that are currently available in the Inverclyde area.
12. Increased mobile sports facilities would go some way to addressing the lack of facilities in the local housing schemes and neighbourhoods.
13. While there are some excellent youth facilities in the Inverclyde area there is still a need for more in the local housing schemes and neighbourhoods.
14. Most of the young people in this study would prefer to have somewhere to go rather than be out hanging around on the streets, but they claim that there is *'nothing to do and nowhere to go'*.
15. There is a need for closer consultation with young people to match facilities and resources to local needs and desires.
16. Letting policies regarding the use of community facilities need to be considered. Some parents feel that currently legislation stifles goodwill amongst them and prevents those who would be willing to run local clubs from doing so.
17. Partner agencies state that they are aware of the gaps in service provision, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings, and that they are seeking to address this but are constrained by contractual arrangements and limited available funding.
18. A significant number of the young people in this study have made significant changes to their lifestyles. They report having joined youth clubs they didn't previously know were available. Some have given up hanging around on the streets and spend more time with family and

friends. Some have taken up training opportunities and others have welcomed the support provided by the Council's tandem initiatives such as Guardian Angel and New Horizons.

19. Costs of facilities are an issue particularly for parents. It is really expensive when there is more than one child. The indication from young people and their parents is that an admission cost of around £1 or £2 per event would be helpful.
20. There is a strong commitment from all the agencies involved in, and considerable community support for, the continuation of the Inverclyde Initiative.
21. Funding needs to be secured to ensure the continuation of the Initiative and to build on the good work achieved thus far.



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### **Guardian Angel**

Operation Guardian Angel is operated by the Social Protection Team and involves Strathclyde Police, NHS, Inverclyde Council's Community Learning and Development team and Inverclyde Leisure. Its aim is to provide a sustainable programme that has structure and fluency, which addresses behaviour of young people in Inverclyde.

The programme's objective was to focus on alcohol-related crime throughout the festive season by providing educational workshops and diversionary activities designed to address anti-social behaviour, educate and inform, and provide an insight into, and taster of, activities and opportunities available within Inverclyde.

The programme ran from 1900hrs to 2200hrs and took place in various locations throughout Inverclyde for selected young people who had been removed from the streets during the Inverclyde Initiative and who were subsequently invited to attend the Guardian Angel programme.

Below is an example of a typical programme.

#### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

##### **Venue- Greenock Sports Centre**

Football

Workshop- Gang violence

Gym

#### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

##### **Venue- James Watt College**

Internet bus

Workshop- Joinery

Workshop- Beauty Therapy

Workshop- Alcohol Abuse

#### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

##### **Venue- Greenock Waterfront**

Ice Skating

Workshop- Drum/Guitar

Workshop- Knife crime

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**Venue-James Watt College**

Workshop- DJing

Workshop- Hairdressing

Workshop- Car Maintenance

Workshop- Healthy Eating

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**Venue- Greenock Waterfront**

Spin fit class/ Dance Class

Workshop- Anti-Social Behaviour

Internet Bus

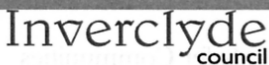
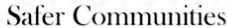

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**James Watt College**

Pace Theatre Group

Alcohol Play and Presentation

## New Horizons

***The New Horizons Programme***  
**Creating Choices For Young People**

*41 JIG Referrals*

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**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Workshop**  
**Gym Induction**

The young people were given an induction at the gym today by instructors from Inverclyde Leisure. The induction covered the correct use of the equipment and the rules within the gym. For many of the young people it was a first visit to the gym.

**Outcome:** The young people enjoyed the induction and requested that they re-visit the gym whenever time permitted. This request was taken on board and additional visits were arranged.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Workshop**  
**Strathclyde Fire Service**

The young people attended Strathclyde Fire Service at Port Glasgow Fire Station. They participated in a workshop covering a Road Traffic Accident; this included the importance of wearing a seat belt whilst in a motorised vehicle. There was a presentation on Road Traffic Accident highlighting the dangers, affect and implications to the Fire Service.

**Outcome:** This workshop was one of the most popular of the course. The young people enjoyed the contents of the presentation and gained a greater insight into the role of Strathclyde Fire Service.

**Workshop**  
**NHS- Sexual Health**

The young people participated in a workshop on sexual health presented by NHS staff. They enjoyed the contents and topical issues discussed during the presentation.

**Outcome:** Some of the topics discussed in the workshop had previously been covered in school, nevertheless the young people found it informative.

**Workshop**  
**Painting and Decorating**

The young people attended at James Watt College to take part in a painting and decorating workshop. They were given several painting and decorating tasks to complete.

