

# 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

Divisional Road Policing Unit activity continues to focus on the priority routes; A82, A83 and A85.



The total number of road casualties recorded has fallen from 62 to 49 however fatal road collisions have increased from 2 to 4.

Both serious and slight injuries have decreased from 22 to 19 and 38 to 26, respectively.

The total number of driving offences recorded this year has reduced by 7.3% from 1298 to 1203. The current figure is also 15.2% below the previous 5 year average.

Speeding offences have seen the largest reduction from 444 to 380 crimes followed by insurance offences from 178 to 130.

Neglect of traffic directions and drink driving offences have increased from 36 to 58 (+22) and 63 to 82 (+19) respectively.

## Violence & Antisocial Behaviour



Crimes of violence are similar to last year at 51 but above the previous 5 year average of 39. There were 3 attempted murders compared to 1 last year, all of which were committed by persons known to the victim with 2 being domestic related.

Crimes relating to threats and extortion have increased from 4 to 9. The majority of crimes occurred via social media and involved threatening to distribute indecent images unless a sum of money was paid.

Approx. 73% of crimes of violence occurred in a private space and in 38 crimes the victim knew the offender.

Disorder complaints have decreased by 33.1% from 2,468 to 1,652. This difference is largely due to the high number of public nuisance incidents recorded during last year's lockdown. Figures show an increase of 8% for ASB related crimes from 838 to 890. Crimes relating to Breach of the Peace and Threatening & Abusive Behaviour have also increased marginally from 404 to 413 (+9) year on year. Common assaults have risen to 344, which is above the previous 5 year average of 331. Approx. 67% of common assaults were committed by persons known to the victim with 93 being domestic related.

264 stop searches have been carried out at the end of Qtr 2, which equates to 44 per month.

The detection rate for crimes of violence has reduced from 70% to 60.8% year on year. The detection rate for serious assaults is currently 70.6%, which is below the previous 5 year rate of 87%. The detection rate for common assault has reduced to 72.1%, this is 5.1% below the previous 5 year rate.

## Public Protection



At the end of Qtr. 2, sexual crimes show a reduction of 14.8% compared to last year from 122 to 104 crimes. Despite the overall reduction, rape offences have increased from 12 to 25 (+13), which is above the previous 5 year average of 19.2. Approx. 64% of these rape crimes relate to non-recent reports.

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

23 of the 25 crimes were committed by persons known to the victim with 9 being domestic related.

Sexual assaults have reduced from 47 to 36 and crimes relating to indecent images/communications decreased from 40 to 27.

75% of sexual crimes were committed by persons known to the victim

The detection rate for overall sexual crime has increased by 10.5% and is currently at 49%. The detection rate for rape is 40%, which is marginally below the previous 5 year rate of 43.8%.



At the end of Qtr 2, there were 81 missing person reports recorded within Argyll & Bute which equates to around 14 per month.

Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr. 2 last year, domestic abuse incidents in Argyll and Bute show an increase of 10.9% from 331 to 367. The number of domestic abuse crimes has risen by 25% from 204 to 255. Both figures are above the previous 5 year averages.

At the end of Qtr 2, the number of incidents where an adult concern was raised has reduced by 5.1% from 782 to 742. Child concerns however have seen an increase of 21.5% from 984 to 1196 year on year.

YTD there have been 51 complaints about the Police recorded within Argyll & Bute, which is a reduction from 68 in the same period last year. The number of allegations against officers on duty has also reduced considerably from 102 to 67 year on year.

## Argyll & Bute

### Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023)

### Quarterly Report (Qtr. 2 – 2021/22)

## Major Crime & Terrorism



Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire 17 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £114,778 seized under POCA.

At the end of Qtr. 2, drug possession crimes have decreased by 35.5% from 273 to 176. Drugs supply charges have also reduced by 51.6% from 31 to 15 compared to last year. Both figures are currently below the previous 5 year averages of 216 for possession and 33 for supply.



In total 118 cyber-crimes have been recorded within Argyll & Bute at the end of Qtr. 2. This is a slight increase from 115 in same period last year. 65 crimes related to online fraud, 15 to threatening messages sent online or via social media, 22 to indecent communication / images. A further 6 involved accessing computer systems data without authorisation, 6 were online extortion offences and 4 related to breach of bail conditions or court orders.

