

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Community Safety Committee – 21 May 2014

SUBJECT: POLICE AND FIRE: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

**PERTH AND KINROSS LOCAL POLICING AREA
PERFORMANCE RESULTS
1 APRIL 2013 TO 31 March 2014**

**Report by Chief Superintendent Eddie Smith
Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside)**

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that members note and scrutinise this operational report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report (Appendix A) is to provide information to the Committee regarding the performance of Police Scotland against performance indicators that will facilitate local scrutiny.
- 2.2 Appendix A will provide context to the information provided in relation to performance and give information on some of the work which has taken place within Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area. Appendix B is a report by CI Whitford, which provides members with background information and proposals in relation to bogus crime, accompanied by a synopsis of recent housebreaking interventions both locally and nationally
- 2.3 The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Board Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. It should be noted that the timing of this meeting of the Board is in advance of the completion of the year end procedures and reconciliation processes that are undertaken every year in association with the publication of official statistics. Given this timing there may be minor amendments between the information in this report and the final 2013/14 statistics – for example due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, road crashes or incidents. It would not therefore be accurate or appropriate to refer to, quote or use the data in this report as either end of year or official statistics

3. PERFORMANCE

- 3.3 Performance Indicators detailed in Appendix A are subdivided into the following priorities within this report:
- Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour
 - Public Protection
 - Road Safety
 - Public Confidence
 - Additional Identified Local Priorities

3.4 Appendix A will also provide updates on each of the Local Policing Priorities as identified in the 3 year Local Policing Plan. These are:

- Public Protection and Safety
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Theft Housebreaking and Scams
- Major Events and Planning
- Road Safety

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

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

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

7. SUMMARY

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

8. COMPLIANCE

Is the proposal;

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



LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Perth and Kinross Council Community Safety Committee

May 2014

**Report by Chief Superintendent Eddie Smith
Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside)**

SUBJECT: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

**PERTH AND KINROSS LOCAL POLICING AREA
PERFORMANCE RESULTS
1st APRIL 2013 TO 31st MARCH 2014**



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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 the Perth and Kinross Community Safety Committee.

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Board Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. It should be noted that the timing of this meeting of the Board is in advance of the completion of the year end procedures and reconciliation processes that are undertaken every year in association with the publication of official statistics. Given this timing there may be minor amendments between the information in this report and the final 2013/14 statistics – for example due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, road crashes or incidents. It would not therefore be accurate or appropriate to refer to, quote or use the data in this report as either end of year or official statistics

This report will make reference to crime groupings. Groups 1-4 refer to an amalgamation of four crime groups. They are Group 1, consisting of violent crime; Group 2 covering sexual offences; Group 3, the largest, covers a wide range of crimes of dishonesty; and Group 4 includes vandalism, fire-raising, and malicious mischief

LOCAL POLICING PRIORITY UPDATES

PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY

Keeping people safe is a key local and national priority.

Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area evidenced reductions in Group 1 (violent) crime in comparison to the five year average as follows:

A reduction in attempted murder of 55.56% (10 fewer victims)

A reduction in serious assaults of 10.42% (5 fewer victims)

A reduction in robbery of 62.86% (22 fewer victims)

Detection rates for these crimes remain high, with 100% of robberies being detected in the last year and 93% of serious assaults being detected. This is slightly down on the 5 year average but still a strong detection rate.

Detection rates for common assault have risen by 8 percentage points, but the number of reported assaults has risen by 18%.

We are working hard to reduce this through initiatives including Centresafe, ensuring additional resources are deployed into the City Centre of Perth at weekends in support of the night time economy. We are also identifying priority locations and ensuring that these areas are provided with additional resourcing. These and other initiatives, have seen a fall in the number of complaints of anti-social behaviour and disorder by 16% to 5628 reported incidents.

Within Perth and Kinross the focus of tackling domestic abuse continues. There has been an increase of reported incidents of domestic abuse of 66%. This is partially due to increased confidence of victims in reporting crimes and positive work by officers and partners in working with victims to identify and report historical incidents. We work with partner agencies to ensure that victims are supported after the crime has been reported to us and the offender has appeared in court. Partner agencies include, Social Work who provide a broad range of services to the victim and relevant family and Barnardo's and Women's Aid who offer invaluable support to many victims of domestic abuse.

