



PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Community Safety Committee

Report by Chief Superintendent Eddie Smith
(Interim Update – 1st October to 31st December 2015)



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BACKGROUND TO THIS REPORT

As from April 2013, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 has required Police Scotland to produce and publish a Local Policing Plan (LPP) for each local authority area. The LPP clearly sets out the policing priorities for Perth and Kinross.

Performance in relation to the identified policing priorities is monitored and reviewed internally on a weekly basis. Quarterly reports are produced to allow scrutiny by Perth and Kinross Council Community Safety Committee.

This report covers the period from 1st October 2015 to 31st December 2015. It should be noted that the figures that have been provided are local figures as the submission date for this report is prior to the release of the Police Scotland figures.

Serious and Organised Crime

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs) in Perth and Kinross remains a key priority.

Within this quarter we have continued to focus our activity on drug possession, supply, production and cultivation.

During this quarter officers from Perth Community Investigation team executed a search warrant at an address in the Craigie area of Perth where intelligence suggested a male was concerned in the supply of class A drugs. This operation resulted in the recovery of approximately one quarter of an ounce of Cocaine and a small amount of herbal cannabis. A 31 year old male was subsequently arrested and charged with possession of Cocaine.

In October 2015, following intelligence to suggest drug dealing was on-going at Perth Railway Station; officers from Perth carried out a proactive operation and as a result stopped and searched a vehicle within the public car park. The search recovered 105 grams of Class A heroin and as a direct result three females aged 37, 30 and 26 were arrested and remanded to prison. All 3 are now awaiting trial on indictment for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

In November 2015 officers from Perth CIU stopped and searched a vehicle in Dunkeld Road, Perth. Intelligence linked the vehicle to the supply of controlled drugs and during the search the officers recovered over one quarter of an ounce of herbal cannabis and other paraphernalia related to drug supply. A 20 year old male was subsequently arrested and charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

Also within the last quarter Police Scotland have developed the relationship with HMP Perth and have recently appointed a new Prison Liaison Officer who splits his time between HMP Perth and working with the Community Investigation Unit (CIU).

Community Safety Inspector, Nicola Russell now attends the monthly tactical meetings held by HMP Perth where Police and managers from HMP Perth discuss Prison violence, Antisocial Behaviour, trends and issues so that a partnership approach can be taken with shared problem solving ideas being discussed.

With the deployment of a new Prison Liaison Officer, we are taking the opportunity to look at best practice throughout other prison establishments across Scotland to assist us in Perth.

There have already been several successful disruption's to persons trying to conceal items and drugs into the prison, along with persons being apprehended on warrant attending the prison whilst committing road traffic offences. This sends out a joint message that Police Scotland and HMP Perth are working together, disrupting, deterring and detecting criminal offences.

Public Protection and Safety

Keeping People Safe is a key priority for the Police Service of Scotland.

Reducing violence is a key priority for Police Scotland and as a result we continue to deploy our officers into key locations and areas of hotspots to prevent, deter and detect violent crimes.

Since the 5th of December within Perth and Kinross, Police Scotland has deployed dedicated officers on foot patrol at key dates and times within hot spot areas for Operation Quest to tackle Violence and Antisocial Behaviour. Locally these deployments have resulted in 10 arrests, 3 warrant apprehensions and over 80 licensed premises visits. More importantly due to the visibility of Police we have been successful in prevention and early detection of crime.

Centre Safe deployments within Perth city's centre have continued with focuses on the night time economy. We have continued to work closely with our partners who include street pastors and community wardens to provide support and assist vulnerable people within our community. In addition to this Police have engaged with the Taxi Marshalls who have been operational within Perth city since the middle of December.

Also within the last quarter specialist units from Police Scotland such as the Divisional Violence Reduction Unit and the Operational Support Unit have also been deployed within Perth and Kinross to increase High Visibility Patrols and tackle violence and Antisocial Behaviour.

