

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

27 November 2009

Agenda Item	
Report No	

SCOTTISH POLICING AWARDS 2009

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

To inform members of the Board of Northern Constabulary's success at the above awards

Introduction

The inaugural Scottish Policing Awards took place at the Scottish Police College at Tulliallan on 20 October 2009.

The award categories were Service Response, Public Reassurance & Community Safety, Criminal Justice & Tackling Crime and Sound Governance & Efficiency. The four categories selected are based on the Scottish Policing Performance Framework (SPPF) and the category descriptors are based around the high level objectives within the SPPF and the ACPOS strategy document 'Shaping Policing in Scotland'.

The awards recognise and celebrate the work undertaken by Police officers and Police staff, and the contributions made towards the Scottish Government's five national strategic objectives of 'Wealthier and Fairer'; 'Healthier'; 'Safer and Stronger'; 'Smarter' and 'Greener'.

Background

The Scottish Government proposed the awards to recognise the work undertaken by the Police Service in Scotland and its partner agencies, which contribute to the Government's strategic objectives.

The awards were supported by ACPOS, COSLA, Scottish Police Federation, ASPS (Association of Scottish Police Superintendents), SPSA (Scottish Police Services Authority), Scottish Police Authorities Convenors Forum, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland, Scottish Government, UNISON and the Scottish Chief Police Officers Staff Association.

Applications were open to any individual/team working within the eight Scottish Police Forces and the Scottish Police Services Authority, and those in Scotland from the British Transport Police, Civil Nuclear Constabulary and MOD Police.

The awards were assessed under the following criteria: relevance; scope and methodology; results and outcomes; innovation and creativity and sustainability.

They were judged by a high profile panel including Bill Skelly, Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland; Les Gray, Chair elect, Scottish Police Federation; Caroline Scott, General Secretary, ACPOS; Peter Veldon, Regional Organiser, UNISON; John Pollock, President, ASPS; Jon Harris, Strategic Director, COSLA; George Kay, Convener, Scottish Police Authorities Conveners Forum, and Bill Matthews, Non Executive Board Member, SPSA.

The judging panel assessed 90 applications with only 48 awards handed out to the most deserving recipients. The award itself is a framed certificate signed by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill MSP.

Judges' comments included:

"As the Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, I was delighted with the standard, breadth and obvious commitment to making Scotland a safer place, displayed within the applications for the Scottish Policing Awards. It made the judging a tough job and a rewarding one. I am grateful to those who made the considerable effort to submit their stories; giving, as it does, a clear indication of the tremendous work that police officers and staff are doing all across Scotland, every day of the year" Bill Skelly, Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland

"This was one of the toughest tasks I have had to make a decision on, the standard of the applications and the work reflected in them is of very high standard thereby making the task of judging entries daunting" Peter Veldon, Regional Organiser - UNISON

Progress & Next Steps

Northern Constabulary submitted four applications which linked with a number of local priorities.

In the **Public Reassurance and Community Safety** category, the Force's Corporate Communications department, and in particular Marketing and Media Officer Lynsey Clark, received a **Commended** award for the Safeness Festival Safety Campaign at Rockness 2009 – a low cost and effective multi agency initiative which enhanced the safety of Scotland's second largest music festival in 2009.

In the **Criminal Justice and Tackling Crime** section, Superintendent John Darcy and Lorraine Kellow from the Business Management Unit collected a **Highly Commended** award for **The Bluelight Partnership**, based within the Ross and Cromarty Area Command. Bluelight is a community based initiative which achieves close links with young people and provides communities with alternative youth activities to discourage criminal behaviours, promote positive role models and reduce opportunities for antisocial behaviour.

In the same section, PC Mick Waters and PC Rosanna MacSween received a **Highly Commended** award for their work on **Operation Youth Advantage** – a multi agency partnership project involving Army, Police, local authority social work, education and youth workers. It provides young people with the opportunity to gain life skills and experiences which can be transferred to education or employment.

The top award in this section, which the judges felt merited the award of **Outstanding Contribution**, was PC Bradley O'Neill's **Lochaber Summer Football League** – an excellent example of a sustainable youth diversion activity which involves widespread community participation. It provides a very effective alternative for youths who may otherwise be influenced towards antisocial or criminal behaviour. Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh Area Commander Chief Inspector John Chisholm collected the award on behalf of PC O'Neill.

The Force is looking to build on this year's success by already actively identifying projects and initiatives in a range of areas, for which applications can be submitted for the 2010 awards.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is requested to note the achievements of Northern Constabulary at the Scottish Policing Awards.

I Latimer
Chief Constable
Date: 13 November 2009