The introduction of the interim National Vulnerable Persons Database in February 2014, has assisted in the accurate recording and sharing of information with our partners where we consider victims, offenders or others associated with the incident to be vulnerable.

The increasing confidence in Police Scotland's commitment to investigate incidents of sexual abuse has been well publicised. This has seen the number of incidents of Group 2 Crimes (indecent) more than double against the five year average (by 107 more victims, 105% increase) and detection rates have increased by 7 percentage points to 75%.

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Locally led operations are continuing to focus on targeting serious and organised crime groups that profit from the supply and distribution of the Class 'A' controlled drug – diamorphine (heroin). Efforts to detect and disrupt those responsible have seen a strategic shift in the last year: from almost exclusively aiming to seize drugs to broadening investigative scope and often targeting assets and legitimate business funded by illegal gains. This strategic shift has proved effective, however is reflected in this years figures showing a 9.23% decrease in the number of reported incidents of drugs supply, production and cultivation. In the coming months we will continue to robustly apply the Scottish Government's Strategy for tackling serious and organised crime, aptly named 'Letting Our Communities Flourish'.

THEFT HOUSEBREAKING AND SCAMS

The number of housebreakings has risen against the five year average (8 more, 2.42% increase) and detection rates have fallen by 4 percentage points. In the coming months we will strive to increase detection rates for housebreaking, building on good practice that has been identified and ensuring appropriate investigative support. Regular meetings take place between LPA and CID Commanders to analyse all housebreakings and ensure that appropriate opportunities are taken to detect them. Good practice guidelines have been circulated to all officers and these form the basis for investigative strategies for housebreaking.

The number of thefts by shoplifting has seen significant reductions (26% against the five year average and 142 fewer victims).

Appendix B at the end of this report gives more background and updates on both local and national progress in relation to doorstep crime, housebreaking and scams.

MAJOR EVENTS AND PLANNING

Perth and Kinross continues to be a draw for major events and this summer is no exception, with a number of events which will attract the national and international spotlight on the area, including the Ryder Cup, T in the Park, the Scottish Game Fair and Rewind Festival.

Police Scotland will work closely with the event organisers to ensure that these events run safely and successfully.

ROAD SAFETY

Road Casualty statistics for the reporting period have shown significant reductions against the five year average, with

12 less people killed/seriously injured (down 11%)
37 less people slightly injured (down 13%)

This increase in the safety of roads throughout Perth and Kinross is due to effective partnership working. Local officers, often assisted by road policing unit and trunk road policing group officers, have undertaken education partnered with enforcement. We have worked with our partner agencies to influence road design, educate young drivers, educate cyclists and raise road safety awareness with the youth of Perth and Kinross. We will continue to strive to increase road safety within Perth and Kinross and continue to reduce the numbers injured on our roads.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour					
		Apr 13 - Mar 14	5 Year Average	Victims	% Change
1	Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	127	144	17 fewer	-11.81%
2	Murder	1	1	No change	0%
3	Attempted Murder	8	18	10 fewer	-55.56%
4	Culpable Homicide (common law)	0	0	None	-
5	Culpable Homicide (other)	0	0	None	-
6	Serious Assault detection rate	93.0%	93.75%		-0.75%
7	Serious Assault	43	48	5 fewer	-10.42%
8	Robbery detection rate	100%	80.0%		20%
9	Robbery	13	35	22 fewer	-62.86%
10	Petty (Common) assault detection rate	87.80%	80.10%		7.8%
11	Petty (common) assault	1,355	1,146	209 more	18.24%
12	Stop and searches conducted	6,833	1,824		274.62%
13	Number of positive stop and searches conducted	1744			
14	Number of complaints regarding disorder	5,628	6,714	1,086 fewer	-16.18%
15	Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	1,184	715		65.59%
16	Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	920			
17	Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	56.90%			
18	Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	89.40%			
19	Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	121			
20	Ensure 95% of domestic abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24hrs)	96.60%			
21	Hate Crime and offences detection rate	86.10%			

