



Local authority views on the year in policing 2018/19

Name of your local authority: **Argyll and Bute Council**

During 2018/19 -

1. How effective do you think Police Scotland's support for local scrutiny and engagement with your committee has been, in the past year?

Following Local Government Elections in May 2017, the Council agreed that the Police scrutiny function would transfer to the Community Services Committee.

Attendance at the meetings by the Chief Superintendent or her representative has been consistent, providing good, well informed updates to the Committee while also taking on board and responding to comments made by Elected Members.

The relationship that the Chief Superintendent has with elected members remains positive and productive.

2. How well do you think your local police plan reflected local priorities in 2018/19?

The local police plan has been heavily influenced by the 6 outcomes that have been created to support the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership (CPP) overarching strategic aim that "Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population", thereby aligning with the priorities which are important to our local communities.

Road safety remains a concern across Argyll and Bute given the implications when there are incidents which result in road closures for long periods of time, illustrated by the closure of the A83 (Rest and Be Thankful) in October 2018.

The rural nature of large parts of the Council area mean that priorities that are important in more urban areas can differ which is reflected in the plan, while also giving cognisance to national priorities in a local context such as counter terrorism/national security.

3. How effective has Police Scotland's reporting against the priorities in your local police plan been, in helping you understand how policing is performing?

The quarterly reports pick up on the local priorities and provide easy to digest information with graphical representation of statistics. Having the Chief Superintendent in attendance allows members to further interrogate the data and offers them opportunity to highlight areas of concerns or good practice.

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4. During 2018/19, do you think policing's performance in your area has improved, stayed about the same, or has dipped?

The Q4 update will be considered at the Community Service Committee on 13 June 2019 and therefore this response is based on Q1-Q3 data.

While we recognise that there have been a number of fatal road collisions the reduction in road traffic offences is welcomed as is the detection rate for violent crime which has never dropped below 80%. We also welcome almost £700k being seized under process of The Proceeds of Crime Act and the results of the public satisfaction survey have never dropped below 80%.

Consideration should be given to levels of acquisitive crime which have increased continually throughout the reporting period, as has the number of drugs related charges.

5. What are the top three things about policing in your area, which are working really well?

There have been a number of initiatives which have been welcomed including improved public engagement, illustrated by the Wellbeing Roadshows being held in Oban, Campbeltown, Dunoon and Rothesay, Choices for Life events held in Oban High School and Campbeltown Grammar and Mock Road Crash Events.

Police being responsive to requests from the local community for specific action. For example, dog fouling initiatives have been taken forward in Dunoon and Oban due to this being highlighted as an area of concern within those communities.

Generally the low levels of crime in Argyll and Bute allows police resources to be directed towards education and prevention such as the 'Raising Awareness of Bogus Scams/Caller' and the 'Festive Safety Campaign'.

6. What are your top three priorities for improvement, linked to policing in your local area?

Ensuring that police numbers remain consistent and that all of our communities continue to receive an accessible police service that reflects and meets local expectations.

To strengthen and enhance the connection between the service and the communities and individuals that they serve.

Ensure that the service reflects the unique nature of Argyll and Bute.

7. Are there any examples of good practice or innovation in your local area you want to highlight, and that could be adopted as good practice in other council areas? Please provide details below.

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The introduction of 'Your Dog Your Responsibility', developed by Mid Argyll police Officer PC Ben Rusden in conjunction with Argyll and Bute Council Dog Warden and NFU has been well received. The aim of the campaign is to educate dog owners and remind them of their responsibilities when their dogs are around livestock which is particularly pertinent given the rural setting of much of Argyll and Bute.

Given the unique nature of Argyll and Bute the targeted recruitment events held in Oban and Campbeltown to target local communities and individuals to consider a career in policing was also welcomed.

8. What would you like to see the SPA to do more of, to help you in your scrutiny role and to support better local outcomes?

Having the Chief Superintendent regularly attend meetings helps in our scrutiny role and by association leads to better local outcomes. With this in mind, representatives from the SPA would be more than welcome to attend a future meeting of the Community Services Committee.

About your local scrutiny arrangements

9. How would you describe your local scrutiny arrangements for policing?

- Dedicated Policing or Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee/ Sub Committee
- Scrutiny committee looking at wider range of services
- Community Safety Committee / Community Planning Sub Committee
- Full Council
- Political lead and strategic discussion at full council or committee, and local discussion at area / neighbourhood level
- Other – please describe

Strategic Service Committee (Community Services)

10. How many elected members are regularly involved in your local police scrutiny processes?

There are 16 Elected Members on the Community Services Committee, across all political groupings of the Council.

11. Is there any additional information or feedback you would like to share?

It is critical that Elected Members and the communities which they represent are kept informed on any planned changes to policing in the area, specifically changes to personnel. While scrutiny is undertaken during the Community Services Committee, there are opportunities for information, both bad and good, to be shared directly with the Council and Elected Members outwith these meetings.

We also congratulate Officers from Argyll and Bute who won 3 out of the 8 categories at The Scottish Women's Development Forum - Inspector Julie McLeish (Community Inspector, Lochgilphead), Sergeant Wendy McGinnis (Helensburgh) and Constable Karen Cairns (Youth

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Engagement Officer, Campbeltown) who were recognised for their contribution to police services in the categories of Leadership, Excellence in Performance and Community Service.

What we do with this information.

Data you provide will inform an overview in the Annual Review of Policing.

The information provided will not be disseminated to any other third party out with the Scottish Police Authority without written permission. As in previous years we would appreciate your participation in allowing the authority to publish your examples and feedback within the Annual Review of Policing.

Please select below:

I am happy for the information provided to inform the Annual Review of Policing

Yes

I am happy for specific examples and feedback from this local authority to be included in the Annual Review.

Details of our Privacy Statement can be found at:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/about-us/privacy/>

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. Responses and any queries should be sent to SPACommunityAccountability@spa.pnn.police.uk by **Friday 31st May**.

If you have any queries or comments about the process, please contact the Community Accountability Team Eleanor Gaw, 01786 896886 or Fiona Miller 01786 896 966.