



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Argyll & Bute

Local Policing Plan 2013-2014

Quarterly Report / Q3



Local Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan

I am pleased to present my Quarter 3 report which will show that our performance during this year continues to be very positive. Again this report will provide an overview of the good work that has been undertaken and highlights what we have achieved so far in Argyll & Bute.

Introduction

Argyll & Bute is the second largest local authority area in Scotland and presents unique challenges in service delivery across a largely rural population including 25 inhabited islands. The 6 major population centres of Oban, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Rothesay, Lochgilphead and Helensburgh have their own challenges with varying levels of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour.

The rural environment, tranquillity and natural beauty of the area attracts large numbers of visitors requiring us to manage the road network and ensure safety.

Argyll & Bute Area Command has 3 dedicated Area Commanders with responsibility for day-to-day policing functions.

Chief Inspector Alistair Davidson has responsibility for Oban, Lorn and the Isles and he is supported by Inspector Julie McLeish who is responsible for Community Policing.

Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie has responsibility for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands and she is assisted by Community Inspector Tom Harper.

Chief Inspector Gary Stitt is the Area Commander for Cowal & Bute and he is supported by Inspectors Paul Robertson, Claire Miller and Gordon Anderson who have responsibility for Community Policing in Dunoon, Helensburgh and the Isle of Bute respectively.

Police Scotland

As a single service, Police Scotland has over the past 9 months developed as an organisation and I remain very happy with how my officers, staff and special constables have continued to go about their duty. Organisational change continues to take place but local service delivery remains at the forefront of what we are doing in Argyll & Bute.

My officers and staff continue to focus on the priorities that are of concern to the local communities identified through our ongoing consultations and results are very positive.

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.

The following sections provide an update on our current performance in relation to our policing priorities.

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

My officers are dedicated to Keeping People Safe and tackling violent crime, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour. Our objectives include a commitment to:

- Reduce the number of victims of violent crime.
- Maximise the detection of those persons responsible for serious and violent crime, hate crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Sustain the reduction in the reports of antisocial behaviour, youth disorder and public reports of street drinking.

We have implemented local strategies which have had a significant impact on the level of violent crime in Argyll & Bute and despite the excellent summer weather violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour have fallen.

We have undertaken regular high visibility patrols in the areas which have caused most concern and have used our police powers effectively to detect and deter criminality. By being proactive and intelligence led we have undertaken a significant number of stop searches focusing on the right people in the right places at the right time whereby we have removed weapons, drugs and alcohol from our streets. The following table outlines our achievements:

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour			
	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	Apr 2012 - Dec 2012	% Change
Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	61	63	-3.2%
Murder	0	1	-100.0%
Attempted Murder	1	5	-80.0%
Culpable Homicide (common law)	0	0	-
Culpable Homicide (other)	1	1	0.0%
Serious Assault detection rate	100.0%	104.2%*	-4.2%
Serious Assault	19	24	-20.8%
Robbery detection rate	100.0%	120.0%*	-20.0%
Robbery	4	5	-20.0%
Petty (Common) assault detection rate	85.7%	84.8%	0.9%
Petty (common) assault	561	612	-8.3%
Stop and searches conducted	9,730	8,456	15.1%
Number of positive stop and searches conducted.	1,560	1,106	41.0%
Number of complaints regarding disorder	3,318	4,652	-28.7%

* Detection rate above 100.0% owing to historical crimes being detected during the period.

The above table continues to show that the level of violent crime within Argyll & Bute remains low with **41** fewer victims of violence. There has been a noticeable increase in our Stop Search activity compared to the previous year which would appear to a contributory factor. Furthermore, the number of positive Stop Searches indicates we are targeting the correct individuals at the right time and the right place.

Protecting People

Keeping People Safe is the cornerstone of what we are about in Police Scotland and we are committed to:

- Tackle domestic abuse by prioritising such investigations and increase detections for domestic abuse crimes.
- Increase the detection rate for sexual offences.
- Proactively tackle offenders by increasing the number of bail visits and interventions.
- Protect and support the victims of domestic abuse and sexual crimes to ensure their safety and well-being.

