

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 activity has focused on the priority routes; A82, A83 and A85 and included visible patrols, static road checks and increased driver engagement.



Compared to Qtr 2 last year, fatal road collisions reduced from 5 to 2. Both serious injuries and slight injuries also decreased from 57 to 18 and 71 to 22, respectively. Overall the total number of road casualties has reduced from 134 to 43.



The number of road traffic offences recorded has also decreased by approx 3.6% compared to Qtr 2 last year. Most types of RT offences have seen a reduction with the only exception being insurance and driving licence offences which have risen from 106 to 176 and 44 to 50 respectively. Speeding offences continue to see the highest reduction from 539 to 412 crimes, while dangerous driving has also decreased by 45.9% (n=28).

Violence & Antisocial Behaviour

At the end of Qtr 2, Group 1 crimes of violence are relatively unchanged with 47 crimes recorded compared to 46 (+1) last year. Both serious assaults and robberies have marginally increased by 1 crime year on year, while Domestic abuse offences have marginally reduced from 9 to 10.

Approx. 58% of crimes of violence occurred in a private space and in the majority the victim knew the offender.

555 stop search have been carried out which equates to 93 per month.

Complaints relating to disorder increased by 57.4% YTD which equates to 900 more incidents being recorded. This is largely due to a substantial increase in public nuisance incidents, most of which related to persons breaching Covid-19 guidelines. YTD ASB crimes reduced by 20.7% (n=219). Common assaults decreased by 27.4% (n=97). Approximately 53% of common assaults occurred in a private space and approx. 25% were domestic related. Crimes relating to Breach of the Peace and Threatening & Abusive Behaviour have also seen a reduction of 25% (n=134).

The detection rate for violent crime overall has reduced by 12.4% but remains high at 70.2%. The detection rate for serious assaults remains relatively unchanged and is currently high at 94.7%. The detection rate for common assaults has marginally increased from 77.4% to 79.8%.

Public Protection

At the end of Qtr 2 Group 2 sexual crimes show an increase of 16.8% compared to last year which equates to 16 more crimes being recorded. Whilst rape crimes have reduced from 31 to 17 year on year, this has been offset by a significant increase in crimes relating to indecent images/communication which have risen from 21 to 50. Thirty of the 50 crimes involved children, all were aged 10 to 14 years of age. Indecent / sexual assaults have remained consistent year on year with 38 crimes recorded. Approx. 29% of all sexual crimes were non-recent reports (n=34).

81% of sexual crimes occurred in a private space, mainly residential dwelling homes

69% of sexual crimes were committed by persons known to the victim

The detection rate for Group 2 sexual crime has reduced to 37.3% from 39.6% last year. The detection rate for rape crime has increased by 36.1% from 17.2% last year to 53.3%.



At the end of Qtr2 there were 59 missing person reports recorded within Argyll & Bute which equates to around 10 per month. 23.7% of these involved children.

Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr 2 last year, domestic abuse incidents in Argyll and Bute show a reduction of 7.8% from 360 to 332, while the number of crimes have also reduced by 29.6% from 284 to 200.

The number of incidents where an Adult / Child Concern has been raised has decreased by 13.3% (n=217). Adult concerns (inc. Domestic Abuse) have marginally reduced from 823 to 808 and child concerns have decreased by 13.4% (n= 149).

At the end of Qtr 2, user satisfaction results show that levels of public confidence in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire remain high at 67%. Furthermore, figures also indicate 81% of persons were satisfied with how police dealt with their incident.

In total 25 complaints about the Police have been received within Argyll & Bute YTD, all of which relate to irregularity in procedure or quality of service.

Argyll & Bute

Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023)

Quarterly Report (Qtr 2 – 2020/21)

Major Crime & Terrorism



Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire 36 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £35,058.54 seized under POCA.

Detections for drugs supply have reduced marginally with 33 recorded compared to 38 at the end of Qtr 2 last year. Drug possession charges have increased from 230 last year to 285 this year.



