

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection
DATE	10 October 2018
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen City Police Scotland Youth Volunteers
REPORT NUMBER	GOV/18/177
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Iain Robertson, Committee Services Officer and Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson North East Division, Police Scotland
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5.7

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks to inform the Committee about Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) in Aberdeen City.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee note the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 PSYV is Scotland's newest uniformed youth organisation. They are groups of up to 24 young people, aged between 13 and 18 years, who are based in each Council area across Scotland.
- 3.2 Supported by Adult Volunteers, who must be aged 18 years or over, and led by a serving Police Constable, PSYV volunteer by performing stewarding-type duties at community and national events and assist local policing priorities through participation in leaflet drops and community safety events. To date the national events have included the Commonwealth Games, T in the Park, the Open Golf Championship, the Wickerman Festival, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Scottish Airshow.

- 3.3 The purpose of PSYV is to:
- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst young people.
 - Encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship.
 - Support local Policing priorities through volunteering.
 - Give young people a chance to be heard.
 - Inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.
- 3.4 PSYV will provide an insight into Policing, however there are no guarantees that this will lead to either paid or voluntary work within the wider Police family and PSYV is not recruitment focused.
- 3.5 The principles of PSYV are that each group should:
- Have 25% of their membership from a 'vulnerable' background.
 - Have a body of youth volunteers that represents the diversity of the area.
- 3.6 The recruitment process for Youth Volunteers can draw on many strands, such as:
- Direct inputs to relevant years of academy age pupils.
 - A series of public 'drop in' events to allow interested young people to find out more.
 - Partners identifying suitable groups of young people to apply.
 - Use of social media platforms to publicise benefits of PSYV membership.
 - Direct referrals from the Police and other partner agencies.
- 3.7 Each young person who wishes to apply to join PSYV is asked to complete an application form which has to be endorsed by a parent/guardian. There is then a paper sifting process to identify a manageable number of applicants who are invited for interview. Successful interviewees are then offered a place with PSYV.
- 3.8 A similar process is undertaken for the recruitment of Adult Volunteers, which aims to secure applicants from a variety of backgrounds to bring a vital mix of skills and experiences to a group. Adult Volunteers are subject to the Protecting Vulnerable Group process for working with young people and attend a mandatory one day course on working with young people delivered by YouthLink (Scotland).
- 3.9 Youth Volunteers must sign up to:
- Attend weekly group meetings.
 - A minimum of 3 hours per month volunteering at community events or initiatives once their Initial Training Programme is complete.

- 3.10 The Initial Training Programme comprises sessions on subjects such as Police rank structure, radio procedures, physical fitness, drill, missing persons, teambuilding, first aid and health & safety, and culminates with a Passing Out Parade to which families, senior Police Officers and representatives from organisations who have supported PSYV can be invited.
- 3.11 Youth Volunteers follow a bespoke PSYV Award programme which is SQA accredited and their volunteering is recognised through the use of Saltire Awards.
- 3.12 Structurally PSYV nationally is split into three areas of North, East and West. Each area has a Sergeant Regional Coordinator whose role is to support the Group Coordinators in their area and link directly with the National Programme Manager at the Police Scotland College. The Group Coordinators have formal line management within their own Police Division.
- 3.13 PSYV is supported in all aspects of its programme delivery by YoungScot and YouthLink (Scotland).
- 3.14 The set up costs of groups are met from the national budget which draws funding from several sources. There is no direct funding of PSYV from Police Scotland budgets. The ultimate aim is for groups to become self-supporting through fundraising and by application to available funding streams.

NORTH EAST DIVISION AND ABERDEEN CITY

- 3.15 PSYV Aberdeen was one of the 5 pilot groups established in 2014, and there are now over 35 groups established across Scotland. In North East Division there are groups in Moray (formed March 2018) and Fraserburgh.
- 3.16 The Aberdeen group, which meets at Northfield Academy, currently comprises 19 Youth Volunteers, 5 of which come from a 'vulnerable' background, and 8 Adult Volunteers, whose wide ranging professions are Police Officer (3), Administrator (2), Baker (1), Student Midwife (1) and Student Phycologist (1).
- 3.17 Whilst contributing to the PSYV presence at national events, the Aberdeen group is extremely busy supporting local organisations with their events, providing services such as:
- Meeting and greeting visitors.
 - Handing out leaflets/literature.
 - Handing out 'I'm lost' wristbands to children allowing a parents phone number to be added.
 - Assisting at refreshment stalls.
 - Signposting visitors.
 - Lost/Found property.

- General assistance.

3.18 During 2018 PSYV Aberdeen has deployed to assist at a range of events, some examples of which are:

- Painted temporary accommodation for SHMU, a voluntary radio station.
- Leaflets drops on subjects such as antisocial behaviour and motorcycle crime to assist Community Policing Teams.
- Police Recruitment Assessment Centre day.
- Fairer Aberdeen Board conference.
- North East Division Police Memorial Service.
- Supported athletic meets at Run Garioch, Run Balmoral, BHGE Run, Great Aberdeen Run and at Aberdeen Sports Village.
- Aberdeen RNL Family Fun Day.
- Assisting PSYV Fraserburgh at Ellon Police Office Open Day.
- Enjoy Music Festival.
- Local fayres at Northfield and Danestone.
- Aberdeen Highland Games.
- Assisting PSYV Moray at Forres Piping Championships.
- Two NHS Grampian-led events linked to the Year of Young People 2018.

In addition, PSYV Aberdeen were instrumental alongside their counterparts in Fraserburgh and Moray in the organisation of a Uniformed Youth Games at Cooper Park, Elgin on Sunday 2 September 2018, as part of the celebration of Year of Young People 2018. The 3 PSYV Groups competed alongside teams from the Girl Guides, Army Cadets and Sea Cadets in a sporting competition, with gala day type activities to attract youngsters and their families as spectators. The event was narrowly won by the Army Cadets.

During 2018 to date PSYV Aberdeen has completed 418 hours of volunteering, making them the second most active group of the 36 in Scotland over this period. Since their creation in 2014 they have completed a total of 1877 hours volunteering.

CONCLUSION

3.19 It is hoped the PSYV in Aberdeen City will continue to grow in numbers and continue to make a positive contribution to communities in the local area as well as assisting in the personal development of the Youth Volunteers to be confident and inspiring with a positive sense of adventure and citizenship.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

N/A

7. OUTCOMES

N/A

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	N/A
Privacy Impact Assessment	N/A
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	N/A

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. APPENDICES

N/A

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson
North East Division, Police Scotland
NorthEastLocalPoliceCommander@scotland.pnn.police.uk
01224 306054