



Agenda Item  
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<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Policing Performance Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>6 December 2023</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>MS Teams</b>
<b>Title of Paper</b>	<b>COSLA Update</b>
<b>Presented By</b>	<b>Cllr Maureen Chalmers</b>
<b>Recommendation to Members</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Appendix Attached</b>	<b>No</b>

**PURPOSE**

This paper provides the SPA Policing Performance Committee with an update on key areas of COSLA’s work of interest to the Committee. The update focuses on strategic developments and cross-COSLA activity that links to policing.

Feedback from PPC Members would be welcome on the items covered in the paper and specifically on any additional areas that Members would wish to see covered in future COSLA updates.

## 1 COSLA-POLICE SCOTLAND-SPA PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN

- 1.1 Members will recall that COSLA, Police Scotland and the SPA signed a Partnership Agreement in April 2023. The Agreement sets out a commitment to strengthening existing collaboration on a range of agreed strategic priorities, as well as promote and support partnership working. The four priority areas which the organisations will focus on over the current term (2022-2027) are:

Local Scrutiny and accountability  
Prevention and Early Intervention  
Health and Wellbeing  
Resource and Investment

- 1.2 At the time of writing this paper, the development of a joint Partnership Delivery Plan is in its final stages. The Plan will describe both existing and new areas of partnership working between COSLA, Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. It aims sets out how the three organisations will work collaboratively to progress the objectives set in the Partnership Agreement and as a living document it will remain dynamic and flexible to ensure it is responsive to emerging priority areas.

## 2 COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 2.1. COSLA is currently involved in work across a range of community safety issues, including:

**Hate Crime** – COSLA is a member of the Strategic Partnership Group which oversees the delivery of the [Hate crime strategy delivery plan](#). One of the commitments in the recently published Delivery Plan is for COSLA and Scottish Government will undertake a joint programme of engagement to understand what local authorities would find helpful in terms of a toolkit to help address hate crime and strengthen community cohesion at a local level.

**Antisocial Behaviour** – The Scottish Government has published its [joint report](#) on antisocial behaviour with the Scottish Community Safety Network. A new Independent Working Group will be established, bringing together experts and practitioners to examine our current approach to antisocial behaviour and propose ways in which we may be able to develop a more preventative, long-term strategic approach to this issue. The Independent Working Group

will report its conclusions and recommendations to Scottish Ministers as well as Local Government (through COSLA) and Police Scotland.

**CCTV** - In 2022, the Scottish Government commissioned a study of public space closed circuit television (CCTV) in Scotland, which aimed to update baseline evidence of the provision of public space CCTV in Scotland. The study was undertaken by a team of researchers from the University of Glasgow and the University of Edinburgh, with guidance from a Research Advisory Group consisting of key stakeholders in public space CCTV in Scotland, including COSLA. The study has now been [published](#). The COSLA Community Wellbeing Board will consider its findings at its upcoming meeting on 8 December.

### **3 COMMUNITY JUSTICE**

- 3.1. COSLA responded to the Criminal Justice Committee's Pre-budget Scrutiny Call for Views earlier this autumn with a response jointly developed with Social Work Scotland. The submission can be accessed [here](#). The document focuses predominantly on Justice Social Work (JSW), providing an overview of the challenges currently faced by the service, additional demands, as well as setting out a number of key areas to help address the pressures on the service, such as simplifying current JSW funding arrangements.

### **4 EQUALLY SAFE**

- 4.1. COSLA responded to the Criminal Justice Committee's Pre-budget Scrutiny Call for Views earlier this autumn with a response jointly developed with Social Work Scotland. The submission can be accessed [here](#). The document focuses predominantly on Justice Social Work (JSW), providing an overview of the challenges currently faced by the service, additional demands, as well as setting out a number of key areas to help address the pressures on the service, such as simplifying current JSW funding arrangements
- 4.2. The refreshed Equally Safe Strategy is due to be launched and published on 7th December, informed by a broad engagement programme and with key advice and guidance offered to the refreshed strategy design by members of the Joint Strategic Boards, including Police Scotland.
- 4.3. As a light touch refresh of the Strategy first published in 2014 and then updated in 2017, its gendered analysis of VAWG continues to identify deeply entrenched gender inequality and misogyny as its roots. It continues to seek to prevent and eradicate VAWG through

primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, while ensuring the protection of and provision for victim/survivors and that perpetrators are held to account. This refresh has strengthened awareness of the strengths offered by the adoption of a collaborative public health approach to tackle VAWG.

## **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. There are no financial implications in this report.

## **6 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. There are no personnel implications in this report.

## **7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. There are no legal implications in this report.

## **8 REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. There are no reputational implications in this report.

## **9 SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. There are no social implications in this report.

## **10 COMMUNITY IMPACT**

10.1. There are no community implications in this report.

## **11 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. There are no equality implications in this report.

## **12 ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS**

12.1. There are no environmental implications in this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are invited to discuss this report