120 cyber-enabled crimes had been recorded within Argyll & Bute at the end of Qtr 2 compared to 24 the previous year. Forty-eight related to online fraud, 33 to threatening messages sent via social media, 36 to indecent communication / images, 2 to extortion and 1 to breach of bail. In 46 of the 120 crimes the victim knew the offender. To date 32 crimes have been detected.

Acquisitive Crime



Vehicle crime reduced by 20%



Housebreaking decreased by 5.9%

The total number of acquisitive crimes recorded in A&B was 16% lower than at the end of Qtr 2 last year. Most types of acquisitive crimes have continued to see a reduction including housebreaking crimes which reduced by 5.9% (n=3) and vehicle crimes which reduced by 20% (n=7). Fraud crimes however have more than doubled with 88 crimes recorded YTD compared to 40 in the same period last year. The increase is predominately due to a rise in social engineering frauds and fraudulent internet sales/purchases.



The number of bogus crimes in A&B have increased from 7 last year to 27 this year. All crimes recorded related to social engineering frauds involving bogus phone calls/emails.

Tackling Online Sexual Exploitation

The Police Scotland Online CSA campaign entered its second phase during November and aims to reduce online offending in relation to child sexual abuse, by challenging perpetrator behaviour and encouraging them to seek help via Stop It Now! Scotland. The campaign is supported by various media products including a hard hitting film. #GethelporGetCaught – Further information is available at [www.scotland.police.uk / What's Happening / Campaigns](http://www.scotland.police.uk/What'sHappening/Campaigns).

Road Safety and Road Policing

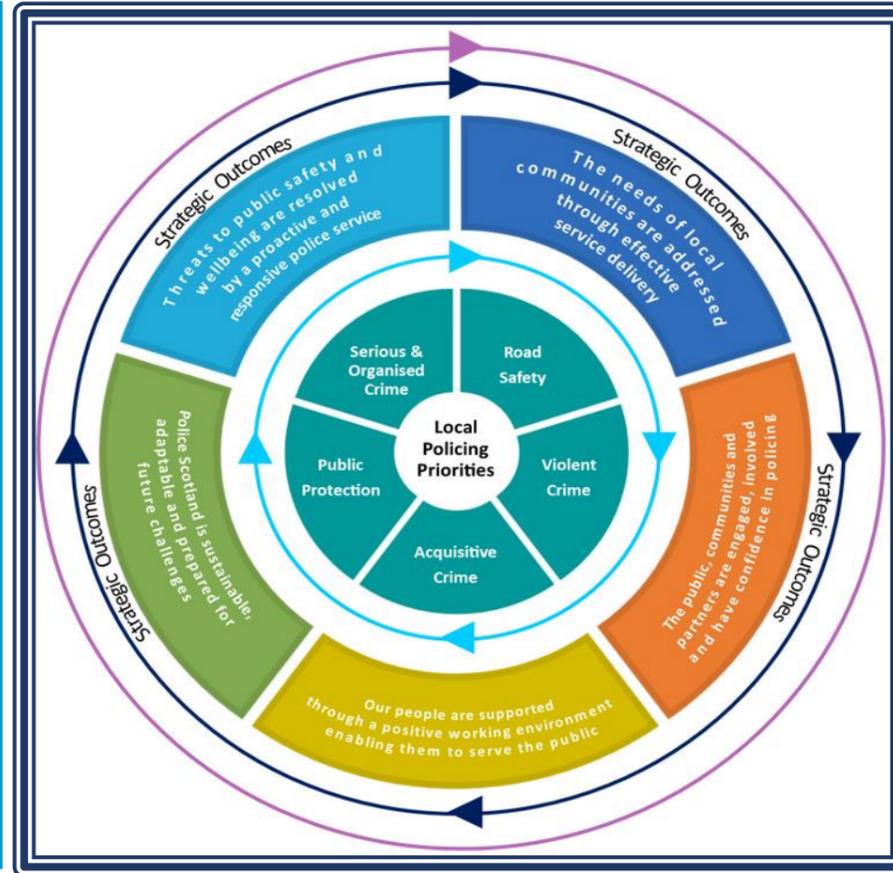
During November local officers and officers from Road Policing worked alongside National partners to support the 'No Need for Speed' Road Safety Initiative led by "Brake", the UK Road Safety Charity. Key messages were delivered over social media with information packs available to schools and community groups. Police activity involved the use of hand held speed detection devices which provide a visible deterrent and, where necessary, stopping and taking direct action against drivers. Further support was provided by unmarked vehicles working to identify the worst speeding offenders. The use of unmarked vehicles reinforces a constant deterrent to any road user who continues to speed on any part of the road network.

