



# **Argyll & Bute**Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017

Quarterly Report / Q2 - 2015/16



# **Local Police Commander, Chief**

# **Local Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Grant Manders**

As Divisional Commander for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire division I am pleased to present the second quarterly report for Argyll and Bute for 2015/16 performance year. This report details crime issues identified over the previous 3 months and sets out our priorities for the forthcoming period.

As outlined in the Local Policing Plan for Argyll and Bute our focus - **Keeping People Safe** – and the policing principals which it encapsulates continue to be at the centre of all police activity carried out across Argyll and Bute. Public consultation, partnership working and our own detailed crime analysis has determined that the priorities for local police during 2015 will be as follows:-

- \* Road Safety & Road Crime
- ❖ Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour
- ❖ Public Protection
- Major Crime and Counter Terrorism
- \* Acquisitive Crime

These priorities are aligned to Argyll & Bute's Single Outcome Agreement 2014 – 2017. National performance frameworks have been developed in order to measure progress, monitor activity, identify key areas where resources need to be focused and demonstrate how successful we are in meeting our key priorities and objectives. Policing plans that were put in place for each of the Multi Member Wards within the Argyll & Bute boundary are in the process of being reviewed to ensure new and emerging issues within local towns and communities within Argyll & Bute continue to be addressed.

**Integrity, Fairness** and **Respect** are our policing values and the touchstones for all our interactions, forming the basis of everything we do and every decision we reach. By applying our values, we continue to receive public consent through improved relevancy, trust and support.

## Introduction

Between July – September 2015 crime levels within Argyll and Bute have continued in a downward trend. Year to date (YTD) the total number of crimes recorded has reduced by around 14.7% with significant reductions noted against acquisitive crime, fireraising and low level violence and antisocial behaviour (ASB) crimes. Furthermore ASB incidents reported by members of the public have reduced by approximately 14.2% and incidents relating specifically to disorder have reduced by 27.5%. Collectively these equate to over 750 fewer complainers.

Local Area Commanders Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie and Chief Inspector Paul Robertson continue to have responsibility for addressing crime issues and concerns as they arise on a day to day basis. Chief Inspector Baillie has the responsibility for Oban and Lorn and Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the islands supported by dedicated Area Inspectors Julie McLeish (Campbeltown & Lochgilphead) and Mark Stephen (Oban). Similarly Chief Inspector Robertson is currently supported by Inspector Ewan Wilson (Dunoon & Rothesay) and Inspector Coleen Wylie (Helensburgh).

As well as ensuring our efforts and attention remain focused on the needs and expectations of the local community, local officers are required to respond to developing events and seasonal demands where there is clearly potential for increased levels of antisocial and violent behaviour. During Quarter 2 there have been a number of events which have required additional officers to be deployed in order to minimise the impact and disruption caused within the local community. These have included the Royal National MOD in Oban, the Cowal Games in Dunoon and the Bute Games in Rothesay. Police presence at these events is typically strengthened utilising the services of Special Constables, with there being 27 currently operational across the area.

## **Benchmarking**

Benchmarking is a process used by organisations to compare their processes and performance metrics against like organisations that are recognised as being the leader in their respective field. This offers organisations the opportunity to learn from the information and experience developed by those considered to be 'best in class'. Benchmarking ensures that organisations maintain both an internal and external perspective on their relative performance and challenges potential organisational complacency over results achieved.

Local authorities in Scotland have been engaged in benchmarking over the past four years as part as of the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF). They have been working with the Improvement Service (IS) over the last four years on developing a common approach to benchmarking.

In recent months, the Scrutiny Committee at Argyll & Bute has independently requested benchmarking information from Police Scotland. Whilst further research into this topic in required in order that the most accurate comparisons can be drawn, some comparative data has been included in the current report. Previous analysis has shown that the geographic and demographic profile of any area can be a significant factor in determining the nature and volume of crimes reported therein. Whilst for the purposes of the current report the Highlands Local Authority area has been assessed as being the most appropriate comparative, it should be noted that this information MUST only be used for guidance purpose.