Our partnership working with Advocacy, Support, Safety and Information Services Together (ASSIST) continues to build momentum and provides victims of domestic abuse with increased support and expertise. Through this partnership we are encouraging victims to report historical incidents and increased levels of trust and reassurance are prominent.

Through our established monthly MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating) meeting with partners we focus on our most dangerous perpetrators to mitigate the risk they pose.

In response to feedback from victim groups, Police Scotland also carry out visits to victims following the court appearance of perpetrators to inform them of any bail conditions imposed by the court. We have set ourselves a very challenging target to complete 95% of these visits within 24 hours as experience suggests any further incidents are most likely to happen within this critical time period. We have also a regime of robustly policing such bail conditions where regular visits are made to perpetrators to ensure they are complying.

To enhance our approach to investigating and detecting sexual offences, we have established a dedicated Rape Investigation Unit. This Unit has a number of highly trained officers with significant experience in respect of the investigation of such sensitive crimes and our detection rate in this area has significantly improved. The following table outlines our achievements.

Protecting People			
	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	Apr 2012 - Dec 2012	% Change
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	570	520	9.6%
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	472	463	1.9%
Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	87.6%	86.0%	1.6%
Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	44	31	41.9%
Ensure 95% of domestic abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24hrs)	97.6%	-	-
Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	101	105	-3.8%
Group 2 crimes detection rate	79.2%	76.2%	3.0%
Rape detection rate	75.0%	68.4%	6.6%

Serious Crime and Responding to National Events

Our commitment to target serious and organised criminals remains and our activity continues to:

- Disrupt serious and Organised Crime Groups through measured and robust interventions focussing on group members.
- Respond to emerging threats from Organised Crime Groups and tackle potential criminal attacks on communities by seizing criminal assets.
- Maximise interventions to deprive Organised Crime Groups of the opportunities to access legitimate contracts.
- Tackle drug misuse by increasing positive partnership interventions against those involved in the supply of drugs.

Within Argyll & Bute we have targeted Organised Crime Groups by focusing on their criminal enterprises and disrupting their activities.

There is currently only one serious and organised crime group being monitored within Argyll and Bute which presents a risk to the local community which is closely monitored by our strict internal governance group through which resources are deployed accordingly. Intelligence does indicate however that numerous persons involved in criminality at this level are resident within some of the main towns. The majority of these individuals are documented primarily in relation to their involvement in the supply and distribution of controlled drugs however some have also previously been linked to acts of serious violence and intimidation, wilful fireraising and more. Work is currently ongoing to improve the current intelligence picture surrounding these individuals with a view to disrupting drug supply lines into the main towns.

The Argyll & Bute Multi-Agency Serious and Organised Crime Strategic Group is now well established and has strengthened our collective ability to disrupt these groups, minimising the risk to our community.

The sale and supply of drugs continues to be a significant concern to us and through our consultations with communities is highlighted as an issue. Our determination to rid communities of those individuals who deal drugs will remain and through intelligence led policing we have and will continue to deal robustly with them.

So far this year:-

- **129** individuals linked to SOC have been arrested
- Through the use of POCA legislation SOC criminals have been deprived of **£ 2,283,616**
- SOCG have been denied legitimate enterprise estimated to be worth **£ 2,823,853**
- YTD there have been **144** drug supply detections.

Argyll & Bute has a number of strategic locations which require an appropriate counter-terrorist response with the ever present threat that exists from internationally inspired terrorism. Moreover, in some parts of the area there remains close affiliation with terrorist groups based in Northern Ireland which needs careful management and intervention to prevent those associations from developing into a threat to the local community.

To successfully challenge this threat we have fully embraced the National "Contest" Strategy and have implemented a Multi Agency CONTEST Group which meets regularly and in partnership progresses all aspects of the '4P' strategy, Prevent, Prepare, Pursue and Protect.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games are now at an advanced stage of planning and we will be supporting our colleagues in Glasgow in their preparations for the delivery of a safe, secure and peaceful games for all. We will also see the Queens Baton Relay pass through Argyll & Bute and partnership planning is well underway to ensure it is an event that is enjoyable and safe for all.

