

Highland Council

Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee - 26 March 2014

Agenda Item	5ii(a)
Report No	CPE 3/14

The Draft Highland Local Policing Plan 2014-17

Report by the Highland Local Policing Commander - Chief Superintendent Julian Innes

Summary

To present the proposed 2014-17 Highland Local Policing Plan to the Committee for scrutiny and comment.

1. Background

1.1 The Highland Local Policing Plan outlines the local policing priorities and objectives for the Highland local authority area for 2014-2017 and is a statutory requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. It has been produced as part of a planning process which takes account of the Scottish Government's national outcomes, the setting of Community Planning Partnership objectives through single outcome agreements, the strategic police priorities set by Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Police Authorities Strategic Police Plan and Police Scotland's Annual Policing Plan. These priorities and objectives have been identified by looking at the national and local intelligence; community safety trends as well as the views and concerns of the public, locally elected officials and community planning partners. This included an extensive Policing and Fire Plan consultation exercise, with the support of Ward Managers, with every ward within Highland. The Plan supports the overall objectives within the Highland Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). Moreover, the Plan will be supported by 22 Multi Member Ward Policing Plans which outline the policing priorities at a ward level.

2. Progress and Next Steps

2.1 The Highland Local Policing Plan will also be presented to the next Education Children and Adult Service Committee on 21 May 2014. Once the Plan has been reviewed by both Committees it will be presented to Full Council for ratification on the 26 June 2014.

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (i) Members provide scrutiny and comment on the proposed 2014-17 Highland Local Policing Plan prior to its presentation to Full Council on the 26 June 2014.

Chief Superintendent Julian Innes
Highland and Island Divisional Commander
17 March 2014

Enclosures:

1. Draft Highland Local Policing Plan 2014-17

HIGHLAND LOCAL POLICE PLAN 2014-2017

1. Introduction and purpose of plan

1.1 This Plan outlines the local policing priorities and objectives for Highland for 2014-2017 and is a statutory requirement for the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. It is produced as part of a planning process which takes account of the Scottish Government's national outcomes, the setting of Community Planning Partnership objectives through single outcome agreements, the strategic police priorities set by Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Police Authorities Strategic Police Plan and Police Scotland's Annual Policing Plan.

1.2 The purpose of this plan is to set out the policing priorities and objectives which the 3 Highland Area Commands, Highland and Islands Division and the wider Police Scotland will focus on for the next 3 years. These priorities and objectives have been identified by: looking at the national and local intelligence picture; a review of the community safety trends; and securing the views and concerns of the public, locally elected officials and community planning partners. The priorities and objectives identified in this Plan support the overall objectives within the Highland Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The Plan will be reviewed by the Community Safety, Public Engagement & Equalities Committee and the Local Policing Commander on an annual basis. Furthermore, this plan is supported by 22 Multi Member Ward Policing Plans which outline the policing priorities at a ward level.

2. Foreword by:

Chief Constable Sir Stephen House QPM

The first year of Police Scotland has seen significant change in many aspects of the organisation; however, the delivery of locally-focused operational policing remains the bedrock of this service. I remain strongly committed to the principle that community-based policing, which responds to local need and demand, is crucial to delivering services that keep people safe and maintain public confidence.

One of the ways in which we can visibly demonstrate this commitment to local policing is by listening to communities and asking them to help shape our priorities. We have consulted widely across the council area with local people and other organisations to help identify our priorities. By combining the information we received through this consultation process with analysis of crime and other performance data we have established the priorities and objectives that are set out in this plan.

In developing this plan the Local Policing Team, led by the Local Commander, has worked closely with public, private and third sector organisations as well as directly with communities, because we recognise that partnership working is critical to making our communities safer. Importantly, this approach has also ensured that our planning process is aligned to the broader vision set out in the Community Plan and supports the Single Outcome Agreement. This plan is therefore a commitment to working across agencies to deliver better outcomes for communities as well as setting out how policing will be delivered in this area.

