



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Argyll & Bute

Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017

Quarterly Report / Q2 – 2014/15



Local Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Helen Swann

As the new Divisional Commander I am pleased to present the second quarterly report for Argyll & Bute for 2014/15.

Over the forthcoming period our policing focus - **Keeping People Safe** – 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 us 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. 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 at the core of our policing values underpinning everything we do and all our interactions with our public and partners.

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 the safety of those using it.

Argyll & Bute currently has 2 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, Isle of Bute and Helensburgh respectively.

Road Safety & Road Crime

Public consultation across Argyll and Bute indicated 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. As with previous years, our most serious road crashes have occurred on the A82 and A83 and these trunk roads will continue to be our focus. During 2014 - 2017 our main priorities to tackle road safety and enforcement issues are:

- ❖ ***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.***

The implementation of the dedicated Road Policing Unit within Argyll and Bute in July this year is making a significant contribution to achieving the foregoing priorities. There are now 3 dedicated Road Policing Hubs within Argyll and Bute which are located in Oban, Kintyre and Dunoon. Officers routinely patrol the main crash routes providing a highly visible presence, preventing road crashes, enforcing road traffic legislation and influencing driver behaviour.

The number of persons killed on the roads within Argyll & Bute has reduced from 7 to 4, a reduction of 43%, compared to the same period last year. While road crashes resulting in serious injury have increased by 3 compared to last year, we will continue our prevention and enforcement activity over the coming months to influence the number of people seriously injured on our roads.

We have focussed on Dangerous Driving and Speeding offences resulting in an 11.4% increase in detections for Dangerous Driving offences and a 6.6% increase in detections for Speeding offences.

The division is a core part of the Argyll and Bute Multi Agency Road Safety Group and work has continued through this group to highlight and promote road safety through each partners approach to road safety through education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement. This has been evident on the many engineering projects ongoing within Argyll and the commitment and delivery to projects by all to promote road safety to vulnerable groups in particular the motorcycle community.

Results of our progress (YTD) in relation to road casualties are shown in following table:-

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics			
	Apr 2014 - Sept 2014	Apr 2013 - Sept 2013	Victims
People Killed	4	7	3 fewer
People Seriously injured	31	28	3 more
People Slightly Injured	104	123	19 fewer
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	None
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	1	0	1 more

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

The first quarterly report highlighted a reduction in crimes of violence and incidents of antisocial behaviour reported against same period in 2013 and this trend has continued into the second quarter of the policing year. Public consultation across Argyll and Bute continues to highlight antisocial behaviour, including drinking in public and people causing annoyance, as a local policing priority. As such, the objectives included within the local policing plan for the area remain in place, namely:

- ❖ ***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 analytical product enables local officers to assess and manage threat and risk around individuals and areas within the Division. The utilisation of Directed Policing Plans (DPP), specialist resource (Force and Divisional Violence Reduction Units), and a range of tactical options including stop and search, bail/curfew management and additional patrols reduce instances and victims of violent crime.

The successful management of antisocial behaviour is very much partnership based with preventative police activity focused on areas identified through regular multi-agency 'Violence and Antisocial Behaviour' groups.

The connection between alcohol, violent crime and antisocial behaviour is recognised. The Divisional Licensing Department works in partnership with the Local Authority to effectively manage all licensed premises in accordance with current legislation. A proactive education and enforcement strategy is used by the Department when premises are identified as being linked to crime or antisocial behaviour.

The table on the following page shows our performance YTD as at Sept 2014:-

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour			
	Apr 2014 - Sept 2014	Apr 2013 - Sept 2013	Victims
Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	27	39	12 fewer
Murder	1	0	1 more
Attempted Murder	1	1	same
Culpable Homicide	1	0	1 more
Serious Assault	12	11	1 more
Robbery	1	1	same
Petty (common) assault	339	414	75 fewer
Number of complaints regarding disorder	1,857	2,205	348 fewer
Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	124	151	27 Fewer

Across Argyll and Bute the total number of crimes of violence reported continues in a downward trend. Furthermore the level of 'serious' violent crime reported remains relatively low. While around 60% of all Serious Assaults reported took place within a public space, in the majority of crimes the offender was known to the victim. This is reflected in the detection rate which is currently at 92%. In all but 2 crimes, the victim, offender or both had consumed alcohol. Several involved the use of a weapon however these would appear to have been mainly improvised weapons as opposed to carried for the purpose of assault.

Stop Search activity continues to be targeted within identified 'hotspot' locations which continues to yield noticeable reductions in complaints relating to antisocial behaviour, disorder and minor violence. Common Assaults have reduced by 18% resulting in 75 fewer victims and 348 fewer complaints of disorder.

Analysis of all crimes of violence and ASB incidents reported across the year to date period indicates a higher concentration have occurred in Helensburgh, Rothesay, Oban and Campbeltown. These areas will continue to receive additional focus in the forthcoming period.

