

Highland Council
Sutherland County Committee
9th February 2016

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	SCC/03/16

**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.

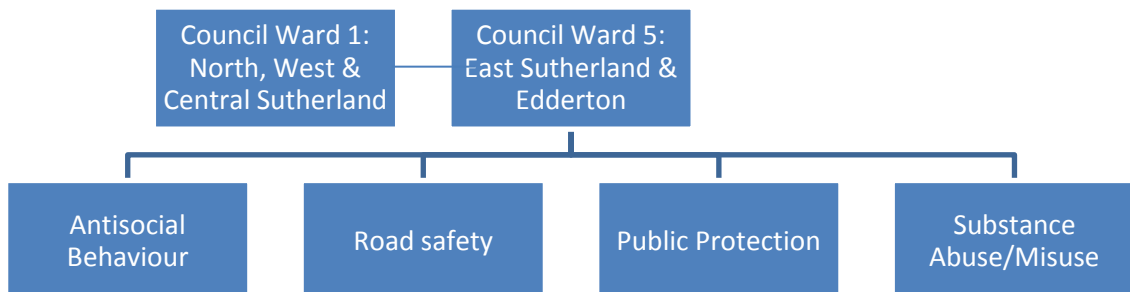
Introduction

In 2014 the Highland Local Policing Plan was considered by the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee (now Communities and Partnerships Committee) and the Education, Children and Adult Services Committee before being approved by full council; the plan sets out the policing priorities and objectives which the 3 Highland Area Commands of the Highland and Islands Division for 3 years from 2014-2017.

The priorities and objectives within the plan have been identified by looking at the national and local intelligence picture; reviewing the community safety trends and securing the views and concerns of the public, locally elected officials and community planning partners.

As we approach the end of the 3rd year as Police Scotland and the end of the 2nd year of the Highland Local Policing Plan we continue to adapt and review local process and plans to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of communities.

The newly formed Sutherland County Committee sits within the North Highland Area Command of the Highland and Islands Divisional Policing Structure. The Sutherland Committee covers 2 Multi-Member Wards, which combined have 4 priorities:



Planning for the Future

Localism is key to empowering communities to take responsibility and have a voice on issues affecting them. Police Scotland recognise the diversity of communities and cultures that exist within Scotland, with the Highland area being no exception to that. Moving forward, the future of Policing in the Highland and Islands Division is about engaging with, listening and responding to local people and ultimately adopting an asset based approach in achieving successful outcomes for communities. Over the coming months, along with key partners, we will remain agile in terms of local development through the community planning partnership and involving and communicating with local people in local communities.

The following report provides an overview of performance in terms of the four priorities identified for the Sutherland area as detailed above:

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 continue to work in partnership to improve road user behaviour through education, enforcement 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, published in 2015.

Over the past year the Divisional and Trunk Roads Policing Unit has increased its establishment and currently has 45 dedicated officers covering the Division who can be tasked with local issues in each of the wards.

Driving Ambition took place in Golspie High School in September 2015.

Sutherland Summary
(1 April 2015- 31 December 2015)-

- There have been 2 fatal collisions in the Sutherland area during this reporting period:

- 01-11-2015: Collision occurred on A836 at Strathy. One person, the driver of the vehicle, sustained fatal injuries.
- 04-12-2015: Collision occurred on the A836 South of Lairg and involved two vehicles. One person, the driver of one of the vehicles, sustained fatal injuries as a result.

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

Sutherland	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	8	18	+ 10 (Figure includes failure to provide a specimen)

* 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.

In this reporting year, in the Sutherland and wider Highland area, the tactical approach being taken by the Division involves targeting speed, use of mobile phones whilst driving and seatbelts. It is disappointing to see the numbers increasing however, we know that if we can reduce speed and ensure that people use their seatbelts and avoid the use of mobile phones whilst driving then they are less likely to be involved in a collision.

NORTH	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Speeding (Detections)	922	1422	+ 500
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	175	231	+ 56
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	130	204	+ 74

* Please note that due to system configurations the above figures are not available at multi-member ward level.

Operations/Campaigns

The following campaigns have been running recently throughout the Division:

- Getting Ready for Winter
- Brake National Road Safety Week
- Festive Drink & Drug Drive Campaign

2. **Priority 2- Substance Abuse/Misuse**

By working effectively with our partners in the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership and supporting campaigns such as 'Meet the Macphersons' 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.

During this reporting period Highland Council Trading Standards, in partnership with Police Scotland and NHS Highland, have been tackling sellers of new psychoactive substances (NPS), also controversially and incorrectly known as 'legal highs'. This action was part of a week of co-ordinated enforcement activity across the country, named Operation Alexander. The action followed growing concerns of the harms that NPS products cause to people who use them, this, along with forensic evidence, brought the conclusion that NPS products are unsafe and as such breach the requirements of the General Product Safety Regulations 2005. Two known premises in Highland were targeted with 387 products seized, worth over £9000. Work is now in progress with the traders involved to completely remove NPS supply from their business. The advice of Police Scotland is again straightforward - DON'T TAKE THESE SUBSTANCES.

Just because they are referred to as 'legal' doesn't mean they are safe.

There is no 'safe' way to take NPS – there is always a risk.

The only way of staying safe is to avoid NPS altogether.

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.

Sutherland Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 31 December 2015)-

- 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. Since April 2015 280 licensed premises checks were carried out in the Sutherland Area.
- 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	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections)	27	32	+ 5 (This figure includes detections for drugs supply, productions and cultivations)

* Please note that due to system configurations the above figures are not available at multi-member ward level.

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**

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 and updates and progress against the Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan.

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.

Sutherland Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 31 December 2015)-

SUTHERLAND	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Breach of the Peace/Threatening & Abusive Behaviour			
North, West and Central Sutherland	8	7	-1
East Sutherland and Edderton	21	18	-3
TOTAL:	29	25	
Common Assault			
North, West and Central Sutherland	14	9	-5
East Sutherland and Edderton	27	21	-6
TOTAL:	41	30	
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)			
North, West and Central Sutherland	10	11	+ 1
East Sutherland and Edderton	19	34	+ 15
TOTAL:	29	45	

* 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- Public Protection

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.

During this reporting period the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland went 'live' across Scotland. The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse provides a formal mechanism for potential victims, their family members, or another concerned member of the public or professional body (e.g. Police Scotland, Social Work, Advocacy Services, Womens Aid etc.) to make enquiries about an individual who they are in a relationship with or is in a relationship with someone they know, and there is a concern that the individual may be abusive towards their partner. It provides Police Scotland with a way of disclosing information about a partners abusive past with their potential victims and gives people at risk of Domestic Abuse the information they require to make an informed decision on whether to continue in a relationship. The scheme operates two entry pathways that may lead to a disclosure being made: 'Right to Ask' and 'Power to Tell'.

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.

Sutherland Performance Summary

(1 April 2015- 31 December 2015)-

NORTH		14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Domestic Incidents	Abuse	508	601	+ 93
Domestic Incidents- Rate	Abuse Detection	88.1%	83.1%	-5%
Hate Incidents ¹	Crime	146	150	+ 4
Sexual Crimes/Incidents		80	146	+ 66

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 4 Priorities; Road Safety, Substance Abuse/Misuse, Antisocial Behaviour, Public Protection.

Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland
North Highland Area Commander
 28th January 2016

¹Police Scotland ScOMIS Performance System Figures