Operation Tele

Operation Tele is the Police Scotland investigation into reports of sexual abuse at Ballet West, Ichrachan House, Taynuilt. Police have now received a number of reports which are being investigated at this time. Police Scotland is committed to bringing sexual offenders before the Courts and we treat all reports of sexual abuse with the utmost seriousness and sensitivity.

Domestic Abuse

In response to concerns that COVID – 19 restrictions place victims of Domestic Abuse at greater risk, with less opportunities to escape or get help, the Police Scotland Domestic Abuse – COVID campaign was launched promoting lines to report domestic abuse whilst signposting help and support services and charities. Posters and leaflets were distributed to maximise exposure in retail premises at a time when people's social habits are changing to comply with restrictions. This work and the wider Domestic Abuse COVID Recovery Strategy and Action Plan has been supported and delivered locally by the Argyll and Bute Violence against Women and Girls Partnership.



Tackling Fraud Crime

We are committed to tackling fraud and the increasing frequency of the use of the internet and telephone in the commission of these crimes. These are often elaborate crimes designed to confuse and force the concerned victim to provide bank details or transfer cash. Senior detectives in the Division have been working with local media to ensure fraud trends are circulated alongside messages to reinforce safety advice for online banking. During December, in the lead up to Christmas, our Festive Winter Safety Campaign will provide guidance on shopping online safely.

Wild Camping

In response to reports of anti-social activities by wild campers over the summer months, a working group was established in the Oban area which included representatives from Police Scotland, the Forestry Commission, Argyll and Bute Council and local Community Councils to look at various proposals to limit the impact wild camping was having on the local environment and wider Community. Posters were produced outlining responsible camping protocols and displayed in key locations. Police on patrol gave out leaflets to campers which gave similar advice and outlined Access legislation. Infrastructure improvements were discussed, both to improve facilities at recognised locations and limit access to areas where required. The work of the group continues to evolve and has now been included in wider CPP discussions regarding camping across Argyll and Bute.

Cyber Kiosks

Cyber Kiosks are a purpose-built, standalone, solution that has enabled trained police officers to quickly review data stored on mobile phones or tablet devices, and any associated SIM cards, at the initial stages of an investigation. Cyber Kiosks will allow officers to identify whether devices contain evidence. This can negate the need for full examination, minimising intrusion and providing a better service to the public. There are currently 18 trained operators within the Division.

Police Scotland Fleet Strategy

The Police Scotland Fleet Strategy supports the rollout of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle's (ULEV) throughout the Force and is set to see Police Scotland become the UK's first Ultra-low emission blue light fleet. This strategy has received government support through the provision of £5m of capital funding to begin the transition towards ULEV technology. Around 179 ULEVs will be delivered and operational across the Force area by March 2021, bringing the total number of new generation electric vehicles to 300.

Internet Based Recruitment Process

The Area Commander for Cowal, Bute and Helensburgh & Lomond working with our National Recruitment Team, has launched an internet based recruitment campaign which includes video testimony from existing officers showcasing the area and the fantastic opportunities for working and living in Argyll and Bute. The videos have been promoted both locally and wider across the UK police networks. The campaign has received a positive response and resulted in a number of transferees and new recruits to both Dunoon and Rothesay.

Development Forum

During November the Division held a Specialisms Development Event for officers and staff from across the Division and elsewhere. This was the latest in a series of development events which have been held this year, but the first to be held online. The event was targeted towards officers who might be considering career development in a Specialist Role. The event was run in conjunction with the Scottish Women's Development Forum. The event attracted over 50 online attendees and was opened by the Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent Paterson.