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 period, our priorities 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.***

The Divisional Risk and Concern Hub is now well established within L Division and continues to be the central point for assessing and managing the threat / risk posed to children and vulnerable adults. Decisions regarding threat and risk are identified and managed in relation to Child Protection, Domestic Abuse, Adult Protection, Youth Offending, Child Concerns (GIRFEC), Hate Crime, Adult Concerns and Missing Persons.

Nationally a “Risk and Concern Project”, has been established with a remit to develop national standards, national processes and options for the future development of the management of Risk and Concern Hubs in order to provide a consistent approach to the recognition, identification, assessment and management of risk and wellbeing concerns.

We continue to work with our partners to manage offenders within Argyll and Bute and ensure that they are robustly monitored and identified risks addressed.

The Divisional Rape Investigation Unit continues to deal with sexual crimes within Argyll and Bute and staff have also participated in a number of joint training events with partners including Rape Crisis.

All opportunities are exploited to ensure national learning and development is cascaded to officers and partners alike.

Protecting People			
	Apr 2014 - Sept 2014	Apr 2013 - Sept 2013	Victims
Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	45	66	21 fewer
Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	303	409	106 fewer
Total Crimes and offences in Domestic Abuse incidents	235	340	105 fewer

As shown in the table above there has been a reduction in the total number of Group 2 crimes being reported across Argyll and Bute compared to the same period last year. Furthermore around 35% of all crimes reported during the current YTD period have been historical. As a result of rigorous investigation, we have improved our detection rate for all Group 2 crime which is currently at 60.8%.

The reporting of domestic abuse incidents and crimes has reduced nationally which is replicated in Argyll and Bute. However, the detection rate for Domestic Abuse crime remains high at 83.4%. Similarly, we continue to ensure victim safety by proactively updating them of the outcome of court appearances at the earliest opportunity and in any case within 24 hours.

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 unchanged:-

- ❖ ***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 identified Serious and Organised Crime Groups which are assessed to pose a threat to the communities within Argyll & Bute. Both of these groups continue to be closely monitored through a robust internal governance group which manages and directs activity. This process provides a structured framework to ensure police activity is focused on those groups that cause the greatest threat, risk and harm to the local communities.

Tackling those individuals who supply controlled drugs within our communities is a key police priority. In an effort to reduce the threat posed to local communities by those involved in the supply and distribution of controlled drugs, a focused intelligence led approach has been developed to increase the number of detections for supplying, producing and cultivating drugs. This is clearly evidenced by results achieved so far in the current performance year:-

- **88 individuals linked to SOC have been arrested across the division.**
- **Through the use of POCA legislation SOC criminals have been deprived of £ 1,547,279.**
- **SOCG have been denied legitimate enterprise estimated to be worth £ 1,751,800.**
- **128 individuals have been arrested for supplying or producing and cultivating controlled drugs across the division.**

In addition to local policing activity, the Multi-Agency Counter Terrorism and Serious and Organised Crime Group continues to meet and provides clear direction in respect of partnership work to tackle serious and organised crime and terrorism

Argyll & Bute has a number of key strategic locations which requires us to develop an appropriate counter-terrorist response. The current threat posed from AQ / ISIS inspired terrorism and matters in Northern Ireland continue to influence behaviour in the West of Scotland, consequently, we will continue to work with partners to influence this type of behaviour reducing the vulnerability within the Council area.

Acquisitive Crime

Maximising investigative opportunities into acquisitive crime and targeting bogus criminals who prey on the most vulnerable within the local communities remain a key priority for all local officers. During 2014 - 2017 our objectives to tackle acquisitive crime 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.***

As highlighted in the following table, there has been a decrease in the total number of housebreaking crimes reported across Argyll & Bute. Spatial analysis indicates that Dunoon has experienced a higher concentration of crimes compared to the other 5 main towns. Most of these crimes have occurred within domestic dwelling houses with a peak in activity noted in September. While the detection rate has reduced this quarter to 18.4%, significant work is underway to ensure all investigative opportunities are exploited to ensure those responsible for the commission of these crimes are detected.

Acquisitive Crime			
	Apr 2014 - Sept 2014	Apr 2013 - Sept 2013	Victims
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	92	98	6 fewer
Doorstep / Bogus Crimes	3	2	1 more

Similar to last year the number of bogus / doorstep crimes reported year to date remains low. During the current YTD period there has been 3 crimes reported in Argyll and Bute. These crimes have occurred in Arrochar, Helensburgh and Rothesay. These crimes have been varied in nature but included receiving payment without starting or completing renovations and charging an excessive amount for labour and materials. Despite the low number of reported crimes, we will continue to work with our partners to ensure criminals using our road networks to commit acquisitive crime are targeted.

Conclusion

As 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.

Helen Swann
Chief Superintendent
Local Police Commander