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Helensburgh & Lomond Community Panning Group Feb 2022

Police Scotland Update

New Divisional Commander

New Divisional Commander in place, Chief Supt Lynn Ratcliff who takes over from John Paterson.

Festive Period

The festive period was navigated without issue, with varying levels of restrictions generally adhered to by the vast majority when socialising.

Covid-19

You may have seen in recent media releases that due to an increase in absence due to Covid Police Scotland has again stood up its full operational structure to ensure resources are being deployed where and when required. Probationary officers from Tulliallan have been utilised as have officers from specialist departments to maintain front line numbers.

From a Helensburgh & Lomond perspective, we had a spike of absence coming through December which has tailed off recently and numbers are again decent. Transmission was mainly through family contacts which in turn resulted in a number of unavoidable work related close contact isolations.

Given the unpredictability of the virus we will continue to attend meetings remotely and send written reports where appropriate.

Youth Engagement Officer

I am pleased to announce PC Mark Toner has taken on the role as our Youth Engagement Officer for the sub division. Mark has already been in touch with the secondary schools and will be a great asset to the youths in the area.

Multi Agency Visitor Management

We have started to work towards the spring season with partners, including the National Park and Local Authority. Lots of good learning from last year to carry forward and develop. We are expecting large numbers again to visit fuelled by the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and travel. We will again be scheduling multi agency meetings to ensure a robust plan is in place.

Safety Camera Unit

I have had communication from the safety camera unit and have been assured the static speed camera being installed in Cardross will be installed from mid-February and be operational by mid-March.

Hermitage Park

Recent successful weekend action plan to address ASB by youths within Hermitage Park, fixed penalty tickets issued and youths returned home. Further work will be undertaken by the YEO and the action plan will be repeated in the coming weeks.

Keep Safe in Helensburgh and Lomond

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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 Helensburgh and Lomond we have 4 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

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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 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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