Additional Identified Local Priorities					
		Apr 13 - Mar 14	5 Year Average	Victims	% Change
22	Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	118	130		-9.23%
23	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	33.9%	38.16%		-4.26%
24	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	339	331	8 more	2.24%
25	Theft by shoplifting detection rate	85.20%	87.0%		-1.8%
26	Theft by shoplifting	404	546	142 fewer	26.10%
27	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	32.4%	36.46%		-4.04%
28	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	774	1056	228 fewer	-26.70%
29	Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	63	8		687.50%

Public Protection					
		Apr 13 - Mar 14	5 Year Average	Victims	% Change
30	Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	209	102	107 more	104.90%
31	Group 2 crimes detection rate	75.60%	68.63%		6.97%
32	Rape detection rate	67.20%	66.67%		1.47%

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics					
		Apr 13 - Mar 14	5 Year Average	Victims	% Change
N/A	People Killed / Seriously Injured	87	98	11 fewer	-11.2%
N/A	People Slightly Injured	249	286	37 fewer	-12.9
N/A	Children (aged<16) Killed / Seriously Injured	6	7		-14.2

Road Safety & Road Crime

		Apr 13 - Mar 14	5 Year Average	Victims	% Change
33	Dangerous driving	67	46		45.6 %
34	Speeding	3161	1,458		116.8%
35	Disqualified driving	26	14		85.7%
36	Driving Licence	202	98		106%
37	Insurance	437	230		90%
38	Seat Belts	411	72		470.8%
39	Mobile Phone	738	157		370%

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

	Almond			Blairgowrie			Carse of Gowrie		
	Rec	Det	%	Rec	Det	%	Rec	Det	%
Groups 1-5	133	69	51.88%	240	158	65.83%	185	87	47.03%
Groups 1-4	101	37	36.63%	183	128	69.95%	149	46	30.87%
All Group 1	4	4	100%	10	9	90.00%	2	2	100%
Murder/Att Murder	0			4	4	0.00%	0		
Serious Assault	1	1	100%	2	1	50.00%	0		
Robbery	1	1	100.0%	0	0		0		
Common Assault	34	29	85.29%	100	92	92.00%	29	28	96.55%
Knives/Off Weapons	0	0		7	7	100%	1	1	100.00%
Drugs Supply/Production	6	6	100%	3	3	100%	3	4	133.3%
All Group 2	3	2	66.67%	9	4	44.44%	7	4	57.14%
Housebreaking	18	1	5.56%	12	4	33.33%	24	5	20.83%
Shopliftng	5	5	100.0%	17	15	88.24%	6	4	66.67%
	Highland Perthshire			Kinross-shire			Perth City Centre		
	Rec	Det	%	Rec	Det	%	Rec	Det	%
Groups 1-5	200	81	40.50%	789	553	70.09%	1184	777	65.63%
Groups 1-4	165	48	29.09%	388	153	39.43%	886	495	55.87%
All Group 1	8	8	100.0%	5	5	100%	30	30	100%
Murder/Att Murder	0			1	2	200.00%	0		
Serious Assault	2	2	100%	4	3	75.00%	17	17	100%
Robbery	0			0			5	5	100%
Common Assault	43	40	93.02%	85	85	100%	380	337	88.68%
Knives/Off Weapons	3	2	66.67%	6	5	83.33%	20	19	95.00%
Drugs Supply/Production	2	2	100%	39	39	100%	35	25	71.43%
All Group 2	11	11	100%	27	23	85.19%	46	29	63.04%
Housebreaking	20	2	10.00%	24	5	20.83%	66	32	48.48%
Shopliftng	5	4	80.00%	22	21	95.45%	215	185	86.05%
	Perth City North			Perth City South			Strathallan		
	Rec	Det	%	Rec	Det	%	Rec	Det	%
Groups 1-5	765	491	64.18%	245	129	52.65%	158	73	46.20%
Groups 1-4	532	270	50.75%	210	96	45.71%	126	42	33.33%
All Group 1	17	17	100%	5	5	100%	2	2	100%
Murder/Att Murder	0			0			1	1	100%
Serious Assault	3	3	100%	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
Robbery	5	5	100%	2	1	50.00%	0		
Common Assault	263	225	85.55%	60	51	85.00%	36	32	88.89%
Knives/Off Weapons	10	10	100%	3	3	100%	3	2	66.67%
Drugs Supply/Production	10	10	100%	2	2	100%	3	3	100%
All Group 2	27	22	81.48%	13	11	84.62%	10	7	70.00%
Housebreaking	36	13	36.11%	17	11	64.71%	15	4	26.67%
Shopliftng	71	66	92.96%	9	7	77.78%	2	1	50.00%
	Strathearn			Strathtay			Strathmore		
	Rec	Det	%	Rec	Det	%	Rec	Det	%
Groups 1-5	223	106	47.53%	117	52	44.44%	227	152	66.96%
Groups 1-4	184	67	36.41%	103	38	36.89%	169	94	55.62%
All Group 1	6	6	100.00%	4	4	100.00%	20	19	95.00%
Murder/Att Murder	1	1	100.00%	0			1	1	100.00%
Serious Assault	3	3	100.00%	0			2	2	100.00%
Robbery	1	1	0.00%	0			0		0.00%
Common Assault	83	72	86.75%	35	29	82.86%	70	61	87.14%
Knives/Off Weapons	3	3	100.00%	0			1	1	100.00%
Drugs Supply/Production	5	5	100.00%	1	1	100.00%	3	3	100.00%
All Group 2	8	8				75.00%	14	12	85.71%
Housebreaking	37	14	37.84%	12	1	8.33%	16	5	31.25%
Shopliftng	9	5	55.56%	1	0	0.00%	8	5	62.50%

