

**The Highland Council**

**Ross and Cromarty Committee - 3 August 2016**

Agenda Item	<b>3</b>
Report No	<b>RC/018/16</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 Ross and Cromarty Committee sits within the North Highland Area Command of the Highland and Islands Divisional Policing Structure. The Ross and Cromarty Committee 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  
Dishonesty**

**Road Safety  
Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

## **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 29 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 Ross and Cromarty 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 Dingwall Academy and Fortrose Academy 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.

Within the Protect and Prepare strands there is representation from Ross and Cromarty at the Protect and Prepare sub-group from the Community Planning Partnership. Positive work within the Protect stands includes work around all ports within the area with a recent awareness day having taken place at Ullapool and Lochinver on 27 June. Safe travel leaflets were handed out to passengers and awareness engagement with Harbour masters, vessel crew and ferry terminal staff also took place.

## **Wildlife Crime**

During the reporting period Police Scotland N Division Wildlife Crime Unit have been pro-active in the area regarding deer and salmon poaching and assisting with The Highland Council regarding the Black Isle Wildlife Park .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 and 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.

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 Dingwall Academy and Invergordon Academy. Safe Highlander events have also been taking place across the North Highland area.

Ross and Cromarty Summary  
(01 April 2016- 30 June 2016)-

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

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 30 June 2016:

<b>Ross and Cromarty</b>	<b>15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	17	21	+ 4

\* 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.

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. Two incidents of note have occurred; firstly a group of 6 motorcyclists were detected driving at 130 mph and secondly a motorcyclist detected driving at 150mph.

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>15/16 FYTD</b>	<b>16/17 FYTD</b>	<b>Variation</b>
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.

### **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

### **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 was 1 drug related death in the Ross and Cromarty area.

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 was one Business in the Ross and Cromarty area selling NPS, through joint working with Trading standards this business has now ceased trading.

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 30 June 2016) -**

- Operation Ram is a division wide operation aimed at tackling drug offences. During the reporting period there has been two sustained periods of enforcement action in the Ross and Cromarty area. As part of operation Ram six addresses have been searched. This has resulted in seizures of dealing quantities of heroin as well as personal amounts of other drug types. A number of individuals have been reported to the PF for drugs supply 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 570 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)	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 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.

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 – 30 June 2016) -**

<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	11	11	=
Cromarty Firth	33	27	<b>-6</b>
Easter Ross	14	17	<b>+3</b>
Dingwall and Seaforth	15	15	=
Black Isle	6	2	<b>-4</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>72</b>	

<b>Common Assault</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	17	19	<b>+2</b>
Cromarty Firth	39	28	<b>-11</b>
Easter Ross	18	15	<b>-3</b>
Dingwall and Seaforth	36	27	<b>-9</b>
Black Isle	12	3	<b>-9</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>92</b>	
<b>Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	27	15	<b>-12</b>
Cromarty Firth	36	43	<b>+7</b>
Easter Ross	17	14	<b>-3</b>
Dingwall and Seaforth	25	13	<b>-12</b>
Black Isle	12	4	<b>-8</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>89</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.

The most recent National Doorstep Crime Campaign- Operation Monarda ran between 26 April and 2 May

Activity centred on two main themes

1. Multi agency day of action; this involved road side stop/checks of commercial vehicles. Staff from 5 partner agencies worked together to check vehicles and occupants. As a result of this a number of commercial vehicles were removed from the road due to serious mechanical defects. On this occasion no bogus workmen were detected in the area. The Multi agency days of action have ran successfully for 3 years and have undoubtedly contributed to the 13% reduction in reported bogus workmen crimes over the last year. As a Division we are working hard to ensure that the area becomes undesirable for bogus workmen due to the high chance of enforcement action.
2. Local Days of Action enable the Division to utilise additional resources to carry out preventative work; during this reporting period all banks, building societies, post offices and building merchants in Ross and

Cromarty were visited and given advice on how to protect their customers from the activity of bogus workmen. This has had immediate benefits with two incidents in Ross-Shire where banks reported elderly customers attending the bank and requesting large withdrawals to pay workmen. On both occasions Police attended and prevented the elderly person paying for substandard work.

**Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary  
(1 April 2016 – 30 June 2016)**

Ross and Cromarty	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	3	1	-2
Cromarty Firth	9	1	-8
Easter Ross	1	6	+5
Dingwall and Seaforth	15	2	-13
Black Isle	1	2	+1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>Theft by Shoplifting</b>			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	0	0	=
Cromarty Firth	11	2	-9
Easter Ross	2	3	+1
Dingwall and Seaforth	6	6	=
Black Isle	0	0	=
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</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	0	0	=
Cromarty Firth	4	7	+3
Easter Ross	1	2	+1
Dingwall and Seaforth	10	5	-5
Black Isle	2	1	-1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</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**

**22 July 2016**