

**Highland Council**  
**Caithness Committee**  
**31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

Agenda Item	<b>8.</b>
Report No	<b>CC/15/16</b>

**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.

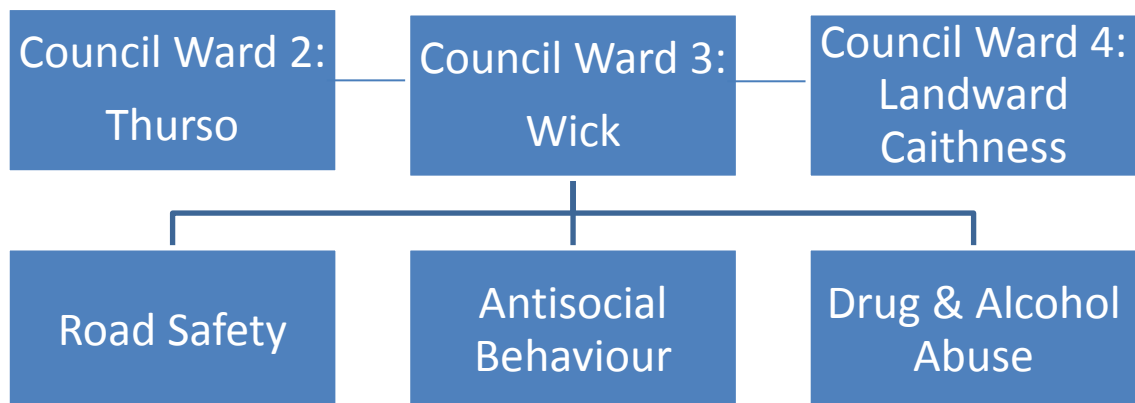
**Introduction**

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 4<sup>th</sup> year as Police Scotland and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Caithness Committee sits within the North Highland Area Command of the Highland and Islands Divisional Policing Structure. The Caithness Committee covers three Multi-Member Wards which each have 3 priorities (in this case each ward has the same 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 Caithness 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 Wick High School and Thurso High School 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. The role out to all 5<sup>th</sup> year pupils begins in early September 2016 and will be completed within that month. This will involve 20 inputs from the Police in total.

Within the Protect and Prepare strands there is representation from Caithness 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. There were no reported incidents or crimes in the period. 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 Caithness area

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

<https://twitter.com/CaithSuthPol>

## **Safer Caithness**

This initiative in Caithness is based on a similar project in Inverness and tailored to address public and private space issues in communities. The initiative in Caithness combines local resources to respond quickly to local problems to ensure early intervention, better outcomes and value for money.

The focus of the Team is on prevention and early intervention with the recognition that effectively tackling low level antisocial behaviour can reduce the number of such incidents which can often escalate into more serious cases.

The core partners who participate in the daily tactical process include:

- Highland Council
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Police Scotland

with other partners participating on a case by case basis.

The objectives of the initiative are:

- To develop a Safer Caithness Response Team based on best practice and partnership working.
- Collaborative planning and service delivery to achieve more efficient and sustainable solutions to community safety priorities.
- Systematic analysis of information collected from all relevant Partners and analytical products to direct activities.
- Operate at a tactical level but not exclusively.
- Create a Response Team which will in the long term be based in a dedicated office environment for community safety partners.
- Evolve over time in terms of membership and act as a catalyst for further integration and partnership working.
- Improve information flow from communities, their representative and colleagues direct to the professionals involved in the daily tactical process.
- Support other thematic groups deliver the Highland Single Outcome Agreement.

Following a pilot which commenced in September 2015 and ran for 6 months this initiative was deemed to be successful in tackling issues effectively with early intervention and continues to run.

The following report provides an overview of performance in terms of the three priorities identified for the Caithness 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 Thurso and Wick High Schools. A Safe Highlander event will also take place shortly in Wick, all P7 pupils in the county will attend the event which incorporates road safety education.

Road safety Scotland leaflets for tourists have been obtained and circulated to local tourist information centres.

### Caithness Summary (1 April 2016- 30 June 2016)-

- There has been 1 fatal collision in the Caithness & Sutherland area during this reporting period:

A9 at Stainland, Thurso- This was a 5 vehicle collision where 1 person sustained fatal injuries. Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing

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

CAITHNESS	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	6	10	+ 4(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 Caithness and wider Highland area, the tactical approach being taken by the Division involves targeting speed, use of mobile phones whilst

driving and seatbelts.

NORTH	14/15 FYTD	15/16 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.

In response to issues raised during the last meeting increased patrols have been carried in Watten and the Mount Pleasant Road area of Thurso. A number of warnings have been given to drivers regarding speeding. A further enforcement period is planned for during August 2016 prior to schools returning.

#### 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

In addition to this Divisional Road Policing Units carried out two days of joint enforcement action with DVSA in the Caithness area. This resulted in a number of offences being detected.

## 2. **Priority 2- Alcohol and Drugs 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 have been no drug related deaths in Caithness.

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 Caithness 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

### **Caithness Performance Summary (1 April 2016- 30 June 2016)-**

- Operation Ram is a division wide operation aimed at tackling drug offences. During the reporting period there has been enforcement action in the Caithness area. As part of operation Ram four addresses have been searched. 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 427 licensed premises checks were carried out in Caithness.
- 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 an established 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 and updates and progress against the Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan and partnership delivery models (Safer Caithness) will be presented at future Caithness Committee meetings.

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.

#### **Caithness Performance Summary (1 April 2016- 30 June 2016)-**

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
<b>Breach of the Peace/Threatening &amp; Abusive Behaviour</b>			
Thurso	25	13	-12
Wick	15	9	-6
Landward Caithness	6	8	+2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>Common Assault</b>			
Thurso	15	20	+5
Wick	24	20	-4
Landward Caithness	7	5	-2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)</b>			
Thurso	25	23	-2
Wick	21	23	+2
Landward Caithness	7	8	+1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>+1</b>

\* 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. Due to the Scottish Crime Recording standard common assault figures may include historical offence only reported to police during the stated time period.

- (i) **Recommendation:** The committee is invited to scrutinise and discuss the progress report and updates in relation to the 3 Priorities; Road Safety, Alcohol and Drug Abuse/Misuse and Antisocial Behaviour

**Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland  
North Highland Area Commander  
12<sup>th</sup> August 2016**