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# **Road Safety & Road Crime**

Road Safety and Road Crime remains a top priority for the communities of Argyll and Bute and therefore remains a top priority for Police Scotland. The main force behind our commitment to road safety continues to be our dedicated team from the Divisional Road Policing Unit, based locally throughout Argyll and Bute. This unit is fully supported by the Force with the Trunk Road Policing Unit providing 24/7 coverage and the Force Motorcycle Unit providing additional support and policing of events. Local officers from L Division, as part of daily patrols, also play their part in assisting road safety through dedicated patrols to detect and deter offenders.

As members of the Argyll and Bute Multi Agency Road Safety Group, Police Scotland continues to be at the heart of planning and maintenance to ensure a joined up approach is taken to road safety. Through proactive reporting of engineering defects and the assessment of engineering solutions to identified problems through our dedicated Traffic Management Team, many areas have been identified for improvement to surfaces, signage and sight lines, all delivered by our partners at BEAR Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council. Two current examples are the surface management of stretches of the A814 from Whistlefield to Arrochar and road realignment on the A816 north of Kilmartin.

The 'Get Ready for Winter' Campaign commenced in October, beginning with a week of dedicated road checks at various sites across Argyll and Bute. The focus of this campaign is to encourage drivers to understand the importance of good vehicle maintenance throughout the winter months. This campaign underpins the over arching strategy of safer vehicles used on the roads during the often challenging periods of the Argyll winter.

The Festive Road Safety Campaign will take place between 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and will focus on vehicle safety and drink/drug driving in order to detect and deter offenders. Last year relatively few persons were detected despite increased police pro-activity.

The last year has seen expansion of the Pass Plus system to assist young drivers with road safety talks now taking place in Campbeltown and Oban High Schools in the forthcoming period. Road safety talks are also planned by the Local Authority and Scottish Fire and Rescue aimed at 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year secondary school pupils in relation to "Young Drivers" and "Cut it out" campaigns.

In terms of performance, pro-active policing techniques being utilised by Police Scotland within Argyll and Bute would appear to be having a positive impact with a significant reduction in the total number of persons killed and seriously injured. Compared to the same period last year fatalities have reduced by one and serious injuries have reduced by 14. Furthermore the number of dangerous drivers detected has increased by 10% while speeding detections have reduced slightly. Further details are provided in the table on the following page:-

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics	Apr 2015 – Sep 2015	Apr 2014 – Sep 2014	Victims	% Change
People Killed	3	4	1 fewer	-25.0%
People Seriously injured	21	35	14 fewer	-40.0%
People Slightly Injured	116	116	same number	0.0%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	None	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	0	1	1 fewer	- 100.0 %
Road Safety & Road Crime	Apr 2015 – Sep 2015	Apr 2014 - Sep 2014	Victims	% Change
Road Safety & Road Crime  Dangerous driving	2015 - Sep	2014 - Sep	Victims	
· ·	2015 - Sep 2015	2014 - Sep 2014	Victims	Change
Dangerous driving	2015 - Sep 2015	2014 - Sep 2014 49	Victims	Change 10.2%
Dangerous driving Speeding	2015 - Sep 2015 54 1,086	2014 - Sep 2014 49 1,223	Victims	10.2% -11.2%
Dangerous driving Speeding Disqualified driving	2015 - Sep 2015 54 1,086	2014 - Sep 2014 49 1,223 4	Victims	10.2% -11.2% -50.0%
Dangerous driving Speeding Disqualified driving Driving Licence	2015 - Sep 2015 54 1,086 2 28	2014 - Sep 2014 49 1,223 4 59	Victims	10.2% -11.2% -50.0% -52.5%

## **Local Authority Comparison**

Using the Highland Local Authority data, as outlined above, the total number of road casualties in Argyll and Bute within the first quarter was significantly less with 45 casualties compared to 154 in Highland. In terms of Road Traffic offences, whilst the number of Road Traffic offences recorded per 10,000 head of population in Highland is higher at 171.9 compared to 111.9 within Argyll & Bute, it is important to note that the road network in Highland covers around 6754 kilometres compared to around 2600 kilometres. Argyll and Bute has however recorded slightly higher rates in relation to Dangerous and Careless driving and drink/drug driving offences.