## Acquisitive Crime



Vehicle crime reduced by 13.8%



Housebreaking reduced by 6.1%

The total number of acquisitive crimes recorded in A&B has increased by 19.8% from 329 to 394 at the end of Qtr. 2. This remains marginally below the previous 5 year average of 398. Fraud crimes have continued to rise with 107 crimes recorded YTD compared to 72 last year. Social engineering frauds continue to see the highest increase year on year, while online market frauds have also risen. Both shopliftings and common thefts have also increased from 34 to 42 and 103 to 141 respectively but remain below the previous 5 year averages, while housebreakings and vehicle crimes have seen marginal reductions.



The number of bogus crimes in A&B have increased from 25 last year to 55 this year, which is largely due to a rise in fraud crimes involving scam phone calls or emails. There were 3 crimes recorded YTD which related to bogus callers/workmen compared to 0 last year.

HERBERT PROTOCOL

Following the successful launch of the Herbert Protocol, discussions are now progressing to ensure any vulnerable person with a Property Exit Sensor installed has a completed Herbert Protocol form shared with the relevant community alarm provider. This will ensure that the full information as contained within the Herbert Protocol form is available immediately when a Property Exit Sensor is activated, regardless of whether this notification goes to a care provider or Police Scotland. If discussions are successful, Argyll and Bute will be the first to adopt this procedure which has been shared with National Safer Communities as best practice. Ongoing public awareness of the Herbert Protocol continues.

FRAUD PREVENTION

A Fraud Prevention input was provided to Garelochhead Station Trust who support veterans and their families. This input provided useful tips on how to recognise and avoid scams and what to do if you find yourself as a victim of a scam. Further inputs are being planned for Grey Matters who are a community organisation that support older people living in Helensburgh. An officer from the Community Engagement Team also took part in "Pippa's Podcast" for staff in Argyll and Bute Council to provide information on fraud prevention and wider awareness of how to spot fraud scams currently being used and protect everyone in our communities.

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOTATION

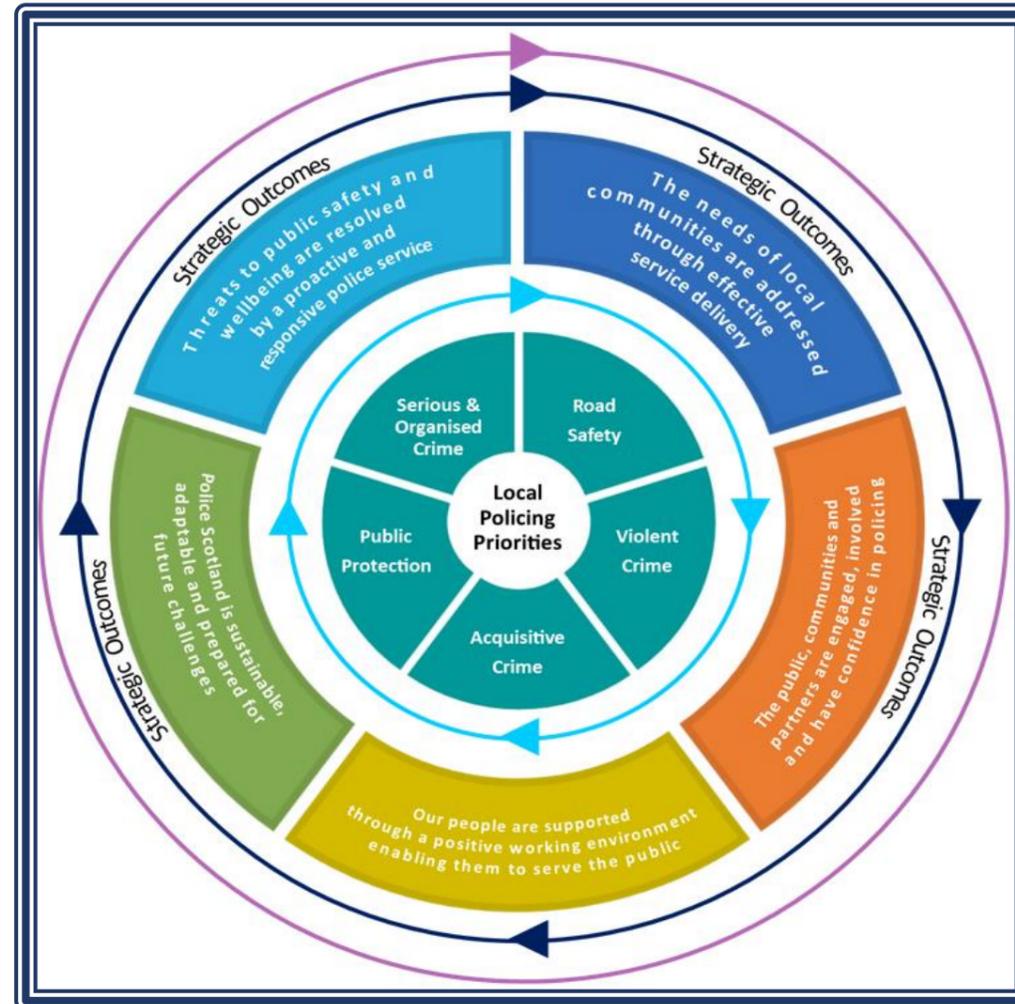
The first Online CSE event was held on 26<sup>th</sup> August hosted by Argyll Third Sector Interface and supported by West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteering Service. This was delivered by Police Scotland National Safer Communities, and supported by the Divisional Community Engagement Team. The event was a great success with 21 attendees representing both community groups and statutory partners. Feedback from the event showed 100% of participants felt the event was beneficial and raised their awareness of how to keep children safe online.

