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Police Scotland - MAKI Area Community Planning Partnership Update for meeting on 24/08/21

Fraud Prevention:

Police Scotland in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council have successfully secured funding from the “Flexible Fund” to purchase more call blocker devices given the increase in telephone scams since the start of the pandemic and the success of the initial funding bid.

During 2021, Police Scotland and Argyll and Bute Trading Standards have installed 66 call blocker devices onto landlines of vulnerable people who were being hassled by nuisance telephone calls. Initial analysis has shown that 33% of calls received were nuisance or scam calls and that over the 4 year lifetime of these units they will have blocked 64,833 nuisance calls. Over this same 4 year projection, these units will have prevented 105 scams, saved vulnerable households £309,736, led to a reduction of £287,702 in NHS, social care & police costs, and an increase in wellbeing & quality of life valued at £303,641 - total benefits of £901,080.

A number of devices have been installed in Dalmally, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Islay and Gigha.

If you are being pestered by nuisance calls or you know a family member or friend that could benefit from having a call blocker please contact Argyll and Bute Trading Standards on 01546 605 519 or tradingstandards.office@argyll-bute.gov.uk to apply for a funded device. Priority will be given to those who are vulnerable.

Online Child Sexual Exploitation:

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), in partnership with age verification platform Yoti, have developed the Report Remove tool to support young people to remove sexual images of themselves online.

Report Remove can support a young person in reporting sexual images or videos shared online and helps the young person to get the image removed if it is illegal. The NSPCC’s Childline service ensures that the young person is safeguarded throughout the process.

Young people aged under 18 who are worried a sexual image or video of them may have been shared online can use Childline and IWF’s Report Remove tool at <https://www.childline.org.uk/Remove>

This helps children and young people to report an image or video shared online, to see if it is possible to get it removed. Once the report has been made, it keeps the young person informed at each stage and provides support and feedback where necessary.

Keep Safe in MAKI:

On 13th May 2021, Shopper-Aide in Campbeltown became the latest “Keep Safe” place in Argyll and Bute. Keep Safe is an award winning initiative developed in partnership between Police Scotland and community charity I Am Me Scotland which creates a national network of safe places across Scotland that anyone who feels vulnerable can use to seek assistance, if required, while out in the community.

Thanks to funding received from the Community Justice Partnership we have more business packs available and can train more places throughout MAKI if we can establish who may be interested in this. If you would like more information on Keep Safe please visit www.iammescotland.co.uk/about-keep-safe and if you know any businesses that would like to be trained to support this please contact PC Laura Evans, Partnership Liaison Officer laura.evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

Partnership working between Police Scotland and HSCP staff

In June Catriona Watt Area Manager for Mid Argyll Hospital and Nicola Gillespie, Service Manager for Mental Health met with Inspector Collins and Sgt Shaw from Lochgilphead Police Office.

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This was an introductory meeting whereby both Police Scotland and the Health and Social Care Partnership want to build on relationships. This will be to improve partnership working and communications between both organisations. It was agreed at this initial meeting that a monthly meeting will be arranged and over the coming months this will be used as a platform for both agencies to find ways to assist each other to provide the best possible service for those in the wider community.

Summer “Staycation” Visitor Management Additional Patrols

From the onset of the Covid-19 travel restrictions and subsequent phase one easing during 2020, there was a sustained increase in the use of campervans, caravans and ‘informal camping’ throughout the Argyll & Bute Local Authority Area caused predominantly by restrictions to travel outside of the UK. The majority of visitors to the Argyll & Bute region are touring guests who understand the associated social etiquette whilst residing temporarily in rural communities. Unfortunately there have been a number of non-compliant visitors linked to an increase of littering, noise and disorderly behaviour.

Joint working will be for the mutual benefit of the whole community, both residents and visitors alike. Officers and staff from both Police Scotland and Argyll and Bute Local Authority will benefit from, where appropriate and lawful, sharing their knowledge, experience and resources by working co-operatively together. A wider action plan has been formed by the Council’s Development and Economic Growth Department to address supporting infrastructure, amenities and associated issues affecting communities during the global Covid-19 Pandemic.

As a result of this new demand, the Council have introduced 4 new Community Warden posts to engage with tourists and local communities alike to promote the Outdoor Access Code and encourage responsible camping. These wardens will work alongside a Police Officer during these joint, co-ordinated patrols.

The plan was in place from early June and will continue up until the end of August and helps to achieve and support the tackling of anti-social behaviour within the Argyll & Bute Local Authority Area, and to reassure local communities and encourage positive visitor behaviour within the Argyll and Bute Council Area (outwith the designated National Park area).

Herbert Protocol

Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Policing Division and partner agencies across the Care Sector have launched the Herbert Protocol.

This is a well-established initiative that aims to assist in tracing vulnerable people who have Dementia, in the event of them being reported missing by family or carers.

The Hebert Protocol is a document that can be populated with vital information such as a recent photograph, contact details, medication required and significant locations relating to the individual. This information can be used by officers to save time in a responding to a missing person enquiry.

The form can be found and downloaded at <http://ow.ly/f7g550FJnJ0> and scroll to the Herbert Protocol section.

Wheelie Bin Speed Sticker Campaign

In recent months a new campaign by Police Scotland was introduced in Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig, which involved the circulation of stickers to be placed on Wheelie Bins outside of businesses and homes on the main A82 route, indicating the 30mph speed limit.

All local authorities have been contacted by the Police Scotland Safety Camera Unit, asking that local Community Councils make contact if interested in being part of the campaign, where they will be provided with the relevant lettering and stickers.

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