Priorities determined by the Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017 continue to be at the forefront of operational activity:-

- To work with partners to develop a strategy to reduce the numbers of those killed and seriously injured on the Argyll and Bute road network.
- **❖** To increase enforcement activity to improve driver behaviour.
- ❖ To improve road safety through enhanced partnership working and preventative initiatives within the community.

Details of operational police activity targeted toward achieving these outcomes are detailed below.

## **Focused Police Activity**

## **Operation Zenith**

Operation Zenith is a national operation aimed at motor cycle safety and reducing the number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on Scotland's roads.

Daily focus on motorcycle riders and pillion passengers' utilising education, encouragement and enforcement continues in order to reinforce the message that high speed and dangerous riding are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

## **Vulnerable and Rural Road Users Campaign**

The Rural Road Users Campaign was aimed at both locals and those unfamiliar with particular areas to make them aware of the inherent dangers and the dangers they pose to others through their actions. The Vulnerable Road Users Campaign was focused on the safety of children, both as pedestrians and passengers within vehicles, and other groups such as walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

## **Operation Mermaid**

This operation took place between 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and focussed on those in the haulage industry who endanger others through the use of defective vehicles or whose drivers fail to observe drivers hours governed by tachograph legislation. These drivers and operators make financial gain through dangerous practices.

## **Dangerous Goods**

Regular checks are made on those operators whose business is in the transportation by road of dangerous goods such as petrochemicals, gas and other dangerous substances. These vehicles are very common within Argyll and Bute and to prevent dangerous situations from developing or operators engaging in dangerous practices, this is an area of regular activity.

All these area of enforcement are continually underpinned by regular patrols and checks across the Argyll and Bute area with particular focus on those areas which have a higher threat through history of injury collisions. Policing of events such as Cowal Games and other local events ensures that when people are present on roads they are kept safe.

# Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Across the current YTD period there has been a notable increase (53.6%) in the total number of Group 1 Crimes of Violence reported compared to the same period last year, albeit crime levels remain below the five year average. Increased crime levels are largely due to an increase in crimes of Serious Assault and Robbery, however activity has reduced with only 13 of these crimes recorded during Quarter 2 (June – Sept). The detection rate for Serious Assault remains high at 86.4% and whilst the figure for Robbery is currently 50% this reflects the low number of crimes recorded.

As shown in the table below, lower level violence and incidents of ASB continue in a downward trend; Common Assaults have reduced by 4.7% which equates to 16 fewer victims and complaints relating to disorder have reduced considerably by 27.5%. Crimes and incidents continue to be concentrated within the 6 main town areas however the Dunoon, Helensburgh Central and Oban South and the Isles have experienced the highest volume across the YTD period.

Violence and ASB	Apr 2015 – Sep 2015	Apr 2014 – Sep 2014	Victims	% Change
Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	43	28	15 more	53.6%
Murder	0	1	1 fewer	-100.0%
Attempted Murder	4	1	3 more	300.0%
Culpable Homicide (common law)	0	1	1 fewer	-100.0%
Culpable Homicide (other)	0	1	1 fewer	-100.0%
Serious Assault detection rate	86.4%	100.0 %		-13.6%
Serious Assault	22	13	9 more	69.2%
Robbery detection rate	50.0%	100.0 %		-50.0%
Robbery	4	1	3 more	300.0%
Common assault detection rate	84.7%	86.9%		-2.2%
Common assault	327	343	16 fewer	-4.7%
Number of complaints regarding disorder	1,347	1,857	510 fewer	-27.5%

## **Local Authority Comparison**

As a result of the unusual increase in Group 1 crime levels within Argyll and Bute noted in the previous quarter, figures recorded per 10,000 head of population are greater when compared to the Highlands Local Authority area. At the end of Quarter 1, the overall figure recorded is 3.4 compared to 2.0 in the Highlands. Rates in relation to crimes of Serious Assault and Robbery are 1.6 and 0.5 respectively per 10,000 population compared to 1.1 and 0.3 in the Highlands.

In terms of low level violence and ASB, Argyll and Bute has recorded a lower rate per 10,000 head of population in relation to Common Assault of 15.5 compared to 23.8 in the Highlands whereas for public reported incidents of ASB the Highlands recorded a lower figure of 73.3 compared to 82.1 in Argyll and Bute.

