

**OFFICIAL**

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

**Police Scotland Report – Inspector Alan Heron**

**New Local Area Commander**

Chief Inspector Emma Grimason, the Local Area Commander for Cowal, Bute and Helensburgh, is imminently moving on to perform a national policing role. Her successor has been named as Chief Inspector Sam Glasgow who has spent the majority of her police career in the Argyll & West Dunbartonshire Division. Chief Inspector Glasgow, who has performed various uniformed and specialist detective roles, will be based at Helensburgh.

**Covid-19**

The majority of Coronavirus restrictions in Scotland ended on Monday 21st March 2022. A few of the restrictions, such as the compulsory wearing of face masks in certain places, continue to be in force. We have seen a return to complete normality in terms of how we perform our duties and engage with the public. There has been a noticeable spike in Covid-19 infection rates across the country in the past month and our particular area has not been immune to this trend. We still continue to take appropriate precautions in relation to our Covid-19 response but a number of officers have been infected resulting in them requiring to self-isolate for the mandated periods. This has led to reduced numbers of officers being available for duty although never to the extent that public safety nor our ability to respond to emergency situations has been compromised. I am pleased to say that the absence picture is vastly improving.

**Youth Engagement Officer**

In January this year PC Mark Toner from Helensburgh Police Station was appointed as a full-time Youth Engagement Officer. No officer had been performing this role since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic and it was something that was sorely needed in the local area. PC Toner works in close partnership with local schools, community groups and youth organisations to build relationships with the young people in our area. He is passionate about what he does and his aim is to build their trust and confidence in the police. A lot of his work is around making early interventions where young persons have started to offend with a view to diverting them away from such behaviour and providing them with more positive lifestyle choices. Recently he has been delivering inputs to secondary pupils on the subjects of internet safety, cyber bullying and drugs.

**Defence Community Police Officer**

The Ministry of Defence Police have recently appointed PC Drew Omand as their new full-time Defence Community Police Officer based at Churchill in Helensburgh. This is a post that had been lying vacant for over a year and he is a welcome addition to the policing family in Helensburgh. Although he is a Ministry of Defence Police officer whose focus will be on policing the defence estate where service families are housed we will regularly be working with him, as we did his predecessors, on the many matters of mutual concern.

**OFFICIAL**

## **OFFICIAL**

### **Youth Disorder & Anti-social Behaviour**

Youth disorder and general anti-social behaviour were not major issues for us over the Winter months but that is what we would generally expect. With the lighter nights and improved weather we have seen a noticeable increase in youth disorder and general anti-social behaviour in the Helensburgh area. These instances of youth disorder tend to be confined to a handful of areas in Helensburgh and the surrounding area such as Hermitage Park, Churchill Square, Duchess Woods, Garraway Glen, Ben Bouie woodland and Cardross Beach. Officers continue to target those engaging in anti-social behaviour using the full range of sanctions they have at their disposal. In the coming months new CCTV systems are due to be installed in both Hermitage Park and Churchill Square which should act as a deterrent in these two sometimes problematic locations.

### **Road Crime & Road Safety**

Road Crime & Road Safety continues to be the focus of a large part of our operational activity. This is no surprise given the roads network in the Helensburgh and Lomond area. The first and only fixed site speed camera in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire Division has recently been installed on the A814 in the centre of Cardross. The camera should become operational by the end of April 2022 following a period of testing. The main aim of this speed camera is to positively influence driver behaviour and improve road safety. Depending on its effectiveness we will hopefully see more being rolled out elsewhere in Argyll in the future.

### **National Park Visitor Management Plan**

A new National Park Visitor Management Plan has been published for the coming season outlining how all relevant partner agencies will manage the high volume of seasonal visitors to the area. Since the start of the Easter holidays there has been a steady influx of tourists to Loch Lomondside and the surrounding areas placing a strain on local infrastructure. We have seen a corresponding increase in the demands placed on us as a result of this.

Police Scotland have stood up Operation Ballaton which is our response plan for dealing with anti-social behaviour and other issues unique to the National Park. This will see a number of officers specifically tasked to police the hotspot areas to mitigate against the greatest risks posed to individuals and the local communities. Planning is also underway to have specialist policing resources operating in our area at times of higher anticipated demand over the coming months taking account of local events and holidays.

In March 2022 a new national Water Safety Action Plan was launched in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. The aim of this action plan is to improve the safety around Scotland's waters following a number of tragic deaths both on Loch Lomond and elsewhere. New measures, a number of which have already been implemented in the National Park, include improved signage to raise awareness of the risks posed and more widely available rescue equipment. In addition to the National Park's Ranger Service the Police Scotland Marine Unit will also be undertaking work to raise awareness of and promote water safety.

**OFFICIAL**

## OFFICIAL

### **Counter Terrorism Awareness**

PC Dave Burton is our local Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer and he has been providing inputs to local housing associations as an introduction to Counter Terrorism. This ensures that staff are aware of signs of radicalisation and any prevention work that can be done by them as a frontline measure.

### **Your Dog, Your Responsibility**

As lambing season is upon us, and with new legislation launched in relation to livestock worrying, our Divisional launch of this was held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The new legislation for livestock worrying now covers a wider range of animals including camelids and ostriches. The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 includes amendments to the penalties people can face which includes a fine up to £40,000 or 12 months imprisonment. The message is clear - it's your dog and it's your responsibility. Always keep your dog in sight and under proper control when near livestock and avoid fields with sheep particularly at this time of year when any stress may cause them to abort their young. Funding from National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) has enabled crime prevention packs for those involved in agriculture and forestry work to be printed and these will be available shortly. Waterproof fence posters will also be available from your local police station in the coming weeks which can be fixed to fence posts advising people of this legislation. If you would like to become involved in promoting this or helping to display the fence posters then please let us know ([Laura.evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Laura.evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk)).

### **Fraud Prevention**

To support Cyber Scotland Week 2022, Police Scotland in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch Scotland held a series of online seminars to raise awareness of scams and online safety. This is due to the increase in reported frauds we have seen since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. There were 3 sessions held – General Online Safety Tips, Child Protection (their safety, our responsibility) and Scams Prevention and Awareness. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland have now uploaded each presentation to their YouTube Channel so that they can be watched and shared at any time. Here is the link to view each recording:

- Online Safety Awareness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0TmqVdyiQc>
- Their Safety, Our Responsibility - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CnFzGFPXGo>
- Scams & Digital Footprint Awareness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKdmU7Y0fQk>

Inputs are continuing for community groups and call blockers continue to be installed for those most at risk of falling victim to scams.

OFFICIAL