Community Tasking has been increased using Community Wardens and the Antisocial Behaviour Team as well as Police.

In order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those enjoying the festivities in Perth and Kinross the Community Safety Partnership have ensured the following:

- Additional Police Officer deployments under Operation Quest.
- Additional Safer Community Warden patrols during the day and evening.
- Improved information sharing between Police, Parking Attendants and Community Wardens.
- The deployment of Taxi Marshalls during the late evening and early hours.
- Improved joint working with the Street Pastors
- Working with Giraffe to provide a multi-agency, night-time 'base' at the Murray Street Café.
- Challenger bus – Provided by People with a Mission Ministries (PWAMM)

As mentioned in the last quarter, this is the first year that the deployment of the Challenger Bus has run. This is supplied and run by the National Christian Outreach Centre within South Street, Perth. The deployment commenced the second weekend of December 2015 and there is a team of 36 volunteers so far, an invite has been

extended to the YMCA and the North Church to join them.

Perth & Kinross Safer Community Wardens have also volunteered their time after shift to staff the bus and there are regular visits undertaken by Police Officers.

So far the deployment of the Challenger bus has been very successful with members of the public approaching the bus and being offered respite and a hot drink. Due to the location of the bus, it is visible to most people who are enjoying the night time economy and it is a central point for Police Officers to stop in and engage with the staff and public.

The deployment of this bus will continue over the festive period and into the New Year and dates for future deployments at key locations will be discussed.

At the last Community Safety Committee it was requested that the number of Rape's reported were included within the figures as well as the detection rate for members to be able to analysis this. This will be included within the report from now on.

Road Safety

The strategic priority for road safety is keeping people safe on the roads of Perth and Kinross.

As mentioned in the last quarter Sergeant Harrison, the North Community Coordinator, has been meeting with Roads Department, the local councillor's and the head teacher of Rattray Primary School to discuss road safety issues. During these meetings new and exciting projects were discussed to get the pupils and junior wardens involved. Some of these projects will include the children from the school designing posters, as well as the development of a Green, Amber, Red parking zone map which will be distributed to the parents, teachers and community. These projects have begun and will be periodically rolled out to maintain the momentum and education amongst those road users who are less courteous.

Also in the North of Perthshire our weekly meetings between the roads department, ski school, and local councillor's are due to commence in January to manage the policing of the A93, which affords access to Glenshee Ski Centre and attracts a variety of visitors to the local area when in operation. These weekly meetings allow immediate concerns to be identified and resolved quickly.

This is the second year this approach will be taken, after its success last year of partnership working to ensure the safety of Road users in the area.

The Festive Drink Drive Campaign commenced Nationally on the 1st of December 2015, where 12 months on from the limit being lowered Police Scotland continue to focus on those who chose to drink drive.

At the end of week three of the campaign there were 46 negative breath tests recorded by local officers in Perth and Kinross. A further 11 breath tests were positive and resulted in arrests.

Full data from the campaign will not be published until after it concludes and is analysed in January. The campaign runs until the 1st of January 2016. .

Worthy of note is that at the time of writing there have been 5 fatal collisions in Perth and Kinross since April 2015. This is a reduction of 7 from same time last year (-58%). Within that, there has been only 1 motorcyclist fatality compared with 4 the same time last year (-75%).*

Following the closure of the Forth Road Bridge in December Police Scotland increased the policing presence along the main diversion route of A977 through the villages of Crook of Devon, Powmill, and Blairingone, especially at peak commuter times. Local Special Police Constables volunteered to support both the Local Policing Team and the Divisional Roads Policing Unit and have throughout been liaising with local residents and the local Community Councils to monitor the impact for the local community.

As we move into the next quarter the Roads Policing Department will continue to conduct regular operations with DVSA ensuring that commercial traffic travelling through Perth and Kinross is road worthy, legal and safe.

