

**Highland Council**

**City of Inverness Area Committee**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Agenda Item | 6         |
| Report No   | CIA/36/15 |

**Police- Area Performance Summary**  
**Report by the Inverness 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.

**Introduction**

The City of Inverness Area Committee is incorporated into the Inverness Area Command of the Highland and Islands Divisional Policing Structure. The Area Committee covers 7 Multi-Member Wards:

1. Inverness Millburn
2. Culloden & Ardersier
3. Inverness South
4. Aird & Loch Ness
5. Inverness West
6. Inverness Ness-Side
7. Inverness Central

As we enter our third year as Police Scotland we are reviewing our Local Policing Plans to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve. Over the coming months we will be seeking your views on the police planning and consultation process in your community.

**Performance**

In the first four months of this reporting year we have seen an increase in crime across the Highland area. In the Inverness Area Command there has been a 7.1% increase in Class 1-4 crimes (742 crimes in the first four months of 2014/15 compared to 799 in the same period of 2015/16<sup>1</sup>).

The biggest increase has been in Class 2 (Sexual) Crimes. Within the Highland and Islands Division we have been working hard to increase reporting of domestic abuse and sexual crime incidents over the past few years. Positive multi-agency working has without doubt increased confidence in reporting as victims feel more able to report recent incidents as well as historical ones. Completion of the Domestic Abuse Questionnaire with every victim of Domestic Abuse has led to further investigations and an increase in crimes being reported. Through early intervention we have been working to reduce repeat victimisation and perpetration within a coordinated multi-agency approach.

<sup>1</sup>Police Scotland ScOMIS Performance System Figures

## **Area Updates**

### **Contest**

Operation CONTEST is the UK Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy and looks at reducing the threat we face from terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The CONTEST strategy continues to gather momentum within N division. This area of work spends a lot of time looking at ways to engage with the community in order to prevent any terrorism activity taking place. Examples of this include working with High Schools and Colleges in the area in an effort to look at up to date issues and encourage debate around such things as the Extreme Right Wing.

In relation to the PREVENT strand of CONTEST which deals with individuals, ideology's and institutions there has been individuals identified as displaying views which have caused concerns, this has resulted in liaison between the Police and other partners to address any concerns or risk.

A total of 16 ACT Now (All Communities Together Now) sessions were carried out in the last year and have been very well received by Inverness College and the schools and that took part. This is part of an ongoing programme in an effort to engage with all senior pupils and students in Highland. Each session places the participant in the shoes of the counter terrorism unit and looks at a number of community issues and challenges thinking in relation to extreme groups.

22 WRAP (Workshop in Raising Awareness in Prevent) sessions also took place in the last 12 months. These sessions are delivered to any public facing staff and look at issues surrounding vulnerabilities and radicalisation. Audiences have included Highland Council housing staff, Criminal Justice workers, Highlife Highland staff, Army Welfare group, UHI lectures, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Officers and the Military.

At a national level the Scottish Government produced the Prevent Duty Guidance for Scotland. This has been looked at a locally and discussed at the Divisional CONTEST board. This duty will place an onus on all partners and will involve the sharing of information and addressing any concerns identified within any organisation. It will also involve the signing of an Information Sharing Protocol with the police as discussions may take place around vulnerable individuals, or people of concern, that may be identified. Further more; there will be a requirement for certain bodies to undertake staff training and work in partnership and link in to the single national strategic lead for Prevent in their sector, institution or organisation.

### **Wildlife Crime**

A Wildlife Conference took place in March 2015 with positive feedback from all agencies in attendance.

Reporting of wildlife crime – Anyone can and should report wildlife crime, this can be done by utilising any of the following methods:

- Direct attendance at Police Stations;
- Contact with 101;
- I-phone app;
- E-mail with Police Scotland;
- E-mail to non government organisation who will contact Police as an intermediary;
- Direct contact with a Police officer.

