



## **Argyll & West Dunbartonshire Division**

### **Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group**

**August 2024**

## **COWAL, BUTE & HELENSBURGH PRIORITIES 2023-2026**

The priorities for your area are decided by data from our strategic assessment which details threats and risks, and also from feedback from local authorities, partners, and residents in the [Local Policing Survey](#)

- Serious organised crime
- Crimes of theft and dishonesty
- Road safety and road crime
- Violent crime
- Public protection.

### **Serious & Organised Crime**

Cowal, Bute & Helensburgh benefits from a dedicated Pro-active Serious and Organised Crime Team (SOCT). These specialist officers are supported by dedicated intelligence officers in tackling serious and organised crime in our communities.

We have been upskilling officers across Argyll ensuring they understand and appreciate the importance of community intelligence and information. This information is key and often results in the targeting of those involved in the sale and supply of controlled drugs. In Helensburgh this has led to an increase in applications to the courts for Sheriff search warrants resulting in various drugs recoveries from specific individuals.

Community information is key for us and may just provide us with the last piece of evidence required to apply to the courts for a warrant. We encourage our communities to share concerns and suspicions around drug dealing either by calling 101 or by reporting anonymously via Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

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## OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

### Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime remains a local priority. Figures across the country are on an upward trajectory, which in part is a result of the cost of living. We are working with our Preventions team looking at maximising our crime prevention opportunities and looking at innovative ways to increase local awareness. We are working with our communities to identify areas of vulnerability where we can engage with our partners to maximise our response.

In Helensburgh Our community policing officers are engaging with local businesses in the retail sector to reduce shoplifting. Officers are taking ownership by identifying those responsible, collating information and seeking bail conditions restricting access by the perpetrators.

Theft of fuel from petrol stations continues to be an increasing trend. Along with our preventions team we are supporting local business to ensure that we are providing crime prevention advice and seeking local business to review practises to reduce the volume of these crimes.

(Figures from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024)

Crime Type	5 Year Average	PYTD	YTD	% Change from previous Year
Common Theft	10.8	15	9	-2.9%
Fraud	6	7	5	-28%
Theft shoplifting	6.8	7	17	+142%

### Road Safety & Road Crime

We have continued to maximise our visibility on the trunk roads with our focus on speed detection and driver behaviour being the primary activities. Our summer road safety campaign has ensured that we are prepared for the increase in road users across our communities particular with the increase in tourists and those who unfamiliar with our roads.

As a result of our continued presence within local community councils and partnership meetings we are able to identify locations which our community have identified as areas of concern for speeding. Our officers are all trained in the use of hand held speed detection devices and will always look for opportunities to target these areas throughout the course of their shift.

We participate in the Cowal Transport Forum which provides a wide range of community members the opportunity to engage directly with local policing giving us a great opportunity to listen and identify local risk and to provide a suitable policing response.

### Violent Crime

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## **OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS**

Violent crime continues to be closely monitored and reviewed with investigations being resourced across Local Policing Teams and the Criminal Investigation Department. Each crime is subject of daily review and scrutiny and thereafter allocated to the most appropriate department to progress to assist in identification of repeat victims, offenders and locations. Any emerging issues and risks are shared and appropriate actions identified

Across Helensburgh and Lomond we continue to support our nighttime economy by providing a visible presence in our licensed premises. Weekend policing plans allow us to maximise our efforts across our towns as we look for opportunities to reduce early signs of ASB which may escalate into violence. We often work with partners to maximise our presence. In Helensburgh the Royal Navy Police have been attending shift meetings learning about priority tasking and supporting local policing across the town.

### **Public Protection**

Our partnerships team are working with A&B licensing and local taxi companies to increase the awareness of domestic violence and in particular violence against woman and children. Better awareness and support to taxi drivers will allow them to consider the “by stander approach” Which will give confidence to report their concerns to local policing.

### **Local Policing News**

#### **Fraud Prevention**

Frauds and scams continue to be a focus as offences are still being reported on a regular basis and we would welcome invites from any community groups or organisations in the Helensburgh and Lomond area who feel they could benefit from an input from our preventions team.

#### **Community Policing**

Our community police team have been maximising their presence across Helensburgh and Lomond. They have created and enhanced new local links with partners from housing, RNP, Live Argyll. The officers are tasked daily with supporting the local community where it is needed most. The officers remained motivated and determined to provide a positive policing presence within the community.

PC Haining has been working with Live Argyll to support a diversionary and supportive programme for young persons in the grounds of Hermitage Academy on Friday evenings. As well as this PC Haining has been leading the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers at various events. This includes the Luss Highland Games and later this month will be supporting the British Open Golf Championships in Troon. These experiences have not only supported local communities but provided these young persons with valuable development and evidence for future employment.

#### **Operation Ballaton**

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## OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

Our multi agency approach at tackling summer ASB has kicked off with partner meetings and planning taking place. Local officers have been provided with information in relation local bye laws across Loch Lomond so that a robust policing plan can be put in place to tackle seasonal ASB. The local Area Inspector has met with representatives of the Luss community to get an understanding about local concerns and how local policing can support them.

### Looking Forward

Local policing has had engagement with local elected officials to highlight the need for a review on CCTV within Helensburgh. The system in place is not fit for purpose and requires consideration of investment and upgrade.

### *Useful Links/Contacts*

- **Argyll and Bute Community Directory** - <https://abcd.scot/> including warm spaces information
- **Crimestoppers** – [Crimestoppers in Scotland | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)  
[0800 555 111](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)
- **Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime** – [www.scottishparc.co.uk](http://www.scottishparc.co.uk)
- **Women's Aid** - [Home - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/)
- **Citizens Advice** – 0808 164 6000
- **Argyll and Bute Council Trading Standards** – 01546 605 519
- **Argyll and Bute Council** – <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-council/how-contact-us>
- **Transport Scotland** – road related incidents and road closures - <https://www.traffic.gov.scot/traffic-information/incidents>
- **Scottish Water** - <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/Help-and-Resources/Contact-Us>  
[0800 0778 778](https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/Help-and-Resources/Contact-Us)
- **NHS24 (including mental health support)** – 111 or <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

*Follow us on Social Media and help share local appeals and education messages*

- Facebook - Police Scotland Argyll and West Dunbartonshire
- X (formerly Twitter) – PSOSArgyllBute and PSOS ArgWestDunb

Sign up to Neighbourhood Watch to receive local alerts and bulletins for your community area - <https://neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/#0>

Have your say on your local policing priorities - <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2023-2024/>

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