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Fraud Prevention

Frauds and scams continue to be a focus as offences are still being reported on a regular basis. The Scam Savvy Quiz has been delivered to a number of groups across Argyll, we are still looking for more groups to deliver this to especially around Oban, Lorn and the Isles so please let us know if we can provide this input to any community groups/organisations that you have involvement with. Call blockers are discussed at the Scam Input. Currently, officers are making use of a Friends Against Scams free call blocker initiative whereby any devices requested are being sought through this scheme which means there is no funding or divisional spend required. The most updated figures from trueCall who provide these devices is that we now have 262 call blockers installed in Argyll and Bute to protect older and vulnerable people from nuisance and scam phone calls. So far 86,504 calls have been blocked, and trueCall estimate that 141 scams have been prevented. It is estimated that over the 4 year life of these units they will have blocked 207,370 nuisance calls (of which 57,149 will have been scam phone calls), prevented 337 scams, saved vulnerable households £995,357, led to a reduction of £924,550 in NHS, social care & police costs, and an increase in wellbeing & quality of life valued at £1,072,235 - total benefits of £2,992,142. The financial benefits of £1,919,907 are 28 times the project costs of £67,858.

Out and About

Partnership and Prevention officers provided personal safety inputs to Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service staff as well as information on county lines drug dealing methods and risks.

Community Policing in the Inner Hebrides starts early! PC Kevin Bonar recently spent time at Mull's Salen Primary School with P1 to P4 pupils. Community Policing is central to serving the public of Scotland. Should you be part of a community group or school that wants input from your local Police, please link with your local stations, who can put you in touch with the various Community Teams around your area.



Our designated Youth Engagement Officer continues to work with in Oban, primarily with the Oban High School. Should any Community Groups or Primaries wish for engagements, please, don't hesitate to link with Oban Police Station. As detailed on Mull, Community Policing is for all ages and it's important that the children in our communities know who to trust. Examples of work taken place in the MAKI area includes, *"Campbeltown Officers have also been busy, at Castlehill Primary they carried out Internet Safety and Online Gaming Workshops with Primary's 4-7. The main focus of the workshop was keeping children safe online, particularly in online gaming. They also covered the role of a Police Officer in our community. Further, Online Safety sessions took place at Castlehill Primary, Carradale Primary and Drumlembel*

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Primary. The aim of these sessions was to educate parents of the risks the children could face online and provide advice and support creating password protections and software updates.”

Divisional Recognition Awards 2023

The Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Divisional Awards 2023 took place in Oban this year to recognise the outstanding work that our officers, staff and partners do in the communities. The awards included Probationer of the Year, Special Recognition, Partnership, Outstanding Bravery, Unsung Hero, Commander's Award, Above and Beyond and Team of the Year. Sergeant Cammy Lowe and DC Lorraine McBeth were the winners of the Unsung Hero Award. This award is for officers with a reputation in excellence in all areas and the quality of their work. Cammy and Lorraine were recognised for their annual work in Oban organising the local police Children's Party for the last 10 years, bringing the Oban office together, and raising funds for this through office bake-off's and their extra-curricular time and dedication to local children's swimming and football clubs. The Runner up for the Partnership Award was Sheena McLean from Argyll and Bute Council. Sheena was nominated for her unmatched knowledge of Anti-Social Behaviour legislation, mediation skills and drive to improve CCTV throughout Argyll and Bute.



16 Days Against Gender Based Violence Campaign

Between 25th November and 10th December, officers supported the 16 Days Against Gender Based Violence Campaign. The theme for 2023 was 'Imagine a Scotland without Gender Based Violence'. During the campaign period Police Scotland as part of the wider Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership in Argyll and Bute heavily promoted support networks for all affected by gender based violence as well as the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS). DSDAS aims to prevent domestic abuse by giving people the right to ask about the background of their partner. It also (anonymously) allows concerned members of the public, such as relatives or friends, the right to ask about someone's partner if they are concerned that person has been abusive in the past. DSDAS enables potential victims to make the choice on whether to remain in a relationship, and working with partners, provide them with support to assist them in their decision. The campaign also involved some local pledges by prominent male roles

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models in our community showing positive messages about what gender based violence means to them and what they can do to make a positive difference.



Drink & Drug Driving

OLI and MAKI Police continue to be proactive in tackling those that would drive whilst under the influence of alcohol and drugs and taking them off the roads. Even in today's Scotland, where the dangers that such crimes cause for other road users and pedestrians are well known, as well as the impact on the person's own life through loss of licence and sometimes job, this problematic crime type continues. In the month preceding the 2nd January, your local officers proactively caught, arrested and charged 15 people with drink and drug offences relating to driving vehicles on our roads. We will continue to try and stamp this out to make our communities safer. We need your help make us even more effective. Should you know of people that drink drive, please, report it to your local station through 101, utilise the varying methods on our website - <https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. Together we can help to make the environment that we live in safer.

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