



## Argyll & Bute

Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017



### **Argyll and Bute**

Local Policing Plan 2014-2017

Dumbarton Police Office Stirling Road Dumbarton G82 3PT

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**Argyll and Bute** 

Local Policing Plan: 2014 – 2017

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#### 1. Introduction

The publication of a Local Policing Plan for each of the 32 Local Authorities in Scotland is a statutory requirement arising from the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. Each plan takes into account the Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services, the Strategic Police Priorities set by the Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Police Authority Strategic objectives. The plans also take account of the Chief Constable's Annual Police Plan together with local priorities and objectives.

Building on the first Local Policing Plan that was produced for the Argyll and Bute Council area in 2013, this plan sets out the revised local policing priorities and objectives for the next 3 years. The plan has been developed taking into account the views of our local communities and aligns to the Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement. The plan provides a clear focus and direction for the officers and staff of Police Scotland in Argyll and Bute and is further enhanced by our 11 Multi Member Ward Community Policing Plans.

#### 2. Foreword



Chief Constable Sir Stephen House QPM

The first year of Police Scotland has seen significant change in many aspects of the organisation, however, the delivery of locally focused operational policing remains the bedrock of this service. I remain strongly committed to the principle that community based policing, which responds to local need and demand, is crucial to delivering services that keep people safe and maintain public confidence.

One of the ways in which we can visibly demonstrate this commitment to local policing is by listening to communities and asking them to help shape our priorities. We have consulted widely across the council area with local people and other organisations to help identify our priorities. By combining the information we received through this consultation process with analysis of crime and other performance data, we have established the priorities and objectives that are set out in this plan.

In developing this plan the Local Policing Team, led by the Local Commander, has worked closely with public, private and third sector organisations as well as directly with communities, because we recognise that partnership working is critical to making our communities safer. Importantly, this approach has also ensured that our planning process is aligned to the broader vision set out in the Community Plan and supports the Single Outcome Agreement. This plan is therefore a commitment to working across agencies to deliver better outcomes for communities as well as setting out how policing will be delivered in this area.

I am pleased to say that we have achieved much in the first year of Police Scotland to tackle crime and prevent harm, reducing the number of people who have been the victims of violence and the number killed and injured on our roads as well as addressing other crucial priorities for communities. This plan sets out an agenda to build on that success by tackling the issues that will improve the safety and well being of communities across this local authority area.



Mr Vic Emery, OBE Chair of the Scottish Police Authority

I passionately believe that the establishment of Police Scotland and the SPA has created significant opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness of policing. We want you the public to have a real say on local priorities and for policing to listen to that public voice. This plan is where that comes together. It sets out what your local priorities are, identified from what local people are saying is most important to them, and underpinned by local evidence and intelligence gathered by policing in this area.

We want you to be able to question, and judge, how well the police are performing against those priorities. So we will expect your Local Commander to report publicly and regularly on how they are achieving the priorities set in this plan, so you and your community can assess for yourselves how policing is working for you.

We want residents to be able to see how money invested in policing is being used and what results it brings, and to understand better how national and local policing decisions are made and why.

Scotland is a country with reducing levels of crime and a strong bond of trust between the Police service and the Scottish public. Local partnerships, a focus on prevention and collaboration, and genuine accountability at both local and national level underpin that bond.

Working together to turn this plan into results, as professionals and members of the public, is about making this part of Scotland a place of greater safety and a greater place to live.



### Councillor Dick Walsh - Leader of Argyll and Bute Council

Argyll and Bute is one of the safest places to live, work and visit and we know this is something that people in our communities value very highly. As a Council we are committed to working closely with Police Scotland and other community planning partners to make sure that this remains the case.

People across the area have told us what their priorities are when it comes to keeping Argyll and Bute safe, and their feedback has helped to inform local policing plans for the coming years. The Council will join with our local and national Police Scotland colleagues to build on the close partnership working that has served Argyll and Bute so well in the past. Everyone involved is determined to keep Argyll and Bute safe, healthy and thriving and these values underpin all of our work.

