

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education Operational Delivery
DATE	17 January 2019
REPORT TITLE	Lochside Academy – Road Safety Update
REPORT NUMBER	OPE/19/039
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Stephen Booth
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Jones
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1 and 4

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides the Committee with an update on road safety in the vicinity of Lochside Academy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the assurance provided in the report with regard to the road safety arrangements in the vicinity of Lochside Academy.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting of 29 May 2018, the Education Operational Delivery Committee was presented with a report on the road safety arrangements being put in place in the vicinity of Lochside Academy, prior to the school opening in August 2018. After considering the report, the Committee instructed officers to bring back a further report after the school had opened, to ensure the concerns about speeding traffic in the area had been addressed. This report seeks to provide that assurance.
- 3.2 As noted in the May 2018 report, three briefing sessions for parents and community representatives were held in May, June and July. The June briefing session was attended by an officer from Police Scotland's Divisional Road Policing Unit, and discussion focused on concerns about speeding traffic, particularly on Wellington Road in the vicinity of the new school.

- 3.3 Prior to the school opening in August, a new toucan crossing was installed on Wellington Road just south of the Souter Head roundabout, to provide a safe crossing point for pupils, and a new part-time 20 miles per hour speed limit was introduced on Wellington Road to the south of the new crossing, and which operates at the start and end of each school day.
- 3.4 Police Scotland have reported that motorists are generally complying with the temporary speed limit, and that their officers continue to give passing attention to the area as and when duties allow.
- 3.5 Since the school opened in August, no road safety incidents, near-misses or significant concerns have been raised or reported by the school. The Council's Road Safety Team has also checked accident data provided by Police Scotland (which includes all incidents to the end of October) and confirmed that there were no reportable incidents in the area of the school involving children of 16 years or under.
- 3.6 In response to correspondence received regarding road safety arrangements in the vicinity of the school, the Road Safety Team is currently consulting on proposals to extend the Urban Clearway on Wellington Road, to include the section from Wellington Circle to beyond Charleston Road North. Urban Clearways restrict vehicles from stopping during peak hours, except to briefly pick up or set down passengers.
- 3.7 During the course of writing this report, some consultees shared concerns about drivers not observing the new parking restrictions on Wellington Circle, which is felt to have an impact on safety for pupils walking to school. These concerns have been passed on to the City Wardens team, who have confirmed they will follow this up in terms of enforcing the parking restrictions.
- 3.8 No further action or changes are deemed necessary at this time by the Road Safety Team, who will be providing a report to the April 2019 meeting of the Education Operational Delivery Committee, in conjunction with officers from the Public Transport Unit, which will contain details of a review of the arrangements for bus travel and safe routes to the school.
- 3.9 The head teacher at the school has reported that the majority of young people are using the crossings safely to cross the road to school. There have been some incidents where young people (and some members of the general public) have been observed to cross the carriageway without using the crossing, and then to step over the central barrier. The school has addressed this issue with pupils and continues to monitor and review the way in which the crossing is used.
- 3.10 Road safety forms part of the Health and Wellbeing curriculum in primary schools. "Safe Routes to School" is now an integral element of the P7/S1 Transition Programme for Lochside Academy's six associated primary schools and is tailored to each setting's individual needs.

3.11 On 16 January 2019 all P7 pupils from the Lochside associated schools group will attend a half day event at Lochside Academy, which will be run by the Academy and supported by Police Scotland. The event will focus on safe travel and safe routes to Lochside Academy. This is a similar event to the very successful morning which was held in February 2018, for P7 pupils who entered the school in August this year.

3.12 In summary, officers are content that appropriate road safety measures are in place, to enable pupils to travel safely to and from Lochside Academy.

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

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Customer	Road safety concerns could lead to pupils being injured on their journeys to and from school	M	The agreed implementation of additional road safety measures, the delivery of road safety programmes for pupils and meetings to discuss road safety and speeding concerns are intended to help minimise this risk
Financial	None	N/A	N/A
Legal	None	N/A	N/A
Employee	None	N/A	N/A
Environment	None	N/A	N/A
Technology	None	N/A	N/A
Reputational	None	N/A	N/A

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous People	Children are our future : Safe and responsible – the road safety arrangements described in this report are intended to help ensure children remain safe on their journeys to and from school.
Prosperous Place	People friendly city – The road safety measures implemented in the vicinity of the school will benefit the community as a whole, contributing to the desire to create a more people-friendly city.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	The road safety measures implemented in the vicinity of the school will benefit the community and demonstrates a positive approach to customer service.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Education Operational Delivery Committee, 29 May 2018: *Lochside Academy Road Safety Update*

10. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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