* Management figures provided for information

Antisocial Behaviour

During the first quarter of the year this report outlined the considerable amount of work carried out, in partnership to address youth issues in Kinross-shire which was well received by the local community. In early November we received correspondence from a local resident in the Kirkgate area advising that he and his neighbours had again noticed an increase in youth related Antisocial Behaviour, particularly over Halloween.

As the number of reports recorded by the police in recent months did not appear to reflect an increasing trend it was considered that there may have been an element of under reporting. We therefore liaised with Perth and Kinross Council and it was agreed that they would carry out a door to door survey with local residents. This exercise was with view of more accurately gauging the extent of the issue and adding further context to the police figures as well as gaining a better understanding of the impact it was having on local residents.

Sixty properties in total were visited in Sandport, Sandport Gait, Sandport Close, Pier Road and Old Causeway. Twenty of the households responded to the survey.

Six households believed there had been an increase in Antisocial Behaviour and fourteen households believed there had been no increase. All households stated that the main form of Antisocial Behaviour related to youth issues, under- age drinking, vandalism, verbal abuse and intimidating behaviour. Five households believed that there had been an increase in Antisocial Behaviour during the Halloween period (fifteen believed that there had been no increase during this period). Half (10) of the households felt that the issue had not impacted on them enough to report to either the police or Perth and Kinross Council, six households had made reports to either the police or Perth and Kinross Council however four households felt that the response to their complaint had been inadequate.

The results from this survey have been shared with the local community policing team and will also be shared with the Kinross-shire Youth Partnership Forum for the information of their next meeting. Your Local Community Policing Team will continue to carry out high visibility patrols by default in the identified areas of Kinross, in particular, at the weekends, and we will of course continue to monitor the situation.

Local residents are encouraged to report any incidents at the time to Police Scotland via 101 or if in an emergency 999. Correspondence can also be sent to taysidekinross-shirecpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk. Perth and Kinross Council Safer Communities Team can also be contacted on 01738 476173.

As mentioned in the last quarter there was work on-going to tackle Antisocial Behaviour reported in Crieff. Work has continued with Housing and the Safer Communities Team at Perth and Kinross Council to address community concerns of an increasing trend in Antisocial Behaviour in the areas of Moncrieff Street, Corlundy Crescent, Sauchie Place and Ochil Place in Crieff. A resident's survey was carried out by Perth and Kinross Council documenting concerns and this along with a record of all calls to the police focused efforts to address the behaviour of residents and visitors to three key properties. Since this joint focussed and robust activity the number of incidents from one of the properties has significantly decreased, a Notice of Proceedings has been issued to another and a Notice of Abandonment is being considered for the third due to a lack of engagement by the tenant. Monthly updates have been provided to Crieff Community Council for August, September and October as part of the monitoring of Antisocial Behaviour incidents in these streets which documented that for August there were no reports of Antisocial Behaviour, in September there were four in Corlundy Crescent and one in Monteath Street and in October there was one in Corlundy Crescent and one in Monteath Street.

In addition to the above there have been identified youth issues at South Inch Park. Work has commenced with the Youth Voluntary Organisation, Sidewalk, looking to work together to provide opportunities and information for an alternative for those who were seen to be causing Antisocial Behaviour.

A considerable amount of work has also been carried out, in partnership, during this quarter to address youth issues in the Letham area and it would appear (without data to confirm) that the number of reports recorded in this area has reduced which has been a result of the joint work Police and Community Wardens have completed through Community Taskings and the Hub.

There has also been continued joint working with Police and Trading Standards around the sale of NPS. The shops have been closed and there was a recent seizure of over £6,000 worth of NPS by Trading Standards. This is a live enquiry and will continue up until the court case when it will be further evaluated.

Major Events and Planning

During Halloween weekend local Police Officer's deployed into Perth city centre while the various events took place completing high visibility foot patrol's and licensed premises checks throughout the weekend.

At the end of November Perth City centre hosted the Christmas light switch on and festivities within the town centre. This was a very well attended event and had a dedicated Policing response. Local officers as well as officers from the Divisional Violence Reduction unit carried out foot patrol in the centre, stopping and engaging with those in attendance. This was a very successful evening overall.

