

Highland Council

Community Safety, Public Engagement & Equalities Committee 12 June 2014

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| Agenda Item | 12ii |
| Report No | CPE 22/14 |

Highland Local Police Area- Divisional Update

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

Summary

To provide an update to Committee Members in relation to Road Safety, Doorstep Crime Campaign - Operation Monarda 2 and Licensing.

1. Road Safety

Road Safety remains to be the community issue of highest concern for communities within Highland. The Highland Division and the wider Police Scotland are committed to improving road safety through pro-active, focused work within the Police setting and also alongside our multi-agency partners. Within the past year road policing within Highland has evolved and now encompasses two bases in Dingwall and Fort William which incorporate the National Trunk Roads Policing Unit who focus on the main arterial routes and the Divisional Road Policing Unit who concentrate on the local routes.

Road Safety also features within the structure of the Community Planning Partnership and in this setting the focus is on multi-agency working, for example on initiatives and campaigns to promote good driver behaviour and safe use of the roads in Highland.

There were 21 fatal collisions with 25 fatalities in Highland between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. Analysis of these fatal collisions and those where serious injury has occurred allow us to identify priority routes and crash cluster sites. This then allows focussed deployment of resources to these areas where emphasis is on enforcement, i.e. speeding, driver behaviour etc., and also on education with a view to influencing drivers and encouraging safer use of the roads.

The focus in the coming year is to ensure the tactical deployment of resources in and around priority routes and crash cluster sites throughout Highland, whilst also remaining agile to emerging trends and issues.

2. Doorstep Crime Campaign - Operation Monarda 2

This campaign was run between Monday 7th April and Friday 18th April 2014 and the national launch took place in Inverness. Doorstep crime consists of two main types of offence: bogus callers and rogue traders, both of which can have a devastating effect to victims. The campaign was run along with partner

agencies (Trading Standards, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)) and aimed to increase awareness among communities of this despicable crime and give confidence in being able to deal with those who cold-call.

The campaign had three tiers of activity:

- Prevention and Engagement
- Enforcement and Intelligence
- Reassurance

This year's operation results:

- 162 people received a presentation across a number of locations including; Sheltered Housing, Community Centres etc. The presentations were predominantly aimed at the elderly.
- 2 Drop-in clinics were held by Police and Trading Standards.
- A Facebook event was held by Police and received over 15,000 hits.
- Over 1000 leaflets were issued to the public
- Over 500 posters were placed in public areas
- During the campaign £1500 was saved by members of the public
- 34 crime prevention surveys were completed
- 39 Offences were detected by Police, Trading Standards, VOSA and SEPA
- Trading Standards set up a temporary office within Police Headquarters and also held 3 information sessions for officers with more planned for the future
- 36 vehicles were stopped and checked
- 65 individuals and contractors were stopped and checked.

3 Licensing

On 1 July 2013, following the inception of Police Scotland, within Highland & Islands Division a new dedicated Licensing Unit commenced operating with a remit to undertake all Liquor and Civic Government licensing related enquiries across the Highlands. The objectives were to ensure:

- That alcohol legislation is applied consistently across the Division
- All opportunities are taken to stop the irresponsible sale, supply or consumption of alcohol
- Opportunities to impact on Serious and Organised Crime Groups

The Highland & Islands Division has adopted the previous force ethos in relation to licensing which was based on strong partnerships with Licensing Boards/Committees, Licensing Forum, Licensees and Pub Watch schemes. Since the unit has been operating, presentations have been made to a number of our multi-agency partners with regards to the Police Scotland policy on licensing which highlighted our collective responsibilities under terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and in particular the five licensing objectives:

- Preventing crime and disorder
- Securing public safety

- Preventing public nuisance
- Protecting and improving public health
- Protecting children from harm.

The work undertaken by the Divisional Licensing Unit assists in achieving the above objectives by:

- Maintaining an overview of all licensing issues – resulting in early identification of any potential issues and ensuring requisite action is taken at the earliest opportunity to avert any further demand on police resources
- Offering advice and assistance – to colleagues and licensees to heighten awareness of licensing aims and objectives
- Developing close working relationships with colleagues within Police Scotland in order to deter, divert, disrupt & detect criminal activity.
- Developing close working relationships with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) – since the inception of the Divisional Licensing Unit there have been a number of joint initiatives which have resulted in 54 illegal immigrants being detected across the Division
- Targeting the selling of alcohol to children – this activity has seen all areas of Highland tested on at least one occasion in the past 12 months. The Highland and Islands Division have undertaken as many test purchase visits as all other Divisions across Scotland collectively.

In the first year of Police Scotland there has been a significant decrease in crime, particularly in relation to serious assaults where we have seen a 67.2% decrease in incidents with 183 in 2012-2013 compared to 60 incidents in 2013-2014. The Highland & Islands Division recognise that one of the key factors in achieving this figure is undoubtedly the way that licensees have been assiduously managing their premises. Through collaborative working we are better placed to provide a safer environment for patrons to enjoy the responsible consumption of alcohol.

(A recent letter sent by the Divisional Commander to all licensed premises in Highland is at Appendix 1)

Recommendation:

The committee is invited to note and discuss the Divisional Update in relation to Road Safety, Doorstep Crime Campaign-Operation Monarda 2 and Licensing.

Chief Superintendent Julian Innes
Highland and Islands Divisional Commander
 30 May 2014

Appendix 1: Letter sent by the Divisional Commander to all Licensed Premises - May 2014

To: Licensed Premises, Highland & Islands.
Highland Licensing Board
Western Isles Licensing Board
Orkney Licensing Board
Shetland Isles Licensing Board



21 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Keeping People Safe in Highland and Islands – Update

I am writing to you to thank you and your staff for continuing to support Police Scotland in our campaign to reduce street violence, disorder and incidents linked to licensed premises.

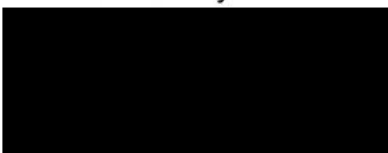
We are delighted to report that in the first year of Police Scotland we have seen a significant decrease in crime figures, specifically a reduction in Serious Assaults where there has been a drop across the Division from 183 incidents (in 2012-2013) to 60 incidents (in 2013-2014).

Without doubt this has been achieved through your support and diligence and a collective effort between you, Police Scotland and our multi-agency partners. Throughout the year we have increased the number of visits to your premises, particularly in the early part of the evening and carried out test purchasing operations. It is clear that the vast majority of licensed premises in our area are effectively and responsibly managed and operated in accordance with the statutory licensing objectives.

We are all working towards the same end, responsible drinking and a safe environment for patrons as we strive to achieve our primary focus of keeping people safe. Throughout the coming year we must build on our success and ensure that there is no complacency or drop in standards.

Once again, thank you for your commitment and continued support.

Yours faithfully



Julian Innes
Chief Superintendent
Divisional Commander