

The Highland Council

Ross and Cromarty Committee - 3 February 2016

Agenda Item	7
Report No	RC/003/16

**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 which the 3 Highland Area Commands of the Highland and Islands Division for 3 years from 2014-2017.

The priorities and objectives within the plan have been identified by looking at the national and local intelligence picture; reviewing the community safety trends and securing the views and concerns of the public, locally elected officials and community planning partners.

As we approach the end of the 3rd year as Police Scotland and the end of the 2nd year of the 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 newly formed 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

Road Safety

Dishonesty

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Planning for the Future

Localism is key to empowering communities to take responsibility and have a voice on issues affecting them. Police Scotland recognise the diversity of communities and cultures that exist within Scotland, with the Highland area being no exception to that. Moving forward, the future of Policing in the Highland and Islands Division is about engaging with, listening and responding to local people and ultimately adopting an asset based approach in achieving successful outcomes for communities. Over the coming months, along with key partners, we will remain agile in terms of local development through the community planning partnership and involving and communicating with local people in local communities.

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.

Over the past year the Divisional and Trunk Roads Policing Unit has increased its establishment and currently has 45 dedicated officers covering the Division who can be tasked with local issues in each of the wards.

Driving Ambition has taken place in Dingwall Academy, Fortrose Academy, Tain Academy and Ullapool High School over the past year.

Ross and Cromarty Summary (1 April 2015- 31 December 2015)-

- There have been 4 fatal collisions in the Ross and Cromarty area during this reporting period:

- 15-05-2015: Collision occurred 2 miles south of Aultbea and involved a motorcycle and a campervan. One person, the rider of the motorcycle, sustained fatal injuries.
- 26-06-2015: Collision occurred on the B9165 South of Arabella and involved two vehicles. One person, the driver of one of the vehicles, sustained fatal injuries as a result.
- 17-11-2015: Collision occurred on the B9161 at Bogallan near Munloch and involved one vehicle and a pedestrian. The pedestrian was fatally injured as a result.
- 19-12-2015: Collision occurred on the A835 approximately 4 ½ miles south of Ullapool and involved one vehicle; a fuel tanker, the driver of which sustained fatal injuries.

The below tables provide an overview of figures for the Ross and Cromarty Area; these figures relate to the reporting period -1st April 2015 to 31st December 2015:

Ross and Cromarty	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	67	69	+2 (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 Ross and Cromarty and wider Highland area, the tactical approach being taken by the Division involves targeting speed, use of mobile phones whilst driving and seatbelts. It is disappointing to see the numbers increasing however, 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.

North	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Speeding (Detections)	922	1422	+ 500
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	175	231	+ 56
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	130	204	+ 74

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

Operations/Campaigns

The following campaigns have been running recently throughout the Division:

- Getting Ready for Winter
- Brake National Road Safety Week
- Festive Drink and Drug Drive Campaign

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.

Since April 2015 there have been 1 suspected drug related death in the Ross and Cromarty area.

During this reporting period Highland Council Trading Standards, in partnership with Police Scotland and NHS Highland, have been tackling sellers of new psychoactive substances (NPS), also controversially and incorrectly known as 'legal highs'. This action was part of a week of co-ordinated enforcement activity across the country, named Operation Alexander. The action followed growing concerns of the harms that NPS products cause to people who use them, this, along with forensic evidence, brought the conclusion that NPS products are unsafe and as such breach the requirements of the General Product Safety Regulations 2005. Two known premises in Highland were targeted with 387 products seized, worth over £9000. Work is now in progress with the traders involved to completely remove NPS supply from their business. The advice of Police Scotland is again straightforward - DON'T TAKE THESE SUBSTANCES.

Just because they are referred to as 'legal' doesn't mean they are safe.

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.

**Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary
(1 April 2015 - 31 December 2015) -**

- Operation Respect is an ongoing multi-agency partnership initiative which aims to reduce street violence, disorder and incidents linked to licensed premises. Working with key partners in order to make our streets safer and to reduce the risk to the public.
- 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 2015 1,585 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.

North	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections)	27	32	+ 5 (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 2015- 31 December 2015)-**

Ross and Cromarty	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Breach of the Peace/Threatening and Abusive Behaviour			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	27	22	-5
Cromarty Firth	84	86	+2
Easter Ross	31	38	+7
Dingwall and Seaforth	69	55	-14
Black Isle	14	17	+3
TOTAL:	225	218	
Common Assault			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	46	45	-1
Cromarty Firth	126	99	-27
Easter Ross	45	44	-1
Dingwall and Seaforth	86	95	+9
Black Isle	19	23	-4
TOTAL:	322	306	
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	32	61	+29
Cromarty Firth	83	108	+25
Easter Ross	52	73	+21
Dingwall and Seaforth	65	63	-2
Black Isle	16	22	+6
TOTAL:	248	327	

* 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 28th September and 4th October

As part of the most recent operation and working in conjunction with Police Scotland's local Media and Corporate Communications dept.; a film was produced in the Division featuring an elderly householder that had successfully

deterred possible Bogus Workmen. This film was used as springboard for the local media launch and saw extensive coverage. The film is now on the Police Scotland Website and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doczPoJvtKE>

The most recent Operation Monarda had the following results:

- 4000 leaflets issued;
- Over 300 posters displayed;
- 49 offences detected;
- Over 50 people given advice;
- Over 170 vehicles stopped and checked;
- 6 Prevention Presentations; and
- 2 Multi-Agency 'Days of Action'

In addition to the above; work is ongoing in relation to a 'signpost' letter which has been given to all custodies / those issued with fixed penalties from 1st April 2015. The letter is in a standard format and is accompanied by an information sheet with contact details for local support organisations. The letter is currently being reviewed with local partners and it is hoped that the accompanying leaflet will be further developed to include additional support in relation to organisations who can assist with issues in relation to debt, addictions and also local support such as food banks etc.

**Ross and Cromarty Performance Summary
(1 April 2015- 31 December 2015)-**

Ross and Cromarty	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Number of Thefts by Housebreaking (Dwelling house, Non-dwelling, Other premises)			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	7	4	-3
Cromarty Firth	15	23	+8
Easter Ross	10	4	-6
Dingwall and Seaforth	16	18	+2
Black Isle	0	5	+5
TOTAL:	48	54	
Theft by Shoplifting			
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	4	3	-1
Cromarty Firth	19	20	+1
Easter Ross	5	5	=
Dingwall and Seaforth	16	20	+4
Black Isle	0	0	=
TOTAL:	44	48	
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	7	8	+1
Cromarty Firth	14	14	=
Easter Ross	6	6	=
Dingwall and Seaforth	5	14	+9
Black Isle	5	8	+3
TOTAL:	37	50	

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
21 January 2016**