



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

Argyll & Bute Local Policing Plan 2014 – 2017

Quarterly Report / Q4 – 2014/15



As Divisional Commander for Argyll and West Dunbartonshire division I am pleased to present the final quarterly report for Argyll and Bute for 2014/15 performance year. 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 continue 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

Throughout the current performance year (1st April 2014 – 31st December 2014), and more notably across the 5 year average, Argyll and Bute has experienced a significant downward trend across all crime categories. The reduction in crime levels is primarily due to noticeable reductions in violence and antisocial behaviour, crimes of indecency and acquisitive crime.

Local Area Commanders Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie and newly appointed Chief Inspector Paul Robertson 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 and Lorn and Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the islands supported by Inspector Julie McLeish (Campbeltown & Lochgilphead) and Inspector Mark Stephen (Oban). Chief Inspector Robertson is currently supported by Inspector Gordon Anderson (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, local officers within Argyll and Bute Command Area continue to 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 the Big Blockade at HMNB Clyde and the Mull Music Festival where there is potential for increased levels of antisocial and violent behaviour.

Road Safety & Road Crime

Road Safety and Road Crime continues to be the top policing priority identified by local communities across Argyll and Bute, specifically speeding and dangerous driving. The Road Policing Unit continues to facilitate dedicated Road Policing officers routinely patrolling the main crash routes and locations in order to influence driver behaviour and prevent road crashes.

Figures for the end of the current performance year indicate significant reductions in the number of road casualties year on year:-

| Road Traffic Casualty Statistics | Apr 2014 - Mar 2015 | Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 | Victims | % Change |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| People Killed | 4 | 10 | 6 fewer | -60.0% |
| People Seriously injured | 37 | 53 | 16 fewer | -30.2% |
| People Slightly Injured | 163 | 149 | 14 more | 9.4% |
| Children (aged<16) Killed | 0 | 0 | None | - |
| Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured | 1 | 0 | 1 more | - |
| Road Safety & Road Crime | Apr 2014 - Mar 2015 | Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 | Victims | % Change |
| Dangerous driving | 78 | 79 | | -1.3% |
| Speeding | 2,068 | 2,133 | | -3.0% |
| Disqualified driving | 5 | 11 | | -54.5% |
| Driving Licence | 130 | 180 | | -27.8% |
| Insurance | 188 | 208 | | -9.6% |
| Seat Belts | 332 | 631 | | -47.4% |
| Mobile Phone | 202 | 301 | | -32.9% |

Robust and targeted policing activity at identified road crash locations - focused specifically on speeding and dangerous driving - has had a significant impact on the total number of persons killed and seriously injured. While this year has seen a reduction in other types of road traffic offences detected, local officers remain committed to detection of offenders who persist in driving without valid licences, insurance or vehicle test certificates, with regular detection and seizures of the offenders' vehicles.

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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.***

Focused Police Activity

Operation Zenith

Operation Zenith is a national operation will take place between April to September 2015 aimed at motor cycle safety and reducing the number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on Scotland's roads.

The geography of Argyll and Bute with fast sweeping rural roads has long been a favourite with motorcyclists who attend to use these roads either as solo riders or in groups, often at weekends or early evening when the weather is dry. The Divisional Road Policing Unit (DRPU) is fully committed to Operation Zenith and it currently forms part of our action planning every week, particularly the areas of A82, A83 and A85.

Multi Agency Road Safety Partnership

The Argyll Multi Agency Road Safety Partnership met on 5th February 2015 with a new revised structure and new members including the Argyll and Bute Road Safety Officer. Several events have been planned for the forthcoming period.

DRPU and officers from the Force Motorcycle Team recently supported a multi agency motorcycle safety event at the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar organised by the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum. This included interaction with bikers, highlighting their vulnerabilities and dangers to other road users. Throughout the forthcoming period and particularly on dry evenings, DRPU will continue to focus on the main motorcycling routes, educating and encouraging motorcyclists to drive safely. This will also aim to improve the awareness of other drivers as to the increased presence of motorcycles on the roads within Argyll and Bute.

Unfortunately still too many motorcyclists have been caught riding dangerously and/or at high speed. Several have been detected and prosecuted for riding well in excess of 100 mph on the roads within Argyll. There has been two slight injury crashes during April involving motorcycles and one tragically involving fatal injuries on the A85 near Taynuilt.

