

Highland Council

**Sutherland Committee
30th August 2016**

Agenda Item	5.
Report No	SCC/18/16

**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.

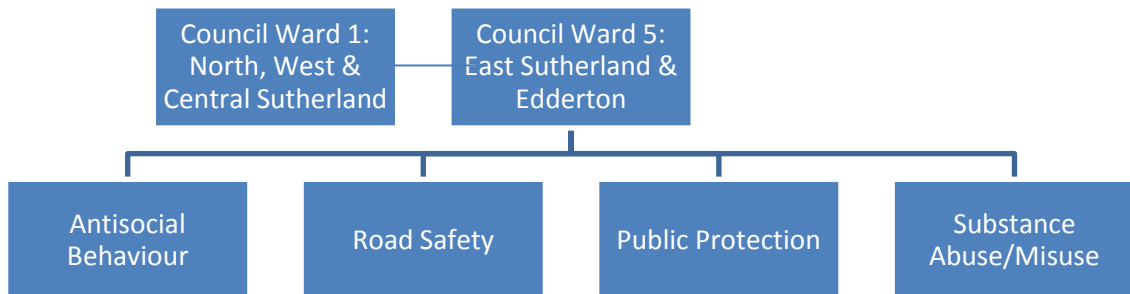
Introduction

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 for the 3 Highland Area Commands of the Highland and Islands Division for 3 years from 2014-2017.

We are now in the 4th year as Police Scotland and the 3rd and final year of the current 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 service has taken tangible steps over the last year to better capture the views and voices of communities, most notably through the “Your View counts” Campaign and consultation with Community councils. The results of these consultations will be fed back to communities and will also form part of the process of consultation which will shape the 2017 Highland Local Policing Plan.

The Sutherland 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:



Counter Terrorism (CONTEST)

CONTEST is the UK Government's Counter terrorism strategy and looks at the four stands of Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent.

The Prevent strand has received much attention in recent times and it looks at preventing people from becoming involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism.

Under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2015 a number of agencies have now begun to look at addressing the Prevent duty within each organisation. Within the Highland Council Sutherland area all relevant staff identified have now received WRAP (Workshop in Raising Awareness in Prevent) training and all other staff have received an e-learning package to work through in an effort to inform each employee what to do and who to turn to should there be a concern about an individual that they may have engaged with. A number of other staff have also received the in depth Prevent Professional Concerns (PPC) training in order to look at best practice in the event of a concern being raised and a PPC case conference having to be called and chaired by the local authority. An integral part to Prevent's success is involving people who already have the skill and support to hand that can recognise when someone may be becoming involved in or supporting terrorism, and can help make a decision not to carry on that path, before any crime is committed.

A role out of ACT Now (All Communities Together) has been discussed by management and Police at a number of the High schools within Sutherland with a view to delivery to all senior pupils in an effort to look at extremism, in any form, within the community and the negative effect it can have on that community. A number of these sessions have already been carried out at Kinlochbervie High School with further sessions to follow.

Within the Protect and Prepare strands there is representation from Sutherland at the Protect and Prepare sub-group from the Community Planning Partnership. Positive work within the Protect strands includes work around all sites of interest of critical and national infrastructure as well as sites that may be of a security concern.

Wildlife Crime

During the reporting period Police Scotland N Division Wildlife Crime Unit have been pro-active in the area regarding poaching and wildlife crime. During the reporting period there was one wildlife crime recorded, This related to deer culling and enquiries are ongoing.

The unit are also in the process of marketing an educational power point presentation that can be shown at shows, reception areas and can be distributed to members if required. Rural Watch and the CEASER property marking initiative have been promoted, members should consider joining Rural Watch and joining in the promotion of the crime prevention initiative. There continues to be much support from the public regarding wildlife matters and this is shown by the increase in reports to the Police. The continued support of members is greatly appreciated.

Social Media

The following are Police Scotland social media addresses which contain information relevant to the Sutherland area

<https://www.facebook.com/HighlandIslandsPoliceDivision>

<https://twitter.com/CaithSuthPol>

Serious and Organised Crime

The Highlands and Islands although an extremely safe place to live is still targeted by Serious and Organised Crime Groups who are intent in making as much money as possible at the expense of vulnerable people. It can affect us all directly and indirectly and as such we all have a part to play in reducing the harm it causes to our communities.