There will be many challenges in the forthcoming years with public sector reform and I am confident that, despite this, we will build on the success of our Community Planning Partnership to achieve the objectives of the Single Outcome Agreement. We will continue to combine our working services to ensure that we provide the best policing and partnership response to the communities within Argyll and Bute.



### Argyll and Bute – Local Police Commander – Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan

I am pleased to present our 3 year Policing Plan and future objectives for the Argyll and Bute Council area. We have a strong collaboration with partners and local communities that provides an excellent range of services within our diverse communities.

Argyll and Bute has both rural and urban areas and offers many tourist attractions with significant seasonal appeal from summer touring to winter pursuits. This increases risk to the road networks, however, I am keen to highlight that a substantial amount of work is ongoing with our partners in the Council area to reduce this risk to drivers and keep them safe.

This plan takes account of the many challenges we face and I will ensure we address the key priorities to reduce antisocial behaviour and violence, tackle drug dealing, improve road safety and protect the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Along with our partners, we have worked hard to build strong and effective working relationships and it is through this approach that we will continue to deliver a service to the public that contributes to achieving the objectives of the Single Outcome Agreement.

I will keep people and communities safe by building on those key partnerships which will allow me to provide a policing service that reflects the needs and priorities of the residents of Argyll and Bute. To impact on the crimes and issues that are of public concern, I will ensure my officers are in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.

#### 3. Priorities and Objectives

The following 5 areas are what the communities of Argyll and Bute, our key partners and our divisional staff have indicated are the most important policing priorities that we face. These priorities are also reflected in our Divisional Strategic Assessment.

### **Priority 1 - Road Safety and Enforcement**

Last year the total number of people killed and seriously injured in the roads of Argyll and Bute fell by 20% compared with the previous year, however, the number of fatalities rose significantly.

Local consultation across Argyll and Bute indicates that our communities view road crime and road safety as a top priority. In all Multi Member Ward areas, with the exception of the Isle of Bute, road safety features as a community priority. While it is reassuring to note that the total number of people seriously injured on our roads continues to fall, this is overshadowed by the rise in the number of people who have died as a result of vehicle crashes. The main area for concern is on the trunk road network with fatalities occurring on the A82 and the A83.

Serious crashes not only impact on the families of those involved but also on the wider community with lengthy road closures that affect the road infrastructure of Argyll. As a result, a Multi-Agency Road Safety Group has been set up with a specific role to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

Over the next 3 years, this group will ensure that there is a partnership approach taken to improve safety on our roads, taking into consideration enforcement and prevention.

Our communities have identified speeding drivers as a very high priority and we will ensure that we tackle those whose driving behaviour contributes to the death and serious injury of other innocent road users.

We will also continue to target drivers who put themselves and others at risk by driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, use mobile phones and fail to wear seatbelts.

### Our objectives during 2014 - 2017 to tackle road safety and enforcement issues will be:

- 1. 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.
- 2. To increase enforcement activity to improve driver behaviour.
- 3. To improve road safety through enhanced partnership working and preventative initiatives within the community.

### **Priority 2 – Major Crime and Terrorism**

### In 2013/14, the number of drug dealers arrested increased significantly compared with the previous year.

All communities in Scotland, including those in Argyll and Bute, suffer due to the impact of serious and organised crime groups engaging in a variety of criminal activities in particular drug dealing. 9 of the 11 Multi Member Wards highlighted that tackling drug dealing should be a major policing priority. Organised criminals prey on the most vulnerable within our communities and we will enhance police enforcement to protect our communities from such criminal activity. Partnership working will also continue, particularly amongst young people, to highlight the impact that such negative choices are likely to have on their lives.

The Scottish Government strategy for tackling serious and organised crime, "Letting our Communities Flourish", sets out a framework through which Police, Local Authorities, Health Boards and other partners can address the issues caused by organised crime groups including the sale of counterfeit goods, the trafficking of illegal nationals or indeed the procurement of public sector contracts. All of these activities have a serious impact on the local communities in Argyll and Bute and targeting this form of criminality will remain a high priority for the Police and our partners within the Local Authority.