**Outcome:** The young people found this workshop to be one of the least enjoyable of the course; they found it to be uninteresting.



*The New Horizons Programme*  
**Creating Choices For Young People****Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October****Visit****Greenock Sheriff Court**

The young people visited Greenock Sheriff Court today to follow the proceedings of the court. Sheriff Herald took time out to speak to the group prior to them entering the court. He explained the process of the court and what they would be seeing and hearing from within. The young people then attended the court and observed. Sheriff Herald called an adjournment and finished off the visit by explaining to the group what they had just witnessed.

**Outcome:** The group all agreed that they would hate to be involved in the criminal justice system but enjoyed the opportunity to see it first hand.

**Workshop****NHS- Healthy Eating**

Again this workshop was very informative and interesting, the amounts of sugar in coke and mars bars came as quite a shock to them.

**Outcome:** The group admitted to being more aware of what they were eating now.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October****Visit****Greenock Prison**

The group attended at Greenock Prison today and were given a presentation from staff and an inmate. The workshop was very informative and informed of many of the real facts of being in prison. They had a presentation from a prisoner serving a life sentence, he told of the reality of life behind bars and how he had regretted his actions.

**Outcome:** The group thought the visit was excellent, they had stated that they would have liked to have seen more of the prison but were very impressed with the workshop.

**Golf Driving Range**

The group were taken to Clydebank to try their skills on the driving range.

**Outcome:** The group had a great time and enjoyed the experience. Some of the boys stated that they would now try and get to the golf course to continue that they had just learned. It was apparent during this visit that the group had begun to bond and approached the task as a team as apposed to individuals.



*The New Horizons Programme*  
**Creating Choices For Young People**

**James Watt College  
Car Maintenance  
Workshop**

The group participated well with this workshop and completed all tasks given. They were all given the opportunity to change oil and air filters in a car.

**Outcome:** The group enjoyed this workshop so much they requested that if possible it be re-visited.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October  
NHS Smoking/Alcohol  
Workshop**

The workshop was particularly important as smoking and drinking is a habit that most of the group had admitted to being involved in. The information related to the group during this workshop gave them something to think about.

**Outcome:** Some of the group stated after the workshop that they would now seriously look at their habits and hopefully try and address them.

**Strathclyde Police  
Knife Crime  
Workshop**

Strathclyde Police presented a workshop today; this illustrated the implications and consequences of knife crime and the affect it has on the lives of victims and their families. The group participated well with this workshop asking lots of questions relating to the subject matter and taking on board what was being related to them.

**Scott Breslin**

Scott Breslin is the victim of knife crime; he was attacked 7 years ago. The result being him paralysed from the neck down. Scott spoke to the group, telling them his story and how it changed his life. He was honest in telling of how he hung around with the wrong people and spoke to them at a level they could all identify with.

**Outcome:** This workshop and the talk from Scott Breslin was the most appropriate way of getting the message across. The group enjoyed the Strathclyde Police workshop but the visit from Scott emphasised the message they were trying to get across.



*The New Horizons Programme*  
**Creating Choices For Young People**

**Visit**  
**Renfrewshire Wardens**

The group travelled to Paisley to spend some time with the Renfrewshire Community Wardens. They witnessed first hand the implications that anti-social behaviour can have on an area. The wardens discussed their experiences they had with young people and what their jobs entail.

**Outcome:** The group were given an insight into the roll of the Community Wardens and a greater understanding on how difficult their job is.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**  
**Football Coaching**

The group participated in a football coaching session ran by SFA coaches. They all enjoyed this activity and were given advice on further football coaching courses that they would be able to access.

**Outcome:** Several of the group are considering looking into taking further football coaching courses.

**Workshop**  
**Joe McLaughlin**  
**Football Scholarship**

The group were given a presentation by Joe a former Chelsea and Morton Player. He told the group how important it is to make the right decisions and not get involved in anti-social behaviour; he discussed peer pressure and benefits of making the right choices. He also discussed the Scholarship programme he is involved in and the opportunities it can bring.

**Outcome:** The group saw Joe as a positive role model, someone who had been brought up in the schemes but had managed to do well for him.

**Workshop**  
**Frank Melvor**  
**Anti-Social Behaviour**

Frank discussed anti-social behaviour with the group. He explained what amounted to anti-social behaviour and the consequences of such behaviour.

**Outcome:** The group now clearly know what anti-social behaviour entails.



*The New Horizons Programme*  
**Creating Choices For Young People**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Life Guard Training**

The group participated in an introduction to Life Guard Training. They were shown how to perform basic CPR and place someone in the recovery position.

