

COMMITTEE: GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

DATE: 8 JUNE 2012

TITLE OF REPORT: POLICE TREATMENT CENTRES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members of the Grampian Joint Police Board for Grampian Police to provide a donation to The Police Treatment Centres in support of their endeavours to update and improve their facilities, treatments and service provision.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and approve the contents of this paper.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 It is proposed that Grampian Police provides a single donation of £50,000 to The Police Treatment Centres to support the development of the facilities at Castlebrae. This would be the equivalent of a donation of just over £30.00 per Officer from the Force.
- 3.2 This would be funded through the recycling of cash efficiency savings.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 4.1 A Police Officer is assaulted every 20 minutes - 70 a day across the UK and these statistics continue to rise. At any one time around 10% of the UK's 141,000 Police Officer are on restricted duties, often as a result of injury or illness from which most will recover. However, whilst on restricted duties, many are unable to perform the highly skilled and often dangerous work for which they have been specially trained. Every Officer who is in this position is one less who is available to serve within their local community.
- 4.2 Officers need a unique level of fitness that is above and beyond what is normally achievable with the level of medical support that the NHS provides. NHS facilities are not always appropriate and the treatment is not as comprehensive or timely as offered by the Police Treatment Centres. Therapies can be fragmented throughout the healthcare system and with lengthy waiting lists. The goal of the Police Treatment Centre is to offer appropriate, job specific and comprehensive physiotherapy, treatment and care programmes free of charge under one roof and to return injured Officers to active duty as soon as possible, which is vital for both community safety and Officers' morale.

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- 4.3 Funding for day-to-day services of the Treatment Centres comes overwhelmingly from current serving Officers' contributions to the charity. However, this does not cover expansion and upgrading of facilities. Neither do the Centres receive any statutory funding for this work.
 - 4.4 Officers incapacitated and unable to work bring a huge cost burden to Forces' budgets. In 2008, the bill for Police Officers on long-term sickness was £90 million.
 - 4.5 It costs the Police Treatment Centres approximately £4 million to offer the full range of services to over 4,000 Officers every year. Officers and their partners who have used the facilities have reported improvements in overall wellbeing, benefiting both themselves and their families.
 - 4.6 Most Grampian Officers are admitted to Castlebrae and over the past three years more than 210 Officers have received treatment. In all the feedback received from Officers, they have stated that the service and support provided by the Centre has been excellent and of significant benefit to them. The only negative comments have related to a lack of facilities
 - 4.7 In a study carried out by Glasgow Caledonian University School of Health and Social Care in 2010, over 70% of the patients reported that they had returned to their normal level of daily activity sooner than they would otherwise have done without the support and services provided by the Police Treatment Centres.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6. REPORT

- 6.1 The Police Treatment Centres are a registered charity which provides two Treatment Centres in Harrogate, North Yorkshire and Auchterader, Perthshire (Castlebrae), where serving and retired Police Officers receive intensive physiotherapy, treatment and care following an illness or injury, to aid their sooner return to better health and wellbeing.
- 6.2 Treatment is provided both on a residential and an out-patient basis and includes: intensive physiotherapy; personalised exercise plans and classes; workshops focussing on subjects such as dealing with stress and shift work; and complementary treatments. The charity is supported by voluntary donations from Officers of Police Forces in the North of England, North Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and treatment is free of charge to donating Officers and to retired Officers who made the weekly donation whilst serving.

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- 6.3 Castlebrae was opened in 1996 and currently has 76 bedrooms plus two cottages for patients, as well as treatment and leisure facilities. Development of all the facilities at Castlebrae have been constrained by a piecemeal approach to construction, trying to keep pace with demand. An earlier inability to accurately predict future usage and numbers has resulted in a multilevel layout which adversely affects standards of care, treatment and hospitality and increases staff costs related to patient supervision.
- 6.4 With improved facilities re-established in a simpler and more conventional layout the Centre will be able to focus more closely on the client experience, re-siting main thoroughfares, administrative accommodation and upgrading public hospitality areas, with concomitant benefits to clients and staff alike. One of the biggest benefits of the programme will be the reinstatement and conversion of areas that had been previously used as accommodation and for a variety of reasons had been turned into treatment or office facilities, sometimes as satellite facilities at some distance from the main treatment areas. The Centre will also be able to use existing facilities, to augment the bed spaces by 18% without the need for further building work.
- 6.5 The development plans will cost around £4.5 million and have been planned over two phases. This is to ensure that at no time will any of the current services and infrastructure be affected, whilst the redevelopment is taking place. However, the whole programme is dependent upon securing sufficient funding.
- 6.6 Phase one will be the construction of a new treatment and training pool and separate hydrotherapy pool. The current treatment and training pool is too small and only provides a limited capacity for hydrotherapy, for pain-relief and treating illness. Hydrotherapy is considered as an important part of ensuring a swift and complete recovery for “line of duty” injuries. By upgrading to a larger facility with separate hydrotherapy and treatment/training pools, it will allow a better match to patients’ needs with the Centres resources, as well as relocating the two pools to a more suitable position within the Centre complex.
- 6.7 Phase two will consist of the conversion of the small treatment pool into an exercise studio which will be more than three times the current size, doubling the size of the rehab gym and providing a dedicated facility.
- 6.8 The Government has never funded the Treatment Centres daily work but many people and organisations have recognised the value of providing welfare and support to Officers who are prepared to put their life on the line every day for their communities, not least the serving Officers themselves. After completing a thorough planning process the Treatment Centres have recently begun fundraising for this project and are seeking funding from a number of sources to get the redevelopment project underway. They are presently approaching trusts and foundations, major donors; Police organisations and corporate funders as part of their fundraising strategy.

6.9 The Scottish Government has already provided £200k, £500k has been agreed by the Police Dependents Trust, £90k has been received from two Scottish Trust's, The Scottish Police Federation has donated £85k and almost a further £250k has been received or pledged from a number of other Forces, donors and sources thus far.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Chief Constable
01 June 2012