



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

During Qtr 4, DRPU activity involved focused visible patrols, increased driver engagement and a number of static checks on the priority routes; A82, A83 and A85.



There was a significant increase in fatal road collisions during 2018/19 compared to the previous year. A further 2 fatalities were recorded during Qtr 4, bringing the total figure to 9 compared to 4 in the 2017/18. Serious injuries also increased from 51 to 53 however a significant reduction in slight injuries from 185 to 146 means the total number of casualties overall has reduced by 34.



The total number of road traffic offences recorded decreased by 16.5% compared to 2017/18. Reduced crime levels are largely due to reductions in speeding and careless driving offences. The number of dangerous driving offences was almost unchanged at 83 compared to 82 in the previous year.

Violence & Antisocial Behaviour



Year-end figures for 2018/19 show a 29.7% increase in Group 1 violent crime within Argyll & Bute. Slight increases in serious assault and robbery crimes account for most of the change. Three culpable homicide crimes and 3 murders were also recorded compared to one the previous year. The number of common assaults recorded is almost unchanged year on year (0.5%).

Over half of all serious assaults occurred in a private space, in 70% the victim knew the offender

On average 67 stop search were carried out in A&B each month during 2018/19

Complaints relating to disorder saw marginal change year on year (0.8%). Similarly, the total number of ASB related crimes including breach of the peace, CJS S.38 and drunk and disorderly conduct remain relatively unchanged year on year (-0.5%).

The detection rate for violence crime remained high at 78.3%, albeit slightly below last year's figure of 82.5%, as did the detection rate for serious assaults at 87.5%. At the year end the detection rate of robbery was at 57.1%.

Public Protection



The total number of Group 2 sexual crimes increased by 2.7% during 2018/19 compared to the previous year which equates to 4 more crimes being recorded. Rape crimes increased slightly from 36 to 39 and indecent assaults from 67 to 75.

78% of sexual crimes occurred in a private space, mainly residential dwelling homes

66% of all sexual crimes were committed by persons known to the victim

The overall detection rate for all Group 2 sexual crimes increased slightly to 59.2% compared to 55.3% in 2017/18. However, the detection rate for rape crime remained below last year's figure at 46.2% compared to 61.8%. In number terms this equates to 13 fewer crimes being detected.



YTD the number of missing person incidents recorded is almost unchanged on last year (368). On average 40 incidents are recorded per month. Almost 70% of all MP incidents related to Looked After Children.

At the year end, figures show the total unique incidents where an Adult / Child Concerns raised was relatively unchanged year on year (+0.8%). Adult concerns (inc. Domestic Abuse) and concerns relating to youth offending saw a marginal increase.

Compared to 2017/18 the total number of domestic abuse crimes and incidents recorded across Argyll and Bute remained fairly consistent. Domestic abuse incidents reduced by 1.7% from 652 to 641 and domestic abuse crimes increased by 3.7% from 406 to 421.

User satisfaction results as at 31 March 2019 show that in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire public confidence levels in the police remain high at 81.3% during 2018/19. Furthermore, figures also indicate 82.6% of persons were satisfied with how police dealt with their incident.

Argyll & Bute

Local Policing Plan (2017 – 2020)

Quarterly Report (Qtr 4 – 2018/19)

Major Crime & Terrorism



Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire 88 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £519,058.20 seized under POCA.

Detections for drugs supply were unchanged year on year with 42 recorded. Drug possession charges increased by 10.7%. In total 392 crimes recorded versus 354 in 2017/18.

Compared to the previous year drug related deaths increased from 3 to 8. To date 4 of these have been confirmed, toxicology results are awaited for the other 4. In most cases the victim had consumed a variety of drug types which included heroin, etizolam and methadone.



In total 42 cybercrimes have been recorded within Argyll & Bute YTD. These related to either abusive or threatening messages or indecent images. To date 14 of these crimes have been detected.