Prominent Crash Locations

Regular road checks continue to be carried out by DRPU crews as part of daily operational policing. These checks focus on vehicle road worthiness, speed, documentation, drivers and vehicle occupants involved in criminality. Speed checks are centred at prominent crash locations or areas that have been identified as potential risks through excessive speed. These areas can be identified through complaints, traffic management surveys and pro-active patrolling.

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Produced by Police Scotland Analysis & Performance Unit on 21st April 2015

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Operation Horizon & Operation Quarterlight

Road checks have also been carried out within Argyll in partnership with local officers under the banner of both Operation Horizon and Operation Quarterlight, aimed at the prevention and detection of travelling criminals and theft of and from vehicles respectively. Operation Quarterlight has also seen seminars in relation to theft of plant and vehicles within the rural farming communities of Cowal. Similar multi agency Quarterlight events are planned for the farming community in June in the Kilmartin area of Mid Argyll.

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

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

- ∨ **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.**

Year end figures indicate that there has been a significant reduction in levels of violence and antisocial behaviour across Argyll and Bute over the previous year. Group 1 crimes have reduced by 30.4%, largely due to a reduction in offences relating to Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 1937 s.12 and a reduction of six crimes of robbery, meaning only one robbery took place within Argyll and Bute across the entire 12 month period. Detection rates for all 'serious' violent crime remain particularly high.

The table below shows crime figures 2014/15 compared to 2013/14 :-

| Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour | Apr 2014 - Mar 2015 | Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 | Victims | % Change |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence | 55 | 79 | 24 fewer | -30.4% |
| Murder | 1 | 0 | 1 more | - |
| Attempted Murder | 1 | 2 | 1 fewer | -50.0% |
| Culpable Homicide (common law) | 1 | 0 | 1 more | - |
| Culpable Homicide (other) | 3 | 2 | 1 more | 50.0% |
| Serious Assault detection rate | 100% | 100% | | 0.0% |
| Serious Assault | 23 | 23 | same number | 0.0% |
| Robbery detection rate | 100% | 100% | | 0.0% |
| Robbery | 1 | 7 | 6 fewer | -85.7% |

| Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour (Cont'd) | Apr 2014 - Mar 2015 | Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 | Victims | % Change |
|---|--|--|----------------|---------------------|
| Common assault | 656 | 697 | 41 fewer | -5.9% |
| Common assault detection rate | 86.4% | 87.1% | | -0.7% |
| Number of complaints regarding disorder | 2,944 | 3,555 | 611 fewer | -17.2% |

Similarly, crimes involving low level disorder and ASB have also seen significant reductions. The number of Common Assault crimes reported has reduced by 5.9% year on year while detection rates remained high at 86.4%, well above the target which was set at 80%. Complaints of disorder have also reduced by 17.2% and ASB incidents reported by members of the public have reduced by 8.8% with noticeable reductions in Helensburgh, Cowal and Bute areas.

In line with the geographical profile of Argyll and Bute, analysis shows crimes and incidents are concentrated within the town centre areas, however despite the reduction in violence and ASB level, Helensburgh, Dunoon and Rothesay continue to experience a higher volume of crimes and incidents than other areas.

Effective use of the Divisional Violence Prevention Strategy and Directed Policing Plans, which are informed by analytical products produced at a local level, ensures local officers continue to manage the threat and risk posed by specific individuals and at identified problematic locations.

Focused Police Activity

One Punch Initiative

One Punch is an initiative aimed at MDP and Royal Navy personnel to highlight the consequences of being involved in violence. Two events have already been scheduled for 20th and 21st May 2015 and will involve a joint agency approach with members from Police Scotland, Ministry of Defence Police, The Royal Navy and Babcock International all on board.

The two day event will see three inputs to service men, women and apprentices regarding the dangers of 'One Punch' incidents and advisory information regarding sexual offences. Both inputs will be just part of several methods used to provide education on these subjects. All agencies have internal web sites and magazines which will cover the initiative. The message places heavy emphasis on the onus of responsibility for the actions of the individual concerned, with an equally strong message about the prevention of such incidents by the intervention of bystanders. All inputs will take place on site at HMNB Clyde.