Serious and Organised Crime comes in a number of guises but in essence it is about generating wealth at the expense of other people. Groups exploit honest, law-abiding people, including the most vulnerable along with businesses and public services. Examples of such crime are Drug Supply, Metal Theft, Bogus Workmen, People Trafficking/Exploitation and Intellectual Property Crime.

To reduce the harm caused by these groups requires sustained efforts of organisations, communities and individuals to work together to improve communication so we can increase the gathering and sharing of intelligence and information.

Police Scotland, N Division have units who specialise in tackling Serious and Organised Crime, who deliver activity through the four strands Divert, Deter,

Disrupt and Detect to target individuals and groups with successful results.

In Sutherland we have experienced doorstep crime by individuals and groups either posing as bogus workmen offering to do external maintenance at properties or sales persons selling inferior or dangerous products. We often are not aware of this at the time of the transaction with victims only becoming aware when the workmanship or tools fails.

In relation to people trafficking and exploitation a number of areas of business have been identified for further observations which may result in enforcement with partners who also have an interest.

Drug supply remains prevalent throughout the area and in particular the current trend appears to be demand for cocaine, cannabis, herbal cannabis, ecstasy and New Psychoactive substances (NPS), with identified misuse of heroin. The SOCGs are sourcing these commodities from drug suppliers in the central belt of Scotland along with orders online and through the postal service. At present there has been no intelligence in relation to North West Crime Groups infiltrating the area which we have found elsewhere within N Division.

Acquisitive crime remains a concern in Sutherland however a recent operation involving an Organised Crime Group from Glasgow (Operation KAMINAK) who were targeting metal, fuel and plant machinery resulted in 19 arrests and several deportations which appears to have deterred similar groups since enforcement. There is no intelligence of groups involved in Intellectual Property Crime Offences.

Missing Person Co-ordinator

The Division have a dedicated Missing Person Co-ordinator responsible for the overseeing of all Missing Persons reported within the Highlands and Islands.

The co-ordinators responsibilities include the following:

- Review of all Missing Persons
- Screening of all Return Interviews
- Identifying repeat Missing Person episodes and locations
- Promote partnership working across all areas of Missing Person investigations with public and private sector organisations and statutory bodies

Local ongoing initiatives

The missing persons coordinator is currently carrying out local partnership

working with NHS Highland in relation to "patients with the ability to wander". This involves setting up processes and protocols for NHS patients who have cognitive impairment, dementia, Alzheimer's and other related conditions.

He is also active in the local roll out of the "Herbert Protocol" within North Highland and Western Isles. This is a protocol aimed at keeping persons living with dementia and other related conditions either in the community or within care homes and those being newly diagnosed, safe. As part of this we trialling tracking technology for keeping people safe and allowing vulnerable persons who may otherwise have to be taken into care, to live within their communities.

The missing person co-ordinator is part of the Child Sexual Exploitation working group looking to highlight and prevent our young people from risk and harm.

The missing person co-ordinator is available to provide presentations and talks to interested parties on the wider aspect of Missing Persons.

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.

Preventative work has continued with Driving Ambition inputs planned for later in 2016 at Golspie High School. Safe Highlander events have taken place in Lairg, all P7 pupils in the county attend the event which incorporates road safety education.

Sutherland Summary
(1 April 2016- 30 June 2016)-

- There was no fatal collisions in the Sutherland area during this reporting period:

The below tables provide an overview of figures for the Sutherland Area; these figures relate to the reporting period -1st April 2016 to 30th June 2016:

Sutherland	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	3	8	+ 5 (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.

NORTH	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Speeding (Detections)	626	418	- 208
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	94	60	- 34
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	78	60	- 18

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

It is encouraging to see the numbers decreasing, 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.

During this year the NC500 route has become extremely popular with worldwide promotion of this as a tourist attraction. We have sought to police this as required, dealing with irresponsible driver behaviour, whilst also acknowledging the positive economic impact the NC500 has on the area.

Operations/Campaigns

The following campaigns have been running recently throughout the Division:

March 2016 – Speeding Campaign, Motorcycle Weekend of Action.

April 2016 – Carriage of Dangerous Goods Operation

May 2016- 2 Motorcycle Weekends of Action, Speed Campaign,
Cycle Scotland – Give me cycle space campaign

June 2016 – Summer Drink Drive Campaign, Motorcycle Weekend of Action

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.

