

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



3 fatal road collisions were recorded during Q3. One occurred on the A85 at Taynuilt and involved a hit and run on a pedestrian. The other 2 resulted from motor vehicle collisions on A815 near Dunoon and A83 near Tarbert. Overall road casualties YTD have increased by 18.7% (+15) compared to the same time last year. Fatalities have increased from 4 to 8 (one of the fatal collisions resulted in 2 fatalities), serious injuries have increased from 28 to 37 and slight injuries from 48 to 50.

At the end of Q3, figures show an 11.2% decrease (-208) in the total number of recorded motor vehicle offences within A&B. The figure is 15.7% below the previous 5 year average. Speeding offences have seen the biggest reduction in terms of volume (-112) followed by insurance offences (-64). Careless driving offences have also reduced by 12.8% (-27) while dangerous driving offences have increased by 30.6% from 49 to 64 (same as 5 year average) and drink / drug driving offences by 20.4% from 98 to 118 (13.9% above 5 year average).

Public Protection



Compared to the end of Q3 last year, sexual crimes show a slight increase of 5.6% (+10). The number of rape crimes reported YTD has increased from 18 to 41 and indecent/sexual assaults have increased by 10.8% from 65 to 72. Both figures are higher than the previous 5 year average. A high proportion (60%) of rape and sexual assaults relate to non-recent reports, some dating back to the 70's and 80's. 67% occurred within a private space and 20% were domestic related. These increases have been slightly offset by a noticeable reduction in crimes relating to indecent images / communication from 78 to 46 (-32).

81% of rape & indecent / sexual assault crimes were committed by persons known to the victim.

The overall detection rate for sexual crime has improved from 44.1% to 50.3% when compared to last year. Reflecting high levels of non-recent reporting, the detection rate for rape crime has fallen from 72.2% last year to 39%, while the detection rate for indecent/sexual assaults has improved from 35.4% to 54.2%. There are however positive lines of enquiry being undertaken for many of these.

Serious & Organised Crime



Year to date, across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire, 22 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £186,114 seized under POCA.

At the end of Q3, drugs supply charges had decreased from 44 to 17 (down 61.4%). Drug possession charges have also reduced from 365 to 251 (down 31.2%). Both figures remain below the previous 5 year average.



In total, 175 cyber-crimes were recorded within Argyll & Bute at the end of Q3. This is a slight reduction from 179 in the same period last year. The most commonly reported types of cyber-crime are cyber-enabled fraud (87), threatening messages sent via social media (37) and crimes relating to indecent images/communication (31).

Acquisitive Crime



14.3% increase
In vehicle crime



4.5% increase
In housebreakings

Acquisitive crime shows a 22.9% increase on last year however this is mainly due to lower crime levels recorded during last year's Covid-19 lockdown. Overall, housebreaking crimes have increased by 4.5% (+3) due to an increase in crimes at commercial properties, while crimes at dwelling houses have reduced slightly from 31 to 29. Vehicle crimes show an increase of 14.3% (+5) due to a slight rise in thefts of vehicles. In line with trends across Scotland, fraud crimes continue to show a significant increase of 33.6% (+38). Shoplifting crimes have increased by 40.4% (+23) and common thefts by 25.8% (+39). The detection rate for Group 3 Acquisitive crimes has reduced slightly to 25.9% from 37.7%.



Compared to the same period last year, the total number of fraud related crimes in Argyll & Bute has increased from 47 to 74. Of these crimes, 6 were related to bogus callers/workers, a reduction of 3 compared to the same period last year.

Violent Crime & Antisocial Behaviour



The total number of Group 1 crimes of violence recorded has seen a slight increase compared to the end of Q3 last year (+2.7%). This remains above the previous 5 year average. Serious assaults (27) and domestic abuse crimes (15) are the most commonly recorded crime types, and account for more than half of all crimes recorded (75). Attempt murder crimes have increased slightly from 1 to 3. Crimes relating to threats & extortion have increased from 7 last year to 12 this year. The majority of these have involved threats to disclose indecent images via social media while demanding money.

8 of the 12 threat & extortion crimes occurred online, 4 via Facebook, 2 on Whatsapp

373 stop searches have been carried out YTD, 33% had a positive result

In line with a continued downward trend in public reported ASB, disorder complaints have reduced by 35.8% (-1,150) while ASB related crimes have increased slightly by 6.6% (+82). The increase in ASB crime is mainly due to a 31.8% (+128) rise in common assaults YTD. The current figure is 10.9% above the previous 5 year average. Approx. 47% of all common assaults occurred in a private setting with around 1 in 4 being domestic related. Furthermore, in 51% of the crimes occurring in a public space, the offender was known to the victim.

