

Keeping People Safe in Argyll & Bute

Our Purpose:- To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland

Road Safety & Road Crime

DRPU pro-activity continues to be focussed on priority routes; A82, A83, A85, A815, A816, A814.



Three fatal road collisions occurred within Argyll & Bute during Qtr 3 which brings the YTD figure to 7, versus 3 last year. However, serious injuries have reduced slightly from 48 to 44 and slight injuries from 158 to 121. Overall this equates to 37 fewer casualties.



The total number of road traffic offences recorded remains 23.7% lower than the figure recorded in the same YTD period last year. Reduced crime levels are largely due to reductions in speeding and careless driving offences. Dangerous driving offences have also reduced considerably.

Violence & Antisocial Behaviour



Set against last year's figure, the total number of Group 1 crimes of violence recorded YTD in Argyll & Bute has increased by 12.5% from 48 to 54. Slight increases in serious assault and robbery crimes accounts for the change. The number of common assaults recorded is almost unchanged year on year (0.2%).

Over half of all violent crimes occurred in a private space and in 64% of all cases the victim knew the offender



In the current YTD period, an average of 67 stop search have been carried out per month in A&B

Complaints relating to disorder remain 3.5% lower which equates to 72 fewer incidents. ASB related crimes including breach of the peace, CJLS S.38 and drunk and disorderly conduct remain relatively unchanged year on year.

The detection rate for violent crime remains high at 81.4% which is similar to last year's figure. Detection rates of serious assaults and robbery are also high at 91.2% and 80%, respectively.

Public Protection



YTD Group 2 sexual crimes remain 9.8% higher than in the same period last year however this is an improvement from the position at the end of Qtr 2 (38.4%). In total 134 crimes have been recorded compared to 122 last year. Increased crime levels are largely due to a slight increase in rape and indecent assault crimes.



68% of all sexual crimes were committed by persons known to the victim

The detection rate for all Group 2 sexual shows a slight improvement from last year at 62.7% versus 53.3%. Whilst the rape detection rate remains slightly lower at 51.6% compared to 72.2% last year, in number terms 3 more crimes have been detected.



YTD the number of missing person incidents recorded is almost unchanged on last year (368). On average 41 incidents are recorded per month. Around 70% of all MP incidents continue to relate to Looked After Children.

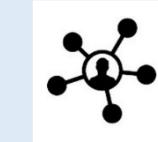
At the end of Qtr 3 the number of unique incidents where an Adult / Child Concern had been raised remains 4.8% lower than last year, mainly due to a decrease in child concerns and those relating to youth offending.

Domestic abuse crimes and incidents continue to show a slight downward trend. YTD incidents have reduced by 6% (n=31) and crimes/offences have reduced by 1.2% (4).

User satisfaction results as at 31 December 2018 show that in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire public confidence levels remain high at 81.8% YTD. Furthermore, figures also indicate 84.3% of persons were satisfied with how police dealt with their incident.

Argyll & Bute Local Policing Plan (2017 – 2020) Quarterly Report (Qtr 3 – 2018/19)

Major Crime & Terrorism

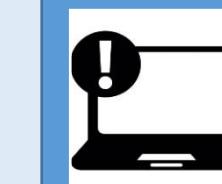


Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire 75 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £501,438.20 seized under POCA.

Detections for drugs supply have reduced by 24.3% from 37 to 24. Drug possession charges remain 10.1% higher with 168 crimes recorded YTD versus 185 last year.



Drug related deaths remain low but has increased from 3 to 4 compared to the same YTD period last year. In 3 of the 4 deaths the victim had consumed a variety of drug types which included heroin, etizolam and methadone.



In total 31 cybercrimes have been recorded within Argyll & Bute YTD. These related to either abusive or threatening messages or indecent images. To date 11 of these crimes have been detected.

Acquisitive Crime



Vehicle crimes have reduced by 31.3%



Housebreakings have increased by 43.8%

Levels of acquisitive crime in Argyll & Bute remain 8.3% higher than last year. At the end of Qtr 3 housebreaking crimes show an increase of 43.8% compared to last year, largely due to a rise in crimes targeting non dwelling and commercial properties. This continues to be slightly offset slightly by a 31.3% reduction in vehicle crime. The detection rate for acquisitive crime overall has reduced slightly from 37.4% to 36.9% however the rate for domestic housebreaking has increased marginally from 21.9% to 23.8%.