I am pleased to say that we have achieved much in the first year of Police Scotland to tackle crime and prevent harm - reducing the number of people who have been the victims of violence and the number killed and injured on our roads as well as addressing other crucial priorities for communities. This plan sets out an agenda to build on that success by tackling the issues that will improve the safety and well being of communities across this local authority area.

Chair – Scottish Police Authority - Mr Vic Emery

Leader of the Council – Mr Drew Hendry

An opportunity for the leader of the local council to give an overview of policing from their perspective and an affirmation of Local Authority endorsement for the plan.

Local Police Commander – Chief Superintendent Julian Innes

It is my pleasure to introduce the Local Policing Plan for the Highland area for 2014-17.

Police Scotland has been in existence now for one year, and in that time we have risen to the challenge and taken advantage of all opportunities that have presented themselves following amalgamation of the Scottish Police Forces.

The communities of the Highlands and Islands are well used to and enjoy the community style policing approach that is woven in to the fabric of the police officers within the Highland and Islands Division, and it is therefore important that we continue to engage in this manner in the coming year to the benefit of all our communities.

Highland is a safe place in which to live, work and bring up a family. This policing plan, developed in consultation and collaboration with our communities and partners, will build upon the successes of last year and focus our resources in areas which matter to you. That is what community policing is about, and that is what we aim to deliver.



3. Priorities and Objectives

3.1 **Priority - Road Safety** – Road Safety continues to be the community safety issue of highest concern for communities within Highland. Whilst the overall number of people killed and seriously injured on Highland roads has reduced over the past few years, when they do occur they have a significant impact on the affected families and communities. Through the Safer Highland Road Safety Group we will continue to participate in initiatives to promote good driver behaviour. Furthermore, with the assistance of the National Trunk Roads Policing Unit and the Camera Safety Partnership, we will continue to target speeding and inappropriate driving throughout Highland, particularly around schools, within communities and around accident hotspots.

3.1.1 Long Term Outcomes

- To reduce the number of people killed, seriously injured or slightly injured on the roads in Highland in line with National Road Safety Targets.
- Reduce concern with reference to Road Safety / Road Crime within Highland.

3.1.2 Objectives

- Prevention Activities - Participate in activities to promote safe driving including:
 - In conjunction with the Safer Highland Road Safety Group, conduct a Driving Ambition Campaign at each of the 22 High Schools within a 24 month period.
 - The Trunk Road / Divisional Policing Units to conduct a targeted motorcycle campaign each spring.
 - Participate in all Police Scotland Road Safety Campaigns.
- Increase number of drivers detected for speeding, drink and drug driving, dangerous driving, seat belt and mobile phone offences.

3.2 **Priority – Alcohol and Drugs Abuse / Misuse** – Our consultations indicate that alcohol and drug abuse and misuse continue to be a priority concern for communities in the Highland area. As a member of the Safer Highland Alcohol and Drug Group (ADG) we will actively support prevention initiatives and activities that will reduce alcohol and drug abuse / misuse. There has been a significant decrease in those offences which are often linked with excessive alcohol consumption, especially in and around licensed premises. This has been achieved, in part, by a more focussed targeting of resources and working in partnership with licensees to reduce the risks. The use of illegal drugs has detrimental impact on the quality of life of individuals, their families and the community in which they live. Drugs users are vulnerable to exploitation and can become involved in acquisitive crimes to feed their addiction. With our ADG partners we will continue to concentrate our educational efforts on informing young people of the risks involved in taking illegal drugs and psychoactive substances (legal highs). Our enforcement activity will focus on disrupting the supply of illegal drugs into Highland using both divisional and wider Police Scotland capabilities and resources. The community also has a significant role to play in reporting any suspicious activities which may be linked to illegal drugs.