Police Scotland continues to work towards achieving the objectives set out in the Argyll and Bute Local Policing Plan to reduce violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour:-

- **❖** To reduce the number of victims of violent crime.
- ❖ To reduce the number of reported incidents of antisocial behaviour.
- ❖ To impact on alcohol related violence, antisocial behaviour and disorder with particular emphasis in and around licensed premises.
- To increase the number of people detected for violent and domestic crime.

Effective use of the Divisional Violence Prevention Strategy and Directed Policing Plans, which are informed by analytical products produced at a local level continues to ensure local officers manage the threat and risk posed by specific individuals and at identified problematic locations.

## **Focused Police Activity**

## **Royal National MOD**

The Royal National MOD took place in Oban between 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015. During this period, Officers from our Licensing Department attended and provided support and guidance to various licensed premises due to them having been granted extended hours, some until 4am. There were no issues in any licensed premises and the positive working relationship between the Police and the Licensed Trade in Oban was strengthened by this initiative.

In the reporting period, the Licensing Team also supported an immigration operation in the Helensburgh and Lomond area which led to the detection of an illegal worker in a licensed premises.

## **Bute Highland Games**

The Bute Highland Games was held in the King George V Playing Fields, High Street, Rothesay between 1000 hours and 1900 hours on Saturday 22nd August 2015. The event consisted of a Pipe Band competition with approximately 16 Bands participating, a large Highland Dancing competition (approximately 240 entrants) and track and field events all held within the Games arena. There was also a 10km road race, with approximately 200 runners taking part. This year's Chieftain was Len

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Scouller, Rothesay local resident and Argyll and Bute Lord Provost. This event passed within incident.

## **Cowal Games**

The Cowal Highland Gathering was a 3 day event held between Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2015 based within the Dunoon Stadium, Argyll Street, Dunoon. It comprised of Piping competitions, Dancing and Highland Games competitions. The main event was held within the Stadium on Saturday 29th August 2015 and attracted approximately 1,500 competitors and 30,000 visitors to the Dunoon and Cowal area on the day. Whilst the event had significant impact on the movement of traffic and disruption to normal business in the Cowal area it passed without incident.

## Licensing

The Argyll and Bute Licensing Board has agreed to review the local condition regarding stewarding that is attached to the licenses of premises which are open until 2am. This is as a result of a representation from Police Scotland identifying that the existing condition is unworkable and may disadvantage certain premises. The amended condition will ensure that premises which require stewarding must have it in place.

# **Protecting Vulnerable People**

The total number of Group 2 crimes (sexual crimes) recorded during the current YTD period has increased compared to the same period last year however a high proportion of these crimes are historical reports. Increased crime levels are due to a rise in Rape and sexual assault crimes the majority of which occurred within residential dwellings. In comparison with the previous YTD period and indeed Quarter 1, detection rates for sexual crime overall and crimes of Rape have improved significantly to 88.1% and 76.2% respectively.

Group 2 Sexual Crime	Apr 2015 – Aug 2015	Apr 2014 – Aug 2014	Victims	% Change
Number of Sexual Crimes	59	44	15 more	34.1%
Sexual Crime detection rate	88.1%	61.4%		26.7%
Rape detection rate	76.2%	46.2%		30.0%
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	343	303		13.2%
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	279	232		20.3%

Whilst geographical analysis indicates that no specific area within Argyll and Bute has experienced a higher concentration of crime, Dunoon, Oban North and Lorne and South Kintyre Multi Member Wards (MMW) recorded a higher volume of crime than other areas.

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## **Local Authority Comparison**

Notwithstanding increased crime levels highlighted in the above table, comparisons with data for the Highlands Local Authority area shows the number of Group 2 crimes recorded per 10,000 head of population within Argyll and Bute is lower at 4 compared to 6.1 in the Highlands. Rates relating to crimes of Rape are however comparable at 1.8 in Argyll and Bute and 1.5 in the Highlands.