The detection rate for Grp 1 crimes is 62.7%, which is slightly lower than last year's figure (72.6%). To date, all attempted murder crimes have been detected and 74.1% of all serious assaults have been detected. The detection rate for common assault has reduced slightly to 70.9% while for crimes involving threats & extortion it remains low at 16.7%, likely due to the complexity involved in investigating online crime.

Vulnerable Persons



Compared to the end of Q3 last year, the number of incidents recorded where an adult concern has been raised has reduced by 0.6% from 1193 to 1185. Child concerns have increased by 20% rising from 1542 last year to 1850 this year. This is in part due to the increase in domestic incidents with children present.

At the end of Q3, 123 missing person reports were recorded. This is an increase from 85 in the same period last year. The Division has a dedicated Missing Person Coordinator who continues to support these enquiries.

Domestic related incidents continue to increase (10.1%). In total, 565 domestic related incidents were recorded at the end of Q3, compared to 513 in the same period last year. 50.6% of incidents resulted in a crime being recorded. There has been an increase in domestic abuse crimes which have risen from 208 to 286 (+37.5%). Both figures remain above the previous 5 year average by 11.5% and 17.6%, respectively.

Argyll & Bute

Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023)
Quarterly Report (Qtr. 3 – 2021/22)

User Satisfaction / Complaints

User Satisfaction results show that in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire public confidence levels remain high with overall satisfaction levels at 70%. At the end of Qtr. 3, 71 complaints against the police had been recorded in A&B, which is a decrease from 92 last year. The number of allegations against officers has also reduced considerably year on year from 193 to 135.

FESTIVE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Local officers increased their visibility in licensed premises around Argyll and Bute as part of their Festive Safety Campaign as this time of year often sees an increase in violent crime and common assaults. High visibility foot and cycle patrols were also carried out in town centre areas offering reassurance, dealing with inconsiderate parking and liaison with local retailers and businesses.

WINTER ROAD SAFETY

Local Police and Roads Policing officers deployed across the local authority area to positively influence driver behaviour during this quarter.

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In response to the increase in child concerns and sharing of indecent images, working in partnership with Education, Online Safety Guidance was issued to all parents across both Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire. This provided guidance on parental controls and websites offering guidance and support. In December, Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Policing Division hosted an evening online event to raise awareness of the opportunities and risks that comes with increasing online use by young people.

A total of 42 people attended the event in varying capacities from parents, carers, other guardians and professionals from across both West Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute, intended to be more accessible for parents and carers, and increase awareness of online safety particularly with Christmas often bringing new mobile devices for many young people. A presentation was delivered that highlighted the opportunities now available through the internet and passed on some useful facts. Key messages were passed during the event to help parents and carers help protect our younger people. Positive feedback was received from attendees.