Between 01 April 2016 and 30 June 2016 there was no drug related deaths in Sutherland

During this reporting period new legislation has come into effect in relation to New psychoactive substances (NPS), also controversially and incorrectly known as 'legal highs'. The production and supply of NPS products is now illegal, mere possession of these substances does not constitute an offence. Police Scotland has policies in place to robustly deal with the dangers posed by NPS. The message from Police Scotland remains there is no 'safe' way to take NPS – there is always a risk. The only way of staying safe is to avoid NPS altogether.

There were no business in Sutherland area selling NPS, although it should be noted that the vast majority of NPS is sourced from the internet and delivered to users through the mail system.

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. Police Scotland continue to encourage any person with information to contact the police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Sutherland Performance Summary (1 April 2016- 30 December 2015)-

- Operation Ram is a division wide operation aimed at tackling drug offences. During the reporting period there was an enforcement operation in the Sutherland area during which four addresses were searched under warrant. This has resulted in seizures of controlled drugs. A number of individuals have been reported to the PF for drugs offences. As part of Operation Ram we continue to work with key partners in order to make our streets safer and to reduce the risk to the public. Operation Ram is in addition to routine proactive drugs policing by officers on patrol.
- 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 2016, 78 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)	11	7	- 4 (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 2016- 30 June 2016)-

SUTHERLAND	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Breach of the Peace/Threatening & Abusive Behaviour			
North, West and Central Sutherland	4	3	-1
East Sutherland and Edderton	8	8	=
TOTAL:	12	11	-1
Common Assault			
North, West and Central Sutherland	5	5	=
East Sutherland and Edderton	4	9	+5
TOTAL:	9	14	+5
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)			
North, West and Central Sutherland	5	3	-2
East Sutherland and Edderton	10	4	-6
TOTAL:	15	7	-8

* 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

N Division Public Protection Unit is led by a Detective Chief Inspector with 6 Detective Inspector-led teams providing specialist support for Local Policing Teams across the Division in Child Protection, Domestic Abuse, Rape Investigation and the management of information from Police Wellbeing Concerns for both children and adult concern information.

Police Scotland is committed to protecting people at risk of harm and within N Division the strong local public protection partnerships support both the investigation of serious sexual and violent crime against children and adults and continuous partnership work to prevent the prevalence of violent crime in our communities. The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland was introduced across Scotland in October 2015; since that date there have been 46 applications in Highland resulting in 21 disclosures to protect members of community from perpetrator of Domestic Abuse. In June 2016 a successful partnership awareness day on the Scheme was held in Police Headquarters Inverness which was well attended by practitioners involved in the various stages of the Scheme.

A Thematic Review by HMICS and the Care Inspectorate of MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) was conducted across Scotland between October 2014 and November 2015 with a recently published Report in relation to local structures and practices around the management of sexual offenders within communities across Scotland; the outcome was positive with the report stating that Multi Agency Public protection Arrangements are well established across the country with robust arrangements in place by the statutory Responsible Authorities to manage registered sex offenders through dedicated offender management teams, joint working and information sharing. The report recognised that the work of the Responsible Authorities cannot entirely eliminate risk but stated '...we are confident that MAPPA is working effectively and as a result, makes a critical contribution to keeping people and communities safe...'. A number of national recommendations were made by the Report as well as Areas for Development; these are currently being considered locally by the Highlands & Islands MAPPA Management Group to inform continuous improvement planning.

N Division Public Protection is supporting the delivery of the Highland Child Protection Committee Child Sexual Exploitation plan across the Area and is engaging with both statutory and 3rd sector partners within the Committee to deliver against both the Scottish Government and Police Scotland National Action Plans on Child Sexual Exploitation.

Sutherland Performance Summary

(1 April 2016- 30 June 2016)-

NORTH	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Domestic Abuse Incidents	204	244	+40
Domestic Abuse Incidents - Detection Rate	92.7%	84.1%	-8.6%
Hate Crime Incidents ¹	17	13	-4
Sexual Crimes/Incidents	45	66	+21

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.

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| <p>(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.</p> |
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Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland
North Highland Area Commander

¹Police Scotland ScOMIS Performance System Figures