As set out in the Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017, our priorities for the forthcoming period remain unchanged:-

- To work with our partners to identify those children, young people and vulnerable adults who are most at risk and through joint action reduce that risk.
- To continue to develop proactive strategies to deal with managed offenders, particularly those that present the greatest threat, risk and harm.
- **❖** To increase the number of persons detected for sexual crimes.
- ❖ Together with partner agencies, strive to provide a better quality of service to the victims of sexual crime.

Details of operational police activity targeted toward achieving these outcomes are detailed below:

## **Focused Police Activity**

#### **Risk and Concern Hub**

It is anticipated that the Risk and Concern Hub will soon have members of ASSIST (Advocacy, Support and Safety Information Services Together) and the Social Work Department within. This will allow a free flow of information and a fully functional hub established in order that partners can share information and quickly identify and deal with any high risk issues.

#### **Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015, Police Scotland has rolled out the Disclosure Scheme which had previously been piloted in two other divisions. The scheme operates two entry pathways that may lead to disclosure being made:

- ⇒ **Right to Ask** This is when a person makes a direct application to Police Scotland for information about an individual who they suspect may have a history of violent or abusive behaviour towards a previous partner or
- $\Rightarrow$  **Right to Tell** This is triggered when Police Scotland receive indirect information or intelligence about a person thought to be at risk and where the Police judge that a disclosure should be made.

To date, Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Division has received 4 'Right to Ask' applications, the first being received from the Argyll and Bute area.

## Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

Work continues with Police, Local Authority and ASSIST in relation to establishing a MARAC in Argyll and Bute. The training has been completed and discussions continue in relation to the administration of MARAC which is a victim centred approach to dealing with domestic abuse.

A short life working group has also been established with a view to streamlining current meeting and governance structures around Public Protection and in particular domestic abuse.

# **Major Crime and Counter Terrorism**

Keeping people safe by reducing the threat posed from organised crime groups and terrorism across Argyll and Bute remains a high priority for all local police officers. In respect of terrorism, events in other countries over recent months highlight the necessity for vigilance at all times and the division continues to be involved in the implementation of the UK Governments CONTEST strategy with local and national partners. Police Scotland continues to target and disrupt the activities of those involved in organised crime at a local level through focused and robust interventions based on the objectives set out in the local policing plan:-

- **❖** To disrupt organised crime groups by targeting individuals, the businesses they operate and their access to public contracts.
- **❖** To target those individuals who are intent on supplying drugs.
- Through education and partnership, reduce the impact that serious and organised crime and terrorism has on our communities.
- Through the Multi-Agency Serious and Organised Crime and Contest Group, raise awareness and improve information sharing between agencies.

The most recent intelligence assessment undertaken at the beginning of September relating to Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) indicates that the threat/risk posed to the communities within Argyll and Bute remains Low. There continues to be 2 identified SOC Groups in operation within the area and pro-active and reactive intelligence and evidence gathering opportunities continue to be fully exploited in an attempt to reduce the threat and harm posed by individuals linked to these groups and to identify new and emerging groups. Police activity will continue to focus on arresting individuals linked to these groups, depriving them of cash and assets through full use of POCA legislation, and as well as depriving them of legitimate enterprise to ensure the maximum impact.

In line with trends identified across Scotland, the primary function of these groups continues to be assessed as drug supply and distribution within the local area. As shown in the table below, detections relating to drug supply crimes have improved significantly compared to last year.

Serious & Organised Crime	Apr 2015 - Jun 2015	Apr 2014 - Jun 2014	% Change
er of detections for drugs supply, drugs ctions, drugs cultivation	15	6	150.0%

## **Local Authority Comparison**

Figures relating to drug supply and production per 10,000 head of population within the Argyll and Bute area compare favourably against those for the Highlands Local Authority area at 1.7 and 1.5 respectively.

## **Focused Police Activity**

## Exercise Joint Warrior – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Exercise Joint Warrior 152 took place off the West coast of Scotland between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Exercise Joint Warrior is a UK wide tri-service exercise conducted in the spring and autumn of each year, and is the largest tactically focussed military exercise of its kind in Europe. Joint Warrior 152 involved 26 Naval vessels from 11 NATO countries, including the United Kingdom, the USA, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Canada and Poland. This event passed without incident.

