

Building Safer Communities: Partner Event

11th June 2018 'Better Together' Partner Inputs and Outcomes

This event, kindly hosted by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at their East Command Headquarters in Newbridge, Edinburgh was a follow up to the Partners Ambitions Event held on 1 June 2017.

The partners represented where:

- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Government Building Safer Communities
- SCSN
- RoSPA
- Crimestoppers
- SBRC
- Neighbourhood Watch Scotland
- SGN
- Active & Independent Living Scotland – Falls
- Inspiring Scotland

Programme

The key aims for the event were set as:

- Get to know each other
- Move towards joint/collaborative working
- Establish safer communities

The desired outcomes included a joint partner activity calendar, use of a shared communication platform, a partner seminar and to explore the concept of a Safer Communities Hub.

After brief introductions and partner updates the event consisted of 4 interactive sessions:

1. Mapping out current partner activity
2. Capturing partner communication and engagement – who, what, where and how?
3. Identifying gaps in BSC delivery
4. Agreed Action Plan

The formats used included verbal discussion and providing input, thoughts and ideas via post-it notes. As a result a large amount of information was captured and all partners participated freely. The agreed rules for contribution were honest, authentic communication and sharing. An agreed hashtag for the event was **#BSCGetTogether**

Interactive sessions

1. Mapping out current partner activity

All partners were invited to indicate on a Scottish map the areas where they believed their BSC delivery was strongest. *A visual representation is provided in Appendix 1.*

This exercise identified a high density of activity across the central belt of Scotland, Perth & Kinross, the East Coast and Scottish Borders, however there was limited activity across Highlands & Islands, Argyll & Bute and Dumfries & Galloway.

It was agreed that more focus was required in areas beyond the central belt, particularly rural and outlying areas. It was also identified that where partners were active in the same areas they could provide each other with support whereby one partner can carry the key messages of the others.

Another element of this mapping exercise was to determine the **main age groups** that the partners were engaging with during their activities. The outcomes were:

- Building Safer Communities is mainly adult focussed with some young person groups and activities.
- Active & Independent Living (Falls) is aimed at older people, their families and carers.
- Crimestoppers have a specific programme – Fearless – aimed at 11 to 16 year olds.
- Neighbourhood Watch Scotland's primary engagement is across the 24 – 45 year age group (+55% of total membership).
- RoSPA have a general inclusive approach however their programme of home safety focusses on under 5's and over 65's.
- SGN engage with 2 million households across Scotland.
- SBRC's primary audience is adult.
- SCSN mainly engages with adults.

Whilst a broad age group is engaged across the overall partner base it was agreed that there could be an increased and joint focus on younger and older people.

2. Capturing partner communication and engagement – who, what, when and how?

Who was being engaged (not including those present at the event) was wide and varied and included at a national level:

- Scottish Licensed Trade
- Scottish businesses
- Trade Partnerships
- Cross Party Groups on crime or unintentional harm
- Scottish Police College
- Scottish Neighbourhood ALERT Users Group
- Ministry of Defence
- National Forums – e.g. Anti-Social Behaviour, Community Wardens

- Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime
- Human Trafficking Advisory Group
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Cashback for Communities

At a local level:

- Community Planning and Safety Partnerships
- Violence Against Women networks
- Link Up programme
- Scottish Borders ALERT
- Perth & Kinross Community Watch
- West Dunbartonshire Community Watch
- Possilpark Young People and Families Group
- East of Scotland Resilience Partnership
- Community and partner analysts

The purpose of the partner engagement included:

- Crimestoppers *Fearless* campaign is training school ambassadors
- Home Safety
- Water Safety
- Road Safety
- Full range of unintentional harm subjects – poisoning, domestic appliances
- Extreme weather preparedness
- Drug Abuse
- Drink-Driving
- Doorstep Crime
- Crime Prevention
- Community resilience through collective approaches
- Fire-raising
- Safe Night-time Economies
- Gas safety and carbon monoxide awareness
- Young People's Mental Health
- Retail Trade Supply Chain
- Falls and related accidents
- Business Resilience
- Support for areas of Deprivation
- Proceeds of Crime

When partners engaged included continual activities (Link-up, Neighbourhood Watch, general crime prevention, social media feeds) and seasonal or annual activities such as awards, focus events or season linked campaigns (Best Bar None Awards, SCSN Community Awards, Annual Seminars and regular Cashback funding cycles)

How partners were engaging included (*in order of use and priority*):

- Social and Digital Media
- Websites and online reporting
- E-mail
- Phone call
- Publications, leaflets and reports
- Newsletters
- Meetings
- Other reports
- Face to Face engagement

It was agreed that delivery of building safer communities benefitted from face to face engagement and whilst a number of partners identified this form of engagement as a high priority there were only a few of the partners able to use that as a primary communication tool at present.

The use of new digital platforms such as *Yammer* was discussed as an effective way for partners to populate a shared digital space in terms of BSC delivery. Mention was also made of the developing BSC digital hub for identifying and sharing good practice.

3. Identifying gaps in BSC delivery

This session benefitted from much of the discussion that had taken place across the earlier sessions whereby common and agreed themes emerged. These were:

- The ability to apply policy and practice at a community level – how do you actually influence local change?
- Too many and conflicting priorities
- Awareness, knowledge and accessibility of good practice
- Confusion between national structures and those pertinent to Scottish delivery (e.g. RoSPA and Crimestoppers)
- Urban – Rural – City disconnect
- Duplication in partner governance, back room functions and accommodation requirements
- Partner support for each other
- Co-ordinated communication across partner network
- Staff turnover and lack of development opportunities
- Collaborative design
- Effective engagement with most vulnerable (young, old, disabled)
- Evaluation
- Face to face engagement
- Sharing resources, expertise and capacity
- Local Authority and Health Board engagement
- Business Planning can be isolated and insular
- Presenting the success of the BSC partnership
- Joint showcase or event

4. Agreed Action Plan

The agreed actions coming out of the sessions and related discussions were:

Action	Lead Partner(s)	Comments
1. Formalise a BSC Partner Group	SCSN	Establish the formal group, co-ordinate shared activities and provide timeline for group related actions
2. Develop a simple representation of the Building Safer Communities delivery	Crimestoppers BSC	To show key aims, partners involved, what they do, their top 3 successes and how they can be contacted
3. Define first step towards joint BSC delivery	SCSN NWS	Identify a place to test (the place standard), a specific issue, pool of relevant resources and develop a BSC Toolkit
4. Plan a shared event/showcase for BSC delivery in 2019	SBRC	Opportunity to demonstrate the range of BSC partner activity and success
5. Develop a shared internal communication platform for the BSC partners	SCSN	Investigate the application of Yammer
6. Develop a shared approach to engage with rural and outlying communities	NWS Police Scotland	Further develop the existing Rural Watch Scotland initiative
7. Identify other relevant partners	ALL	Who else should be part of BSC Partner Group

Conclusion

The event proved to be a very productive day and resulted in a number of distinct and shared actions. It was unanimously agreed that to best service the interests of the BSC partners and delivery of safer communities a formal BSC Partner Group, chaired and co-ordinated by SCSN, should be formed.

The next meeting of the group will take place in November-December 2018.

Appendix 1 – Mapping exercise