**Outcome:** The group found the training very interesting and good fun, several of the group asked for access to the pool, this was arranged.

**Strathclyde Fire Service**  
**Firer Safety**  
**Workshop**

The group attended Port Glasgow fire station to take part in the Firer Safety Workshop. The workshop covered every aspect of fire safety i.e. Personal safety, hoax calls, abusing fire hydrants and fire raising. Once again this workshop proved to be informative and an eye opener to the dangers.

**Outcome:** The group found the workshop a great insight into the dangers of fire and the risks met by the fire service.

**James Watt College**  
**Princes Trust**

The group participated in various ice breakers at the start of the workshop. They were later informed what the Princes Trust can offer to young people and that if they wished to participate in the 12 week course that could be arranged.

**Outcome:** The Princes Trust is not available until the age of 16years. Workshop information only.

**James Watt College**  
**Bricklaying**  
**Workshop**

The group tackled the bricklaying workshop with great enthusiasm, they all managed to build a wall and complete all given tasks.

**Outcome:** The group's work was praised by the tutor, he stated that this was one of the best groups he has taken and they had been a pleasure to teach!!!



## *The New Horizons Programme* **Creating Choices For Young People**

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November** **Away Day**

As a reward to the entire group an away day was arranged. The group were taken go-karting and to the Laser Quest in Clydebank. They had a great day and enjoyed all the activities; the behaviour of the group was excellent.

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November** **Strathclyde Police** **Gang Workshop**

Strathclyde Police presented a gang workshop to the group today. They interacted well with the facilitator of the workshop and it produced great discussion and understanding of the consequences.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme** **Hugh Scott** **Workshop**

The group were given a presentation from Hugh Scott, senior youth worker from Inverclyde Youth Team. There was a video presentation on peer pressure and its implications, the group were also informed of the various diversionary works that is available in Inverclyde.

Outcome: The entire group indicated that they would like to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award; all have been referred onto Hugh Scott

## Appendix 3

### Parents Focus Group/Telephone Interview Guide

1. How did you come to hear about this initiative?  
Through your child telling you?  
Being called by the police – did you know your child was in any trouble?
2. What is it like to live here?  
What are the local problems/are there local problems with young people?
3. What did you think of the initiative when you first arrived?
4. What do you think of the services that were available while the initiative was running? Were they good? Were you able to access all the info you needed?
5. Would you like to see these services continuing? If yes, what ones in particular? Time? Place? Accessibility?
6. Would you like to see more services/career information etc. available?  
What/who would you like to see included in the future?
7. If you could change anything about the initiative what would it be?
8. Are local facilities an issue for your child/children?  
Cost? Accessibility?
9. Has the initiative made a difference? If yes, in what ways?
10. Can it be sustained? If no, what is needed to sustain it?

### Youth Focus Group/Interview Guide

1. What is it like to live in your neighbourhood – what do you do in the evening/weekend/spare time normally. Choice V on offer. Safety?
2. How did you come to hear about this initiative?  
Referred to it or because you found out about it - if the latter how/where did you find out about it?
3. What did you think of the initiative when you first arrived? Process – how did it work – what happened when you arrived.....likes and dislikes?
4. What do you think about the people/services/employers etc that were available while the initiative was running? Were they good? Were you able to access all the info you needed? Would you have liked other information/services/employers – colleges/universities etc to have been involved?
5. Would you like to see the initiative running all the time? If yes, would you go to it regularly/all of the time? If yes, why? If no, what would make you come along? Time? Place? Accessibility?
6. If you could have whatever facilities you wanted, what would they be – location/types/costs etc.?
7. If you could change anything about the initiative what would it be?
8. Has attending the initiative made a difference to you? If yes, in what ways – motivation, aspirations, changed behaviour?

## Appendix 5

### Partner Organisation Interview Guide

1. What does your organisation do? Programmes for socially excluded or marginalised young people? Trainer? Educator?
2. What is your role in the organisation? How does it relate to the organisation's involvement in the initiative?
3. How did your organisation become involved in this initiative?  
Encouraged/Driver?
4. What are your organisation's concerns about/for this area? ASB, Violence, Safety, Unemployment, Community Facilities.....etc?
5. What did you provide at the initiative – support/facilities/information/services etc.?
6. What was your experience of the delivery of the initiative? What worked/worked well/didn't work so well from your perspective?
7. What are the main issues for continuation of this initiative? Are they surmountable?
8. Would you repeat? Should it be available all the time? Would you change anything – add to or take away from what was on offer – processes of engagement with the young people etc.?
9. Who should lead? Changes in provision of services?
10. Wish List?



