

Agenda item	4
Report no	RC/016/17

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

Local Policing Plans

The current Local Policing Plans for 2014-2017 have come to the end of their term.

Background

Police Scotland is committed to developing bespoke Local Policing Plans for each local authority area in Scotland. The Local Policing Plans are a statutory requirement derived from the Police and Fire Reform Act 2012 and demonstrate Police Scotland's legislative responsibility in the delivery of national, corporate and local outcomes.

The content of each Local Policing Plan is based on the following:

- Three year Local Strategic Assessment of the threats that will impact on policing at both Divisional and Local Authority area level. The strategic assessment will provide a true reflection of emerging issues and themes (including harm).
- Results from the Public Consultation 'Your View Counts' survey.
- Divisional contribution within the Community Planning Partnership setting, linking with the corresponding Local Outcome Improvement Plans.
- Local Engagement across communities.

Future

Without doubt over the last 4 years we have seen significant changes with the creation of a single Scottish Police force; we have now been operating as Police Scotland for over 4 years and you, as an elected member, join us at a pivotal point as we look to the future and shape the way that we deliver services in our communities, with our communities.

The way in which local services are delivered is changing and recognition that organisations; both public and private sector, need to constructively share and problem solve is crucial to the future of how we operate. In moving forward, we are committed to collectively implementing the Community Empowerment Act with our partners, implementing a holistic and preventative agenda increasing our ability to deter and divert those who pose a risk to our communities and ensure that the Ross and Cromarty area remains one of the safest places to live in the United Kingdom

C3 Project

As part of the remodelling of control rooms across Scotland, work is ongoing which will see the relocation of control room functions for N Division to Dundee.

Phone calls from the public will be answered in one of the Police Scotland Service Centres and thereafter controlled from Dundee.

At present the ongoing work is focusing on the testing of systems and training and briefing staff. Inverness Control room will see a change in function and will be developed into a data base enquiry unit to carry out checks for operational officers across Scotland.

In future, members of the project team will be available to attend this area meeting and answer any questions from members on the ongoing work of this project.

Risk and Concern Hub

When Police Scotland Officers attend an incident in which vulnerability is a primary concern, information is collated and submitted to a central reception point. This Concern Hub allows for the triaging of all wellbeing concerns received across the Division and quick sharing where relevant and proportionate, ensures those living in our communities with situational vulnerability are addressed appropriately and without unnecessary delay.

Temporary Detective Inspector Thomson currently has responsibility for this department and will present to members on the work of his department.

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 2017 – 30 June 2017)

There have been no fatal collisions in the Ross and Cromarty area during this reporting period.

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 2017 to 30 June 2017:

* 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.

1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017

Ross and Cromarty	16/17 FYTD	17/18 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	23	17	-6

* 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.

The NC500 route continues to be 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. One incident of note has occurred in this reporting period when a motorcyclist incorrectly negotiated a bend, clipped the verge and came off the vehicle sustaining injury. He was conveyed to hospital and later discharged.

NORTH	16/17 FYTD	17/18 FYTD	Variation
Speeding (Detections)	411	415	+4
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	55	28	-27
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	58	30	-28

* 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

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.

Rock challenge took place in the Highland area with a large rate of participation, 4 schools made it to the national finals with, 3 of the schools from Highlands placed in the top 5 (Dingwall Academy 1st, Invergordon Academy 3rd, Alness Academy 5th). Planning is now commencing for the 2018 Rock challenge. This event is very successful in promoting positive lifestyle choices.

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.

There were no drug related deaths in the Ross and Cromarty area during this reporting period.

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 2017 – 30 June 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 2017 574 licensed premises checks, 27.7% of checks carried out in Highlands and Islands, were carried out in the North Highland (574 from a total of 2070 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.

NORTH	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections)	7	8	+1 (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.

An appendix outlining the process of Operation Notebook is attached to this report for the reference of new members.

Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary (1 April 2017 – 30 June 2017)

ROSS and CROMARTY	16/17 FYTD	17/18 FYTD	Variation
Breach of the Peace/Threatening and Abusive Behaviour			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	10	11	+1
Cromarty Firth	26	30	+4
Easter Ross	17	17	-
Dingwall and Seaforth	15	15	-
Black Isle	3	1	-2
TOTAL:	71	74	+3

Common Assault (Including Emergency Workers)			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	17	11	-6
Cromarty Firth	17	23	+6
Easter Ross	16	8	-8
Dingwall and Seaforth	25	23	-2
Black Isle	3	2	-1
TOTAL:	78	67	-11
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	11	5	-6
Cromarty Firth	20	31	+11
Easter Ross	6	12	+6
Dingwall and Seaforth	5	5	-
Black Isle	-	5	+5
TOTAL:	42	58	+16

* 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.

Operation Monarda – 2 week period of action carried out across the N Division with roadshows taking place throughout the area. These involved Prevention and Intervention unit officers, Crimestoppers and Trading Standards. In addition visits were carried out to all quarries, builders' merchants, banks, financial institutes and caravan sites to brief them on door step crime issues.

During Op Monarda support was gained from NHS Highland, NHS Shetland and NHS Western Isles, a door step crime leaflet was attached to all prescriptions leaving pharmacies in the Highland area (5500 leaflets distributed) this allowed information to be delivered direct to some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

**Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary
(1 April 2017 – 30 June 2017)**

ROSS CROMARTY	and	16/17 FYTD	17/18 FYTD	Variation
Number of Thefts by Housebreaking (Dwelling house, Non-dwelling, Other premises)				
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh		-	4	+4
Cromarty Firth		-	2	+2
Easter Ross		2	-	-2
Dingwall and Seaforth		1	-	-1
Black Isle		-	-	-
TOTAL:		3	6	+3
Theft by Shoplifting				
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh		-	1	+1
Cromarty Firth		2	3	+1
Easter Ross		4	2	-2
Dingwall and Seaforth		5	11	+6
Black Isle		-	2	+2
TOTAL:		11	19	+8
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).				
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh		-	-	-
Cromarty Firth		6	-	-6
Easter Ross		1	-	-1
Dingwall and Seaforth		2	2	-
Black Isle		1	1	-
TOTAL:		10	3	-7

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

APPENDIX

Operation Notebook

“To make people feel, and be safer by tackling anti-social behaviour in and around residential properties within our communities”

Local Authority/Police Joint Strategy

- Encouraging reporting of antisocial behaviour at the earliest opportunity and then early intervention
- Better reassurance to the public of the ongoing work undertaken by agencies in tackling anti-social behaviour
- Supporting victims of anti-social behaviour
- Continuing to focus on the use of education, prevention and intervention methods with a view to reducing future antisocial offending
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What is Operation Notebook?

This operation involves targeting problematic residential addresses with a “3 stage” process and requires close working practices between Local Authority, Housing providers and Police Scotland.

Process - Police regularly analyse and review repeat calls to residential properties. Should an address receive three or more instances of police attendance for anti-social related disorder, liaison is carried out with relevant housing provider. Thereafter follows a three tiered process, although proceedings can start at any level depending on the severity of the anti-social behaviour:

Level 1: A local police officer will attend at the address and speak to the householder regarding the nature of the complaint. This visit is also followed up by an acknowledgement letter.

Level 2: A local police sergeant and representative of housing provider will carry out a visit.

Level 3: The Area Commander will carry out a warning, usually taking place at the Police Station, in the presence of the Housing provider. An anti-social behaviour contact will be signed at this time.

Should Level 3 be breached, Housing will initiate the eviction process.

Outcomes - Reduced number of repeat calls to residential addresses

Jointly saved resourcing and costs of responding to complaints of anti-social behaviour

Residents affected by anti-social behaviour have confidence in services to effectively tackle anti-social behaviour.