As we move into the next quarter Police Scotland will continue to engage and refresh the winter contingency plans in place with the roads department and Glenshee Ski Centre regarding any major weather implications, this will be on-going and reviewed weekly to ensure safety is the priority.

During this quarter we have unfortunately had two high risk missing people which have required significant investigation and resourcing from Police Scotland.

In November, Police Scotland received a missing persons report regarding a missing 77 year old man from Bridge of Earn. This enquiry resulted in a dedicated investigation team, the deployment of Police Search teams from the Operational Support Unit, the Police dive team, mounted officers, the Police helicopter, Police dogs, civilian search and rescue and numerous local officers from Perth and Kinross. This enquiry attracted significant media coverage and tragically just under 4 weeks later the males body was recovered from the River Tay on Monday the 21st of December, in Fife.

Additionally at the end of December, Police Scotland received a report of an 84 year old missing woman from the Crieff area. Again this enquiry required the deployment of Police Scotland search teams, dog units, civilian search and rescue team and numerous local officers. Tragically the woman's body was discovered the following day.

Both of these incidents were of major significance to Perth and Kinross, due to the age and vulnerability of both the missing people as well as the inclement weather conditions. However, these incidents further highlight some of the benefits of Police Scotland due to the vast resources required and the specialist teams that were utilised.

Theft, Housebreaking and Scams

Across Scotland we are aware of Serious and Organised Crime Groups targeting rural areas stealing farming equipment predominantly quad bikes and trailers. Whilst the number of thefts reported to police in Kinross-shire has not increased on the same period in 2014, we have had a couple of repeat victims one being a farm near to Glenfarg. In response to this we are offering farmers a police architectural liaison survey offering security advice from trained officers. This is a new service being offered to repeat victims and farms identified as 'hot spot' areas for thefts.

In the last quarter we have circulated several media releases advising home owners to be vigilant regarding locking their properties, and leaving lights on to deter thieves. With the winter months and dark nights it is a prime opportunity for those looking to target empty or insecure properties.

During this quarter the Community Investigation Unit (CIU) investigated a series of cars within the Letham, Oakbank and Craigie areas of Perth, which had been entered, rummaged through and items stolen. Through CCTV, house to house and the execution of a search warrant an offender was identified and stolen property recovered. A 28 year old male was subsequently arrested and remanded at court and he is now awaiting trial in connection with 16 charges.

Following a series of housebreaking in the Pitlochry area of rural Perthshire, officers from Perth CIU undertook a complex investigation to identify the offenders.

Following painstaking enquiry into the use of the national roads network and using specialist forensic techniques, a 28 year old Romanian male was identified as responsible for this crime. Consequently a search warrant was executed in the Glasgow area and a large quantity of stolen property was recovered and identified as having been stolen from the housebreaking in Pitlochry. The 28 year old Romanian male was arrested, remanded to prison and is now awaiting trial on indictment.

Also in this quarter, Perth CIU concluded a long running investigation into the theft of plant machinery. The thefts occurred in rural areas of Perth and Kinross including Auchterarder, Stanley and Balbeggie and involved the theft of trailers, mini diggers, excavators and power tools, the monetary value of which exceeded £20,000. CIU officers worked closely with colleagues in neighbouring divisions which involved specialist investigatory techniques and the execution of search warrants. This complex investigation resulted in a 35 year old male being reported to the COPFS in connection with this crime series.

In December a few reports of bogus workman crimes were received, where victims were scammed out of money for work that was not required to their property. In December a 29 year old male was identified for 4 of these types of crimes, and has been arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. As a result of these crimes we

have focused a lot of media attention warning potential victims as well as conducting high visibility patrols within the affected areas.