### In 2013/14, the Division introduced a Multi-Agency Contest Group to reduce the risk from terrorism.

To address the risk associated with terrorism, the Division has introduced a Multi-Agency Contest Group, the focus of which is to continue to raise awareness of terrorist related issues and to ensure that Argyll and Bute is protected and prepared to respond appropriately to any such incident.

### Our objectives during 2014 - 2017 to tackle major crime and terrorism related issues will be:

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

### **Priority 3 - Violence and Antisocial Behaviour**

### In 2013/14, in Argyll and Bute violent crime has reduced by 20% compared to the previous year and by 31% against the 5 year average.

The level of violent crime within Argyll and Bute is low, with our communities being amongst the safest in Scotland. However, we will continue to focus on such crimes and central to our approach to violent offenders within Argyll and Bute is the Directed Policing Plan (DPP). This is the process by which those who pose the greatest risk and threat to the public are managed and locations where violence is known to occur are targeted. While the DPP is primarily a police tool, our various partners are also encouraged to provide us with information on individuals who have already been identified and indeed those they feel should be included on the DPP. Over the next 3 years, we will continue to place the DPP at the centre of our harm reduction strategies. We will continue to focus on further reducing violent crime, in particular that fuelled by alcohol. This is in response to our public consultations across Argyll and Bute where the community has told us that violence is one of the issues they wish us to prioritise.

# In 2013/14, in Argyll and Bute, reports from the public of antisocial behaviour have reduced by 20% on the same period last year and by 41% on the 5 year average.

Public consultation shows that many people still believe that antisocial behaviour, including drinking in public and people causing annoyance, should be a policing priority in Argyll and Bute. That said, almost half of the people who responded to our consultation stated that they had never been affected by antisocial behaviour. Despite the considerable fall in reported incidents of antisocial behaviour, there is no doubt that for some of our communities this issue still impacts on their quality of life. Therefore, using our DPP we will continue to tackle this in a robust and determined fashion in conjunction with our partners in Argyll and Bute Council.

### Domestic abuse incidents have remained at a similar level compared with last year across Argyll and Bute.

Given the impact that domestic abuse has on individuals, families and communities, we will continue to prioritise our approach to this type of behaviour. We will continue to increase proactive policing activity in relation to domestic incident management and focus our interventions in respect of domestic abuse offenders.

Building on existing partnerships, the domestic Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordinating Group (MATAC) brings together a wide range of key organisations and agencies that provide strategic governance in respect of the most dangerous perpetrators to reduce the risk they pose.

In the coming months, we will also contribute to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), led by our partners in Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information Services Together (ASSIST). This process will focus entirely on the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable victims of domestic abuse ensuring we are keeping such victims safe.

In conjunction with Victim Information and Advice (VIA) and ASSIST, we will ensure that victims of domestic abuse receive quick feedback in relation to any bail conditions imposed and court outcomes.

### Our objectives during 2014 - 2017 to tackle violence and antisocial behaviour will be:

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

### **Priority 4 – Public Protection**

### In 2013/14, crimes involving child neglect in Argyll and Bute increased in comparison to the 3 year average.

The police, along with our partners, identify children at risk on a daily basis and while these concerns are varied, it is essential that child protection remains a key priority for the police.

A Divisional Concern Management Hub has been established to centralise the decision making process when identifying, assessing and managing threat and risk in relation to children and vulnerable adults. The first stage of this process will bring together relevant police specialists followed by the colocation of key partners who will work together to manage the process to reduce harm.

### During 2013/14, the number of internet related sexual crimes within Argyll and Bute increased.

Internet safety is a concern to many and given the increased use of the internet and social media, we have experienced an increase in the number of e-crimes. This has resulted in an increase in investigations and it is anticipated that this will continue to rise over the next few years. The Division will prioritise and ensure robust investigation into such matters.

# A high proportion of sexual crime reported to the police in Argyll and Bute is historical, with a significant number occurring in the domestic environment.

Police and partners will continue to work together through the Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWP) to support all victims of abuse, ensuring they are treated with sensitivity and respect. Furthermore, we will conduct a significant level of investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice.