## **Significant Drug Recovery**

Although outwith the reporting period of this report, due to the hard work and diligence of local officers on the Isle of Bute there was a significant recovery of drugs which resulted from a vehicle stop. Thereafter, premises on the Island were searched resulting in close to 1 million pounds worth of drugs being recovered. A further 7 premises have subsequently been searched across the West Command area which has identified assets that will be seized under POCA legislation.

#### **Procurement**

Utilising the Information Sharing Protocol in place between Police Scotland and Argyll & Bute Council, several procurement checks have been submitted to police. During this reporting period, there have been three instances where links to Serious and Organised Crime have been disclosed and as such it is anticipated that these contracts will awarded elsewhere.

## **Operation Warlander**

This operation was targeted towards drug dealing activity, violence, antisocial behaviour and licensing issues. Within Argyll and Bute, numerous houses in the Helensburgh area were searched which resulted in several individuals being reported in relation to drugs possession and one in relation to drug supply.

# **Acquisitive Crime**

Crimes of dishonesty occurring within Argyll and Bute have reduced by around 10% compared to the same YTD period last year. Much of this reduction can be attributed to a decrease in the number of housebreaking and vehicle related crimes recorded which have reduced by 20.8% and 30.6% respectively. Although no specific area has experienced a high concentration of crime, a higher number have been recorded within Helensburgh Central, Lomond North and Dunoon MMW areas.

	Apr 2015 - Jun 2015	Apr 2014 - Jun 2014	Victims	% Change
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	47.2%	36.2%		+11%
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	72	91	19 fewer	-20.8%
Doorstep / Bogus Crimes	8	10	2 fewer	-20%

Police Scotland remains committed to achieving the objectives set out in the Local Policing Plan in relation to acquisitive crime. These are as follows:

- To reduce the number of housebreakings and improve detection rates.
- To target individuals involved in doorstep crime and support the victims through partnership working.

Details of operational police activity targeted toward achieving these outcomes are detailed below:-

#### **Local Authority Comparison**

In terms of Group 3 crime overall, the number of crimes recorded in Quarter 1 per 10,000 head of population was 27.4 compared to 35.4 in the Highlands. Similarly the rate for vehicle crime in the Highlands is at 3.2 and lower in Argyll and Bute at 1.7. When examining housebreaking crime in isolation this changes to 3.9 in the Highlands and 5.8 in Argyll and Bute.

## **Focused Police Activity**

#### **Force Acquisitive Crime Board**

A Force Acquisitive Crime Board has been established which seeks to ensure that there is a corporate approach enhancing our prevention strategy and improving detection rates. This includes previously mentioned operations around vehicle crime (Operation Quartlerlight), housebreakings (Operation Westwood) and Doorstep/Bogus Crime. Officers continue to pro-actively target individuals involved in this area of criminality through Crimebreaker and Horizon operations which are aimed at identifying potential travelling criminals in the area.

# **Rural Crime Governance Group**

A Rural Crime Governance group has also been established within the division, with two multi agency meetings held to date. The group includes representatives from the National Farmers Union, Local Authorities, Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish National Heritage, SEPA, COPFS. One of the aims of the group is to develop a multi

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Produced by Police Scotland Analysis & Performance Unit on 20/10/2015. All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data are sourced from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 2nd October 2015.

agency approach to enhance prevention opportunities to mitigate the threat of wildlife/rural crime, encourage reporting and increase intelligence cover. This links back to Operation Quarterlight whereby the National Farmers Union and Police Scotland, through media/social media highlighted prevention strategies around the theft of Quad Bikes within the Farming Community. The group is in the process of establishing a calendar of events in order to promote the prevention messages at various events throughout the year.

## Conclusion

As Local Police Commander, I am delighted to present this update on our Local Policing Plan for Argyll and Bute 2014-17. We are continuing to meet the challenges we face and while our policing performance continues to be strong we will always strive to improve across all areas.

I am happy with our achievements so far and thank our partners from across Argyll and Bute for their support and contribution.

Keeping People Safe is and will remain what we are all about as we continue to deliver the highest possible level of service to the communities of Argyll and Bute.

Grant Manders Chief Superintendent Local Police Commander