

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Community Safety Committee – 14 January 2015

**PERTH AND KINROSS LOCAL POLICING AREA
PERFORMANCE RESULTS
1 October to 31 December 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 is to provide an interim update to the Committee regarding the performance of Police Scotland that will facilitate local scrutiny.
- 2.2 The report 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 between 1 October and 31 December 2014.

3. PERFORMANCE

- 3.3 The following priorities within this report are the Local Policing Priorities as identified in the 3 year Local Policing Plan:
- Serious and Organised Crime
 - Public Protection and Safety
 - Road Safety
 - Antisocial Behaviour
 - Major Events and Planning
 - Theft, Housebreaking and Scams
 - Community Engagement

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 |



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Community Safety Committee

Interim Update – 1st October to 31st December 2014

Report by Chief Superintendent Eddie Smith



Contents

Local Policing Priority Updates:

Serious and Organised Crime	page 3
Public Protection and Safety	pages 4&5
Road Safety	page 5
Antisocial Behaviour	pages 6
Major Events and Planning	page 6
Theft, Housebreaking and Scams	page 7
Community Engagement	page 8

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 to 31 December 2014 but no figures are provided as the next Committee meeting scheduled for mid-January 2015 is not aligned to our fixed reporting period, as was agreed by the Committee.

Serious and Organised Crime

Over the last few months, local officers within the Community Investigation Unit (CIU) have been looking at alternative ways to target individuals linked to Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). They arrested a number of individuals on apprehension warrants, many outstanding fines have been paid and several charges have been brought in relation to road traffic offences. This has significantly disrupted the criminal activities of such individuals and has led to an increase in intelligence gathering in order to effectively tackle SOC.

Some of the key highlights of the CIU over recent months are as follows:

- In relation to Operation Rover, one male was charged with resetting stolen property and subsequently lost his second-hand dealers licence which successfully disrupted his organised crime activities. Numerous licensed premises visits have been conducted in relation to this operation.
- Work to disrupt another serious and organised criminal in Perth resulted in a motor vehicle company being closed down and licence revoked.
- During October 2014, officers targeted other known SOCG criminals in relation to Operation Cribbage which resulted in quantities of heroin being seized.
- During November 2014, officers carried out operations at HMP Perth and within residential premises in the centre of Perth in relation to drugs and are continuing enquiries in relation to drug dealing at St Catherine's Square.
- Joint working with DVLA resulted in a male being reported in relation to the running of a motor company with links to Operation Rover. Investigations are continuing as there is identified potential for closure of the premises.
- A joint operation with the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) took place during November 2014 which resulted in six illegal immigrants being traced and three arrests being made.
- Finally, a further drug search warrant was executed at the home address of an individual which resulted in 1.3 grams of heroin being recovered, along with several hundred pounds of cash and other evidence of drug dealing. This has resulted in the individual being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for being Concerned in the Supply of Drugs.

Joint working has been ongoing to develop our own Perth & Kinross strategy which links into the Scottish Government's national "Equally Safe" strategy to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls.

The overall aim of the strategy is to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls, creating a strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, where women and girls live free from such abuse and the attitudes that help perpetuate it. To achieve this, the strategy sets out some early commitments as well as explaining how a phased approach to planning will help ensure that long-term change is sustained.

The four priorities identified in Equally Safe are:

1. Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls.
2. Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically.
3. Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising safety and wellbeing of women and girls.
4. Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.

The 16 Days of Action campaign began on 25 November 2014 and finished on 10 December 2014. During that time, the partnership ran a local event at Perth Cinema which focussed on a documentary-drama highlighting the issues around rape, and what constitutes consent. It also raised questions around how societal attitudes can influence juries in rape trials. The event was well-attended, initiated interesting audience discussion and raised overall awareness.

We are working in closely with our partners to develop protocols to address harmful practices and ensure practitioners are able to identify those at risk and to ensure that we are equipped to deal with issues effectively and safely.

A recent funding bid to the Big Lottery resulted in the partnership, led by Perthshire Women's aid, receiving in the region of £400,000 to develop an outreach service in Perth & Kinross for victims of domestic abuse. This project is still in the early stages, however will look at providing support in rural Perthshire to enable victims to access support without having to come into Perth City.

Over the festive period, we will engage and collaborate with partners, including Taxi Marshalls, Community Wardens and Street Pastors, to focus on reducing violence within Perth & Kinross. Centresafe plans will be in place, and Campaign against

Violence (CAV) officers will be deployed during the period to provide an enhanced high profile presence and will carry out numerous licensed premises and retail checks to support local businesses in our aim to prevent disorder and violence. In addition, WRAP training (Counter Terrorism product) is to be delivered to Community Wardens, Street Pastors and Parking Attendants during December by Community Safety Sergeant Fiona Hetherington.

In relation to hate crime, we have recently trained staff from seven organisations within Perth & Kinross, enabling them to support victims by facilitating third party reporting. Further training is due to be rolled out to more organisations in the near future. Given that we only had one organisation signed up to third party reporting before, this is an encouraging development and will provide much needed support to victims of hate crime who choose not to report the matter directly to the police.

We are committed to keeping people safe and tackling all forms of criminality, particularly incidents of violence which, although are in overall decline within Perth and Kinross, have a significant impact on our community.