Financial Harm has been a priority over this festive period and many messages have been passed out. Officers have attended at Branches and set up stalls during times identified by the respective Managers where elderly and more vulnerable could be targeted by Police. This has been welcomed in particular by the Royal Bank of Scotland and it is hoped this will become more of a regular event into the new year, not only with the Royal Bank of Scotland but other banks too.

On Thursday 5th November, in conjunction with Perth and Kinross Council, Trading Standards, the Scottish Business Resilience Centre a seminar on Financial Harm was facilitated with attendance from Financial Institutions across Perth and Kinross. Good links were made between Police and the financial institutions and follow up events including at the Royal Bank of Scotland, Perth and in Highland Perthshire and Blairgowrie are planned.

Also in this quarter Trading Standards staff provided briefings to each of the Police teams across Perth and Kinross regarding bogus workman and Police initial attendance. Community Wardens have also been involved in the briefing and funding secured for aide memoirs for officers and other partners.

Community Engagement

In October local community Sergeants met with local Farmers in Aberfeldy and the surrounding areas. They provided an input on our policing model, security advice and offered the services of our Architectural Liaison Officer to provide more in depth security advice. This meeting was well received and those in attendance were very keen to have this continue in the future. In addition this has assisted in building a list of contacts for the Rural Crime Governance Group which is held divisionally.

On the 25th November 2015, the start of 16 days of Action of Violence Against Women commenced, local officers supported with Women's Aid, attended an event in Pitlochry whereby speakers provided details of their stories.

Also in November an engagement event for the North Area, was scheduled whereby Safer Communities, Fire Service and our local area commander, were due to attend to provide inputs and facilitate a general question and answer session. Unfortunately due to a poor response this was cancelled and we are currently looking at dates in the New Year to reschedule this for.

Meetings have been held at each of the Secondary Schools in Perth and each school, as well as Balnacraig now has a nominated community officer. Links have been

formed and intelligence from the schools will increase our understanding of issues like the misuse of drugs and Antisocial Behaviour. This will then be collated and a joint working undertaken by Police and other agencies to provide early intervention.

Officers are and have been attending carers' fairs and the schools; these have been very well received and will continue.

During the last quarter interaction has taken place between St Johnstone Football Club and Police regarding supporters who can be boisterous during and after games. A process is now in place whereby the football club are inviting those causing the issues to a joint meeting with the Club, Police and the HUB during which their behaviour will be discussed and those supporters challenged. Moving on from this Community Wardens will be provided with activities after games.

Throughout the last quarter, there has also been an increase in the use of social media with more personal interaction from local officers, as a result this has led to the increase of over 600 new followers to the Perth and Kinross Twitter Feed. The change in focus locally has generated a number of positive comments from the public who follow us.

On 28th October Community Watch was officially launched to Perth City, North and South. Membership for Community Watch is now reaching 1000 members (including Neighbourhood Watch members). A recent funding bid has been successful for funds to further promote/market Community Watch. We have recently received information from the community in response to appeals for information on Community Watch which has assisted with enquiries.

As mentioned in the last report Community Co-ordinator Sergeant Nicolson along with the local Community Sergeants recently ran a series of community drop-in events at the police stations in Auchterarder, Crieff, Bridge of Earn and Kinross. The idea was to increase opportunity to have access to their local policing team in the rural areas where there is no longer a front counter service. The inclement weather including Storm Desmond on the evening of the Kinross event perhaps affected attendance however Auchterarder, Crieff and Kinross all had attendance of between 11 and 16 people who came along to either show their support for the events or to share a policing concern. Two items of correspondence were received from members of the public following the events giving positive feedback. A review of the benefits of such events will take place to consider whether to run similar events in the future.

To address concerns raised by the Community Campus of Auchterarder a partnership day of action is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 27th January with the local Community Policing Team, Perth and Kinross Dog Warden and Parking Attendants. The event is to raise awareness of the impact and safety issues of inappropriate and illegal parking and dog fouling on the Campus. Local Councillors and media will also be invited to attend and support the event.

Contact Details

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