Oban Pubwatch Scheme

The Pubwatch Scheme in Oban has been established with a revised format which is similar to the other schemes operating in the Division. The support from the premises has been encouraging and licensing staff will continue to build on this. This scheme provides a proven deterrent to violence and anti social behaviour in licensed premises and is in place before the busy summer season. To date one warning and one 3 months ban have been issued.

Test Purchasing

Several test purchasing operations have been carried out in the Helensburgh and Lomond area. During these operations 12 off sales premises were subject to test purchase with only one failure being recorded. The premises in question have had support and guidance from licensing staff to rectify a failing in their management in order to prevent this occurring again.

Agent Purchase

Police Scotland are working with premises and licensing standards officers to prevent the purchase of alcohol by persons on behalf of children. This includes education and awareness training for off sales staff, promotion of the “Challenge 25” scheme and where appropriate additional patrols will be carried out in the vicinity of these premises.

Protecting Vulnerable People

As shown below the total number of Group 2 Crimes of Indecency has reduced considerably during 2014/15 with a decrease in crime of 21.1% and at least 28 fewer victims year on year. Overall the detection rate remained high at 77.1% albeit this figure has reduced compared to the previous year.

| | Apr 2014 – Mar 2015 | Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 | Victims | % Change |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Group 2 – Crimes of Indecency | 105 | 133 | 28 fewer | -21.1% |
| Group 2 crimes detection rate | 77.1% | 84.2% | | -7.1% |
| Rape detection rate | 47.8% | 71.4% | | -23.6% |

While the total number of Group 2 crimes has reduced, there has been a slight increase in the number of crimes involving Rape. A significant proportion of these crimes have been historical and this has impacted on the overall detection rate which has reduced compared to the previous year and remains below target.

Focused Police Activity

National Child Abuse Investigation Unit

On Monday 20 April, Police Scotland launched the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit (NCAIU), a specialist unit to support the investigation of complex child abuse and neglect across Scotland. The NCAIU is a unit of specially trained officers located across the country. They provide local policing teams with consistent, high quality support for robust investigations into reports of complex child abuse and neglect, including child sexual exploitation and on-line child abuse.

MARAC

Work continues with A&B Council, Assist and Police to get a MARAC up and running for the area. An awareness raising day has already been held in Oban by ASSIST (Advocacy Safety Services Information Support Together) which was attended by

partners. Training will be given to all staff in anticipation of MARAC starting in October 2015.

Risk & Concern Hub

A new EEI co-ordinator for Argyll and Bute has been appointed and is linking in with the Risk & Concern Hub based at Dumbarton. The re offending rate across Argyll and Bute & West Dunbartonshire Division is 10% which is significantly lower than the national average of 35 % and is a strong indication as to the success of the Risk & Concern Hub and partner agencies working well together. A Missing Person Co-ordinator has also recently been appointed as part of the hub; PC McKay will work closely with the EEI team, Local Authority Residential Establishments and Adult Care Homes in relation to missing persons.

CEOP / Online Offending

The internet remains an ever increasing threat to children across all communities, not only within Argyll and Bute. It is assessed this threat will continue to rise with the ever increasing availability of devices and new devices evolving which are increasingly smarter. An effective multi agency response in dealing with one such recent investigation resulted in a male pleading guilty to numerous internet and sexual offence charges and he will be sentenced in May.

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.***

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, events in other countries over recent months highlight the necessity for vigilance at all times. Police Scotland continues to target and disrupt the activities of 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***

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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 end of year Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) intelligence assessment indicates that the threat / risk posed to the communities within Argyll and Bute remains unchanged. There continues to be 2 identified SOC Groups in operation within the area both of which are assessed to present a Low Risk. Intelligence development work continues to establish the nature and full extent of these groups' criminality within the area and identify new groups. The 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 primary function of these groups continues to be assessed as drug supply and distribution within the local area. Tackling those involved in this form of criminality continues to be prioritised. Despite increased police pro-activity and engagement with the local community, police operations have had limited success however further activity is planned for the forthcoming period.

| | Serious & Organised Crime | Apr 2014 - Mar 2015 | Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 | | % Change |
|--|---|---------------------|---------------------|--|----------|
| | Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation | 42 | 78 | | -46.2% |

Focused Police Activity

Enforcement Activity

Recent police operations have led to the arrest of a number of persons linked to one of the key SOC crime groups within Argyll and Bute. Significant quantities of diazepam, heroin and cocaine were recovered as a result. Further police activity / intelligence development is required to ascertain the full extent of their involvement within the local drug supply network.

