

Highland Council
Caithness Committee
14th February 2017

Agenda Item	3.
Report No	CC/01/17

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.

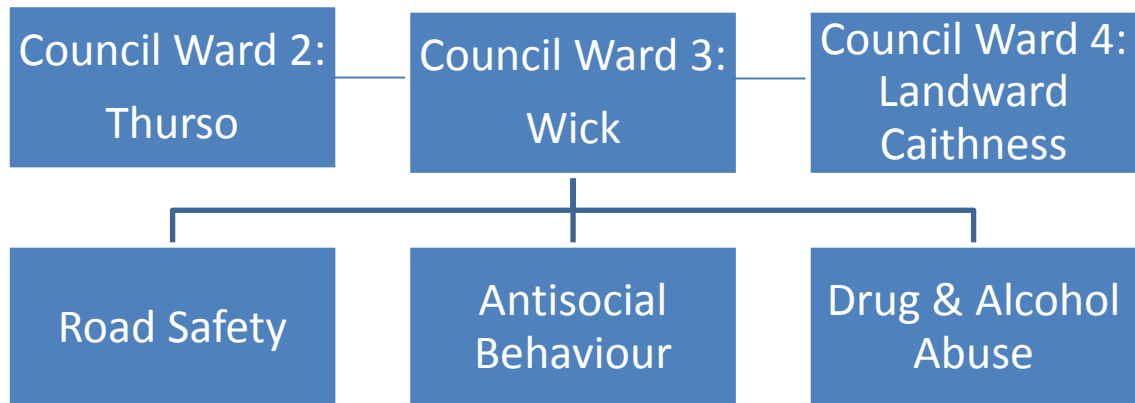
Introduction

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 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):



Your View Counts

Since the launch of 'Your View Counts' in April just under 16,000 surveys have been completed across Scotland by 30th September 2016.

This valuable feedback on crimes and other issues that impact on communities, together with evidence from a number of other important sources will help us to formulate future national and local policing plans. We have tried to enhance the survey to best meet needs across Scotland, launching a Polish version in July, an "Easy Read" version and we are looking to develop a BSL (British Sign Language) version.

You can access the results for the Highland & Islands area by following this [link](#):

If you have not had time to take part yet, it's not too late and we would encourage you to take just 15 minutes of your time to tell us what is important to you about policing through www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts

Demands on Service

Police Scotland officers based in the North Highland area deal with a wide variety of calls many of which are not crime related. Calls relating to vulnerable people in a variety of contexts are steadily increasing and officers are regularly required to attend.

The figures below relate to the period from 1st April – 31st December 2016. The total number of calls where vulnerability was the primary concern is 1069. In the same period there were 3,125 crimes (Class 1-6) recorded and 2,693 Advice/Assistance calls:

NORTH	Number of Calls
Mental Health Calls	192
Medical Calls	402
Concern Calls	265
Missing Person Calls	210

Police Scotland have responded to this change in demand to policing and a program of training – Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention – is currently being rolled out and delivered to all Police officers in the Caithness area and across the Division as a whole.

Livestock Worrying Campaign 2017

The worrying of sheep by domestic dogs not only has the obvious financial impact on farmers when livestock is killed or injured but the day to day effect on the animals themselves, their productivity and welfare means that this is a serious issue in the farming community.

Analysis of sheep worrying crimes shows that incidents start to peak in mid-February through to end of May, coinciding with the main lambing season.

A national multi-agency initiative will be carried out in order to -

Prevent – further instances of sheep/livestock worrying during this period.

Educate – dog owners regarding their responsibilities, the effects of dogs worrying livestock and promote a better understanding of impact on the farming community

Enforce legislation robustly ensuring all reported cases of sheep worrying are thoroughly investigated and offenders reported.

A press release will be will be issued during February 2017 in relation to this initiative.

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

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.

Driving Ambition presentation took place in Wick High School during September 2016, further sessions are planned for later in 2017 in Thurso and Wick High Schools.

Caithness Summary

(1 April 2016- 31 December 2016)-

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

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

A99, approximately 0.5 mile south of Keiss. This was a 1 vehicle collision where the driver sustained fatal injuries.

Across Scotland the causes of fatal and serious road traffic are reported as follows:

- **Driver/rider errors or reactions** were reported in 66% of **all** reported accidents with “failed to look properly” the most common type (involved in 31%).
- **Travelling too fast for the conditions** or **excessive speed** was reported in 11% of all reported accidents and 19% of fatal accidents.
- **Pedestrian only** factors were reported in 22% of **fatal** accidents whilst **loss of control** and **failed to look properly** were the most frequently reported driver/rider factors (involved in 39% and 25% of fatal accidents respectively).

The below tables provide an overview of figures for the Caithness Area; these figures relate to the reporting period -1st April 2016 to 31th December 2016:

CAITHNESS	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	32	20	-12 (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 HIGHLAND	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Speeding (Detections)	1415	908	- 507
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	225	138	- 87
Mobile Phone	198	108	- 90

Offences (Detections)			
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* 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 or suffer less serious injury if involved in a collision.

Operations/Campaigns

The following campaigns have been running recently throughout the Division:

December 2016 – Festive Drink/Drug Drive Campaign

The Festive Drink/Drug Drive Initiative 2016 commenced at 0700 hours Friday 2nd December 2016 and ran for a period of five weeks until 0700 hours Friday 6th January 2017.