Work is now underway to publicly launch the 'Online Internet Safety Guide' that accompanied this input for all parents and carers throughout Argyll and Bute. This provides information on basic internet safety with hyperlinks to other materials through Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Command.

Discussions are ongoing for a further input specifically for parents as an evening online session and discussions are underway to develop this before it is advertised.

SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

A new Scottish Government pilot to provide a dedicated Suicide Bereavement Support Service has been launched in Argyll and Bute. This provides support to anyone who has been impacted by suicide of a loved one and includes children and young people. The support can be provided through self-referral and will be offered by police officers at the scene of a suicide.



BIKE MARKING

Due to the continued trend in bike purchases and use, a further bike marking event was carried out in Dunoon, in partnership with Dunoon Area Alliance at the launch of the Dunoon Bothy. 80 bicycles were security marked with crime prevention & rural watch advice being provided.

Further bike marking events will be planned for next Spring with local primary schools and other cycling groups.

FRIENDSHIP BENCHES

In partnership with the Argyll and Bute Suicide Prevention Group, a community wide project has been launched which involves Friendship Benches being built, painted and sited throughout Argyll and Bute. Partnership working with Dunoon Men's Shed, Bute Sign and Graphics, Argyll and Bute Community Planning and a number of Community Councils has enabled 10 Friendship Benches to be created all of which contain a plaque with support numbers for Samaritans, Breathing Space and SHOUT.

Local people are promoting the benches to encourage social inclusion and for people to ask anyone sitting there "are you ok?" This supports the national Samaritans campaign of "small talk saves lives" The benches will be sited as one per month in each including Ardentiny, Sandbank, Strachur, Arrochar, Cove and Kilcreggan, Taynuilt, Lochgilphead, East Kintyre and Campbeltown. Benches will be rolled out throughout the next 10 months with a community focus on each to promote these in each community.

Nurtured (Children & Young People

Empowered Residents

SAFE SUMMER 2022

Early engagement with Argyll and Bute Council, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and Forestry Land Scotland is underway for the 2022 visitor season as a result of the vast visitor numbers experienced this year. This will ensure robust multi-agency plans are in place to enhance community reassurance and public safety.

HELENSBURGH TASER HUB

A Taser 'hub' has now been installed at Helensburgh Police Station with dedicated training being provided to a cadre of local officers who have been identified to carry these devices. This provides Argyll and Bute with enhanced access to Specially Trained Officers (STO's) which helps provide added protection to those within our communities as well enhance officer safety for our own officers.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Age of Criminal Responsibility Act
- COP26
- Resumption of events / parades including Bonfire Night and Hogmanay events
- Body Worn Video Consultation Review

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO WATER SAFETY (PAWS)

The Argyll and Bute PAWS group has instigated a review of all signage at layby/picnic hotspots around Loch Lomond with pictorial signage being developed which will include location markers and What 3 Words references. Loch Lomond National Park are leading on this supported by Police Scotland and other key partners. Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Police Division are using social media to highlight "shelf drop offs" at the most frequented areas.

DEDICATED ARGYLL AND BUTE RECRUITMENT

Recruitment events are being held for anyone considering a career with Police Scotland focussing particularly on those wishing to work in Argyll and Bute. Police Scotland are hosting an online information event aimed at residents from Argyll and Bute who would consider working here which follows a drop-in recruitment session held in Campbeltown.