3.2.1 Long Term Outcomes

- Change the culture and attitude, to one of unacceptability, in reference to alcohol and drug abuse and misuse by elements of the community.
- Reduce the community impacts and costs of alcohol and drug misuse and abuse within Highland.

3.2.2 Objectives

- Prevention Activities –
 - Maintain the current level of licensed premises checks.
 - Conduct a test purchasing operation within each of the Inspector led policing areas each year.
 - In conjunction with the ADG, introduce an advisory ‘signpost’ letter outlining available assistance for alcohol, drugs and violence issues to all custodies / those issued with fixed penalties.
 - As part of the ADG contribute to the development and conduct of a targeted drug and alcohol awareness campaign for school children (e.g. Safer Highlander).
 - Support multi agency events including Rock Challenge.
- Increase the number of positive stop searches / confiscations for those possessing alcohol and/or drugs:
 - In public places where byelaws are in force prohibiting alcohol consumption.
 - The number of alcohol seizures in relation to age.
 - For drugs
- Increase the number of offences reported for the supply or being concerned with the supply of drugs.

3.3 Priority - Antisocial Behaviour / Disorder – Antisocial behaviour and disorder are often strongly linked with alcohol misuse and abuse. As indicated in the alcohol and drugs misuse and abuse priority above, there has been a significant decrease in antisocial behaviour and disorder over the past few years. The overall decrease has been achieved, in part, by working with partners to tackle the very few individuals who are frequently involved in antisocial behaviour and disorder as well as focussing on locations where it occurs. In conjunction with the Antisocial Behaviour Group, we will continue to intervene as early as possible when instances of antisocial behaviour arise, including managing persistent offenders and locations through Operation Notebook. Where necessary we will also use legislative measures such as Antisocial Behaviour Contracts and vehicle seizures to influence offender behaviour.

3.3.1 Long Term Outcome

- Decrease in the number of people who are victims or impacted by antisocial behaviour / disorder.

3.3.2 Objectives

- Prevention Activities - Contribute to the Safer Highland Antisocial Behaviour Group initiatives and campaigns to reduce Antisocial Behaviour.

- Reduce in the amount of disorder.
- Reduce the occurrences of petty assaults
- Reduce the level of serious assaults, petty assaults, breach of the peace, vandalism and antisocial behaviour in the 5 Highland Wards with the highest levels of incidents.
- Reduce the number of premises currently identified as causing significant and persistent disorder or serious nuisance to the community.
- Reduce the number of incidents of vandalism.
- Increase the use of antisocial behaviour warnings and vehicle seizures.

3.4 Priority – Crimes of Dishonesty – Although the likelihood of being a victim of crimes such as housebreakings, thefts and bogus caller fraud is small, when they do occur they have a disproportionate effect on individuals, families and communities in respect to their feelings of safety. In many cases it is likely that simple precautionary measures would have prevented the crime; therefore, there is a continuing need to inform the public, and especially vulnerable groups, on how to best protect themselves and their property. In Highland there have been a number of recent spikes in respect to thefts from rural properties as well as the theft of tools, construction plant and construction materials. The Division and the wider Police Scotland have and will continue to mobilise whatever resources are necessary to counter these types of crimes. However, prevention is key and we will liaise with rural communities, FarmWatch and the construction industry to provide advice, inform them of any local crime trends and to secure intelligence and information to better target those perpetrating these crimes.

3.4.1 Long Term Outcome

- Reduce the number of people who are victims of crimes of dishonesty or who are concerned about crimes of dishonesty.

3.4.2 Objectives

- Prevention Activities –

- In partnership with Trading Standards develop and introduce an annual awareness campaign targeted at vulnerable people in respect to dishonesties.
- Develop and introduce a ‘ConstructionWatch’ campaign in order to raise awareness and secure intelligence and information in reference to tool, plant and building material theft.
- Increase membership of FarmWatch.
- Reduce the number of thefts by housebreaking (including attempts).
- Reduce the number of thefts from a motor vehicle.
- Reduce theft by shoplifting.
- Increase the detection rate for thefts by housebreaking (including attempts)
- Increase the detection rate for dishonesties (Class 3).