Acquisitive Crime



Vehicle crimes reduced by 29.2%



Housebreakings increased by 54.9%

Acquisitive crime in Argyll & Bute increased by 10.8% during 2018/19 compared to the previous year. Most types of acquisitive crime have seen an increase however there has been a significant increase in housebreaking crimes, specifically those occurring at non-dwelling and commercial properties. Theft by shoplifting and fraud crimes have also seen a notable increase. The detection rate remains relatively unchanged overall at 36.6%. For housebreaking crimes it has reduced slightly from 27.5% to 24.1% and for vehicle crime from 41.5% to 39.6%.



Bogus crimes have increased from 1 to 11 compared to the same period last year. Most crimes involve social engineering fraud.

LAUNCH OF NATIONAL MISSING PERSONS APPLICATION

Responding to reports of missing persons represents one of the biggest demands on policing resources. As missing persons are highly likely to travel across police divisions, the risks associated with tasking and management of missing person investigations are very high. The National Missing Persons Application will greatly enhance officers' ability to manage missing person enquiries and protect the most vulnerable in our society. It will provide investigating officers with access to all relevant information relating to a multi-area investigation. It has the ability to record where the missing person was last seen, where traced and plot these points on a map. In addition, where a missing person has gone missing repeatedly, functionality exists to plot all previously traced locations on the map. Over 90% of all officers have now been fully trained in the use of the new system.

POLICE SCOTLAND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

PSYV Campbeltown continues to grow and the youth volunteers have been involved in a number of local events. These have included fundraising prize bingo, a play by Baldwin Theatre Company through Road Safety Scotland called 'Better Late than Dead on Time' which took place at Campbeltown Grammar school and "See Me" Walk a mile in my shoes event to raise awareness of Mental Health in Argyll. The efforts of whole group were recognised at an awards ceremony which took place at MACC business park on 16 April 2019 when a range of awards were presented to both youth and adult volunteers.

IMPROVING AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

All L Division officers, as with every Police Scotland officer, are currently engaged in a bespoke training programme 'Domestic Abuse Matters (Scotland)' that has been designed to support officers and staff in the roll out of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. The training package provides guidance on practical issues like evidence gathering and reporting of coercive and controlling behaviours. Specifically, it will advance staff and officers' knowledge of the dynamics of power and control in abusive relationships and tackle the myths and misconceptions which are common in our communities.

Domestic abuse accounts for almost one quarter of violent crime in Scotland, this equates to Police Scotland officers attending a domestic related incident every nine minutes, however this is only likely to be a fraction of the abuse occurring in our communities. Domestic abuse is the greatest single demand on operational policing, taking up at least 20% of officers' time.

This new legislation which comes into force from 1 April 2019 criminalises coercive and controlling behaviour for the first time ever in Scotland. The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 will give Police Scotland a real opportunity to enrich our practices because coercive and controlling behaviours have long been recognised as a significant factor of domestic abuse and have been difficult to prosecute.

DIVISIONAL COMMANDERS RECOGNITION AWARDS

Officers, staff and many relatives attended the Argyll and Bute annual Divisional Recognition Awards ceremony, held at Dunoon Burgh Hall, Argyll Street, Dunoon on 12 March 2019. Twenty three police officers, police staff and partners were recognised under the following categories: Above & Beyond, Making a Difference, Continuous Endeavour, Team working, Outstanding Performer and Unsung Hero. External Partners Awards were presented in recognition of partners we depend on to deliver services to the people and communities we serve. These were awarded to HM Coastguard (Tarbert) and Ms Sheena McLean (Argyll and Bute ASB Coordinator) for their exemplary work in support of operational policing activities in the command area. Two Divisional Commanders Awards were also presented in recognition of the collective efforts of all divisional officers, departments and key partners in relation to the sinking of trawler 'Nancy Glen' on Loch Fyne and the murder of Alesha MacPhail on Bute.

WELLBEING MATTERS

1 February 2019 was **National Breathing Space Day** and division officers/staff were encouraged (along with everyone across Scotland) to take some 'breathing space' away from life's stresses by taking part in an activity they enjoy. Suggestions included visiting 'the great outdoors', going for a coffee, or simply taking a few moments to relax. The 'You Matter, We Care' theme encourages caring for self and others to highlight the benefits kindness and positive relationships can have on mental wellbeing and how making positive emotional connections with others enables learning more about self and the wider world, and also helps to notice signs of distress in others and take action.

