



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

Argyll & Bute Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017

Quarterly Report / Q3 – 2014/15



Local Police Commander, Chief Superintendent Helen Swann

As Divisional Commander for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire division I am pleased to present the third quarterly report for Argyll and Bute for 2014/15 which is the second performance year for the newly created Police Service of Scotland. 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 continues 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

Argyll and Bute has continued to experience a significant downward trend in all crime categories over the year to date period considered in this report (1st April 2014 – 31st December 2014) and more notably across the 5 year average. This is reflected in the positive results in the most recent Police Scotland Public Consultation. Produced in December 2014, results show that across Argyll and Bute the proportion of residents indicating that police listen to their concerns and are dealing with issues that affect their local area remains relatively high at 66.6% and 61.5% respectively, despite a slight reduction compared to the previous year. Similarly, a high percentage (68%) of residents agreed or strongly agreed that they had confidence in police. Local newspapers and leaflet drops remain the most effective methods of communication with members of the local community followed by social networking. Road Safety/Road Crime continues to be the top priority identified by local communities across Argyll and Bute, specifically speeding and dangerous driving. Drug dealing/misuse and crimes relating to violence and antisocial behaviour respectively, also remain key priorities.

Local Area Commanders Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie and Chief Inspector Gary Stitt have responsibility for addressing these crime issues and concerns as they arise on a day to day basis. Chief Inspector Baillie has the responsibility for Oban, Lorn and the Isles and Mid Argyll supported by Inspector Mark Stephen (Campbeltown & Lochgilphead) and Inspector Julie McLeish (Oban). Chief Inspector Stitt is supported by Inspector Paul Robertson (Dunoon & Rothesay) and Inspector Claire Miller (Helensburgh). These dedicated area Inspectors lead the local Community Policing Teams to ensure our efforts and attention remain focused on the needs and expectations of the local community.

In addition to day to day policing carried out by Community Investigation Units and Response Policing, officers within Argyll and Bute Command Area respond to developing events and seasonal demands that require additional attention and policing. Over this period additional officers have been deployed to address increased demand in relation to events such as Fireworks Night and the Festive period where there is a likelihood of an increase in antisocial and violent behaviour.

Special Constables

Argyll and Bute Command Area currently has 27 Special Constables who will attend for duties on a regular basis. The majority of the officers are imbedded into the local Response Groups and perform regular patrols with local officers. There are also a number of Special Constables who work on the outlying islands who perform a key role in providing a policing response to the local community. Special Constables are an important addition to the police family within Argyll and Bute and dedicate much of their spare time to ensuring we are 'Keeping People Safe'. They regularly support core policing within Argyll and Bute and provide a very welcome addition to regular patrols. Special Constables also deploy to divisional events and operations when required and available.

Strengthening Local Policing (Proposal)

Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Division is committed to continually looking at ways in which we can make improvements to the policing service we provide to our local communities, and one such way is a recent proposal to merge Argyll and West Dunbartonshire (L Division) with Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (K Division). The proposal highlights compelling opportunities to strengthen local policing by creating

consistency and removing duplication of work, with increased resilience and access to specialist staff. Furthermore the proposal would present the opportunity to streamline senior management posts in one single division, creating efficiency savings and the allocation of front line officers to enhance the service provided.

To ensure we are fully sighted on the views and feedback from all our local communities, we are currently consulting Elected Members, Community Councils, our partners and key stakeholders at various levels. We have already held meetings and circulated information to these groups intended to explain the rationale behind the proposal. Consultation is ongoing and this will be crucial in ensuring we are fully informed of all the associated benefits and risks.

Firearms Licensing

On 5 January 2015, a letter was sent by email to stakeholders regarding the National Firearms Licensing Communication Strategy. This letter detailed the proposed changes to the structure of firearms licensing and was sent to all Members of Parliament, Members of the Scottish Parliament and Local Authority Councillors. In addition to this the Divisional Commander personally briefed the Chief Executive of the Local Authority. The letter provided a full explanation of the proposed changes to Elected Members and invited them to contact the division should they have any questions regarding these. To date no enquiries have been received.

Road Safety & Road Crime

As mentioned previously, road safety and road crime remains the top priority for local communities across Argyll and Bute. The implementation of the dedicated Road Policing Unit continues to yield noticeable results. Dedicated Road Policing Officers continue to routinely patrol the main crash routes providing a highly visible presence targeted at preventing road crashes and influencing driver behaviour.