Bogus crimes have increased from 1 to 9 compared to the same period last year. Most crimes involve social engineering fraud.

Economy is Diverse & Thriving

Infrastructure supports sustainable growth

Recruitment of Police Officers in Argyll & Bute

Supported by Force Recruitment at Jackton, the division has advertised via the College of Policing website for transferees to come and join Police Scotland, specifically in A&B. This has led to a number of applications from both Constables and Supervisors. At the last transferee intake in October, one Sergeant and one Constable joined Police Scotland L Division. A further intake is expected in March 2019, with potential transferees for L Division going through the assessment / interview process in January 2019.

In addition, traditional recruiting campaigns have been led by Police Scotland Recruitment, supported locally by L Division. This has been designed to showcase A&B as a place to work / live. A couple of examples of this were the use of PS Audio Visual Unit to produce marketing images of officers / rural locations and landmarks to support recruitment campaigns and throughout summer 2018, Audio Visual Unit were facilitated to attend various locations in A&B, including many of our pre-planned events, to obtain promotional images.

On 12 January 2019, targeted recruitment events were held in Oban and Campbeltown to target local communities in Argyll & Bute and encourage people to consider a career in policing. These events were also advertised via local Social Media channels.

Third Party Reporting Centres (TPRC)

Work is underway to increase the number of Third Party Reporting Centres (TPRC) within Argyll and Bute. Third Party Reporting Centres support members of the public who have been the victim of a Hate Crime. When a member of the public does not wish to approach the Police, does not have access to a computer, or would just prefer some personal support, the staff within the TPRC are there to support and assist them in the completion of a Police Scotland Online Hate Crime Reporting Form. Examples of Third Party Reporting Centres are Housing Associations and Support Services such as Citizens Advice Bureau. The first stage of training new premises with Argyll and Bute commences January 2019.

Comfort Teddies

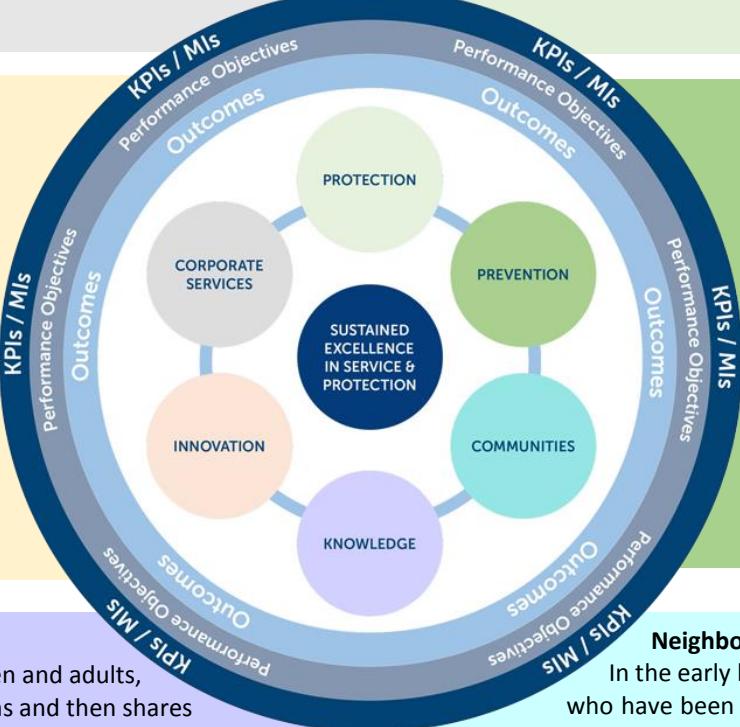
The launch of the Comfort Teddies continues to generate a lot of interest and knitting activity across the Sub Division. Recently the Kilmore Women's Institute donated a number of teddies to join the gang. The Teddies are being used by officers to give out to children who have been affected by a wide range of issues including domestic violence, road traffic collisions, and bullying.