APPENDIX B

BACKGROUND

Bogus Workmen - Doorstep Crime

Doorstep crime is carried out by cruel, unscrupulous and organised criminal gangs who deliberately prey on the vulnerable, predominantly the elderly population. It ranges from distraction thefts, whereby the criminal will persuade a victim to allow them into their home from where they steal cash or other valuables; to bogus workmen, who persuade victims to allow them to carry out work on their house or garden and demand cash in return, even though they have not carried out any work or it has been of an extremely poor standard.

Doorstep criminals are mobile, often work across borders with many perpetrators active across several local authority areas. The season of Spring brings increased opportunities for door step criminals to carry out gardening work or home repairs. Criminals use this season to approach home owners and instil a sense of fear into their victims that if they don't sort out the damage now, it could cost much more in the future

Doorstep crime can be divided into two types: opportunistic and organised. The former tends to be carried out by individuals motivated by maintaining chaotic lifestyles involving drug and alcohol abuse, whereas organised doorstep crime is often through a family-run, lifelong 'businesses', involving teams of individuals who target specific areas and are willing to travel significant distances to do so.

The victims of doorstep crime are generally the elderly (70+ years), however there has been a growing number of crimes across the country targeting those with physical or mental impairments or other vulnerable persons.

Incidents are frequently not reported to the Police or Trading Standards due to:

- Embarrassment
- Fear (Repeat Victimisation)
- Not realising they have been subject to a crime or offence
- Feel reporting is futile

Common elements that may occur with doorstep crimes are:

- The victim is 'cold-called'
- The transaction will often involve areas of property maintenance or repair.
- The bogus worker makes no references of cancellation rights.
- Work begins immediately.

- No work is carried out, or the amount of money paid / requested is grossly disproportionate to the work done.

Perth and Kinross is an affluent area with a rising aging population which is a likely target area of doorstep crime. These types of crime are committed from Kinross to Kinloch Rannoch covering the whole of Perth and Kinross.

Scams

This is a form of crime which can be very elaborate and involves individuals targeting people under an apparently genuine front to get them to send money to them. It includes the sale of fake and counterfeit goods, internet fraud - paying for goods on sites such as Ebay and Gumtree, but the goods are never received, and scams such as convincing people they have won a prize, but they have to send money in order to retrieve it. Such crimes involve scams that are continually evolving and change with technology, social media and internet opportunities. In many instances they are committed by individuals and organised criminals working from abroad.

Theft by Housebreaking

Housebreaking can be a devastating crime which leaves victims shocked and afraid in their own homes and a general feeling of violation. In many cases those responsible are highly competent and organised criminals who carefully select and target specific houses to minimise the risk of being disturbed and maximise the potential for gains. Properties targeted are most usually unoccupied with no private security measures and the majority of housebreakers are forensically aware which obviously presents significant challenges to the Police investigating such crimes.