Performance YTD figures indicate significant reductions in road casualties, this is shown in following table:-

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics	Apr 2014 - Dec 2014	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	Victims
People Killed	4	10	6 fewer
People Seriously injured	39	47	8 fewer
People Slightly Injured	158	181	23 fewer
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	None
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	1	0	1 more
Road Safety & Road Crime	Apr 2014 - Dec 2014	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	% Change
Dangerous driving	66	60	10.0%
Speeding	1,623	1,689	-3.9%
Disqualified driving	5	9	-44.4%
Driving Licence	94	116	-19.0%
Insurance	140	147	-4.8%
Seat Belts	288	429	-32.9%
Mobile Phone	169	192	-12.0%

Increased pro-activity at problematic road crash locations has influenced the overall number of road traffic offences being detected however it is of note that dangerous driving offences have increased by 10% and speeding detections remain high, albeit slightly below the figure recorded at the same period last year.

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.***

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This year has seen a change in the method of recording interaction between drivers by Road Policing Officers. We now record not only the geographical areas that the officers are conducting their business but also, in terms of offences detected, the how many drivers are being dealt with by enforcement and how many receive a recorded warning. Speeding offences is perhaps the best example of this where drivers who while driving in excess of the speed limit for the area are within the Lord Advocates guidelines for non prosecution are stopped and given a formal warning, educated as to the dangers of such actions and encouraged to change their driving behaviour. The main objectives behind these changes are to influence driver behaviour, reduce the average speed of motorists at any given location but also to show that discretion is still a valuable police tool to be used in road safety.

Focused Police Activity

Multi Agency Road Safety Partnership

Police Scotland continues to work with the Argyll Multi Agency Road Safety Partnership with the next meeting scheduled at the end of January 2015. A review of contingency plans and diversion routes has taken place involving Police Scotland, BEAR Scotland on behalf of Transport Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council Roads Department.

In partnership with BEAR Scotland through traffic management and utilising crash data, extensive works have been undertaken on the A83 between Cairndow and Inveraray with a new road surface being laid, Strone Point being reengineered and ongoing works to improve sightlines and junction access at Loch Fyne Oyster Bar. This area has seen been the location of numerous serious crashes in recent years and recent works coupled with increased marked and unmarked patrols on this stretch of road has seen a significant drop in injury crashes.

Winter Road Safety

This year Argyll and Bute Council have moved from a winter treatment system utilising the "Iceman" computer system to a new web based system called "Vaisala". This system has been rolled out to Road Policing Officers across the division and selective divisional officers at area command level. Unlike Iceman, this system does not only record planned treatments in the forecast of snow/ice, but can be reviewed to allow for better planning due to changing conditions or needs as a result of incidents for example.

Festive Road Safety Campaign

The Festive Road Safety Campaign which took place between 5th December 2014 – 2nd January 2015 focused on vehicle safety, drink and drug driving to detect and deter drink/drug driving and improved safety by enforcement of construction and use offences yielded good results; eight persons were reported for drink/drug driving over the campaign period.

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

During the 3 month reporting period, crimes and incidents of violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour have continued in a downward trend. The total number of Group 1 crimes of violence remains relatively low when compared to other local authority areas and significantly below the figure recorded YTD last year. The following table shows our performance YTD as at 31st December:-

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Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour	Apr 2014 - Dec 2014	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	Victims
Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	39	62	23 fewer
Murder	1	0	1 more
Attempted Murder	1	1	same number
Culpable Homicide (common law)	1	0	1 more
Culpable Homicide (other)	2	1	1 more
Serious Assault detection rate	94.4%	100.0%	
Serious Assault	18	18	same number
Robbery detection rate	100.0%	100.0%	
Robbery	1	4	3 fewer
Common assault detection rate	85.7%	85.8%	
Common assault	517	558	41 fewer
Stop and searches conducted	6,072	9,748	
Number of positive stop and searches conducted.	1,327	1,561	
Number of complaints regarding disorder	2,494	2,917	423 fewer
Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	158	194	36 fewer

Crimes involving low level violence and antisocial behaviour (ASB) have also seen significant reductions across the YTD period; common assault crimes have reduced by 7.3%, complaints regarding disorder have reduced by 14.5% and ASB incidents reported by members of the public have reduced by 5.7% (from 2498 down to 2354). Whilst the overall number of stop searches conducted has also reduced considerably compared to the year to date figure last year, the positive ratio has improved from 16% to 21.8% indicating that police activity is being targeted more effectively.