3.5 Priority - Protecting People – Whilst often a hidden crime, there are people in Highland who are victims of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or are neglected. Domestic abuse blights the lives of individuals as well as their families. Police Scotland has made domestic abuse and other forms of abuse, such as hate crimes, a high priority. We will endeavour to prevent abuse and neglect by early and effective interventions and

by the effective sharing of information with relevant Safer Highland partners. In conjunction with the Safer Highland Violence Against Women Group we will support all victims of domestic abuse and encourage them to report incidents of abuse. We will manage the risk posed by dangerous offenders and protect those at risk through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements and Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating Group.

3.4.1 Long Term Outcomes

- Decrease in the number of people who are victims of sexual or domestic violence / abuse.
- Decrease in the number of people who are victims of hate crimes.

3.4.2 Objectives

- Prevention Activities

-- In support of the Safer Highland Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection and Violence Against Women Groups play and active role in preventative initiatives and campaigns.

- Increase the reporting of domestic abuse incidents
- Increase the reporting of sexual crime incidents
- Meet the Police Scotland detection rate target for domestic abuse
- Meet the Police Scotland detection rate target for sexual crimes (Class 2)
- Increase the reporting of Hate incidents
- Meet the Police Scotland detection rate target for Hate Crimes

4. **How we identified our priorities**

4.1 To identify the Highland policing priorities we have used a wide range of information and intelligence. There has been a comprehensive consultation process which has included an extensive series of meetings and contacts with a wide range of community groups across the Highland as well as engagement with locally elected officials and our Highland Community Planning Partners. This has included a series of dedicated policing plan forums with every ward in Highland, engagement with Highland Youth Voice and discussions with the Division's Community Advisory Group. Furthermore, in autumn 2013, Police Scotland conducted an extensive survey across all the Wards within Highland and the information from this survey, along with the legacy Northern Constabulary 2012/13 Community Consultation Survey, has been used to understand the public's views on community safety and policing issues within Highland.

4.2 In addition to the consultation, we have considered the intelligence picture, through our own strategic assessment process and the Safer Highland Partnership strategic assessment, to identify current and emerging community safety and crime trends. We have also reviewed the Highland SOA, especially in respect to the 'safer and stronger communities and preventing reoffending' strand linking to the following long term outcomes.

- 4.2.1 Communities and individuals are safe from alcohol related offending and behaviour.

4.2.2 Areas with the most multiple deprivation become safer and are felt to be safer.

4.2.3 Improve road safety.

4.2.4 Reduce antisocial behaviour.

4.2.5 People are, and feel free to live their lives without harassment and discrimination and can take part in community life.

4.2.6 Highland becomes even safer.

5. Local Policing Arrangements

5.1 Highland has 3 of the 6 Area Commands within the Highland and Islands Division of Police Scotland. The 3 Area Commands in Highland are:

5.1.1 Highland North Area Command covering Caithness, Sutherland, East Ross, Ross and Cromarty

5.1.2 Highland South Area Command covering Lochaber, Skye, Lochalsh, Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn.

5.1.3 Inverness Area Command covering the Inverness, Culloden & Ardersier and Aird & Loch Ness Wards.

5.2 The Area Commands have a number of local inspector led community policing teams with operational uniformed police officers on shift 24 hours a day. The Area Commands also have criminal investigations officers, officers involved in the public protection arena and prevention and intervention officers. Furthermore, the Highland Area Commands can rapidly call upon additional uniformed officers and specialist capabilities from both the Division and the wider Police Scotland.

