

Agenda item	<b>4</b>
Report no	<b>RC/015/17</b>

## **THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** Ross and Cromarty Committee

**Date:** 15 August 2017

**Report Title:** Police - Area Performance Summary

**Report By:** Report by the North Area Commander

### **1 Purpose/Executive 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.

### **2 Recommendations**

The committee is invited to scrutinise and discuss the progress report and updates in relation to the 4 Priorities; Road Safety, Alcohol and Drugs Abuse/Misuse, Antisocial Behaviour, Dishonesty

## **Introduction**

The Ross and Cromarty Committee sits within the North Highland Area Command of the Highland and Islands Divisional Policing Structure and covers 5 Multi-Member Wards,

Council Ward 5: Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh  
Council Ward 6: Cromarty Firth  
Council Ward 7: Tain and Easter Ross  
Council Ward 8: Dingwall and Seaforth  
Council Ward 9: Black Isle

which, combined, have 4 overall priorities:

**Antisocial Behaviour**      **Road Safety**

**Dishonesty**                      **Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

The following report provides an overview of performance in terms of the four priorities identified for the Ross and Cromarty 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 being provided to students at Alness Academy and Fortrose Academy. Safe Highlander events have also been taking place across the North Highland area.

**Ross and Cromarty Summary  
(01 April 2016 - 31 March 2017)**

There have been three fatal collisions in the Ross and Cromarty area during this reporting period:

1. Collision occurred on A835 at Maryburgh and involved 2 vehicles. The front seat passenger of one vehicle sustained fatal injuries.
2. Collision occurred on A9 at Alness and involved 3 vehicles. The driver of one vehicle seriously injured, transported to hospital where he later died from his injuries.
3. Collision occurred on A862 on the Inverness to Arduillie Road, near to the junction towards Muir of Ord and involved 3 vehicles. Driver of one vehicle seriously injured and transported to hospital where he later died from his injuries.

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

- **Driver/rider errors or reactions** were reported in 66 per cent 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 Ross and Cromarty Area; these figures relate to the reporting period -1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

**1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017**

<b>Ross and Cromarty</b>	<b>15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	83	68	-15

\* 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.

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Speeding (Detections)	1735	1238	-497
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	264	187	-77
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	245	138	-107

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

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**

Operation Zenith - the annual Motorcycle Safety Campaign commenced on Friday 24 March 2017 and runs until Sunday 1 October 2017. Road Policing officers will deliver a 6 month period of focused activity around motorcycle safety, including engagement, education and enforcement. Rider behaviour and speeding are significant contributory factors in collisions involving motorcycles. The robust enforcement of these offences will be delivered via speed checks and high visibility patrols on key routes.

## **2. Priority 2- Alcohol and Drugs Abuse/Misuse**

By working effectively with our partners in the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership and supporting campaigns/events such as 'Meet the Macphersons' and Rock Challenge, 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 March 2017 there was 1 drug related death in the Ross and Cromarty area.

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.

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.

**Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary  
(1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017)-**

- 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 2068 licensed premises checks, 19.6% of checks carried out in Highlands and Islands, were carried out in the North Highland Area (2068 from a total of 10501 checks).
- 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.

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections)	41	34	-7 (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.

In addition, in the Ross and Cromarty area we continue to work alongside the Community Wardens when dealing with low level Antisocial Behaviour.

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.

**Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary  
(1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017)**

<b>ROSS and CROMARTY</b>	<b>15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
<b>Breach of the Peace/Threatening and Abusive Behaviour</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	28	41	+13
Cromarty Firth	93	87	-6
Easter Ross	39	49	+10
Dingwall and Seaforth	69	69	-
Black Isle	15	11	-4
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>+13</b>
<b>Common Assault (Including Emergency Workers)</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	47	52	+5
Cromarty Firth	116	91	-25
Easter Ross	53	56	+3
Dingwall and Seaforth	104	77	-27
Black Isle	27	14	-13
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>-57</b>
<b>Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	54	33	-21
Cromarty Firth	49	70	+21
Easter Ross	35	26	-9
Dingwall and Seaforth	39	23	-16
Black Isle	11	9	-2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>-27</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.

#### 4. Priority 4- 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.

#### Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary (1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017)

ROSS CROMARTY	and	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
<b>Number of Thefts by Housebreaking (Dwelling house, Non-dwelling, Other premises)</b>				
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh		4	1	-3
Cromarty Firth		12	1	-11
Easter Ross		5	4	-1
Dingwall and Seaforth		4	4	-
Black Isle		-	-	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>Theft by Shoplifting</b>				
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh		2	3	+1
Cromarty Firth		22	16	-6
Easter Ross		6	22	+16
Dingwall and Seaforth		21	20	-1
Black Isle		-	-	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>+10</b>
<b>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).</b>				
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh		2	4	+2
Cromarty Firth		5	8	+3
Easter Ross		-	1	+1
Dingwall and Seaforth		4	4	-
Black Isle		3	4	+1
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>+7</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.

Designation: Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland, North Highland Area Commander

Date: 31 July 2017