### Our objectives during 2014 - 2017 to tackle public protection issues will be:

- 1. 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.
- 2. To continue to develop proactive strategies to deal with managed offenders, particularly those that present the greatest threat, risk and harm.
- 3. To increase the number of persons detected for sexual crimes.
- 4. Together with partner agencies, strive to provide a better quality of service to the victims of sexual crime.

### **Priority 5 – Acquisitive Crime**

#### In 2013/14, housebreaking has reduced in Argyll and Bute by 10%.

There has been a decrease in crime involving housebreaking across Argyll and Bute over the last year. The main reduction relates to domestic properties with a slight increase in sheds and outbuildings. This crime type still generates public concern, and in 6 of the 11 Multi Member Wards the community still identifies this as a policing priority. It is suspected travelling criminals have been responsible for many of these crimes and this has led to increased activity by police around the road network which will continue into the foreseeable future.

During 2013/14, doorstep crime in Argyll and Bute reduced significantly. It is encouraging that the number of recorded doorstep crimes has dropped across Argyll and Bute, however, we are mindful these crimes have a devastating impact on the victims and the local communities. Therefore, the Division will continue to be proactive in this area and in partnership with Trading Standards, the local media and local businesses, we will ensure we protect the victims who are often the most vulnerable within our communities.

#### Our objectives during 2014 - 2017 to tackle acquisitive crime will be:

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

#### 4. How we identified our priorities

In order to ensure that local needs and expectations are reflected in this Local Policing Plan, we have taken account of a range of information sources including surveys, public events, internal dialogue and personal communication, often carried out by our Community Policing Teams. We have also utilised data gathered by our partners in the Local Authority and other Community Planning Partners.

In order to ensure that we captured the views of the people living and working within Argyll and Bute, we undertook a Public Consultation Survey between August and October 2013. The results from this survey identified the issues that people from communities across Argyll and Bute believed should be the policing priorities over the next 3 years.

Following on from this consultation process, the Division conducted a number of additional consultation events including:

- Community Council Meetings
- Local Community Police Surgeries
- Community Engagement using the Mobile Police Office
- Liaison with the Business Community
- Liaison with local schools and local youth groups
- > Police and Community Meetings within each of the Ward areas
- Key Individual Network consultation
- Engagement with statutory and third sector partners

These engagements have all supported the findings of the initial Public Consultation Survey in respect of what the local policing priorities should be in Argyll and Bute. While it is acknowledged there are local variations to the priorities identified, the 11 Multi Member Ward Policing Plans address these more localised issues and concerns.

#### 5. Local Policing arrangements

Our focus is to keep people safe and we aim to deliver policing that is visible, accessible and responsive to the needs of the people of Argyll and Bute. We acknowledge the diverse communities ranging from the population hubs to the rural villages and islands.

Effective policing within these diverse environments can be challenging, however, we believe that we are succeeding due to the excellent joint working we enjoy with our partners within the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership.

Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan is the Local Police Commander and is responsible for the delivery of policing in both Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire Council areas.

He is assisted by Detective Superintendent, Anne McKerchar who has responsibility for all matters relating to criminal investigation and public protection within the Division.

Superintendents Gail McClymont and Malcolm MacCormick form the remainder of the Senior Management Team and have responsibility for the management of policing operations and service delivery.

The Argyll and Bute Area Commanders are Chief Inspectors Marlene Baillie and Gary Stitt who are based at Campbeltown and Dunoon Police Offices respectively, and they ensure that our operational response delivers against our key priorities.

We have Community Police Officers based across the 11 Multi Member Wards. These officers provide visible and accessible policing within the community and they are also responsible for delivering on the objectives outlined in the Multi Member Ward Policing Plans and the investigation of local crime with Detective Officers. The officers will engage with their local communities, adopting a shared partnership problem-solving approach to deal with issues that are of concern.

In addition to these officers, Divisional response and specialist officers provide an ongoing service to the people of Argyll and Bute and will continue to respond quickly and effectively to public demand.

Multi Member Ward Policing Plans are available at www.scotland.police.uk

#### 6. National Outcomes

The Scottish Governments has 16 National Outcomes which demonstrate a commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. Policing in Argyll and Bute will build on our successes and make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for this area. We will do this by participating fully in the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and leading the debate as partnership arrangements are reviewed.