Business and Community Resilience

An activation exercise for six community resilience plans took place on Tuesday 31st March facilitated by Carol Keeley from Argyll and Bute Council and Insp Ian Wallace from Police Scotland. The feedback from the Community Councils that participated was that the exercise was very worthwhile and they took a lot from it. The specific feedback was collated and circulated to all the participant Community Councils to allow them to incorporate the learning into their own plan. Similar exercises are planned throughout the year looking to test all of the completed plans.

HMNB Clyde – Faslane

Operation Arapya, the Police Scotland operation relating to the big blockade organised by the Scrap Trident Coalition for Monday 13th April 2015 went ahead as planned. Approximately 250 protestors attended at the North Gate, South Gate and Oil Fuel Depot Gate at 0700hrs. A sit down protest utilising 'lock-on' devices immediately occurred blockading all gates. Protestors' activity focused on the South

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Access Road where some doused themselves in paint. A total of 36 arrests were made (34 Police Scotland and 2 MDP). Pedestrian access was maintained at all time and vehicle access was reinstated at the South Gate at 1300 hours with the operational work of the base largely unaffected by the protest.

Prevent

Work continues by the multi agency Prevent/Divert sub group at which Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) is represented by a number of individuals from Education, Youth services and Trading Standards. ABC have agreed a local implementation plan which complies with the UK Government's Contest Strategy and ensures they meet their obligation in relation to the new legislation covering Prevent.

Rural Watch

Lomond North Rural Watch and Cardross & Ardmore Rural Watch both continue to attract members with membership numbers currently around 100 and 30 respectively. The Rural Watch initiative continues to spread across Cowal including the Isle of Mull and soon the Isle of Bute. Arrangements are in place for the Isle of Bute to be covered by its own watch starting from early May 2015. The watch system continues to facilitate the passing of information regarding local crimes to members appealing for information and advising vigilance.

Joint patrols with Ministry of Defence Police Officers continue to be carried out visiting areas of mutual interest and concern around the Lomond North Area and the Naval Bases on the Clyde.

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 table below shows our performance in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14 :-

| Acquisitive Crime | Apr 2014 - Mar 2015 | Apr 2013 - Mar 2014 | Victims |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate | 30.3% | 32.4% | |
| Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) | 152 | 170 | 18 fewer |
| Doorstep / Bogus Crime | 5 | 4 | 1 More |

Levels of acquisitive crime occurring across Argyll and Bute have continued in a downward trend throughout 2014/15 with significant reductions noted in housebreaking crime, vehicle crime and other crimes of dishonesty. The table shows the total number of housebreakings (including attempts) has reduced by 10.6%, however when considering only crimes occurring at domestic dwelling houses

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there has been a reduction of 28%. Although crime levels have reduced, detection rates have remained relatively unchanged at 30.3% compared to 32.4% for the previous year.

Similarly the number of Bogus or Doorstep crimes being reported across Argyll and Bute remains particularly low with 5 crimes occurring across the entire 12 month period. No specific area experienced a higher number of crimes. Two of the five crimes reported occurred in the Helensburgh area although there were several months between the two incidents.

Focused Police Activity

Operation Quarterlight

The national operation, Quarterlight aimed at tackling vehicle theft across the country currently has particular focus in 6 divisions around Scotland – C (Forth Valley), E (Edinburgh), L (Argyll & West Dunbartonshire), G (Greater Glasgow), N (Highlands & Islands) and U (Ayrshire). The operation has taken a two-pronged approach – detection and prevention.

Since its launch in November 2014, nearly 900 vehicle related crimes have been detected, with detection rates increasing across most of the country. More than 350 people have been charged with a number of vehicle related crimes in that time, including theft & attempted theft of motor vehicles, and housebreaking with intent to steal vehicles.

At a local level officers continue to proactively target those involved in this form of criminality working alongside Road Policing officers in Crimebreaker operations. Social media continues to be utilised in order to reinforce preventative measures.

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