During April the division has been highlighting the **NHS Health Scotland/SG Healthy Scotland** national campaign promoting sensible alcohol consumption. Campaign posters and 'Making a Change' campaign literature have been distributed across the division along with associated alcohol resource materials, such as unit alcohol measuring beakers, 'at a glance' unit measuring calculators and alcohol intake daily diaries.

SHUT OUT SCAMMERS

This new force wide campaign primarily focusses on doorstep crime prevention, as well as other scams that have a detrimental impact on householders including mail, telephone and online. In support of this campaign local officers warned members of the public that all households can be targeted by such fraudsters, many of whom have a link to organised crime groups. Police Scotland Lochgilhead, along with local Argyll and Bute Trading Standards Department, raised awareness by setting up a stall within the local Co-op and within Mid Argyll Hospital where they spoke with members of the public. Awareness was also raised through local Police Scotland Twitter and Facebook pages throughout Argyll and Bute.

PRO-ACTIVE POLICING - HELENSBURGH

Due to increased traffic volume on the A82 during the summer weather and intelligence surrounding drugs being conveyed on this road, a rolling action plan has been implemented at Helensburgh whereby officers set up static road blocks on the A82, ensuring road traffic legislation is being complied with and dealing with motorists in relation to various road traffic and drug offences. This has been very well received by local residents who have been stopped.

TARGETING LOCAL DRUG DEALERS

On 22 March 2019 local officers searched a residential premises within the Dunoon area which resulted in the recovery of a quarter kilo of cannabis resin. Two persons were subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply drugs.

ROAD CASUALTY PREVENTION

Daily deployments of DRPU to priority locations continues with a focus on enforcement of the behaviours most likely to result in collisions. Elderly drivers continue to feature in injury collisions and this is becoming more widely targeted as an emerging issue. Work with partners is ongoing to establish areas where we can work together addressing the issues that elderly drivers present.

In February, local officers also took part in the Speeding, Seatbelt and Mobile Phone Campaign. This was backed by a national / social media strategy and focusses on enforcement. In March the Vulnerable Road Users Campaign was launched which focussed activity on pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motorists whose behaviour places these groups at risk. Again, public engagement, media and enforcement were key elements.

The Motorcycle Campaign which is a program of 6 weeks of targeted activity focussing on motorcycles will run from April - September. Engagement and enforcement will concentrate on priority routes (A82/A83/A85) as identified by collision statistics and community concerns. In the first week of this year's campaign the DRPU arranged a joint initiative with RP officers from N & C Divisions along with the National Motorcycle Unit on A82/A84/A85. This activity was focussed on enforcement but opportunities to engage with motorcyclists at regular meeting points were taken. This approach was deemed highly successful and will be developed further over the summer months.

CRIME SCENE PRESERVATION TRAINING – LICENSED PREMISES

Police Scotland have been arranging Crime Scene Preservation (CSP) training for staff within licensed premises in the Helensburgh area. The training, which will be delivered to all staff, not only Designated Premises Manger/owners, will provide knowledge on how to effectively deal with crime scenes. The training is aimed at ensuring premises meet with the Licensing Objectives and includes dealing with emergency situations, scene preservation procedures, crowd management and how to report an incident amongst other important information. Local Pub Watch Groups will be updated.

LIVESTOCK WORRYING CAMPAIGN

As part of the ongoing Livestock Worrying Campaign, training workshops have taking place involving police and local farmers to educate police officers in what to look for and the action they should take if dealing with such incidents. These are set on a working farm so officers are hands on gaining experience in a realistic setting which has been well received and will be rolled out across other areas of Argyll and Bute.

INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS – USE OF DRONES

Police Scotland have been working with MDP to highlight the offences surrounding the use of drones in local restricted areas and in general where the public are present given the increase in popularity. MDP and Police Scotland rural affairs officer will give presentations at CC meeting as we move forward.

OPERATION IRONWORKS

Ironworks patrols are now in operation. Helensburgh officers are being trained to carry out joint patrols of the loch along with the National Park in order to better patrol the islands and enforce water based by laws.



Children & Young People have the best possible start

Education, skills & training maximise opportunities for all