There are now 20 Wildlife officers stationed across the Highland and Islands Division within all Divisional Business Areas. Area commanders have all been briefed and are aware of the importance of Wildlife Crime and their responsibilities regarding Wildlife Crime. There is a clear, documented, command structure both within Highland & Islands Division and Police Scotland. Ongoing training is planned for Officers in July and December 2015.

The PAW (Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime) strategy document has been circulated and a series of dedicated meetings arranged at SNH Headquarters so that all agency partners can input into the strategy.

### **Youth Volunteers**

The Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) programme aims to strengthen the relationship with our Service and young people, breaking down barriers and promoting positive role models.

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers promotes a practical way for young people to understand policing by supporting us in their local area through volunteering. As part of this, young people are given a chance for their voice to be heard and encouraged to promote good citizenship.

In the Highland and Islands area we now have a team of 27 youth volunteers.

## 1. Priority 1- Road Safety

The impact of death and injury on our roads is significant, not only from the impact on victims and their families but to communities and the wider economy. It consistently features as a concern for the communities in Highland and Road Policing remains a priority for every officer.

We have made good progress to reduce road casualties but there is still much to be done to achieve our aim of preventing road casualties and meeting the Scottish Government's 2020 casualty reduction targets.

Our Divisional Road Policing Units are now fully embedded, with local officers supporting local communities and to achieve our goals during 2015/16, our methods will continue to be informed by academic research, forming part of an evidence-based partnership approach.

We continue to work in partnership to improve road user behaviour through enforcement, education and engineering solutions. This informs our actions, using intelligence and analysis to identify priority routes and road users who may be vulnerable. Evidence has shown that a highly visible presence on our roads has a significant impact on driver behaviour. We continue to ensure our officers are in the 'right place at the right time' to employ both prevention and enforcement tactics and continue working with partners to consider the development of appropriate schemes for diversion from prosecution. We are continuing to support Local Authorities, Community and Road Safety Partnerships in delivering road safety activities.

These commitments are reflected in Police Scotland's three year Road Safety and Road Crime Strategy, which will further strengthen our commitment to influence road user behaviour and make Scotland's roads safer.

### Inverness Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 31 July 2015)-

- There has been 1 fatal collision in the Inverness area during this first quarter reporting period:
  1. B9039- 1 mile west of Ardersier- This was a 2 vehicle collision where 1 person sustained fatal injuries.
- There have been no serious collisions in the Inverness area during this first quarter reporting period.

The below tables provide an overview of figures for the Inverness Area Command; these figures relate to the first quarter of the 2015/16 reporting year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2015- 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015):

| INVERNESS                                | 14/15<br>FYTD | 15/16<br>FYTD | Variation  |
|--|---------------|---------------|--|
| Drink/Drug Driving<br>(Detections)       | 45            | 38            | - 7<br>(Figure includes failure to provide a specimen) |
| Speeding<br>(Detections)                 | 463           | 535           | + 72   |
| Seatbelt Offences<br>(Detections)        | 214           | 175           | - 39   |
| Mobile Phone<br>Offences<br>(Detections) | 140           | 153           | + 13   |

Please note: Whilst Police Scotland upgrades to a single integrated system, figures below this level i.e. to multi-member ward level are not available due to system configurations.

#### Operations/Campaigns

During this first reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> April 2015- 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015) the following campaigns have been running throughout the Division:

- Operation Zenith- Motorcycle Campaign. This campaign runs between April and September.
- Scottish Road Safety Week which focused on vulnerable road users.
- Summer Drink & Drug Drive Campaign

## **2. Priority 2- Alcohol and Drugs Abuse/Misuse**

By working effectively with our partners in the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership and focusing on prevention we are working hard to reduce alcohol and drug abuse/misuse in the Highland area.

We know that this remains a priority for our communities and we recognise the detrimental impact that drugs and/or alcohol has on the quality of life of individuals, their families and the community in which they live.

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.

Our communities have a significant role to play in reporting suspicious activities, we rely heavily on the support of the public in supplying us with information to disrupt the supply of drugs and arrest those responsible for causing harm to our communities.

