

Highland Council

Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area Committee

6 August 2014

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Agenda Item | 4 |
| Report No | SRC 21/14 |

Police – Area Performance Summary

Report by the Highland North Area Commander

Summary

To provide a summary update to Committee Members on progress with reference to the local priorities within the Highland 2014-2017 Policing Plan.

1. Priority 1 - Road Safety

Road Safety remains to be the community issue of highest concern for communities within Highland. The Scottish Government's Road Safety Framework to 2020 sets out clear aims and commitments for reducing road deaths and serious injury. The Highland Division and the wider Police Scotland are committed to the outcome of safer road travel in and around our communities and will achieve this through focused, pro-active work within the Police Setting and alongside our multi-agency partners.

Road Policing within Highland now encompasses two bases in Dingwall and Fort William which incorporates 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.

Summary (1 April 2014 - 29 June 2014):

- Skye, Ross & Cromarty Area

- There have been 2 Fatal Collisions with 2 fatalities.
- There has been 0 Serious Injury Collisions.

- North & South Area Commands

- 59 people have been detected for drink/drug driving.
- 906 people have been detected for speeding.
- 76 people have been detected for seatbelt offences.
- 82 people have been detected for mobile phone offences.

- Road Safety Campaigns & Initiatives

- Driving Ambition has been delivered in North Highland College - AIness, Invergordon Academy and Dingwall Academy. There are plans to hold the event in 12 schools across the area between August and December 2014.
- The national motorcycle campaign, Operation Zenith, commenced on 17 April and will run until 29 September. The campaign primarily focuses on safe and responsible motorcycling, reducing the number of casualties resulting from road collisions and improving driver/rider behaviour and awareness.

2. Priority 2 - Alcohol and Drugs Abuse/Misuse

Alcohol and drug abuse and misuse continue to be a concern for communities in the Highland area. Within the Highland Division we are committed to early intervention and prevention through focussed targeting of resources and working in partnership with other agencies to reduce the associated community impacts.

Summary (1 April 2014 - 29 June 2014):

- Test purchasing has been carried out at various premises in the Skye and Lochalsh area on 13 occasions. Two premises failed, however have since been re-tested and passed.
- Regular licensed premises checks and collaborative working with licensees has been a key factor in reducing crime such as serious assaults and drink/drug driving.

3. Priority 3 - Antisocial Behaviour/Disorder

Over the past few years there has been a significant decrease in antisocial behaviour and disorder. 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 having a focus on locations where problems occur.

Operation Notebook and Operation Respect are key operations which are used by Police Scotland to tackle the various elements of antisocial behaviour within Highland.

Summary (1 April 2014 - 29 June 2014):

- North & South Area Commands

- There has been a 14% reduction in the number of antisocial behaviour incidents reported, with 961 incidents compared to 1117 incidents over the same period last year.
- Breach of the Peace incidents have reduced by 72%, with 27 incidents compared to 95 incidents over the same period last year.
- Section 38 (Threatening and Abusive Behaviour) incidents have reduced by 31%, with 185 incidents compared to 269 incidents over the same period last year.
- Common Assault incidents have reduced by 16%, with 256 incidents compared to 303 incidents over the same period last year.
- Vandalism has reduced by 26%, with 251 incidents compared to 339 incidents over the same period last year.

4. Priority 4 - Crimes of Dishonesty

Overall crimes of Dishonesty have reduced across the North and South Command areas, with 385 incidents recorded this year compared to 442 incidents recorded over the same period last year.

Summary (1 April 2014 - 29 June 2014):

- Campaigns & Initiatives

The Doorstep Crime Campaign, Operation Monarda 2, took place between 7 April and 18 April, 2014. 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, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and 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 Farm Watch scheme was introduced to help combat and prevent criminal activity within the farming and wider rural community by establishing and developing trust and communication pathways between members of the rural community and Highland Division. Recent successes of the scheme include a high risk missing person being traced safe as a result of a Farm Watch message. Currently there are 254 members of Farm Watch across the Highland area.

5. Priority 5 - Protecting People

The Public Protection Unit incorporates Child and Adult Protection, Domestic Abuse Investigation, Offender Management, Rape Investigation and Sexual Offences Investigation. The unit works with Highland communities and multi-agency partners to provide a co-ordinated and consistent response to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

Summary (1 April 2014- 29 June 2014):

- North & South Area Commands

- There has been a 38% reduction in Domestic Abuse incidents, with 138 incidents compared to 223 incidents recorded during the same period last year.
- There has been a 73% reduction in Hate Crime incidents, with 9 incidents compared to 33 incidents recorded during the same period last year.
- Work is ongoing to increase confidence in reporting Hate Crime incidents and development of measures to ensure satisfaction with service received in this area.
- There has been an overall 21% reduction in sexual crimes/incidents, with 50 incidents compared to 63 incidents during the same period last year. (N.B There has been a slight increase in incidents within the South Area Command).
- The creation of the Vulnerable Persons Database has further improved responses to vulnerable people in Highland.

| |
|--|
| <p>(i) Recommendation: The Committee is invited to scrutinise and discuss the progress report in relation to the 5 Priorities: Road Safety, Alcohol and Drug Abuse/Misuse, Antisocial Behaviour/Disorder, Crimes of Dishonesty and Protecting People.</p> |
|--|

Chief Inspector Ross Mackillop
Highland North Area Commander
19 July 2014