



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

## Argyll & Bute

Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017

**Quarterly Report / Q1 – 2014/15**



## **Local Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan**

I am pleased to present the first quarterly report for Argyll & Bute for 2014/15 which will be the second performance year for the newly created Police Service of Scotland. This report details crime issues identified over the first 3 month period. In continuation of the downward trend in crime levels reported at the end of the previous year it also highlights further crime reductions.

Over the forthcoming 12 months our policing focus - **Keeping People Safe** – and the policing principals which it encapsulates will continue to be at the centre of all police activity carried out across Argyll & Bute. Public Consultation, partnership working and our own detailed crime analysis has determined that the priorities for local police during 2014/15 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. Similarly, policing plans are now in place for all Multi Member Wards within the Argyll & Bute boundary to ensure concerns specific to local towns and communities will also be addressed thus improving the quality of life for all living within Argyll & Bute.

**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**

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 currently has 2 dedicated Area Commanders with responsibility for day-to-day policing functions. Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie has responsibility for Oban, Lorn and the Isles and Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands and is supported by Community Inspectors Julie McLeish and Tom Harper.

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

## **Road Safety & Road Crime**

Keeping People Safe on the roads of Argyll & Bute remains a key priority. Although the total number of people killed and seriously injured in the roads of Argyll and Bute fell by 20% compared with the previous year, the number of fatalities rose significantly.

Public 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 featured as a community priority. The main area for concern is on the trunk road network with fatalities occurring on the A82 and the A83. During 2014 - 2017 our main priorities to tackle road safety and enforcement issues will be:

- ***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.***

Increased patrolling of the main crash routes (A83, A85, A82) together with the implementation of a dedicated Road Policing Unit within Argyll & Bute would appear to have had a positive impact on the number of road crashes year to date. Road policing officers have interacted with hundreds of motorists and road users, made good use of education, encouragement and engineering solutions alongside partner agencies and the roads authority. Results of our progress are shown in following table:-

<b>Road Traffic Casualty Statistics</b>			
	Apr 2014 - Jun 2014	Apr 2013 - Jun 2013	Victims
People Killed	3	4	1 fewer
People Seriously injured	11	13	2 fewer
People Slightly Injured	52	62	10 fewer
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	None
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	0	0	None

## **Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour**

Whilst there was a significant reduction in crimes of violence and incidents of antisocial behaviour reported at the end of 2013/14, public consultation indicates that many people still believe that antisocial behaviour, including drinking in public and people causing annoyance, should remain a policing priority for local police within Argyll and Bute. As such, we are committed to achieving the following objectives over the forthcoming 12 months:

- ***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.***

Central to our approach to violent offenders within Argyll & 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. 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.

As well as reducing crime, maintaining the high levels of detections reported in 2013/14 remains a priority in order that those who become involved in violent crime will know that they are most likely to be arrested and brought to justice. The deployment of high visibility foot and cycle patrols and stop search activity continues to be reviewed on a daily and weekly basis in order to address further problematic locations as they emerge.

The table on the following page shows our performance YTD as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014:-

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Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour			
	Apr 2014 - Jun 2014	Apr 2013 - Jun 2013	Victims
Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	11	16	5 fewer
Murder	1	0	1 more
Attempted Murder	0	0	None
Culpable Homicide	0	0	None
Serious Assault	6	7	1 fewer
Robbery	0	1	1 fewer
Petty (common ) assault	171	175	4 fewer
Number of complaints regarding disorder	880	1,101	221 fewer
Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	54	61	7 Fewer

As shown above, the level of 'serious' violent crime occurring across Argyll & Bute remains low. Serious Assaults account for over half of all crimes reported YTD however no particular location has experienced a higher concentration of crime, in fact no more than 1 crime has been reported within any multi member ward area. Although the majority of crimes took place in a public space, in most cases the victim and offender were known to each other. None of the crimes committed involved the use of a weapon however in most cases alcohol was assessed to be a contributing factor. Our Detection Rate fro Serious Assault remains high at 83.3% and 83.0% of Common Assaults have also been detected.

Our Right Place, Right Time, Right People, Stop Search strategy continues and has proven very successful with more than 1 in 5 searches yielding a positive result which has increased from 15.9% to 21.1%, with alcohol being the predominant article seized.

More effective targeting of Stop Search activity within identified 'hotspot' location as they emerge is continuing to have a positive impact on the crimes and incidents involving minor violence and ASB. During the current period disorder complaints have reduced by 20.1%, common assaults by 2.3% and consuming alcohol in public by 11.5%.

Crimes and incidents involving minor violence and Antisocial Behaviour have been most prevalent within Helensburgh Central (in/around West Clyde Street), in Rothesay (within the town centre area) and Oban (town centre / in around George Street. These areas will continue to receive additional focus in the forthcoming period.

