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Police Scotland - MAKI Area Community Planning Partnership Update for meeting on 02/2/22

Festive Policing Campaign

At the start of December, the Festive Policing Campaign began and ran throughout the month and into January. The focus of this was to address the traditional issues for the time of year, such as Drink Driving and violent and Anti-Social behaviours. The resourcing plan for this year was heavily impacted due to COVID related absence, as all organisations will have experienced.

A number of persons were reported for Road Traffic Offences, including those found to have been under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Local officers, in partnership with Roads Policing officers, are continually working to keep our roads network safe, including recent targeted Speed Detection duties.

As we move into the new year, we aim to combat any and all drug related activities within the MAKI area and in recent weeks have seen a number of positive searches carried out by our officers. We again ask that anyone in the community who has any information on drug supply, contact Police or Crimestoppers and assist us to target those attempting to bring drugs into our towns.

Resourcing

As will be the case in general, we are starting to see the 'green shoots of recovery' in terms of COVID related absences and as such an increased Police presence within our communities is once again possible. Over and above this, here in MAKI we are delighted to welcome five new officers joining the teams in Lochgilphead and Campbeltown. These new probationers will join up over the coming weeks and are all extremely eager to get out and about and meet with everyone and begin on their Policing careers in the area.

Increase in Taser Carrying Officers

Those of us who live within MAKI can consider ourselves lucky, given its beauty and relatively low crime rate in comparison with other localities. However, no community in Scotland is immune to violent incidents and as a result of this, local officers have been trained in the use and carrying of Tasers; now being deployed from both Lochgilphead and Campbeltown Stations. Specially Trained Officers (officers trained to carry Tasers) have been deployed in our communities across Scotland since June 2018 and, following careful review of the use of Taser and its impact within the community, its use has been expanded.

It should be stressed that equipping more officers with Taser is not a move towards the routine arming of police officers in Scotland. Tasers have been shown to provide a greater level of protection for the public and decrease the risk of injury (for officers and the person who is being arrested) when used, i.e. de-escalation of incidents without being fired, where physical force might previously been used and permitting the detention of a suspect with weapons without officers having to get too close. This is at the heart of keeping people safe, which remains a core priority for Police Scotland.

The increase in the number of Specially Trained Officers follows a review which highlighted that officers are increasingly being called to incidents of violence. It also highlighted that assaults on officers and staff have continued to increase. De-escalating situations and keeping people safe is our priority and officers will use the minimum level of force necessary. Any use of force by our officers must always be proportionate and ethical.

Everyone can be assured that our Taser carrying officers receive thorough training which focuses on de-escalation and public safety. The training for officers includes awareness of disabilities, which may present as aggression or those who have communication barriers. Officers must also complete annual refresher training to ensure they are still suitable to carry it. Public safety and transparency underpins every part of

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this Policing development and we will endeavour to use all that Police Scotland can provide to continue to keep the communities of MAKI safe.

Keep Safe

Keep Safe is a Police Scotland led initiative which works in partnership with I AM ME SCOTLAND which is a Community Charity that aims to raise awareness of disability hate crime which is seen as one of the most under-reported types of crime in Scotland and the UK. It is estimated that around 97% of disability hate crime goes unreported.

Keep safe aims to work with a network of businesses, shops and organisations to create safe places for people to go if they need help - maybe because they are lost they have lost their wallet, a phone or indeed they are a victim of disability hate crime. Anyone can go into these premises and get assistance from the shopkeepers or the staff members who will assist them in any way possible. These shops and businesses have to meet certain criteria to make sure that they are safe places.

We have the Keep Safe card which is issued to members of the community be that a disabled person, a young person and older person or anybody in the community that would benefit from it. The Keep Safe card contains information about that person and can be used to assist the holder to get help. By producing the Keep Safe card in a premises with the Keep Safe sticker in the window, that person knows that they can get help from a staff member. That help may well be that they just need a seat a cup of tea or it may be the victim of a crime and a staff member can call the police. All of the business packs including Keep Safe Cards have been kindly funded by the Argyll and Bute Community Justice Partnership.

Keep Safe is helping to make sure that people within the community can live a life that they want to live, a life that they choose to live and not a life that's dictated to by other members of the society. You can go from place to place or shop to shop where they want to without fear of any crime or harassment or abuse taking place. Currently in MAKI we have 27 Keep Safe Places which can all be found on the Keep Safe Scotland app. The total across Argyll and Bute is 53 and Scotland wide there are over 800 places available. If you know of somewhere suitable to become a Keep Safe place or could benefit from having some Keep Safe cards please let us know (Laura.evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Dementia Project – the Herbert Protocol

Police Scotland have provided a few updates on this, however the work continued to gather momentum. The Herbert Protocol is an information gathering form that Police encourage the public and partners working with people who live with dementia, to complete. The form has vital information including recent photograph of the individual, health information and important information from their past such as previous addresses, hobbies and places frequented. The aim is that we will never need to use the form, however if someone living with dementia goes missing, this form would be vital for us to find someone sooner and safer. Recently we have been in discussion with the local Dementia link team from Alzheimer's Scotland to look at ideas of promoting the scheme and work has taken place with Argyll and Bute Telecare and Hanover Scotland for those living with Property Exit Sensors. Some members of the Dementia team have now been trained to install call blockers for Argyll and Bute which is brilliant as it saves any stress that might be caused for someone living with dementia to have a stranger in their house to install these.

Frauds

Despite a lot of prevention work in this area, Frauds continue to increase. Coming into spring we expect to see bogus callers add to this as offering work on driveways and guttering or roofs is always prevalent at this time of year. Close working with Police Scotland and Trading Standards will help ensure relevant information is lawfully shared so that all legislation can be used on those causing harm in our communities.

Police Scotland are looking to roll out their own campaign for "Pledge to Stop Scams" for this, we are looking to community groups, members of the Community Planning Partner and the Area Community

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Planning Groups to make a pledge of what they could do to help us all tackle frauds that are affecting our communities. We know that frauds don't simply result in financial loss, but a loss of independence and overall wellbeing which makes this a matter for us all to help with. Will you help and take the Pledge to Stop Scams? Would you like an input provided to a community group, or advice for your own organisation or business on fraud prevention. Even a simple pledge that you will share any fraud tactics you become aware of with an elderly relative or a neighbour could go a long way. There is free online training that can be done for this which provides a certificate at the end, and we are working on a website where you can lodge your pledge. Members of the Community Planning Partnership are looking to make their pledge through Selfie Videos that we can share to get everyone talking and sharing. If you would like to know more and get involved please contact PC Laura Evans (laura.evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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