

Unintentional Harm – Promotion of Good Practice

Summary and Recommendations

This report provides members with an update on work to address unintentional harm as part of the Building Safer Communities (BSC) programme with the proposed establishment of a new online tool to promote good practice.

This report invites members to:

- i. Provide any comments on the proposed online tool to prevent unintentional harm;
- ii. Note that local authorities are encouraged to submit local examples of good practice to COSLA for presentation on the online platform; and
- iii. Note that it is anticipated that the web platform will go live early 2019.

References

Previous reports:

- Not Applicable

Mike Callaghan
Police Manager
Communities Team
COSLA
Tel: 07901 514320
Email: mike@cosla.gov.uk

November 2018

Unintentional Harm – Promotion of Good Practice

Purpose

1. This updates members on the Building Safe Communities (BSC) unintentional harm agenda in terms of the development of a national web-based tool to promote good practice across Scotland.

Current COSLA Position

2. COSLA has been supportive of the Scottish Government's Building Safer Communities (BSC) unintentional harm agenda i.e. preventing injury in the home or places of work with the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and other agencies for some time. Unintentional harm has a significant impact on the wellbeing of local communities, particularly for vulnerable older people and young children. It also has major economic costs for public services as well as individuals and their carers.
3. Preventing physical unintentional harm crosses a broad range of policy areas including home safety, road safety, outdoor and water safety, and health and wellbeing.

What is changing?

4. The Building Safer Communities (BSC) unintentional harm agenda focuses on reducing victims of '*unintentional physical and psychological harm that could have been predicted and prevented*'. Following publication of a national strategic assessment on unintentional harm in April 2017 a multi-agency officer group involving the Scottish Community Safety Network (SCSN) and COSLA has focussed on taking forward its recommendations through an action plan.
5. A specific project from the action plan is the development of a national interactive online platform by the Scottish Government where examples of good and promising unintentional harm practice can be collated, shared and accessed by local and national practitioners, professionals and community groups.
6. It is intended that the platform will play a key role in co-ordinating and supporting existing learning and practice across Scotland to reduce unintentional harm and injury. The intended users of the online platform are local level practitioners and professionals covering both community safety and health spheres and will include staff from local authorities, SFRS, Health Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships and the Police.

Next Steps

7. Local authorities are encouraged to provide examples of good practice to COSLA to address unintentional harm that can be showcased on the web-based platform.