### **Inverness Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015)-**

- Recruitment is on-going for new Test Purchasers. The scheme consists of a fully briefed teenager (under 18 years of age) entering licensed premises under controlled conditions and in line with agreed guidelines to purchase alcohol. By taking part in these operations young volunteers are helping to protect their peers from potentially being a victim of or involved in crime, and the physical and emotional affects that potentially come with. They are effectively assisting in keeping friends, family and entire communities safe.
- Diversionary events, particularly involving young people, can not only have a positive effect in terms of building confidence and self esteem but also impact on attitudes and culture. Rock Challenge is now into its 4<sup>th</sup> year and has proved to be a very popular event involving over 300 young people and 13 schools in Highland. The Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership are now taking the lead on Rock Challenge and we will continue to support events such as these over the coming year.
- Operation Respect is an ongoing multi-agency partnership initiative which aims to reduce street violence, disorder and incidents linked to licensed premises. Working with key partners in order to make our streets safer and to reduce the risk to the public.
- 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. In addition to this; members of Police Scotland, Highland and Islands Division, Liquor and Civic Licensing Department, also carry out unscheduled Licensed Premises Inspections. These Inspections are aimed towards educating and

assisting those in the license trade, although enforcement can also be utilised should serious failings be discovered or become apparent. Within the Inverness area we work closely with schemes and partners, such as Pub Watch and Licensing Standards Officers, to provide support and guidance so as to ensure a safe environment for patrons and staff alike, in and around Licensed Premises.

- Throughout the coming year we will be continuing to carry out a range of initiatives with schools, youth and community groups to help raise awareness and educate young people on the dangers of New Psychoactive Substances.

| <b>INVERNESS</b>   | <b>13/14<br/>FYTD</b> | <b>14/15<br/>FYTD</b> | <b>Variation</b>   |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections) | 33                    | 62                    | + 29<br>(This figure includes detections for drugs supply, productions and cultivations) |

Please note: Whilst Police Scotland upgrades to a single integrated system, figures below this level i.e. to multi-member ward level are not available due to system configurations.

Police Scotland has now established a National Stop and Search Unit to provide scrutiny and governance around the use of this policing tactic.

### 3. Priority 3- Antisocial Behaviour/Disorder

Antisocial behaviour remains a concern within our communities. As a member of the Antisocial Behaviour Group within the safer Highland Community Planning Framework we have contributed to the review and update of the antisocial behaviour strategy. This will continue to be developed over the coming year.

Operation Notebook aims to identify and deal with offenders at an early stage and has proved successful in terms of multi-agency work addressing and resolving issues before they escalate. This operation has a clear remit in terms of reducing antisocial behaviour and the number of people who are victims of antisocial behaviour and noise calls.

We are committed to building on the success of local operations such as Operation Respect; this is a multi-agency initiative and together with our partners the objective is to reduce the negative effect of antisocial behaviour, violence and crime.

#### **Inverness Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 31 July 2015)-**

| <b>INVERNESS</b>  | <b>14/15<br/>FYTD</b> | <b>15/16<br/>FYTD</b> | <b>Variation</b> |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Breach of the Peace/ Threatening &amp; Abusive Behaviour</b> |                       |                       |                  |
| <b>Inverness</b>  | <b>362</b>            | <b>341</b>            | <b>- 21</b>      |
| <b>Common Assault</b>   |                       |                       |                  |
| <b>Inverness</b>  | <b>374</b>            | <b>369</b>            | <b>- 5</b>       |
| <b>Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)</b>                 |                       |                       |                  |
| <b>Inverness</b>  | <b>180</b>            | <b>210</b>            | <b>+ 30</b>      |

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

Although the likelihood of being a victim of crimes such as housebreaking, thefts and bogus caller fraud is small, when they do occur they have a disproportionate effect on individuals, families and communities in respect of their feelings of safety.

**Operation Monarda 3** took place between 23<sup>rd</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015. The focus of this operation is to reduce the number of individuals affected by doorstep crime, ultimately keeping vulnerable groups safe and empowering communities. Many victims are embarrassed, fearful or indeed do not realise they have in fact been the victim of Bogus Tradesmen thus actual notification of crimes or complaints is thought to be as little as 1 in 10.