## Appendix 6

### Police Interview Schedule Guide

1. Position and role of officer interviewed? What do they do generally – main duties?
2. How did you become involved in the initiative – planning, developing, policing, assigned as part of your duties etc?
3. What was your involvement on the evenings that the initiative ran – out on the streets, in the James Watt College – engaging or supervision, there every night, not there at all, only liaised with orgs/agencies or what?
4. What was like to police this area?
5. What are your views on the initiative – hopes for it initially; what did it aim to address, experiences of it (how did the young people respond to the initiative – did it affect young people, parents/guardians more, in different ways etc)?
6. What are, if any, the changes in policing this area – reference to ASB/crime calls re young people?
7. What in general does the area need to address the needs of all young people? Ref: age, gender, location/class etc.?
8. Wish list?
9. Anything else that you would like to add?

## Appendix 7

### Summary of Participants

Category	Number
Young People	20
Parents/Guardians	14
Organisational Representatives	17
Police Officers	6
Organisations Contacted	14

In addition to the above, public perceptions were also accessed by attendance at an Anti-Knife Crime Conference held in Greenock Town Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. This conference was attended by approximately 500 local residents.

Consultation Questionnaire

INVERCLYDE INITIATIVE

# ‘Have Your Say’

Consultation Questionnaire

**Question 1: Are you?**

- a) Male ☐
- b) Female ☐

**Question 2: Which age group are you in?**

- a) Under 12 ☐
- b) 12 - 16 ☐
- c) 16 - 18 ☐
- d) 18 - 25 ☐

**Question 3: How would you describe your ethnic origin?**

- a) White Scottish ☐
- b) Other White British ☐
- c) White Irish ☐
- d) Other White ☐
- e) Indian ☐
- f) Pakistani ☐
- g) Other ☐

**Question 4: How did you get to the Safe Zone?**

- a) Voluntarily ☐
- b) Escorted by Police ☐
- c) Referred by Police ☐

**Question 5: Have you been a victim of crime in the last year?**

- a) Yes ☐  
b) No ☐

**Question 6: Did you find any of the Lifestyle, Leisure & Learning options on offer tonight of interest to you?**

- a) Yes ☐  
b) No ☐

If YES please list below.

**Question 7: What did you NOT like on offer tonight?**

Please list below.

**Question 8: What activities would you like to be available for young people in Inverclyde?**

Please list below.

**Question 9: Do you think this type of event is of any benefit to young people in Inverclyde?**

- a) Yes ☐  
b) No ☐

If NO please list below.

**Question 10: Would you like to take part in future events of this nature. The views and opinions of young persons are important to us. Will you ‘Come on Board’ and help us?**

- a) Yes ☐  
b) No ☐

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Tel No:**

## Appendix 9

### Inverclyde Initiative – Proposal and Costings

#### Expenditure

The following table details the estimated revenue costs incurred on a nightly basis by the principal partners involved in running the Inverclyde Initiative over the course of the pilot. This provides a basis upon which the costs of providing this service over the course of a year could be calculated. It should, however, be noted that pilot was resourced on an 'additionality' basis, which meant that the services provided were funded through overtime payments. If the Inverclyde Initiative eventually developed into core service delivery, costs would inevitably reduce.

AGENCY	COSTS
POLICE	£5000
INVERCLYDE COUNCIL WARDENS	£2000
INVERCLDE COUNCIL - YOUTH SERVICES	£1000
INVERCLYDE LEISURE	£2000
INVERCLYDE COUNCIL - ARTS	£800
CHP	£200
YOUTH CONNECTIONS	£250
CAREERS SCOTLAND	£250
JAMES WATT COLLEGE - PRINCES TRUST	£250
SCHOOL HEALTH PROJECT	£250
JAMES WATT COLLEGE -MORE CHANCES/CHOICES	£250
STRATHCLYDE FIRE AND RESCUE	£400
<b><i>CAPITAL COST S – HALL LET , EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE HIRE, ADVERTISING/PRINTING</i></b>	<i>£1000</i>
<b>TOTAL for 1 NIGHT</b>	<b>£13,650.00</b>

It is envisaged that the programme will run for two weekend nights 3 times a year in each of the 6 Multi membership wards within Inverclyde - a total of 36 events. To support this programme it is estimated that the total costs will be as follows:

<b>36 NIGHTS @ £13,650/NIGHT</b>	<b>£491,400.00</b>
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**Strathclyde Police's Safety Zone Partners were:**

James Watt College

NHS School Health Team

Inverclyde Education and Social Care

Careers Scotland

Inverclyde Leisure

Port Glasgow Boxing Club

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

British Army

Army Cadets

Air Cadets

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