Acquisitive and Road Crime

Acquisitive Crime is constantly an area that requires our full attention with bogus criminals preying on our most vulnerable people, they need to be targeted. We fully recognise the significant consequences victims of Housebreaking experience and this is not only a priority for us but through Operation RAC is now being addressed nationally.

Keeping People Safe on our Roads continues to be addressed, and through our proactive approach we remain committed to influencing and improving driver behaviour.

Our objectives include a commitment to:

- Prioritise the investigation of bogus crimes and housebreakings
- Effectively police the road network to influence driver behaviour, increase safety and disrupt criminals using our roads
- Reduce Casualties and road deaths
- Tackle dangerous driving by increasing detections
- Target speeding offences by increasing detections

High profile operations have been a regular feature this year which has resulted in a number of arrests for bogus crimes. This activity will continue and we will relentlessly pursue those individuals who prey on the elderly and vulnerable in our communities.

The following table outlines our achievements most significantly **21** fewer victims of housebreaking:

Acquisitive Crime			
	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	Apr 2012 - Dec 2012	% Change
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	29.3%	27.9%	1.4%
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	133	154	-13.6%
Theft by shoplifting detection rate	73.9%	80.5%	-6.6%
Theft by shoplifting	134	123	8.9%

Our Road Safety campaign has seen the deployment of officers in line with complaints from the community to address irresponsible driver behaviour. To date the efforts we have invested are encouraging as we challenge drivers through enforcement of legislation.

The tables on the following page outline our achievements:

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics			
	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	Apr 2012 - Dec 2012	% Change
People Killed/Seriously Injured	53	56	-5.4%
People Slightly Injured	170	180	-5.6%
Children (aged<16) Killed/Seriously Injured	0	5	-100.0%

Whilst the overall number of serious road injuries has reduced we recognise that there has been a rise in the number of people killed this year on our roads. The trunk roads A83 and A85 are the primary locations for such incidents and we are targeting these with high visibility patrols. We also continue to move towards the implementation of a full time dedicated Divisional Road Policing Unit within Argyll & Bute.

Road Safety & Road Crime			
	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	Apr 2012 - Dec 2012	% Change
Dangerous driving	59	59	0.0%
Speeding	1,648	1,396	18.1%
Disqualified driving	9	12	-25.0%
Driving Licence	116	97	19.6%
Insurance	146	183	-20.2%
Seat Belts	421	449	-6.2%
Mobile Phone	190	309	-38.5%

Increase Public Confidence and Local Engagement

It is of great importance to us that the service we provide receives the consent of our community and through our organisational values based approach, **Integrity**, **Fairness** and **Respect** we hope to increase public confidence in us. We continue to listen to the views and concerns of our community through consultations, listening events or Police and Community (PAC) meetings. This way we know what local people want us to deal with and that will remain our focus at Divisional and Ward area levels.

Our Consultation Survey completed in October 2013 provided the local community the opportunity to tell us what our priorities should be and to tell us what they think about the service we are providing. The results of that survey will help us shape our plans going forward and provided positive reassurance that our service is addressing the needs of the local community.

In addition to outlining what the community wanted our priorities to be in Argyll & Bute the survey also captured that;

- 31% of people thought crime had decreased
- 53% stated they had not been affected by antisocial behaviour
- 80% had regularly seen uniformed officers patrolling their area
- 78% were aware they had a dedicated Community Policing Team

We are encouraged by this but our determination to increase public confidence will continue.

Conclusion

As Local Police Commander, I am delighted to present this update on our Local Policing Plan for Argyll & Bute. We are continuing to meet the challenges of moving into a single police service for Scotland and demonstrated that policing performance continues to be very strong.

I am happy with our achievements so far and praise the contribution that our partners from across Argyll & Bute have made to support us.

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

Barry McEwan
Chief Superintendent
Local Police Commander