

Highland Council

Caithness & Sutherland Area Committee
16th September 2015

Agenda Item	4.
Report No	CS/21/15

Police- Area Performance Summary
Report by the 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.

Introduction

The Caithness & Sutherland Area Committee sits within the North Area Command of the Highland and Islands Divisional Policing Structure. In addition to this the Area Committee covers five Multi-Member Wards:

1. North, West & Central Sutherland
2. Thurso
3. Wick
4. Landward Caithness
5. East Sutherland & Edderton

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 reporting period of this year (April – July) we have seen an increase in crime across the Highland area. In the North Area Command there has been a 26.2% increase in Class 1-4 crimes (753 crimes this year compared to 556 crimes in the same period of 2015/16¹).

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.

¹Police 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. Furthermore, 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.

Tongue Police Station

Recruitment for the vacant post in Tongue is currently ongoing and there have been a number of applications for the position. The successful applicant will be announced soon. We are very pleased to have secured an officer again to provide a service to this rural community.

Wildlife Crime

A Wildlife Conference took place in March 2015 with positive feedback from all agencies in attendance. Since the meeting there has been a multi-agency meeting with key stakeholders to discuss a local poisoning case which also proved to be constructive and positive.

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.

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

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 will be reflected in Police Scotland's three year Road Safety and Road Crime Strategy, due to be published in 2015, which will further strengthen our commitment to influence road user behaviour and make Scotland's roads safer.

In this reporting period Driving Ambition has taken place in Golspie, Wick and Thurso High Schools.

Caithness & Sutherland Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 31 July 2015)-

- There has been 1 fatal collision in the Caithness & Sutherland area during this first reporting period:
 1. A9 Ramsbraigs- This was a 5 vehicle collision where 1 person sustained fatal injuries.

The below tables provide an overview of figures for the North Area Command; these figures relate to the reporting period -1st April 2015 to 31st July 2015:

NORTH	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	44	38	- 6 (Figure includes failure to provide a specimen)
Speeding (Detections)	375	796	+ 421
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	86	132	+ 46
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	63	108	+ 45

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 reporting period (1st April 2015- 31st 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

In addition to the above campaigns, during this reporting period Highland and Islands Division has teamed up with Northlink Ferries as part of an initiative to educate drivers of foreign registered vehicles about driving on single track and two-way roads.

Leaflets, produced by Road Safety Scotland, have been placed in all of Northlink's ferries and their public facing offices and has been produced in a number of languages. The leaflet is designed for tourists who will be staying in Scotland and driving on rural routes.

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.

Caithness & Sutherland Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 31 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 that. 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 4th 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.
- 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.

NORTH	13/14 FYTD	14/15 FYTD	Variation
Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections)	15	15	= (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.

**Caithness & Sutherland Performance Summary
(1 April 2015- 31 July 2015)-**

NORTH	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Breach of the Peace/Threatening & Abusive Behaviour			
<i>North, West & central Sutherland</i>	6	4	- 2
<i>Thurso</i>	13	30	+ 17
<i>Wick</i>	20	19	- 1
<i>Landward Caithness</i>	19	7	- 12
<i>East Sutherland & Edderton</i>	12	12	=
CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND TOTAL:	70	72	+ 2
Common Assault			
<i>North, West & central Sutherland</i>	4	6	+ 2
<i>Thurso</i>	34	18	- 16
<i>Wick</i>	23	34	+ 11
<i>Landward Caithness</i>	5	11	+ 6
<i>East Sutherland & Edderton</i>	15	10	- 5
CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND TOTAL:	81	79	- 2
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)			
<i>North, West & central Sutherland</i>	6	6	=
<i>Thurso</i>	30	29	- 1
<i>Wick</i>	34	29	- 5
<i>Landward Caithness</i>	6	10	+ 4
<i>East Sutherland & Edderton</i>	10	14	+ 4
CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND TOTAL:	86	88	+ 2

Please note: Some of the Multi-Member Ward data results in small numbers. Where this occurs great care should be taken in the interpretation of emerging trends or percentage changes.

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 23rd March and 2nd 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 the 28th September and 2nd October 2015.

**Caithness & Sutherland Performance Summary
(1 April 2015- 31 July 2015)-**

NORTH	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Number of Thefts by Housebreaking (Dwelling house, Non-dwelling, Other premises)			
<i>North, West & central Sutherland</i>	1	2	+ 1
<i>Thurso</i>	4	4	=
<i>Wick</i>	7	9	+ 2
<i>Landward Caithness</i>	2	0	- 2
<i>East Sutherland & Edderton</i>	2	4	+ 2
CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND TOTAL:	16	19	+ 3
Theft by Shoplifting			
<i>North, West & central Sutherland</i>	0	0	=
<i>Thurso</i>	7	6	- 1
<i>Wick</i>	5	1	- 4
<i>Landward Caithness</i>	0	0	=
<i>East Sutherland & Edderton</i>	0	0	=
CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND TOTAL:	12	7	- 5
Number of Thefts from motor vehicles (This figure includes opening lockfast places- motor vehicle, theft of and from a motor vehicle and attempted theft of a motor vehicle).			
<i>North, West & central Sutherland</i>	1	2	+ 1
<i>Thurso</i>	2	5	+ 3
<i>Wick</i>	4	3	- 1
<i>Landward Caithness</i>	2	0	- 2
<i>East Sutherland & Edderton</i>	0	0	=
CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND TOTAL:	9	10	+ 1

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 27th 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.

Caithness & Sutherland Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 31 July 2015)-

NORTH		14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Domestic Incidents	Abuse	228	264	- 36
Domestic Incidents- Rate	Abuse Detection	86.8%	81.1%	- 5.7%
Hate Incidents ²	Crime	16	23	+ 7 *Figures as at 1 September 2015
Sexual Crimes/Incidents		30	60	+ 30

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 Iain MacLelland
North Highland Area Commander
2 September 2015**

²Police Scotland ScOMIS Performance System Figures