In Perth and Kinross, there are generally two groups of such crimes and criminals: locally based criminals who will repeatedly target the same area, generally near to where they live and generally a single crime at a time using the proceeds to pay for controlled drugs; organised travelling criminals who will target rural locations, travelling often significant distances and breaking into numerous houses in a single night, across several areas of rural Scotland.

THE POLICE RESPONSE

Door Step Crime – Operation Monarda

This is a national Police Scotland operation aimed at preventing door step crime, and raising awareness through various educational means, to empower and support local communities in the fight against such criminals. This year, the operation has been running in tandem with 'Operation Rogue Trader' which is being facilitated through Operation Liberal for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As such, Police Scotland's response to this type of crime has supported a UK wide approach.

Local activity within Perth & Kinross has included:

- Banks and Post Offices being visited by community officers who provided them with written guidance on what to do when they suspect a person is being subjected to financial harm.
- Builders merchants being visited and advice given regarding how to report suspicious activity.
- A day of action was carried out across Perth and Kinross in conjunction with Dundee and Angus to target such criminals using the roads.
- Community officers have attended local community council meetings to provide crime prevention in respect to doorstep crime.
- Community officers also attended a series of community 'cafes' for elderly residents who were given crime prevention advice. Doorstep leaflets, "No cold Callers" stickers and Nominated Neighbour Cards were also provided.
- Officers have been supported by Perth & Kinross community wardens to distribute posters and leaflets about doorstep crime along with "No Cold Callers" stickers and Nominated Neighbour Scheme cards. The wardens attended sheltered housing areas and regularly patrol areas identified as being at risk, to provide advice and reassurance to elderly residents.
- Traditional and social media have also been used to raise public awareness around bogus caller crime.

All of the above work will continue to play a part in our collective multi agency response to tackling door step crime.

The investigations of doorstep crime are treated as a priority, closely managed by supervisors and every opportunity for enforcement is taken. Elderly victims receive follow up visits by their local community officers to provide advice and identify neighbours or family members who can help to protect the victim from becoming a repeat victim, as well as raise awareness in the area.

Scams – Operation Carpus

Because of the complexity and ever changing methods used by scammers, a national database of the different approaches has been developed in order to take preventative action. The national Scams Hub was set up by East Sussex Trading Standards (funded by the National Trading Standards Board). This was established after a list of victims was recovered during a postal sorting room raid. Each person on this list was almost certainly being targeted by the scammers and very likely a scam victim. This list has been disseminated to local authorities across the UK including Perth and Kinross, where 100 of the victims reside.

Locally, working in partnership with Trading Standards, Community Care and Adult Services, Police Scotland will ensure that each of the named residents on the list will be contacted and visited to assess vulnerability and be provided with information or assistance to prevent them from becoming repeat victims.

Work has been done to prioritise those most vulnerable and it will also be essential to gather relevant information from the victims to confirm the methods used in the scams. This will then be fed back to the National Scams Hub so that meaningful intelligence can be collated across the UK.

The initial intelligence shows persons on this list have been targeted in relation to foreign lottery scams and catalogues scams.

Theft by Housebreaking

Theft by Housebreaking to houses is a Police Scotland priority and is being driven at both a local and national level because of the nature of this crime and the challenges in dealing with such criminals.

A national team dedicated to targeting travelling criminals has been established, with members of the team working from every division. Operation Carefree ran between January and March 2014, investigated domestic housebreaking crimes committed by gangs operating out of the central belt. These gangs generally operate in teams of 4 and use multiple vehicles, which are bought and sold regularly to travel to and from the crimes and have targeted most of rural Scotland. In excess of 370 housebreakings have been linked to these teams.

Within Perth & Kinross a Detective Constable was seconded to the operation who acted as focal point to pull together approximately 40 linked housebreaking crimes in the Tayside area attributable to these teams. The crimes occurred throughout the division from a series of 4 in the Pitlochry area, 20 in the Crieff area, 3 in the Scone area, and others in the Carse of Gowrie, Dundee and Angus areas.

As a direct result of the national operation over 150 housebreakings have been detected, and is an excellent example of the clear benefits of working as a single force.

At a local level, the Community Investigation Team, working closely with the CID, review and oversee every crime of Theft by Housebreaking in order to identify links between crimes and any evidence that will support the identification of and enforcement against, housebreakers.

CONTACT DETAILS

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