

## REPORT TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20 DECEMBER 2018

### POLICE SCOTLAND NORTH EAST DIVISION - THEMATIC REPORT: ABERDEENSHIRE POLICE SCOTLAND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

#### 1. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

**1.1 Discuss the attached report which seeks to inform the Committee regarding Aberdeenshire Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV).**

#### 2. Background / Discussion

2.1 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 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

2.4 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.

2.5 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

2.6 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
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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).
- 2.9 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
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 Youth Volunteers follow a bespoke PSYV Award programme which is SQA accredited and their volunteering is recognised through the use of Saltire Awards.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 PSYV is supported in all aspects of its programme delivery by YoungScot and YouthLink (Scotland).
- 2.14 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.

### **3. North East Division and Aberdeenshire**

3.1 PSYV groups were established in 2014 and the 5 pilot groups have now grown to 36 across Scotland. Within Aberdeenshire, PSYV Fraserburgh was established in late 2015, and it is joined in North East Division by groups in Aberdeen (one of the pilot groups) and Elgin (PSYV Moray was formed in March 2018).

3.2 The Fraserburgh group, which holds its weekly meetings within a local church hall, currently comprises 12 Youth Volunteers and 3 Adult Volunteers, whose professions are a Beauty Therapist, Houseperson and an Advocacy Worker for vulnerable adults. Recruitment is currently ongoing to increase the numbers of both youth and adult participants.

3.3 Whilst contributing to the PSYV presence at national events, PSYV Fraserburgh always strive to support 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

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

- MACABI Fun Run, Mintlaw
- Super Saturday event to promote local businesses in Fraserburgh
- Blue Light Festival, Fraserburgh
- Vintage Car Rally, Fraserburgh
- Duff House Memorial Service, Banff
- Turriff Agricultural Show
- Charity Variety Show, Inverurie
- Fraserburgh Police Office Open Day
- Westhill 10k race
- Portsoy Boat Festival
- Older People's Forum, Fraserburgh
- BRG Coastal Challenge trial running event
- Wild about Eden family fun days, Mintlaw
- Year of Young People Mash-Up music event, Haddo House

- 3.5 In addition, PSYV Fraserburgh were instrumental alongside their counterparts from Aberdeen 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.
- 3.6 In May 2018, a Youth Volunteer from PSYV Fraserburgh, alongside a fellow Volunteer from PSYV Dumbarton, represented Scotland's Youth Volunteers at a Royal event at Buckingham Palace. Each youth had successfully negotiated the application and Review Board processes in order to secure their place. They were accompanied by PSYV Fraserburgh's Group Coordinator and their duties included ticket collection and assisting guests, especially wheelchair users.
- 3.7 Also in May 2018, a Youth Volunteer from PSYV Fraserburgh won the Youth Volunteer Leadership Award for the North Region at the PSYV National Awards ceremony. In doing so, he fought off competition from the 9 other PSYV Groups in North Region.
- 3.8 It is hoped the PSYV in Fraserburgh will continue to grow in numbers while continuing to make a positive contribution to the life of local communities, developing confidence and a positive sense of adventure and citizenship in the Youth Volunteers.

#### **4. Scheme of Governance**

- 4.1 The Committee is able to consider/comment on this item in terms of Section D.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to matters concerning Police Scotland.

#### **5. Equalities, Staffing, Financial and Risk Implications**

- 5.1 An equality impact assessment is not required and there will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 5.2 There are no specific staffing or financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.3 There are no risks directly identified in respect of this matter in terms of the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers as the Committee is monitoring the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service as required under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 however links to the Corporate Risk of Working with Other Organisations.

**Richie Johnson**  
**Director of Business Services**

**Report prepared by: Superintendent Graeme Duncan**  
**Date: 20 November 2018**