The following information relates to the most recent campaign:

- Other agencies involved included- Trading Standards, VOSA, DWP, SEPA, the Local Authority and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
- There were 13 prevention presentations done in Inverness, Kingussie, Aviemore and the Western Isles;
- There were 3 multi-agency roadside checks in Inverness, Brora and the Western Isles;
- Trading Standards held 2 Business Advice Drop-In Sessions;
- 2500 leaflets were issued;
- 200 posters were placed in public areas;
- £4050 was saved by consumers;
- 13 offences were detected;
- 257 vehicles were stopped and checked;
- 212 individuals/contractors were stopped and checked;
- A Facebook chat hosted by Police and Trading Standards had over 3600 views;
- Following the identification of two main groups of itinerant traders websites for both were examined and several trading infringements were noted. By Utilising Trading Standards E-commerce “website takedowns” have been initiated, whereby the host or registrar will be alerted to possible/probable criminal activity.

**Operation Monarda 4** is due to take place between 28<sup>th</sup> September- 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**Inverness Performance Summary  
(1 April 2015- 30 June 2015)-**

| <b>INVERNESS</b>  | <b>14/15<br/>FYTD</b> | <b>15/16<br/>FYTD</b> | <b>Variation</b> |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Number of Thefts by Housebreaking<br/>(Dwelling house, Non-dwelling, Other premises)</b>   |                       |                       |                  |
| <b>Inverness</b>  | <b>71</b>             | <b>38</b>             | <b>- 33</b>      |
| <b>Theft by Shoplifting</b>   |                       |                       |                  |
| <b>Inverness</b>  | <b>94</b>             | <b>163</b>            | <b>+ 69</b>      |
| <b>Number of Thefts from motor vehicles</b><br>(This figure includes opening lockfast places- motor vehicle, theft of and from a motor vehicle and attempted theft of a motor vehicle). |                       |                       |                  |
| <b>Inverness</b>  | <b>29</b>             | <b>30</b>             | <b>+ 1</b>       |

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## **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.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 became law on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and contains several changes to how children and young people in Scotland will be cared for. The Act has created new systems to support children and young people and to help identify any problems at an early stage, rather than waiting until a child or young person reaches crisis point. Over the coming year we will support the implementation of the Children and Young People Act 2014 across public protection partnerships.

We continue to prevent, deter and detect those who pose the greatest risk in our communities by maximising use of legislative powers and effectively working with partners and communities to share information and develop meaningful action plans with clear identification of ownership and accountability.

From April 2015, a missing persons coordinator based in Highland and Islands Division will provide a more focused approach to keeping missing people safe by managing and coordinating activity around missing people and working in partnership with other agencies in relation to 'missing persons' in order to reduce risk and repeat episodes, especially by individuals or at locations that are 'high risk'. The coordinator also has a role to examine missing children reports to ensure that emerging trends, those at risk of harm and links to Child Sexual Exploitation are effectively assessed and shared to minimise harm to children and ensure that perpetrators are identified.

**Inverness Performance Summary****(1 April 2015- 31 July 2015)-**

| <b>INVERNESS</b>                         | <b>14/15<br/>FYTD</b> | <b>15/16<br/>FYTD</b> | <b>Variation</b> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Domestic Abuse Incidents                 | 349                   | 345                   | - 4              |
| Domestic Abuse Incidents- Detection Rate | 83.3%                 | 80.4%                 | - 2.9%           |
| Hate Crime Incidents <sup>2</sup>        | 32                    | 30                    | - 2              |
| Sexual Crimes/Incidents                  | 42                    | 61                    | + 19             |

Please note: Whilst Police Scotland upgrades to a single integrated system, figures below this level i.e. to multi-member ward level are not available due to system configurations.

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

**Chief Inspector Jennifer Macdonald  
Inverness Area Commander  
27 August 2015**

<sup>2</sup>Police Scotland ScOMIS Performance System Figures