The Police Service of Scotland contributes significantly to the CPP within Argyll and Bute and currently Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan is the Chairperson the CPP Management Group. The CPP is responsible for delivering on the outcomes detailed in the Argyll and Bute Community Plan which sets out the priorities and objectives for Argyll and Bute over the next 10 years. While Police Scotland contributes to most of the outcomes detailed in the Plan its main focus is on achieving outcome 6 which seeks to make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

This Local Policing Plan contributes to achieving this by striving to reduce violence and antisocial behaviour as well as working with our partners to keep children and vulnerable groups safe. Over the coming years, Police Scotland will build on our already solid partnerships to deliver on all aspects of the Single Outcome Agreement making the communities of Argyll and Bute safer, stronger and more resilient.

Our local priorities align to the Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement and the Governments National Outcomes as follows:

Priority	Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement	National Outcomes
Road Safety and Enforcement	Local Priority 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	Outcomes 5, 8, 9, 11 and 16
Major Crime and Terrorism	Local Priority 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	Outcomes 5, 8, 9, 11 and 13
Violence and Antisocial Behaviour	Local Priority 1, 4, 5 and 6	Outcomes 5, 8, 9, 11 and 16
Public Protection	Local Priority 1, 4, 5 and 6	Outcomes 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 16
Acquisitive Crime	Local Priority 1 and 6	Outcomes 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 16

Further information on National Outcomes and the Single Outcome Agreement can be accessed at www.scotland.gov.uk

### 7. Performance and Accountability

Within Argyll and Bute we will aim to achieve the highest standard of performance whilst at the same time recognise we are a values based organisation and how we serve our communities is as important as the results we achieve.

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

National performance frameworks have been developed allowing the service 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.

Through our local consultation we have identified the policing priorities that our communities want us to tackle. Each Multi Member Ward area has a Policing Plan which identifies the concerns within the Ward and in which we outline how we will address those issues.

We are committed to publishing our performance information and will use this as the foundation for reporting to Argyll and Bute Council and local communities.

This information is available upon request or at www.scotland.police.uk .

### 8. Local Scrutiny and Engagement

Performance against this Local Policing Plan will be continuously scrutinised by the Performance and Scrutiny Committee of Argyll and Bute Council. The Local Police Commander will present a report to the Committee for scrutiny on a quarterly basis outlining policing performance in respect of the priorities highlighted within the Plan.

This scrutiny process is vitally important as we recognise that local communities must influence policing services in Argyll and Bute.

The Local Authority, Elected Members and partners have a role to play and their views are taken into account by the Local Police Commander. This is a formal route to influence police services and to retain and develop the already successful Community Planning Partnership.

The Scottish Police Authority is the body with formal responsibility for scrutiny and to hold Police Scotland to account. They will continue to actively engage with Argyll and Bute Council to build and develop the relationships already formed, ensuring an understanding of policing performance at a local level.

#### 9. Equalities

Crime in Argyll and Bute is falling and public confidence in the police is high. However, we will not be complacent and will continue to work with all sections of our community, including the most vulnerable, to improve our service. We will strive to make our organisation reflective of the communities we police which will increase public trust and confidence in us.

We recognise that effective and fair policing is about addressing the needs and expectations of individuals and local communities and our aim is to ensure that our service meets and exceeds these expectations.

With the introduction of the Equality Act 2010, we have a duty that requires us, both as an employer and in policing our communities to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and other prohibited conduct
- Advance equality of opportunity among people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations among people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

Equality and diversity outcomes have been developed across Police Scotland in consultation with equality organisations and our staff associations with representation across all protected groups.

We have also engaged with our community to identify local equality and diversity priorities which link into Police Scotland's strategic Equality Outcomes. Through this engagement we have formed our relevant policing priorities and these reinforce our commitment to equality and diversity.

#### 10. Local Contact Details



Local Police Commander, Dumbarton Police Office, Stirling Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PT



Dial 999 for an emergency
Dial 101 for routine matters and non emergency attendance
TextRelay 18000 for an emergency
TextRelay 18001101 for a non emergency response
Dial 0800 555111 for Crimestoppers



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