Road Safety

The Festive Drink/Drug Drive Initiative 2014 commenced on Friday 5 December 2014, and will run for a period of four weeks until 0700 hours on Friday 2 January 2015. This initiative coincides with the reduction of the drink drive limit which was enacted on Friday 5 December 2014.

Despite the general perception that drink/drug driving is socially unacceptable, many who persist in doing so consider it to be a low-risk activity in terms of the likelihood of being involved in a collision or being caught. This year's initiative will target offenders who have detected for drink/drug driving and there will be significant media focus on the impact of the reduced limit with the aim of raising public awareness.

Our 'Festive Drink/Drug Drive Initiative 2014' will be conducted through high visibility patrol work in marked police vehicles and static road checks based upon intelligence gathered and identified hotspot areas.

Police Scotland is committed to achieving the Scottish Government's 2020 casualty reduction targets. Increasing awareness of the risks associated with driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs will have a clear impact on our efforts to reduce road casualties and all operational officers will support this initiative. The campaign media launch was held on Friday 5 December in Edinburgh.

Antisocial Behaviour

The number of complaints regarding disorder is continuing to show a significant downward trend but we recognise that we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent. Officers will continue to be directed to 'hot spot' areas to provide reassurance and we will continue to work in partnership with the Safer Communities Team, Community Wardens and other partners to provide a highly visible presence in our communities, with the aim of reducing antisocial behaviour and specific offences such as vandalism, malicious mischief and public drinking. We use analytical tools and intelligence, coupled with local knowledge and experience to maximise all opportunities and have identified problematic locations to target our efforts such as St Catherine's Square in Perth.

A CID proactive team will be deployed in Perth soon and will be working closely with partners to target priority locations in order to address issues of antisocial behaviour, drug dealing and alcohol fuelled disorder.

Major Events and Planning

Looking ahead to 2015, and in particular to T in the Park, if approval is given to the site, this will bring fresh challenges in terms of policing the event, not least of all the need for new traffic management plans and the importance of community cohesion.

Lessons learnt from the Ryder Cup have taught us that community engagement with residents and businesses alike are of paramount importance. We will therefore work closely with the event organisers, communities, local elected members, and businesses to help support and facilitate a smooth transition to the new site. A Tactical Planning Group is already in place to manage this change and deal with any issues that may arise. The group will place an emphasis on enhancing community engagement and there will be additional consultation and increased information sharing between all parties concerned.

The Divisional Coordination Unit is now engaged in the planning process in respect of the General Election. Work in this regard will continue over the coming months leading to the Election itself.

Theft, Housebreaking and Scams

Detective Inspector Andy Patrick continues to take the lead in relation to all investigations into housebreakings across Perth & Kinross. Encouragingly, the number of residential properties broken than the 5 year average. We continue to closely monitor theft by shoplifting which has shown a slight upward trend compared to last year, albeit the number of reported crimes are still lower than the five year average. It has already been identified that this could be indicative of the current economic climate, but we are working with partners in the city centre management team to provide support in relation to Retailers Against Crime and other such initiatives.

Further joint working projects are due to start in the new year to collectively raise awareness of scams and crimes associated with bogus callers. Our officers continue to engage with colleagues in our Safer Communities teams and discussions are ongoing with Trading Standards and Perth & Kinross Council to maximise all available opportunities to reduce such crime and engage effectively with local residents.

The development of Rural Watch in Highland Perthshire has been warmly welcomed by rural communities, as well as local Councillors, and will continue to play a vital role in raising awareness of rural crime and how to prevent it. We are currently examining methods to roll the scheme out to other rural communities within Perth & Kinross throughout 2015.

Operation After Dark is underway and aims to prevent thefts, housebreakings and scams by highlighting crime prevention advice to a wide range communities and increasing reassurance. Community Wardens will also be giving advice and support to vulnerable persons in order to keep them safe. Highly visible police patrols will be deployed to areas previously known to have been targeted for such crimes and our engagement with local communities will again raise awareness.

Discussions are still at an early stage with Trading Standards, and Errol car boot sale organisers, with a view to implementing the Real Deal initiative. This aims to reduce serious and organised crime and offenders who are linked to the sale of counterfeit goods.

Community Engagement

We are currently developing a Community Engagement Plan which will highlight the number of ways in which we are communicating with our local Community Councils, Councillors, and our communities in general. It will detail new developments such as the Local Area Commander's weekly bulletins and proposals to meet regularly with each of the party groups. This is underpinned by our commitment to increase community engagement within Perth and Kinross.

Moreover, we are in the process of moving towards an integrated Community Hub based at St Martin's House in Perth, involving Perth and Kinross Council, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), NHS, the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP), Environmental Services and the Safer Communities Team. The infrastructure is in place with the intention being to relocate our Community Safety Sergeant and Community Intelligence Administrator to the Hub, with I.T. work ongoing. There will also be a 'hot desk' facility to encourage local officers to use the Hub on a regular basis and daily management meetings are planned at the Hub to maximise cohesion and collaborative working.

Project meetings have been scheduled to ensure that all stakeholders and partners are kept up-to-date and are involved at key stages of the process so that a co-ordinated approach is adopted and progress continues into the New Year.

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