

**Highland Council**

**Ross and Cromarty Committee - 12 January 2017**

Agenda Item	<b>3</b>
Report No	<b>RC/001/17</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**

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 6: Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh

Council Ward 7: Cromarty Firth

Council Ward 8: Tain and Easter Ross

Council Ward 9: Dingwall and Seaforth

Council Ward 10: Black Isle

which, combined, have 4 overall priorities:

**Antisocial Behaviour      Road Safety**

**Dishonesty                  Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

**Your View Counts**

Since the launch of 'YourViewCounts' 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 and 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](http://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.

The figures below relate to the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April-30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. The total number of calls where vulnerability was the primary concern is 920. In the same period there were 2,796 crimes (Class1-6) recorded and 2,450 Advice/Assistance calls:

NORTH	Number of Calls
Mental Health Calls	230
Medical Calls	345
Concern Calls	158
Missing Person Calls	187

## Wildlife Crime

A multi-agency Rural Crime Prevention Day was held at the Dingwall Mart on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.

The event was co-ordinated by Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer PC Dan Sutherland; Constables from Road Policing Unit, Representatives from NFU, Crimestoppers and CESAR (Construction Equipment Security and Registration) came together to provide information and advice on all aspects of rural security and crime prevention.

*“Rural crime can have a devastating effect on the livelihood of those unfortunate enough to be targeted so by offering advice on the most up to date security techniques we will hopefully reduce instances of rural crime in the far north.”*

For further information on CESAR please follow this [link](#).

There has been no reported wildlife crime in the Ross and Cromarty area in this reporting period.

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 October 2016)-

There has been one fatal collision 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 of vehicle sustained fatal injuries.

Across Scotland the causes of fatal and serious road traffic collisions 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 October 2016:

<b>Ross and Cromarty</b>	<b>15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	46	48	+ 2

\* 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)	1224	763	-461
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	197	123	-74
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	168	98	-70

\* 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.

### **Operations/Campaigns**

#### **December 2016 – Festive Drink/Drug Campaign –**

The Festive Drink/Drug Drive Initiative 2016 commenced at 0700 hours Friday 2 December 2016, and will run for a period of five weeks until 0700 hours Friday 6 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 will focus on offenders who are just over the drink drive limit and 'morning after' offenders.

The 'Festive Drink/Drug Drive Initiative 2016' will be 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 will be to conduct high profile, high visibility patrols of main arterial routes and drink/drug drive hotspots.

#### **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/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<sup>st</sup> October 2016 there were 2 drug related deaths 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.

Work is ongoing through November and December in respect of the misuse of drugs in the Tain area. In addition to enforcement activity, preventative and educational presentations are being held at Tain Academy with support from parents and teachers. This work has been extremely well received and will be repeated elsewhere within the Area Command.

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 October 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 973 licensed premises checks were carried out in the Ross and Cromarty 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.

<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)	26	19	-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.

#### **Festive Campaign**

Police Scotland Festive campaign was launched during the week commencing 28 November 2016

The Themes of this year's force campaign are:

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 in raising awareness of home security over festive period)

Business Safety (this will be predominantly targeted in last week and is raising awareness of business security)

The Preventions and Interventions Team are carrying out a series of events throughout the Highlands. At each location Police officers will actively engage with members of the public to promote winter/festive safety messages, this will also involve various partner agencies. Timetable for the Ross and Cromarty Area is as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Agencies
08/12/2016	1000-1500	Dingwall Tesco	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Ross-shire Women's Aid.
20/12/2016	1000-1500	Alness/Tain	Ross-shire Women's Aid.
22/12/2016	1000-1500	Dingwall Tesco	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Ross-shire Women's Aid.

**Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary  
(1 April 2016 – 31 October 2016) -**

ROSS and CROMARTY	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
<b>Breach of the Peace/Threatening and Abusive Behaviour</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	17	25	+8
Cromarty Firth	65	61	-4
Easter Ross	32	31	-1
Dingwall and Seaforth	39	39	=
Black Isle	10	6	-4
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Common Assault (Including Emergency Workers)</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	31	36	+5
Cromarty Firth	67	57	-10
Easter Ross	32	35	+3
Dingwall and Seaforth	69	53	-16
Black Isle	14	10	-4
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>-22</b>

<b>Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	35	22	-13
Cromarty Firth	27	43	+16
Easter Ross	21	19	-2
Dingwall and Seaforth	27	11	-16
Black Isle	7	8	+1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-14</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 October 2016)

<b>ROSS CROMARTY</b>	<b>and 15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
<b>Number of Thefts by Housebreaking (Dwelling house, Non-dwelling, Other premises)</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	4	0	-4
Cromarty Firth	6	0	-6
Easter Ross	5	3	-2
Dingwall and Seaforth	4	3	-1
Black Isle	0	0	=
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-13</b>
<b>Theft by Shoplifting</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	2	1	-1
Cromarty Firth	15	2	-13
Easter Ross	2	7	+5
Dingwall and Seaforth	14	17	+3
Black Isle	0	0	=
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-16</b>



<b>Number of Thefts from motor vehicles</b> <b>(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	1	3	+2
Cromarty Firth	1	7	+6
Easter Ross	0	1	+1
Dingwall and Seaforth	4	3	-1
Black Isle	1	4	+3
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</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.

- (i) **Recommendation:** 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.

**Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland**  
**North Highland Area Commander**  
**13 December 2016**