



PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Community Safety Committee

Interim Report by Chief Superintendent Paul Anderson
(Period of 19th December to 1st January)



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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 19th December to the 1st January only.

Crime Data for this period has not been audited and as such is currently unavailable but will be available for the next Quarterly Report. The report will focus on the work completed by Police Scotland over the Festive Period were applicable in collaboration with our partners.

Serious and Organised Crime

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

For the period, Operation Quest continued to be one of the main focuses for Perth LPA. Operation Quest was aimed at tackling violence and anti social behaviour leading up to the peak periods over the Festive week.

For the reporting period between the 19th December and the 1st January the Community investigation Unit (CIU) conducted drugs operations at addresses in Perth.

Within the reporting period there has been one case of 'drug supply' offences at HMP Perth. On the 19th December a male juvenile was found attempting to pass drugs to an inmate and a significant recovery was made. As this case is still sub judice no other comments can be made on this incident.

Public Protection and Safety

Additional patrols were carried out across the whole of Perth and Kinross during the festive period, providing reassurance to the public attending Christmas parties and other festive events.

On the 22nd December, Operation Frankie took place in Perth supported by the presence of a Drugs Detection Dog. The operation aimed to provide a safety message for staff within licensed premises and revellers within the city centre. This operation led to one 26 year old male being reported for the possession of controlled drugs and with the number of revellers within the city it also provides evidence that Perth is a safe place to enjoy in the evening.

On the 23rd December, the last Friday before Christmas, extra resources were dedicated to keeping people safe within Perth and the outlying areas in addition to the Centre Safe Deployment. The high visibility patrols around the night time economy allowed revellers to enjoy their evening safely and encouraged good practice by licensed premises through regular visits, support and advice.

Wardens, Taxi Marshals and Street Pastors assisted police with their expertise, particularly within Perth City Centre and were a valuable additional resource and support across the period.

Local Days of Action staff (normally office based duties) provided valuable support on the 23rd and 28th December. They provided high visibility patrols and support to the Safer Communities Hub as well as conducting domestic perpetrator and victim checks across Perth and Kinross, ensuring the victims were supported over the

festive period.

On the 30th December, following concerns raised by the community, a lengthy investigation culminated in the arrest of a 19 year old male from Letham for telecommunication offences. As this investigation is sub judice no other information can be passed at this time.

A violent offender, responsible for 2 assaults on strangers, was approached by Hub officers and offered support to deal with his problematic alcohol/drug misuse. He agreed to support and was referred into Tayside Council on Alcohol for one to one counselling. He has not come to Police attention since being offered support.

Road Safety

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

The period under review covers only part of the Winter Road Safety campaign for Police Scotland and as such the figures available cover the whole of Tayside and are not specific to Perth and Kinross.

On the 23rd December a High Visibility Operation was carried out at HMP Perth by PC McRae along with officers from the Road Policing Unit and CIU.

The object of the operation was to disrupt and deter visitors bringing prohibited items/drugs into HMP Perth as well as providing a strong emphasis on road safety and deterring the use of the road network by offenders.

The operation ran between 12pm and 3pm and there were no major arrests made. This style of operation allows the partnership between Police Scotland and HMP Perth to grow and diversify.

Antisocial Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour and its impact on communities remains a priority for Police Scotland. Working closely with our Council and housing partners at the Hub we continue to make early interventions, where householders are involved in anti-social behaviour, and have a range of measures put in place to stop this and improve the quality of life for those affected.

Working with PKC Safer Communities Team, 3 properties were identified for Acceptable Behaviour Agreements and the occupants were served with paperwork and warned regarding future anti-social behaviour. Their behaviour has been monitored throughout the Festive period and as a result one address has now progressed to a full ASBO.

Between the 19th December and the 1st January there were 141 calls for anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Perth and Kinross. This figure, which may include duplicate calls for the same incident, shows there have been below 11 calls on average per day over the festive period for all aspects of antisocial behaviour, including neighbour disputes and public noise complaints.

Major Events and Planning

There have been significant incidents that have involved Police Scotland and their partners over the reporting period.

The first incident took place on the 19th December following a report of a male who entered the River Tay in Perth. The male has since been identified as Iain Guthrie, aged 20, from Perth. Significant assistance has been received in relation to the search for Iain from specialist officers in Police Scotland; the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Mountain Rescue Team; Coastguard and RNLi. Air Support has also been provided by Police Scotland and the Coastguard, however at present Iain remains an ongoing missing person investigation.

On the 23rd December officers attended a report of an assault in Rattray. Following initial investigation a search was conducted at a separate address in Carsie which led to the recovery of items from within the address. Due to the nature of these items assistance was sought from the Explosives Ordnance. This matter is still the subject of an ongoing police investigation and no further information can be passed at this time.

On the 28th December, St Johnstone had a home fixture against Rangers. Several officers were deployed to the match and an amended traffic management plan was agreed between the club and Police Scotland. The police operation was a success

with only one male from Glasgow being arrested due to his behaviour at the game.

On the 29th December a 47 year old male contacted his wife to report that he was disorientated at Drumochter and advised he was sheltering in a stone shelter near to A' Bhuidheanach Bheag. Police Scotland was unable to make direct telephone contact with the male and a Search and Rescue operation was launched led by the Tayside Mountain Rescue with assistance from RAF Kinloss. The male was traced safe and uninjured.

On 31st December additional officers provided a high visibility presence across Perth and Kinross as the Rangers V Celtic fixture was taking place. Early engagement with licensees, by officers on these patrols, ensured a relatively peaceful fixture was managed across the LPA.

Finally in the early hours of the 1st January a significant fire was reported at the Fisher's Hotel, Pitlochry. The incident led to police officers and the Fire Service ensuring that all residents were evacuated from the property and provided with alternative accommodation. The fire and road closures resulted in the cancellation of an event scheduled in Pitlochry on the 1st January.

Theft, Housebreaking and Scams

Theft, housebreakings and scams continue to be a divisional priority and as such officers are tasked on a daily basis with deterrence patrols based on the latest intelligence.

For the period under review there have been 5 housebreakings reported across Perth and Kinross. These are the subject of on-going investigations at this time. Three of these incidents were to commercial premises whilst the remaining two were to private properties.

The Festive period can lead to an increase in shoplifting offences. We are pleased to highlight that the number of shoplifting offences reported across Perth and Kinross was 12 which is the same as the previous reporting period in 2015. Of the 12 reported, 8 of these are now detected and enquiries are continuing with regards the outstanding incidents.

Community Engagement

The Community Hub Police Officers introduced a Community Safety Information Hub based within the St Johns Shopping Centre. This has been well supported by our partners who have given their commitment and time to resource the Hub and offer information and advice to the general public. The Community Safety Information Hub provided advice on home safety, fire safety and other preventative information.

The LPA Festive Plan commenced with liaison between police and licensees across Perth & Kinross to identify key dates including the main party nights. This also identified the St Johnstone v Rangers fixture as an area that could result in an increased footfall within the city centre. Licensing advice letters were delivered to premises across the LPA emphasising the need for good housekeeping, safety and early intervention whilst highlighting the advice and support available from police and our partners.

Our Hub staff also provided an outreach 'Keep Xmas Safe' in Blairgowrie on 21st December with the Community Bus offering 'shop safe' support and advice as well as some giveaways to the Blairgowrie community. Some of the topics discussed with members of the public included; doorstep crime; internet safety; fraud prevention and bogus callers.

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