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

- ∨ ***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, ensures

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*Produced by Police Scotland Analysis & Performance Unit on 19th January 2015.
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local officers continue to manage the threat and risk posed by specific individuals and identified problematic locations.

In line with Police Scotland's ongoing Campaign against Violence (CAV), Argyll and Bute Command Area regularly deploy officers from elsewhere in Scotland within the Helensburgh area to provide assistance to the division in relation to antisocial behaviour and violent crime.

Focused Police Activity

Town Centre Action Plans

Given that most antisocial behaviour, disorder and violence occurs within the town centres of Argyll, police activity continues to focus on these areas. Several operations have taken place in and around licensed premises utilising metal detection devices to assist in detecting those individuals who carry weapons and also utilising drug detection tactics to identify premises where drug misuse occurs. Such operations not only deter antisocial behaviour, disorder and violence they create opportunities for effective and coordinated partnership working.

Multi Agency Antisocial behaviour Group

A number of local Multi Agency Antisocial Behaviour Tasking Groups are in place across Argyll and are working very effectively. Such groups ensure that a coordinated and focused approach is taken to addressing antisocial behaviour within our communities and tackle issues ranging from disorder hotspots to tenants who persist in engaging in antisocial behaviour within their dwelling to the annoyance and disturbance of others.

Licensing

To compliment the work ongoing by local officers, the Divisional Licensing Department continues to work with licensed premises throughout Argyll to ensure a responsible attitude is taken by license holders in respect of the management of their respective premises. Work is currently ongoing to enhance the Pub Watch Schemes across all town centres of Argyll in order that a consistent approach is taken and that communication between license holders is improved and coordinated.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Protecting those most vulnerable within all communities of Argyll & Bute remains at the heart of our commitment to Keep People Safe. The following table details our performance YTD as at 31st December 2014:-

Public Protection	Apr 2014 - Dec 2014	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	Victims
Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	67	100	33 fewer
Group 2 crimes detection rate	73.1%	80.0%	
Rape detection rate	41.2%	90.0%	

The total number of Group 2 crimes of indecency has reduced considerably compared to the previous year to date period with 33 fewer victims. Although below target, the detection rate for Group 2 crimes remains relatively high at 73.1% and 41.2%.

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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.***

Focused Police Activity

MATAC

MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating) meetings continue to be held on a monthly basis at Dumbarton Police Office and are attended by representatives from Police, ASSIST, Housing and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Office. High tariff offenders are discussed at this meeting and actions are delegated to respective agencies with the intention to target the offender and reduce the danger to the victim. Previous partners are identified and interviewed to ascertain if they too have been victims of domestic abuse. MATAC has been highly successful in the apprehension of a number of high tariff offenders.

MARAC

Plans are progressing to introduce MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) within Argyll and Bute. These meetings are typically held on a monthly basis and are also attended by representatives from a number of agencies. Victims of domestic abuse are discussed at this meeting and plans are developed to provide support and safety for these victims.

Festive Domestic Abuse Campaign

Police Scotland initiated a Festive Campaign which lasted 13 days from 21 December 2014. A number of local initiatives were implemented including the execution of a high volume of warrants. Domestic offenders were targeted during this period and the warrants initiative was highly successful. All domestic offenders were visited to ensure that they were complying with bail conditions and curfews and warning letters were handed to all persons arrested for domestic related incidents.

Domestic Abuse Leaflets

A successful bid was made and community planning funds obtained to print domestic abuse leaflets. These leaflets provided contact numbers for a number of local support agencies. They have been distributed throughout the division in Community Centres, Health Centres etc. Various support agencies have highly commended these leaflets.

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, recent events in Paris highlight the necessity for vigilance at all

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times. Police Scotland continues to target and disrupt the activities those involved 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 Groups, raise awareness and improve information sharing between agencies.***

The most recent intelligence assessment (December 2014) of those involved in Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) in Argyll and Bute indicates the current picture remains unchanged. There continues to be 2 identified SOC Groups in operation within the area however both are assessed to present a Low Risk to the local communities within Argyll & Bute. These groups continue to be closely monitored through a robust internal governance group which manages and directs activity in relation to any actionable intelligence to ensure police activity is focused on those individuals that pose the greatest threat, risk and harm.