Improved Service - Concern Hub

The divisional Concern Hub manages all information aligned to vulnerable people, children and adults, who come onto contact with Police and partners. The hub identifies risk and concerns and then shares relevant information with partner agencies to ensure appropriate care and support for those individuals and families. To further improve this service a new 7 day working pattern has recently been implemented for staff. This fundamental change will ensure support is further enhanced for the most vulnerable people in our communities in both West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute.

Improved Public Engagement

Social Media is fast becoming an invaluable tool for community engagement. In addition to traditional methods of engagement Police Scotland can now reach large numbers of people with important Community Safety messaging, seek their help through appeals for information, update them on our policing activity and encourage them to provide us with feedback. In the last quarter, the combined reach of the messaging on our Facebook alone was 894,221 people.



Festive Safety Campaign

Plans around the Festive Safety Campaign were in place throughout the festive period with early morning road checks, town centre foot patrols targeting shoppers and high visibility late/night shift patrols targeting the night time economy with visits to licensed premises and transport hub locations.

Disrupting Serious & Organised Crime

On 15 November 2018 a local day of action took place within the Dunoon area of Argyll & Bute to target persons alleged to be involved in the supply and distribution of controlled drugs within the local area. Three residential premises were searched under warrant. All three resulted in the recovery of controlled drugs. These included approximately 420 grams of herbal cannabis, 20 grams of cannabis, 8.4 grams of cocaine and 1.6 grams of heroin. A quantity of firearms ammunition was also recovered.

Time for Inclusive Education

During November officers from Lochgilphead supported the Tie (Time for Inclusive Education) Campaign at Tarbert Academy. This initiative concentrates on how to improve the inclusive education experience for LGBTI young people and explores prejudice based bullying. Officers gave inputs on the definition of hate crime, what to do if you are a victim of such crime and consequences if you commit such a crime. The inputs were well received by pupils.

Focussed Road Safety

The increased number of fatalities occurring with Argyll & Bute is concerning despite the reduction in serious and slight injuries. Local and Road Policing officers have focused visible patrols and increased both driver engagement and the number of static checks on the priority routes; A82, A3, A85. Specific actions have been drawn up to address causation factors including dangerous and careless driving, speed and failing to obey signs. Going forward work will be done to engage with older road users, motorcyclists, tourists and heavy good vehicles and increase partnership activity with DVSA, local policing, the Camera Safety Unit and National Motorcycle Unit. Additionally, Road Policing officers are delivering training to local policing officers in use of speed detection radar to address community speed concerns and continue to increase visibility and road safety awareness.

The Live Crash Scene input was delivered in Oban at Mossfield stadium on 3 December where officers and partners from Scottish Fire and Rescue and the Scottish Ambulance service demonstrated the work of agencies responding to a serious road collision and issued warnings as to the dangers of driving whilst using a mobile phone. Drama students from Oban High School assisted in acting various parts during the course of the input and the local press and social media reported positively on the event.

Neighbourhood ALERT – Communities working together

In the early hours 6 January 2019 local officers at Dunoon took a report of a van with two males on board who have been involved in the theft of a quantity of lead and copper from a dwelling house on the outskirts of Dunoon. Officers responded promptly and having gleaned a good description of the vehicle involved sent out a Neighbourhood ALERT without delay. This was received by in excess of 1000 users in the area, with many of those forwarding the ALERT onto other strands of social media. A number of calls and messages were received with one in particular, from a Rural Watch member in Cairndow, Argyll, leading local officers to the vehicle concerned – some 25 miles away from the crime location. The vehicle was found to contain the stolen metals. The two males were detained in custody for court and their van seized due to having no policy of insurance.

Livestock Worrying Campaign

The 'Your Dog Your Responsibility' livestock worrying campaign has commenced which was developed by Mid Argyll police Officer PC Ben Rusden in conjunction with Argyll and Bute Council Dog Warden and NFU. The aim of the campaign is to educate dog owners and remind them of their responsibilities when their dogs are around livestock. This is particularly concerning around this time of year as the lambing season approaches. Local police officers have been issued guidance around evidence gathering and action that should be taken following a dog attack on livestock.

People live active healthier & independent lives

People live in safer, stronger communities

Have your say ! - Your View Counts - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CXH85XJ>