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## **Protecting Vulnerable People**

Protecting those most vulnerable within all communities of Argyll & Bute remains at the heart of our commitment to Keep People Safe. In the forthcoming 12 months, our priorities have been identified as follows:-

- ***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 person detected for sexual crimes.***
- ***Together with partner agencies, strive to provide a better quality of service to the victims of sexual crime.***

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the Divisional Concern Management Hub went live and it is now well embedded within the division. The hub was established in order to centralise the decision making process when identifying, assessing and managing threat and risk in relation to children and vulnerable adults. The hub incorporates Crime Management, EEI / Whole Systems Approach, Hate crime, Domestic Abuse, Adult and Child protection. The first stage to bring together relevant police specialists is now complete. All referrals are received by the Hub and then referred to the respective agencies for continued enquiry or simply for their information. Phase 2 will see representatives from partner agencies being co-located within the hub. Representatives from these agencies have already visited the HUB in order to gain an understanding of the work which will be required to be carried out on a daily basis. It is anticipated that ASSIST will move from Clydebank into the HUB around mid August followed shortly thereafter by Social Work. Both agencies will become part of the screening process of referrals directly from when they are received. These two new developments will enhance the capability of the Hub

Our Divisional Rape Investigation Unit, established at Clydebank in April 2013, consists of a Detective Inspector, Detective Sergeant and four Detective Constables. The unit has developed an expertise in this area and provides invaluable support across the Division and to the victims of such crimes.

Police Scotland will continue to work together with partners to support all victims of abuse, ensuring they are treated with sensitivity and respect. Our efforts to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice will be relentless.

In the forthcoming 12 months we will continue to carry out visits to victims following the court appearance of perpetrators to inform them of any bail conditions imposed by the court. During 2014/15 we will strive to meet a challenging target set 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 also continue to robustly police such bail conditions where regular visits are made to perpetrators to ensure they are complying.

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The following table details our performance YTD as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014:-

Protecting People			
	Apr 2014 - Jun 2014	Apr 2013 - Jun 2013	Victims
Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	15	30	15 fewer
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	137	177	40 fewer
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	105	141	36 fewer

The total number of Group 2 crimes being reported across Argyll and Bute has reduced significantly (50%) YTD, compared to the same period last year. Crimes reported included 4 crimes of Rape and 3 Sexual Assaults. With the exception of one crime, all of these took place within residential properties and the victim knew the perpetrator. The figure provided above also includes 4 crimes (2 incidents) of Indecent Exposure, both of which occurred within the Helensburgh area.

In relation to our detection rates these are improving continually with 46.7% of all Group 2 crimes detected. The percentage of Domestic Abuse crimes and incidents also remains high at 82.9%. Our ambitious target of 95% of Initial Bail Checks being carried out within 24 hours is on track at 100%.

## 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. We will continue to disrupt their activities through focused and robust interventions. Our objectives remain:-

- ***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 Groups, raise awareness and improve information sharing between agencies.***

There are currently 2 known serious and organised crime groups believed to be present within Argyll & Bute which are assessed to pose a threat to our communities. Through current intelligence both groups are assessed as Low Risk. All groups continue to be closely monitored through a strict internal governance group which deploys our resources accordingly.

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In addition to local policing activity, a Multi-Agency Counter Terrorism and Serious and Organised Crime Group is now well established to ensure clear direction is provided in respect of partnership work to tackle these issues. Individuals continue to be proactively targeted, and where possible, arrested or charged in connection with criminality. In addition, every step is being taken to prevent such groups taking advantage of public finance and benefiting from public sector contracts.

The most recent Public Consultation revealed 9 of the 11 multi member wards in Argyll & Bute highlighted tackling drug supply should be a police priority. In an effort to reduce the threat posed to local communities by those involved in the supply and distribution of controlled drugs, our objectives over the forthcoming 12 month period set out to increase the number of detections for supplying, producing and cultivating drugs by 3%. As at 31<sup>st</sup> June, 7 drug supply charges have been made.

In addition to the above, during the current performance year:-

- **39** individuals linked to SOC have been arrested across the division.
- Through the use of POCA legislation SOC criminals have been deprived of **£439,051**.
- SOCG have been denied legitimate enterprise estimated to be worth **£337,600**.

Argyll & Bute has a number of key strategic locations which requires us to develop an appropriate counter-terrorist response with the ever present threat that exists from internationally inspired terrorism. Matters in Northern Ireland continue to influence behaviour in the West of Scotland and are often associated to sectarian attitudes. We will continue to work closely with our partners to positively influence this type of behaviour.

## Acquisitive Crime

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

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

As highlighted in the following table, there has been a notable increase in the total number of housebreaking crimes reported YTD compared to the same period last year. Despite this increase no specific area has experienced a high concentration of crime although a slightly higher number have occurred within Helensburgh and Dunoon. Detection rates have significantly improved from 35.1% to 52.2%.

Acquisitive Crime			
	Apr 2014 - Jun 2014	Apr 2013 - Jun 2013	Victims
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	46	37	9 more
Doorstep / Bogus Crimes	0	0	0

In relation to Doorstep crimes, similar to last year, the number occurring within Argyll and Bute remains low. Year to date there has been 4 incidents reported

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Produced by Police Scotland Analysis & Performance Unit on 23 July 2014.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.



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where it is suspected bogus criminals were responsible however none of these were successful and as such there have been no crimes recorded.

## **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 very strong we will as always continue strive to improve specific areas that we want to do better in.

I am happy with our achievements so far and praise the contribution that our partners from across Argyll and 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