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Communities & Partnerships Team

Since the last meeting the Policing team framework within the MAKI and OLI region has become more cemented, with a Communities & Partnerships Team set up to start developing its work in the local area. Currently, this consists of Insp Lee Page, based in Oban, and Sgt Matt Shaw, based in Lochgilphead. Their focus is to service those ties already present, building on the good work that has gone before, and to expand the partnership network to the benefit of partners and the public that we serve. Whilst Sgt Matt Shaw, who has a background in Child Protection and Serious Crime, has already been linking with this forum and has spoken before, Insp Lee Page comes from Response Policing, working in the department for four months, having transferred in from West Mercia Police in England, where he had a strong history in community policing and partnership working. Both look forward to helping develop partnerships, programs and initiatives that will better serve the communities of this part of Argyll.

Should any members of this forum feel that they have identified relations that need strengthening, have questions for the Police or have programs/initiatives that they wish to discuss with Insp Page or Sgt Shaw, please, don't hesitate to contact them on: Lee.Page@scotland.police.uk and Matthew.Shaw@scotland.police.uk

Community Council Framework

On the back of the above development, the way that Community Councils within the OLI and MAKI areas are engaged with has changed. There has been inconsistency with how Community Councils have been served across this Policing area, with some having fixed representation, some having sporadic attendance, and some not having any interaction whatsoever. Moving forward all Community Councils will receive the same service. Firstly, a report will be generated each month which details the number of calls the Beat Area the Community Council lies within has received. The top three demands for that Beat Area will also be detailed, along with any associated press releases, to help provide some context. Within this document will also be any key messaging that the Police wish to pass to communities. This document will help show the wider demand for Police Services for the area in which those communities live.

All the councils have been written to, advising of the new structure and seeking confirmation of points of contact and meeting times/date. It will now be the case that the Duty Response Sgt will be informed of what meetings are taking place when they are on duty. Where they can facilitate attendance through themselves, or another officer, they will. However, with 36 Community Councils and only 1-2 Sergeants on duty at any given time, many appointments are liable to clash and the demand being serviced from 999 calls will always have to take priority. Should they be able to attend, they will have the same report as furnished to the councils already, but will be able to answer any questions, provide further context if applicable or take away information/requests for further development.

Again, Insp Page and Sgt Shaw, are the points of contact for the Community Councils and will develop any work that is required for or by them.

Not At Home Protocol

Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Police Division has been working with key partners in the local authority to develop the Not At Home Protocol which launches locally on the 9th January 2023.

Police Scotland and Partners recognise the importance of their roles as 'Corporate Parents' and are committed to ensuring the wellbeing and support of care experienced young people. We also recognise that care experienced young people should be listened to and supported to prevent them being unnecessarily criminalised and from being exposed to risk and harm. Some children may be 'not at home' for a short period of time before returning. Sometimes children stay out longer than agreed, either on purpose or accidentally, and may be testing

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boundaries. This kind of boundary testing is well within the range of normal teenage behaviour and is not necessarily considered a risk. Police Scotland receive a number of calls relating to missing persons, often relating to care experienced young people who have not returned home, however their whereabouts are known by their care provider and they are believed to be safe and well.

The Not At Home Protocol has the following aims:

- To meet the needs of our care experienced children and young persons
- To ensure a proportionate and risk assessed response to missing episodes
- To reduce the likelihood of escalation of behaviour with unnecessary police contact

Where there are good grounds to believe that a child's absence is careless or deliberate, and there is no apparent risk to the child and/or public it is permissible to have a single agency response and there is no need for the police to be contacted. If that risk becomes intolerable to the carer, consideration should be given to reporting the child missing to Police Scotland, generating a multi-agency response.

Local Authorities, care providers and Police all play a vital role in the prevention, response, support and protection of children when they are missing. It is recognised that looked after children who go missing from care homes are particularly vulnerable as they can be targeted and may lack direct support or supervision from close family members.

Distress Brief Intervention

Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) is an innovative way of supporting people in distress. The DBI approach emerged from the Scottish Government's work on Suicide Prevention and Mental Health strategies. The aim of the DBI programme is to provide a framework for improved inter[1]agency working, collaboration and co-operation across a wide range of care settings, interventions and community supports, working towards the shared goal of providing a compassionate and effective response to people in distress. This makes it more likely that individuals in distress will engage with and stay connected to services or support that may benefit them over time. Most importantly, DBI provides the opportunity to do the right thing and help people get access to early and effective support at a time when they need it most. Early and effective interventions by trained professionals go such a long way to improving a person's quality of life and those of their families, friends and the wider community.

Scottish Health Award Winner 2019



Distress Brief Intervention
Connected Compassionate Support

DBI affords police officers a further tactical option (not previously available) to consider when dealing with people presenting in distress. It will not replace / duplicate any current arrangements for anyone who requires further medical treatment and will complement existing local arrangements such as contact with the Emergency Crisis Mental Health Team. Within Argyll and Bute, referrals for Distress Brief Intervention can be sent to Support In Mind Scotland who provide follow up with the person in distress within 24 hours of the referral. Support in Mind Scotland

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are then able to offer up to 14 days of time limited support to the individual and can link in with the GP for localised/further support.

There are now over 50 police officers trained to make DBI referrals including officers on our islands including Mull, Tiree,Islay and Rothesay ensuring this support is available regardless of where in Argyll and Bute you live.

Rural Watch Scotland

Scotland is renowned for its great natural beauty and the rural communities of Scotland are safe places in which to live, work and visit. However, the nature of the environment and way of life means there are some crime prevention tips particularly relevant to rural life. Police Scotland would like to encourage people within Argyll and Bute to get involved with Rural Watch Scotland and to sign up and receive FREE alerts.

'Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and a product of the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) aimed specifically at the rural community of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to your community irrespective of its location, size or demographics. The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland mirror that of Neighbourhood Watch, namely to:

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time
- Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community
- Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'
- Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather

By joining Rural Watch Scotland you can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping you informed about crime and other threats in your area, we help prevent crime, keep your community and its residents safe, and your response to these alerts can help us catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to your community. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply click the green JOIN button at the top of the internet page found here <https://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk/#SignUp>

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