

**Highland Council**  
**Caithness & Sutherland Area Committee**  
**23 September 2014**

Agenda Item	<b>5</b>
Report No	<b>CS/ 24/14</b>

**Police – Area Performance Summary**

**Report by the Highland North Area Commander**

**Summary**

To provide a local 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- 31 July 2014):**

**-North Area Command**

- There have been 2 Fatal Collisions with 2 fatalities.
- There have been 9 Serious Injury Collisions.
  
- 45 people have been detected for drink/drug driving.
- 382 people have been detected for speeding.
- 97 people have been detected for seatbelt offences.
- 65 people have been detected for mobile phone offences.

**- Road Safety Campaigns & Initiatives**

- Driving Ambition was held in North Highland College, Thurso in April and Thurso High School in June. The event is due to be held in Golspie High School with Dornoch Academy and Wick High School in September.
- The national motorcycle campaign- Operation Zenith commenced on 17<sup>th</sup> April and will run until 29<sup>th</sup> 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- 31 July 2014):**

- Test purchasing was carried out at various premises in Wick during April. All premises passed. A similar operation was conducted in Thurso in March.
- 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- 31 July 2014):**

#### **- North Area Command**

- Breach of the Peace incidents have reduced by 72% with 23 incidents compared to 82 incidents over the same period last year.
- Section 38 (Threatening and Abusive Behaviour) incidents have reduced by 31% with 166 incidents compared to 240 incidents over the same period last year.
- Common Assault incidents have reduced by 16% with 240 incidents compared to 287 incidents over the same period last year.
- Vandalism has reduced by 18% with 216 incidents compared to 262 incidents over the same period last year.

## **4. Priority 4- Crimes of Dishonesty**

Overall crimes of Dishonesty have reduced across the North Command area. With 300 incidents recorded this year compared to 304 incidents recorded over the same period last year.

### **Summary (1 April 2014- 31 July 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- 31 July 2014):**

#### **- North Area Command**

- There has been a 9% reduction in Domestic Abuse incidents with 223 incidents compared to 246 incidents recorded during the same period last year.
- There has been a 55% reduction in Hate Crime incidents with 10 incidents compared to 22 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 a 55% decrease in sexual crimes/incidents with 29 incidents compared to 65 incidents during the same period last year.
- The creation of the Vulnerable Persons Database has further improved responses to vulnerable people in Highland.

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| <p>(i) <b>Recommendation:</b> 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> |
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**Chief Inspector Ross Mackillop  
North Divisional Commander  
01 September 2014**