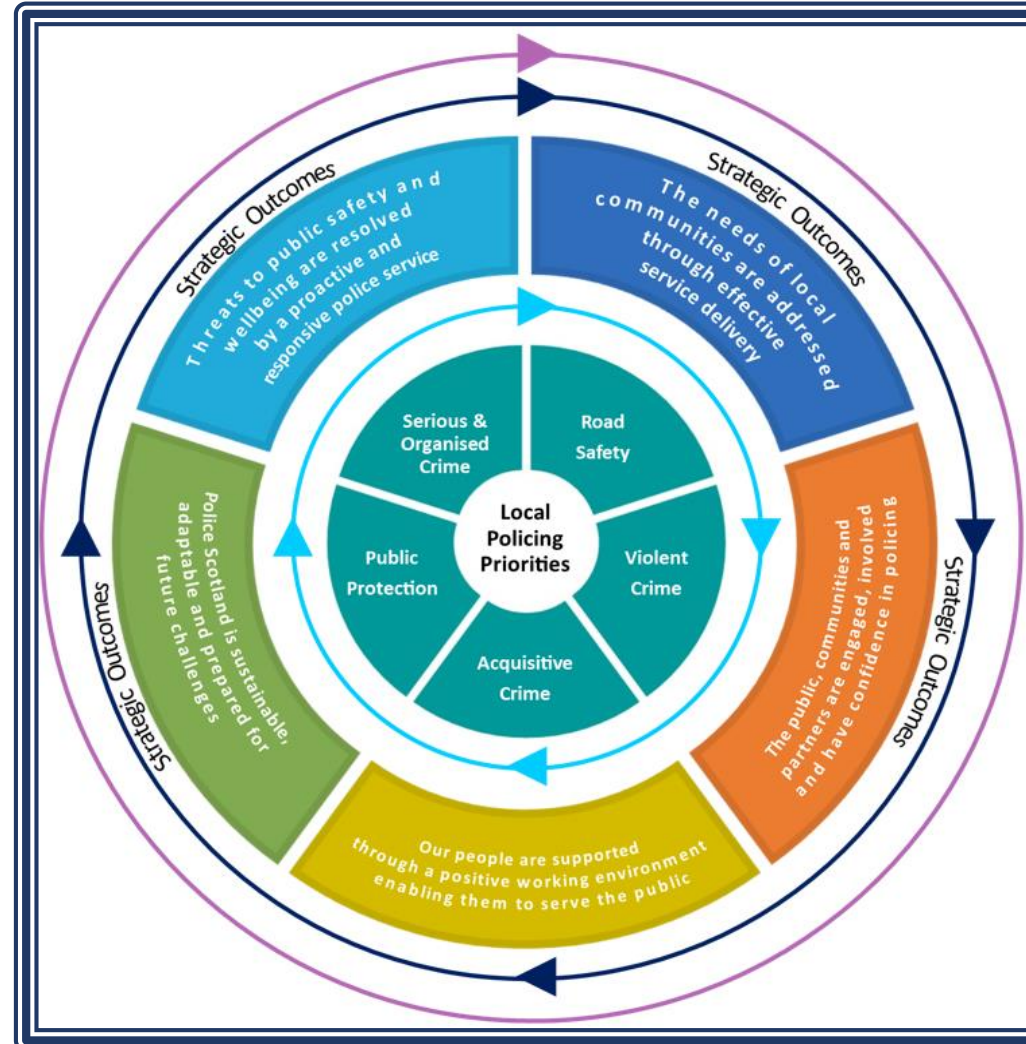
FORWARD DUNOON

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) from Clydebank and Dumbarton assisted with the "Forward to a Greener Dunoon" event held at Dunoon Pier. The PSYV Volunteers provided bike marking kits to help prevent bike thefts. These kits were provided through funding from Argyll and Bute Council and have been recently adapted to ensure GDPR compliance.

RURAL CRIME PREVENTION

Local organisations are joining forces to form a new partnership aimed at preventing and tackling rural crime in and around Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Partnership Against Rural Crime was officially launched in October 2021.

Following recent thefts of agricultural vehicles in Kintyre, an event is being planned (Covid restrictions permitting) to provide crime prevention information to local farmers and forestry workers with the intention of this being replicated throughout Argyll and Bute. This will also involve creation of a Rural Crime Prevention pack to provide those in agriculture and forestry with key information and advice on crime prevention, and other support available to them including wellbeing support and financial support.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The above campaign took place between 25th November, (International Day for Elimination of Violence) and 10th December, (Human Rights Day).

The campaign provided key messages to demonstrate our commitment to tackling domestic abuse and keeping people safe. Police Scotland highlighted various initiatives that have been established to help tackle domestic abuse and provide support for victims, including:

- Holly Guard app, a safeguarding tool that can be downloaded onto any mobile telephone,
- Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS) which aims to prevent domestic abuse by given people the right to ask about the background of their partner.
- Ask for ANI initiative that provides members of the public with a safe and private space to provide a phone to call 999 or to be able to contact the Domestic Abuse Helpline. The Ask for ANI initiative involves community based pharmacies as an alternative to attending at a police station.
- Ask Support Care input was provided to Dalriada Vets, Lochgilphead.

Addressing the increase in domestic abuse crimes, a new campaign was launched on 20th December to increase reporting of domestic abuse. As the festive period can cause an increase in domestic abuse incidents, our campaign has been created to encourage the public, including friends and relatives or those at risk, to contact police by phone, in person or by use of the DSDAS form.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Planning for Summer Safety.
- Planning for Local Council Elections.
- Resumption of local Event Planning.
- Pledge to Stop Scams Campaign launch.
- Your Dog Your Responsibility livestock worrying campaign launch.

AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019 – NOW LIVE

The Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 1029 (or ACRA) was implemented on Friday 17th December 2021. The main legislative change provided is that a child cannot be held criminally responsible for harmful behaviour that amounts to a crime or offence, which occurred when the child is aged under 12 and cannot be arrested or charged with crimes or offences. All officers have undergone training on this new legislation.

Children & Young People have the best possible start

Education, skills & training maximise opportunities for all