The crime of choice for many individuals linked to SOC within Argyll and Bute is the supply and distribution of controlled drugs. Furthermore, results from the recent public consultation survey carried out in December 2015 indicate that drug dealing/misuse continues to have a significant impact on local communities across Argyll and Bute. Whilst there has been a noticeable reduction in the number of drug supply detections, shown below, tackling those involved in this form of criminality continues to be prioritised.

Serious & Organised Crime		Apr 2014 - Dec 2014	Apr 2013 - Dec 2013	% Change
22	Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	35	59	-40.7%

Focused Police Activity

Shop a Dealer Campaign

Work is ongoing to improve detections for drug supply across Argyll and Bute and a pro-active policing plan has been developed which incorporates a media strategy to highlight the "SHOP A DEALER" campaign and engagement with the local community in order to improve the current intelligence picture. Intelligence development work continues in order to scope the full extent of SOC within the area.

Multi Agency Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Group

The joint Multi-Agency Counter Terrorism and Serious and Organised Crime Group is now well established and multi agency sub groups created, with chair persons identified, to ensure clear direction is provided in respect of partnership work to tackle issues surrounding recruitment and support of organised criminality/terrorist groups, the gathering and dissemination of intelligence to the correct partner agencies and preparation to strengthen our resilience and emergency procedures to reduce the

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risk and mitigate against any long term loss should the worst occur. 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.

HMNB Clyde

HMNB Clyde, Faslane which is within the Argyll and Bute Command Area poses a unique and demanding policing issue with regular demonstrations been organised and held outside the base. Officers were deployed to a planned demonstration at Faslane on Sunday 30th November 2014 when over 1500 protestors turned out. This was the largest protest for 2 years. Officers were deployed to this event in order to prevent any antisocial behaviour or acts of disorder and also minimise the disruption to the local community.

Prevent Activity

Argyll and Bute Youth services have agreed for Police Scotland to present an ACT Now presentation to its youth mentors training weekend with a view to carrying out further inputs to community groups throughout the Argyll & Bute area.

Acquisitive Crime

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.**

The following table shows our performance across the current YTD period:-

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

Across the year to date period acquisitive crime levels have continued in a downward trend with an overall reduction of around 9% compared to the same comparative period last year. Housebreaking crimes have reduced by 6.1% and to date around 31.2% of all crimes reported have been detected.

Focused Police Activity

Housebreaking

Housebreaking and associated crimes impact greatly on the victims, irrespective of whether the crime occurs at a private or business address. The personal and intrusive nature of the crime combined with loss of personal possessions often leaves a lasting impact on the victim. In the majority of cases the home targeted will be unoccupied minimising the risk of capture to the perpetrator during the commission of the crime. The investigation of all instances of housebreaking is a divisional priority

with a high standard of investigation expected commensurate with the nature of the crime.

The initial response to any housebreaking call is afforded priority status and the attending officers and supervisors must ensure the scene is properly preserved, with scene examination conducted for all instances of housebreaking and associated crimes to maximise the opportunity for retrospective detections. Whilst crime levels have slightly reduced, this will continue to be reinforced and advanced, supported by a standardised response for victims, ensuring all reports of housebreaking across Argyll and Bute are fully investigated, with continued focus on detecting offenders who engage in this type of criminality.

Operation Quarterlight

On 20th January 2015, Police Scotland launched Operation Quarterlight, a national campaign to tackle car crime and vehicle theft across the country. Operation Quarterlight will be implemented throughout Scotland to identify and target those responsible for vehicle break-ins and thefts. Officers will focus on the prevention of vehicle crime by engaging with partners, key stakeholders and members of the public. By changing habits, and working in partnership, vehicle crime can be prevented.

In Argyll and Bute, there has been an increase in plant theft, quad bikes, trailers and diesel, particularly in the winter months. The local farming community is one area that has been targeted. Local policing along with the divisional roads policing, will continue to target individuals involved in this type of crime, with regular road blocks and linking in with the communities providing prevention information. Prevention is key and the local communities are being encouraged to ensure their equipment and vehicles are kept in a secure location and that their keys are kept out of sight.

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.

Helen Swann
Chief Superintendent
Local Police Commander