

Keeping People Safe in East Renfrewshire

Introduction



As Local Police Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to provide this report which relates to our performance and policing priorities for Q4 of the financial year 2023-24. The information contained within this report allows us to provide an overview of the impacts on policing and how we have performed during this final quarter.

Officers in East Renfrewshire dealt with almost 15,000 incidents in this reporting year, an increase of 4% compared to last year. The demands on policing continue to grow alongside the challenges we face with resourcing. Our officers and staff who serve the people of East Renfrewshire are determined to deliver

positive outcomes in the face of these challenges.

This report will highlight what we have achieved in East Renfrewshire with the support of specialist national police resources and partner agencies. As we continue to develop our service delivery model to tackle evolving demand, I want to highlight the support and help we have received from the people of East Renfrewshire. From tackling housebreaking to supporting our safer roads approach, the communities in East Renfrewshire have worked with us each step of the way.

Through partnership working and with the support of the public we will continue to build on the successes outlined below and tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

Public Protection

There were 117 Sexual Crimes recorded up to the end of this period. This is down 4% against the 5-year average and up slightly on last year with an increase of 7 offences. Almost half of all sexual crimes have been successfully detected with a detection rate of 48%.

Over this period, we have seen an increase in offences relating to Indecent Communications which are up to 18 and Threatening/Disclosure of Intimate Images are up to 9. There are many challenges in trying to impact on this national trend. We continue to raise awareness and promote our sextortion self-help guide through social media, schools, and local community groups.



The total number of Indecent/Sexual Assaults are down 21% against last year and the 5-year average. Our local officers and specialist teams have managed to increase our detection rate by 11% with 17 of the 33 offences being successfully detected.

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Sexual Offences)

We know that Domestic Abuse is a horrific crime that can have a significant impact in all involved. We continue to promote a partnership approach in protecting and supporting victims. Insp Michelle Grant co-chaired the East Renfrewshire Violence Against Women and Girls group and this group plays an integral part in the process of supporting victims, I wish to thank her for her efforts and leadership in this area.

This year we have seen a 5% increase in the number of domestic incidents reported to the Police. There were 228 incidents where a crime was established, this is 42% of the overall number of domestic incidents reported. One in every two domestic crimes reported has a successfully detected accused.

East Renfrewshire

Local Police Plan (2023-2026)

Quarterly Report 2023/24 Q4: Jan - March 2024

Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime like many offences can have a personal impact on those it affects, in East Renfrewshire we have worked hard to make a positive impact.

I am pleased to report that Housebreakings are down 40% against last year which means there were 51 less properties and families affected.

Motor Vehicle Crime has also reduced compared to last year down 21%. This means there were 24 less victims of motor vehicle crime, with theft from motor vehicles down 32% which is one of the largest decreases this year.

The investigation and resourcing required to disrupt, deter, and detect these types of crimes is significant. We have received help from specialist departments across Greater Glasgow Division and nationally to support our local officers tackle these issues.



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Crimes of Dishonesty)

Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increased safety

We continue to see Theft by Shoplifting and Fraud having a significant impact nationally. Whilst this is a national and societal issue, we still take time to focus on understanding the local context.

Theft by Shoplifting has risen 19% across East Renfrewshire for the entire reporting period. This means there have been an additional 37 offences recorded compared to last year. Our detection rate sits at 34% which is up 9% on the previous year. We made Shoplifting a pillar in our festive campaign and we have also allocated retailers a dedicated single point of contact within our community policing team.

Reported Fraud in East Renfrewshire remained stable against last year and the 3-year average with 197 Frauds reported which is one less than last year. Later in this report we will outline some of the success we have seen in detecting offenders and returning funds to victims.

Drug Dealing & Use

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Drug Supply & Manufacture)

Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety

Our proactive approach in tackling Drug offences has resulted in a 19% increase in the total number offences recorded this year. Offences in relation to the supply of drugs are up to 17 from 14 and possession offences are up to 154 from 128. I want to thank my team for their proactive approach in this area. Whilst we tackle these offences at an operational and tactical level, we are also invested in and committed to our role within the East Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) where we support the strategic partnership in addressing alcohol and drug issues in our local communities.



