

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection
DATE	28 May 2019
EXEMPT	No
REPORT TITLE	Aberdeen City School Liaison and School Based Officers
REPORT NUMBER	POL/19/264
DIRECTOR	Fraser Bell
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Inspector Sheila McDerment, North East Division, Police Scotland
TERMS OF REFERENCE	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Committee in relation to the role and core functions of School Liaison and School Based Officers in Aberdeen City.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee discuss, comment on, and endorse the report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 North East Division has an overall establishment of 5 full-time School Liaison Officers (SLOs) and 3 School Based Officers (SBOs).
- 3.2 The SBOs are dedicated to 3 academies in Aberdeen City: Northfield, Lochside and St Machar; and their feeder primaries.
- 3.3 The rest of the academies and their feeder primaries in Aberdeen City are covered by 1 SLO, with the exception of Cults Academy, which is covered by the SLO with responsibility for schools across South Aberdeenshire.

- 3.4 The 3 SBOs are based full-time within the respective school and divide their time equally between school liaison and dealing with operational police matters relating to pupils.
- 3.5 Within primary schools, the focus is on the Primary 6 and 7 year groups as pupils become more socially aware and prepare for transition to secondary school. Occasional inputs are provided to younger primary classes and nurseries. The secondary school inputs cover all year groups.
- 3.6 Whilst the Head of Education maintains oversight within the Local Authority area, individual Head Teachers and their staff are responsible for managing and delivering the curriculum within their respective schools in a manner and timeframe to suit their own pupils and needs.
- 3.7 The opportunities, timeframes and contexts in which police lesson plans are delivered vary from school to school. Inputs are tailored to fit into the wider school timetable and supplement overall learning. Resultantly, lessons and inputs are often delivered in a concentrated period of several weeks to a specific group of young people identified by the school. Officers typically spend far less time in secondary schools during April to July when exams take precedence and during this period, more time is devoted to focused work at primary schools, which also supports the preparation of transition to secondary school.
- 3.8 As a result, the number of specific inputs recorded in police performance reports can vary significantly and these figures do not fully represent the work undertaken by SLOs and SBOs.
- 3.9 Schools recognise and appreciate the fact that they can request bespoke interventions when facing particular issues, such as drugs, alcohol or internet safety. Education staff feel that children and young people respond more positively when such messaging is delivered by SLOs and SBOs.
- 3.10 Where their timetable allows, SLOs and SBOs also contribute at events organised for parents within schools to reinforce messaging delivered to children and young people. This contribution is particularly appreciated by education staff.
- 3.11 SLOs and SBOs also liaise with local Community Policing Teams to address local issues, involving children and young people in the area. One local Primary School highlighted the support they received during the report period when some of their children were engaging in anti-social behaviour within the community. They found the police response timeous and effective, and felt that this intervention would have been acknowledged across the community.
- 3.12 Schools are generally receptive to occasional intelligence-led requests from police to deliver an input on a specific topic in a particular school at a particular time. This was evident with regards to delivery across schools of

the 'Knives and Other Weapons in Schools' lesson plan, resulting in some cancellations of other pre-planned police lessons in order for it to be delivered within meaningful timescales.

LESSONS AND INPUTS DELIVERED BY SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS

3.13 For primary and secondary year groups, versions of the following lessons are delivered in an age-appropriate format:

North East Division School Liaison Officer Inputs By Year Group			
P6/P7	S1/S2	S3/S4	S5/S6
Internet Safety 1	Internet Safety and Cyberbullying	Sex and the Law Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009	
Internet Safety 2	Social Media & the Law (Sexting)		
Substance Misuse – Alcohol 1	Substance Misuse - Alcohol 2	Substance Misuse – Alcohol 3	Personal Safety
Substance Misuse – Drugs 1	Substance Misuse – Drugs 2	Substance Misuse – Drugs 3	Roads and the Law
	Knife and Other Weapon Crime		
Emergency 999	Crimes Against the Person (Hate Crime)		
Anti-Social Behaviour	You and the Law	You and The Law	
Crimes Against the Person (Hate Crime)	The Police (Modern Studies)		
	Anti-Social Behaviour	Domestic/Relationship Abuse	

- 3.14 For all age groups, these inputs are compliant with the Curriculum for Excellence and delivered in a manner consistent with modern teaching practices. Crucially, students are provided time to reflect on information delivered, ask questions, and discuss examples of legislation in practice with peers and the SLO. Pupils place great importance on their individual rights within the law. The lesson plans and Curriculum for Excellence clearly identify that with rights come responsibilities.
- 3.15 Through this form of lesson delivery, pupils begin to question pre-conceived notions of right and wrong, and peer education and positive peer pressure can be used effectively as part of the learning process.
- 3.16 Lesson plans are regularly reviewed for relevance and appropriateness in light of pupil and teacher feedback and legislative changes.

NUMBER OF LESSONS DELIVERED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR - 2017/2018

- 3.17 For the 2017/2018 school year, 442 lessons were delivered across Aberdeen City. This compares to 470 throughout the 2016/2017 school year, which included the increased delivery of the ‘Knives and Other Weapons in Schools’ lesson plan. For the 2017/2018 school year, these are broken down as follows:

Aberdeen School Inputs - 2017/2018 School Year													
Antisocial Behaviour	Crimes Against the Person	999	Internet Safety	Knife and Other Weapon Crime	The Police	Personal Safety	Roads and the Law	Sex & the Law	Social Media & the Law	Substance Misuse - Alcohol	Substance Misuse - Drugs	You & the Law	Other - Nursery & P1-5
9	11	5	80	79	6	14	35	31	49	48	53	14	8

- 3.18 Delivery of the SLO and SBO roles continues to be considered by both Police Scotland and the Local Authority as appropriate use of resources. SLOs and SBOs play an essential part in the delivery of early intervention and crime prevention work, and inputs are well-received by schools and pupils. Teachers value the police contribution towards delivery of the Curriculum for Excellence,

and the police inputs are viewed by many as essential for the effective delivery of pupil learning across a range of topics. The role delivered by Police Scotland SLOs and SBOs directly contributes to the People (Children & Young People) strand of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, specifically to Stretch Outcome 6: '95% of children living in our priority localities will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026'; and Stretch Outcome 8: '25% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026'.

3.19 Additionally, through the accessibility of the SLOs and SBOs to those pupils within our schools who are care experienced, the SLOs and SBOs seek to support as appropriate Stretch Outcome 5: '95% of care experienced children and young people will have the same levels of attainment in education, emotional wellbeing, and positive destinations as their peers by 2026'.

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
Financial	N/A		
Legal	N/A		
Employee	N/A		
Customer	N/A		
Environment	N/A		
Technology	N/A		
Reputational	N/A		

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes
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	Impact of Report
Prosperous People	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to make people more resilient and protect them from harm; where every child, irrespective of their circumstances, is supported to grow, develop and reach their full potential; and where all people in Aberdeen are entitled to live within our community in a manner in which they feel safe and protected from harm, supported when necessary and fully included in the life of the city.
Prosperous Place	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to support individuals and communities to live in healthy, sustainable ways; and the development of sustainable communities with strong and resilient communities.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Governance	The Council has an oversight role of the North East Division of Police Scotland in terms of its performance and delivery of the Local Police Plan.
Partnerships and Alliances	The Council and Police Scotland are Community Planning Aberdeen partners with a shared commitment to deliver the LOIP.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

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

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

N/A

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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