Despite the general perception that drink/drug driving is socially unacceptable, many who persist in doing so consider it to be a low-risk activity in terms of the likelihood of being involved in a collision or being caught. This year's initiative focussed on offenders who were just over the drink drive limit and 'morning after' offenders.

The 'Festive Drink/Drug Drive Initiative 2016' was conducted through high visibility patrol work in marked police vehicles and static road checks. Based upon research and analysis of previous campaign returns, the aim of this initiative was to conduct high profile, high visibility patrols on main arterial routes and drink/drug drive hotspots.

Festive Drink/Drug Drive Campaign	2015	2016	Variation
N Division (Highlands & Islands) - Total Number of Drivers Tested	848	917	+69
Positive Sample (Fail)	14	38	+24
Negative Result (Pass)	834	879	+45

In 2015 the percentage of drivers providing a positive breath sample was 1.65%. It is disappointing to note that during the Festive Drink/Drug Drive campaign 2016, this figure increased to 4.15%. Of the 38 persons reported for drink/drug drive offences (2 of which were in the Caithness area), 8 of those

were detected between 0600 hours - 1000 hours.

2017 – Abandoned/Uninsured Vehicles Campaign

Road Policing supported by Local policing are to participate in a local Multi-Agency two day initiative specifically targeted to resolve and address the high number of complaints to Police Scotland in relation to Antisocial behaviour specifically around vehicles.

Members of the public have been subjected to Antisocial behaviour from particular individuals who utilise residential parking spaces, and the public road for what can only be described as end of life vehicles. They leave mechanical debris littering the local footpaths and roads. Individuals have been identified and again while some positive action has already been taken this operation will progress things further.

The planning for this is under way and it is hoped to take action with partners early 2017.

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 31 December 2016 there have been no drug related deaths in Caithness.

During this reporting period there have been three significant detections in the Caithness area involving the cultivation of drugs with a total street value of in excess of £20,000. In the course of enforcement, an unlicensed shotgun and ammunition were also found within a dwelling.

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- 31 December 2016)-

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 over 1200 licensed premises checks were carried out in the Caithness area. During the reporting period, the Highlands and Islands Division conducted 23.57% of all licensed premises checks carried out in Scotland.

This correlates to a 5.7% reduction in violence, a 13.9% decrease in anti-social behaviour and a 20.1% decrease in drunkenness and disorderly conduct compared with same period last year, throughout the Division.

NORTH HIGHLAND	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections)	31	29	- 2 (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 continues to identify and deal with offenders at an early stage. 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.

Festive Campaign

Police Scotland Festive Campaign was launched during the week commencing 28th November 2016.

The themes of this year's campaign were:

Festive Shoppers (those out and about within town centres/shopping centres)

Online Safety (personal and financial security and awareness when online –

shopping/browsing or otherwise)

Party Safety (those out socialising over festive period, specifically those engaging on work nights out)

Home Safety (Homeowners/occupiers raised awareness of home security over festive period)

Business Safety (this was predominantly targeted during the last week and raised awareness of business security)

The Preventions and Interventions (P&I) Team carried out a series of events throughout the Highlands. On 12th and 13th December 2016 P&I officers attended at Wick and Thurso town centres, accompanied by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Caithness and Sutherland Womens Aid, actively engaged with members of the public and promoted winter/festive safety messages. This initiative ran for three weeks throughout Highland Division and during this time nearly 2000 members of the public were spoken to and given advice relating to online safety, party safety, home and business safety.

Police Scotland continue to work with Safer Caithness and an anti-social behaviour order has recently been served on an individual in order to prevent further distress and alarm caused by their antisocial behaviour.

Anti-Social Driving Campaign – Thurso

Between 7 September 2016 and 1 October 2016 an initiative anti-social behaviour campaign, targeting young drivers, took place in Thurso. This initiative was conducted by way of a phased campaign –

Phase 1 – Problems areas identified, briefing circulated to uniformed shifts

Phase 2 – Raised public awareness by way of issuing a press release

Phase 3 – Education and Advice – Drop in session arranged, amnesty on construction and use offences. A reminder press release was issued on the day of this event and the public was advised that discretion would be applied, but were also warned that should any defects be deemed to be dangerous, more robust action would be taken.

Phase 4 – Enforcement – Static vehicle check points, static speed checks, mobile patrols and decibel meter to target offences of excessive noise, careless/dangerous driving & racing.

Phase 5 – Review of progress and update partners.

This had a very positive effect and reduced the instances of anti-social driving reported to police, while still fostering and maintaining a good relationship with young drivers.

**Caithness Performance Summary
(1 April 2016- 31 December 2016)-**

NORTH	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Breach of the Peace/Threatening & Abusive Behaviour			
Thurso	60	45	-15
Wick	46	34	-12
Landward Caithness	12	22	+10
TOTAL:	118	101	-17
Common Assault			
Thurso	42	43	+1
Wick	50	50	-
Landward Caithness	19	14	-5
TOTAL:	111	107	-4
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)			
Thurso	23	15	-8
Wick	36	22	-14
Landward Caithness	4	8	+4
TOTAL:	63	45	-18

* 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
2nd February 2017**