

Perth & Kinross Council Community Safety Committee

28 August 2013

**Report by Chief Inspector Whitford, Perth & Kinross Local Policing Area
Tayside Police Community Policing Division**

POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

OPERATIONAL REPORT PART 1 – 1st APRIL 2013 TO 31st JULY 2013

Abstract: The attached report provides members with background operational information to the performance information submitted separately to provide context.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that members note and question the operational report.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide some context to the information provided in relation to performance and to elaborate on some of the work which has taken place within the Perth & Kinross Local Policing Area.

3 PERFORMANCE

3.1 Violent Crime

In line with the national drive to reduce violence across Scotland, policing in Perth and Kinross has focused on reducing violent crime. A 'Centresafe' policing plan has been developed for Perth and is being rolled out to the centres of each major town in the county. This takes the concept within the Campaign against Violence, outlined in the previous operational report in May 2013, but makes it everyday business.

Using dedicated officers on foot, we have been policing the city centre, targeting areas and premises known for violence. Our aim is to prevent violence and disorder and where violence occurs, arrest offenders to prevent escalation or further victims.

To complement this, the policing of licensed premises has significantly changed. With alcohol being the most common aggravator for violence both in public areas and private dwellings, it is essential that licensees run their premises in a professional and lawful manner, not selling alcohol to young people or those already drunk. As part of Centresafe, officers are visiting

licensed premises on a regular basis, with particular focus on critical times such as Friday and Saturday evenings.

This work is supported by the Divisional Violence Reduction Team, who have been carrying out detailed inspections of premises where violence has occurred.

Officers have been stopping and searching persons known for violence, weapons and drugs, targeting key locations and individuals. This has resulted in the numbers of persons arrested for such offences rising.

It is the intention to extend this way of working throughout the day, to where persons drinking and causing disorder are affecting residents and visitors to Perth and Kinross.

The message from the Police is if you assault someone in Perth and Kinross, you will be arrested and at this time the local policing area has the best detection rate for violent crime across Tayside Division.

3.2 Drugs/Anti Social Behaviour

Over the last year, there has been a 44% decrease in the number of calls from the public regarding groups of young people congregating and causing antisocial behaviour and minor crime. This reduction has resulted from excellent partnership working between the Police, the Safer Communities Team and partners such as Street Sports for all; providing positive activities and sports that encourage young people to get actively involved, and diverting them away from anti social behaviour.

Sadly, there are still examples of residents whose lives are being blighted by anti-social behaviour. The main focus for us is the early identification of vulnerability of those affected and to prioritise the police and partner response accordingly. Local community officers have been working with the Safer Communities and Housing Teams and other partners to identify and support victims and challenge and disrupt those causing the problems. This is supported by local tasking groups to prioritise and address antisocial behaviour within communities.

3.3 Domestic Abuse

Some of the most vulnerable people in Perth and Kinross are those suffering chronic domestic abuse and violence. In addition, it is well documented that domestic abuse has a blighting affect on the development of children as part of the 'toxic trio' of alcohol or drug abuse and mental illness. As a result, domestic abuse is one of the highest priorities for officers.

The most serious offenders are being targeted by the Domestic Abuse Investigations Unit, with some significant successes. By working with existing and previous partners, many of whom have not previously reported due to fear of their abusers, it has been possible to develop cases against such

offenders. This has resulted in a marked increase in historical crimes being reported, but this is a sign of success.

Work is ongoing with the Violence against Women Partnership to develop some of the learning from the Tayside Intensive Support Scheme (TISS) working with repeat offenders to target domestic offenders.

Although domestic abuse affects all communities, recent police analysis reveals wide areas of Perth and Kinross where victims are not reporting such abuse. This analysis will help to identify where the partnership need to target services in the future.

From the 1st April 2013 to the 31st July 2013 there have 333 crimes reported. A breakdown of these crimes and there corresponding detection rate is shown below.

Offence	No of Crimes Reported	% of Total Domestic Crime	Detection Rate
Aggregated Crimes where 6 or more have been reported ¹	156	46%	86%
Common Assault	142	43%	87%
Aggregated Crimes where 5 or less have been reported ²	35	11%	86%

Location

The highest numbers of crimes were reported in Perth City Centre, North Perth, Crieff, Errol, Alyth, Bridge of Earn and Stanley/Luncarty.

Section	% of Total Crimes Reported
Perth	56%
South	19%
East	17%
North	9%

Time

The most likely time for crimes with a domestic aggravator to be committed is Friday night from 23:00hrs until 01:00hrs into Saturday morning and from 21:00hrs on a Saturday night until 02:00hrs into Sunday morning.

1 Bail Offences Other Than Absconding Or Re-Offending (Inc. Fail To Comply With Bail Condition), Breach Of The Peace, Send Offensive/Obscene/Menacing Message By Means Of Public Electronic Message - Non Sexual, Threatening And Abusive Behaviour, Statutory Breach Of The Peace, Vandalism

2 Includes: Sexual Assault And Rape, Attempted Murder, Offence Of Stalking, Rape (Prior To 1st Dec 2010), Theft Not Elsewhere Classified, Malicious Mischief, Reckless Conduct (Not With Firearms), Theft Of A Motor Vehicle And Contents Including Taking And Driving Away, Abduction, Assault Severe Injury, Assault To Severe Injury Impairment And Disfigurement, Attempted Housebreaking With Intent To Enter And Steal Domestic Property (Dwell), Breach Of Interdict, Drugging, General Attempt To Defeat Pervert The Course Of Justice, Reckless Conduct With Firearms, Send Offensive/Obscene/Menacing Message By Means Of Public Electronic Message – Sexual, Sexual Assault And Sexual Assault By Penetration Female 16 Years And Over

Other Aggravators

Alcohol

In 40% of the crimes reported the offender was under the influence of alcohol and in 26% of the crimes the victim was under the influence of alcohol.

Children

58% of the crimes had a Child Concern Report (CCR) attached meaning that either one of the couple has children. A CCR does not necessarily mean the child witnessed the crime.

Weapons

15 of the crimes involved the use of a weapon, the most common of which was a knife.

Private/Public Space

80% of reported domestic crimes took place within a private space, most commonly the couple's joint home.

3.4 Roads Policing

Traditionally, roads policing has been primarily carried out by dedicated traffic officers. However because of the risks posed to communities, rightly identified in all the multi member ward plans, roads policing is being 'mainstreamed' for all officers in Perth and Kinross. As a result of taking this approach, there has been a marked increase in the number of drivers caught for illegal driving. For example there has been a 100% increase in the number of drivers caught for speeding.

This work forms part of a series of national campaigns, with the most recent targeting drivers posing a threat to vulnerable road users such as cyclists and children.

3.5 Events

There have been a number of significant events in Perth and Kinross over recent months, including several significant parades, racing events and not least, T in the Park. All have passed without significant incident and have enhanced the reputation of Perth and Kinross as a safe place to visit.

The significant crime during the period under review was a murder enquiry in Blairgowrie. This investigation was led by the Tayside Division, Major Investigation Team and as such did not have the same local resourcing implications that would have once been the case.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no staffing issues as a result of this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

8.1 This report does not have any impact on the environment.

9. SUMMARY

9.1 The attached report updates members regarding significant operational matters and gives context to the performance of the local policing area.

10. COMPLIANCE

Is the proposal;

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| (a) Human Rights Act 1998 compliant? | YES |
| (b) Equality & Diversity compliant? | YES |