6. National Outcomes

Policing Plan Priorities	Strategic Policing Priorities	National Outcomes	Highland SOA Outcomes
Road Safety	- Increase road safety and reduce road crime. - Protect the public	8,9	- Improve road safety - Highland becomes even safer
Alcohol and Drugs Abuse / Misuse	- Reduce violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour - Protect the public	8,9,11	- Communities and individuals are safe from alcohol related offending and behaviour. - Areas with the most multiple deprivation become safer and are felt to be safer. - Highland becomes even safer.
Antisocial Behaviour	- Reduce violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour - Protect the public	7,9,11	- Reduce antisocial behaviour. - Areas with the most multiple deprivation

			become safer and are felt to be safer
Crimes of Dishonesty	- Protect the public - Tackle serious organised crime and terrorism	8,9,11	- Highland becomes even safer
Protecting People	- Reduce violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour - Protect the public	5,7,8,9,11	- People are, and feel free to live their lives without harassment and discrimination, and can take part on community life. Highland becomes even safer.

7. Performance, Accountability and Scrutiny

7.1 The Highland Policing Plan is an agreement between the Local Policing Commander and the Local Policing Committee on priorities and objectives for the next 3 years. In Highland, the role of Local Policing Committee is undertaken by the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee which has 15 Elected Members representing a cross section of areas and political parties. The Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee is responsible for monitoring the policing performance against the agreed Local Policing Plan and to hold the Local Policing Commander to account against the Plan. The Committee meets four times a year and the Local Policing Commander is required to provide reports on progress against the Policing Plan and provide any relevant information to the Committee to enable it to perform its scrutiny role. The minutes of the Committee Meetings and the submitted reports can be viewed on the Highland Council website.

8. Engagement

8.1 The Divisional leadership team is key partner in the overall Community Planning and Highland Safer Highland Partnerships. The Division is also a member of a number of Safer Highland groups including: the Road Safety Group, Antisocial Behaviour Group, Alcohol and Drugs Group, Child and Adult Protection Groups and the Violence Against Women Group. In respect to wider community engagement the Area Commanders and local policing team Inspectors are responsible for engagement with local communities and locally elected officials. Where possible we will attend Community Council / Community Group meetings and when this is not possible we will endeavour to make contact with the Community Council or Group to pass on information and enquire if there are any policing issues.

9. Equalities

9.1 All our work is underpinned by our commitment to equality and diversity, both in our dealings with the public we serve as well as our own staff. We are committed to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

9.2 We recognise that effective and fair policing is about reflecting the needs and expectations of individuals and local communities as our formal public consultation emphasises. Survey results show that different communities have differing expectations and contrasting experience of the services provided by the police. Our aim is to ensure that our service is fair and consistent to all, according to their needs, keeping those who are most vulnerable safe.

9.3 To further this aim, and to satisfy our statutory duties under The Equalities Act 2010, we have developed national equality and diversity outcomes to explicitly outline our commitment to meet the needs of members of the public and our staff who share relevant protected characteristics. We have included local priorities and objectives which contribute to achieving these outcomes and these will be reported in the Chief Constable's Annual Report.

9.4 Police Scotland's Equality and Diversity Outcomes are:

9.4.1 People better recognise hate crime and incidents and feel confident in reporting them.

9.4.2 Individuals within the protected groups feel safe and secure within their local community

9.4.3 Victims of gender-based violence are confident that the police are responsive to their needs

9.4.4 People from, and across, the protected groups are meaningfully engaged with us and their views contribute to the service.

9.4.5 Everyone in Scotland is able to contact the police when they require our assistance and the experience is positive.

9.4.6 We have a workforce that is reflective of our communities to increase trust and confidence in the police.

9.4.7 We have a workforce where people feel valued and encouraged to maximise their potential to ensure the most efficient and effective service is delivered.

10. Local Contact Details

10.1 Your local point of contact for this plan is the Highland and Islands Divisional Commander who can be contacted through the 101 Non Emergency Contact Number or via the Divisional Police Headquarters, Old Perth Road, Inverness, Highland, IV2 3SY.