Violent Crime

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime; Disorder & Antisocial behaviour)
Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety



This year we have seen 5 additional Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence recorded, this brings the total to 79. We have successfully increased our detection rate by 4% meaning one in every two offences in this category are successfully detected.

With assistance from our Criminal Investigation Department, we have delivered a 20% increase in the detection rate for Serious Assaults with 14 out of 20 being successfully detected. Serious Assaults are 19% lower than the 5-year average and 14% below the 3-year average.

There has been one additional Robbery or Assault with intent to Rob Offence recorded this quarter bringing the total to 13 for the year. We have worked hard to tackle these offences with 10 of the 13 offences being successfully detected bringing some closure for the victims involved.



Anti-social behaviour & Disorder

The number of incidents of disorder reported to the police in East Renfrewshire has decreased by 5% compared to last year. There were 95 less incidents reported bringing the total to 1708 for the year. This is the lowest recorded number in the last 5 years.

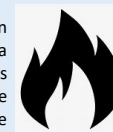


The number of Hate Crimes Incidents and Hate Crimes recorded in East Renfrewshire have also reduced this year by 11% and 44% respectively. There were 45 Hate Crimes recorded this year compared to 80 in the previous year. Many of the crimes reported related to communication offences which are challenging to investigate. We assess every report on its own merit and investigate all avenues to seek a positive outcome.

Local Policing Priority—Crime (Disorder & Antisocial behaviour)

Fairer East Ren Plan—Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety

Our communities and the media have rightly highlighted concerns in relation to antisocial behaviour. We understand that fear of crime has a negative impact on feeling safe. We work closely with our partners across East Renfrewshire Council and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to understand the causes and effect. Through doing this we have implemented strategies to tackle concerns and to reassure the people of East Renfrewshire.



In the first 3 quarters of this year there were 42 Wilful Fire-Raisings recorded. In the last 3 months this has increased by 3 to 45 which is a significant decrease in the rate of incidents. We hope that the concentrated efforts by SFRS, CLD, ERC Community Safety and our own team have contributed to this slowdown in offences.

We have also seen a slowdown in the rate of Culpable and Reckless Conduct offences being committed. There were 37 offences recorded for the first 3 quarters of this year giving an average of 12 per quarter. In this final quarter we have seen a reduction of 50% with 6 additional offences recorded bringing the total to 43 for the year.

We hope to build on this slowdown in offences and the overall reduction in incidents of disorder.

Please be aware that the data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Board Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

Due to year end reconciliation processes it is not appropriate that the figures referred to in the report are used as official statistics.

CRIME

Our Area of Focus: Violent Crime

In January a 45-year-old female was seriously assaulted at a property in Barrhead. CID carried out a thorough investigation. A 44-year-old female was identified as being responsible and arrested the following day and held custody for court.

In March police were called to an on-going disturbance in a street in Busby with multiple persons involved. Numerous police resources were deployed to the area. Three persons were arrested with numerous offences detected and a baseball bat recovered.

During this quarter officers were carrying out proactive patrols in the Barrhead area whereby they arrested a 45-year-old male who was found to be in possession of a lockback knife.

Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture

During this quarter, officers stopped a vehicle near to Barrhead Railway station. The occupants were detained under misuse of drugs legislation and searched. The 24-year-old male driver was found to be in possession of a large quantity of controlled drugs and a four-figure sum of money. Both were seized and the male was arrested and remained custody for court appearance.

In February, officers on patrol were deployed to a male sitting within a vehicle in the Newton Mearns area appearing to be asleep. The male was roused and suspected to be unfit to drive through drink and/or drugs. Utilising legislation, the male and his vehicle was searched and he was found to be in possession of a large quantity of controlled drugs, drug paraphernalia as well as being unfit to drive through intoxication. He was arrested and charged to appear at court at a later date.

Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty

Our focus remains on protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities. We continue to work with our partners in specialist departments such as the Economic Crime and Financial Investigation Unit (ECFIU). During this last reporting period a 77-year-old complainant was the victim of a fraud to the value of £120k. Following ECFIU involvement the victim has been reimbursed just over £74,000.00. During this quarter 2 males were also arrested for a £1.1 million fraud committed in East Renfrewshire which was orchestrated by an organised crime group.

Our local community officers have also been working closely with local stores to address security concerns and CCTV. In March a team of 4 males entered a store in the Barrhead area with a large suitcase and removed £1800 worth of alcohol. The males were captured on CCTV. Local officers identified 3 persons involved, all of whom have now been charged and reported to the courts.

In March police officers received a report of a stolen motor vehicle from a house in Newton Mearns. The vehicle was traced by police in a different area of Glasgow. A 27-year-old male was charged with theft, fraud and numerous road traffic offence and held in police custody for court.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

Keeping all road users safe is a top priority for Police Scotland and remains a focus for officers within East Renfrewshire.

In February, officers on routine patrol within the Barrhead area, observed a vehicle being driven by a male who was known to them as being disqualified driver. Officers indicated for the driver to stop however, he failed to do so. After a short time, the vehicle stopped and a 29-year-old man was identified and arrested for a number of road traffic offences including dangerous driving.

Officers were alerted to concerns for a male in the Clarkston area who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and had entered a vehicle and driven off. Officers conducted area checks and attended at the registered keeper's home where a 37-year-old man was identified and arrested after failing a road side breath test.

In this quarter, officers on patrol within Giffnock, observed a vehicle being driven within a cycle lane before returning to main carriageway. The driver was stopped and was issued with a fixed penalty notice for the offence.

Our Areas of Focus: Domestic Abuse— Adult Protection—Child Protection

Domestic abuse and harm remain a priority for Police Scotland. We have a critical role to play in safeguarding our domestic abuse survivors and their families.

In February 2024 a 48 year old female reported domestic abuse from her current partner, spanning over 15 years, which had not previously been reported to police. She reported violent and abusive behaviour towards both her and her children. An extensive investigation was carried out and a 49-year-old male was subsequently arrested and charged with numerous offences against his ex-partner and daughter. Specific measures were put in place to safeguard them from further risk and harm.

We actively ensure that bail conditions set by the courts are adhered to protect our survivors and their families from no further harm. In January a 38-year-old male was traced and charged with being within the home address of a domestic abuse survivor contrary to his bail conditions, he was arrested and held custody for court the next lawful day.

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

During this quarter our campus officers continued to engage with local schools, educating and supporting young people. Due to the recent change in Hate Crime Legislation officers have been providing hate crime inputs to Secondary school pupils which has been well received. The campus officers also continue to work with all our schools delivering inputs on Internet Safety/Social Media and Anti-Social Behaviour.

In January our officers provided Young Driver inputs to 6th year secondary pupils providing valuable guidance on road safety for new drivers. Our officers are also highlighting the 'Give Cycle Space' campaign, giving at least 1.5 metres of space when passing someone on a bike.

Planning is also progressing well for our summer 2024 diversionary programme that supports and assist some of the most vulnerable young people in our communities. Requests are ongoing to secure additional funding to support this programme.



CONCLUSION

As the Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 4th Quarter of the year 2023/24.

As outlined in this Cabinet Report, we are tackling head on the challenges facing our communities and modern policing. Through the support of key partners such SFRS we have worked collaboratively to deliver innovative interventions which impact positively on areas of risk. I want to thank SFRS Area Commander David McCarry and Group Commander Alan Coughtrie for their leadership in this area. It is only through each partner engaging and delivering that we will make sustainable change. We continue to commit to working in partnership with ERC and other agencies to deliver against the priorities of the people of East Renfrewshire.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chief Superintendent Lynn Ratcliff
Divisional Commander