

Introduction



Having spent the past 2 years as the Divisional Commander of Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Division, I recently returned to Greater Glasgow Division. Having commenced my policing career here, in Easterhouse in 1991, I am proud to be able to say that I have now worked at every uniform rank in Greater Glasgow. I am delighted to be back and I look forward to working with our partners to keep people safe in East Renfrewshire

I would also like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Chief Supt Brian McNulty, who has served as the Divisional Commander here with distinction since March 2016, an exceptional and effective leader. I know that he was extremely proud to be the Greater Glasgow Commander and he always speaks highly of the hard work and commitment provided by our staff and partners who work here.

Violent Crime



There has been a decrease in serious assaults - 11 compared to 14 during the same period last year and there has not been a single robbery reported in the first quarter of 2019.



Reducing and preventing violent crime remains a key priority. Overall there has been a reduction in serious or 'Group 1' violent crimes however disappointingly, there has been a significant increase in common assaults. Because of the higher incidence of these crimes this has resulted in an overall increase in crimes of violence in the first quarter of this year compared to last year's figures.

Local Policing Priority – Violent Crime

National Policing Priority – Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour

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

A number of assaults take place between partners or former partners and we remain focused on dealing quickly and effectively with incidents of domestic abuse. Compared to the same period last year, the number of domestic abuse crimes has increased from 58 to 72 and there has been a slight reduction in detection rates. However, the number of reported incidents has reduced from 133 to 129. As you can see, the number of crimes recorded as a result of these incidents is up. This is perhaps indicative of the increasing willingness of individuals to report domestic abuse crimes to us and the enhanced training that officers have received in handling reports of this nature.

East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan (2017-2020) Quarterly Report (Q1 — 2019/20)

Acquisitive Crime



Homes Being Broken Into

Over the first quarter of this year, there have been 5 less domestic housebreakings compared to last year's figures, and a reduction of almost 50% compared to the 5 year average.



Local Policing Priority – Homes Being Broken Into

National Policing Priority – Acquisitive Crime

Detecting those responsible for housebreaking can be difficult and protracted however, with the skills of officers carrying out door to door enquiries, capturing CCTV evidence and receiving support from our specialist teams, we have enhanced our ability to detect those responsible for these crimes.

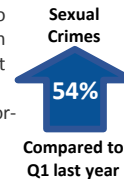
Prevention is always preferred to detection and in the first quarter officers from our divisional Safer Communities Department have attended a variety of community events and have provided home security advice. Additionally, local officers have carried out a number of high profile road checks across the Local Authority. Large numbers of vehicles have been stopped and drivers spoken with. This proactivity appears to have contributed to an overall reduction in the number of homes being broken into.

Public Protection

Local Policing Priority – Child Abuse Including Child Sexual Exploitation

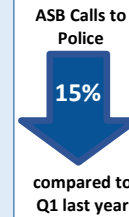


In the first quarter of 2019, there has continued to be an increase in the reporting of sexual crimes with 40 victims having come forward compared to 26 last year. This reflects a national trend which is partly due to victims having the confidence to come forward and report ongoing and historical incidents. Specialist officers continue to deal with these investigations which are invariably lengthy and complex.



We continue to work with Home Office Immigration Enforcement to identify people who may have been subject to exploitation or Human Trafficking. Our Public Protection Unit are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding two young Vietnamese females who were traced in the Giffnock area.

Antisocial Behaviour & Disorder



Antisocial behaviour remains a community priority and we continue to focus efforts on preventing disorder. In the first quarter of this year there have been 102 fewer calls made to the Police about antisocial behaviour compared to last year. Crimes of vandalism are also down by 31 which is positive.



Local Policing Priority – Antisocial behaviour and disorder

National Policing Priority – Violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour

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

During the Easter school holidays, we ran a youth disorder action plan with colleagues from British Transport Police. This focused on large groups of youths who were using the rail network to travel about the area and cause disorder on the trains and the vicinity of the stations that they were getting on and off from. By sharing information and intelligence, we were able to engage with groups, identify the main perpetrators and prevent disorder occurring.

In June, we also worked closely with the local authority's Community Safety Department to deploy resources at 'hot-spot' locations during the '6th Year Muck Up Day'. This day had caused issues in the past and as expected, numerous reports of antisocial behaviour were received throughout the day. However, by working together, sharing information, and tasking resources appropriately, we were able to respond quickly and effectively to these reports and prevent any escalation.

Drug Dealing & Misuse

Local Policing Priority – Drug Dealing & Misuse

National Policing Priority – Protecting People At Risk of Harm



There has been continued proactivity in the first quarter of 2019 with a variety of controlled drugs being seized and several key arrests being made. The number of cases submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for persons involved in the supply, production and cultivation of drugs has decreased from 13 to 7 compared to the same period last year. However, the number of warrants executed has remained the same. In many cases the quantities of drugs recovered during these searches has resulted in possession charges. This emphasises the importance of members of the public reporting persons that they suspect of being involved in the supply of controlled drugs either directly to us or via Crimestoppers.

DOMESTIC ABUSE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2018

Local Policing Priority – Violent Crime

We continue to robustly apply the new Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland legislation and a number of offenders have been reported to COPFS under the terms of the new act. Training and awareness raising is ongoing and positive feedback is being provided by officers and members of the public regarding the provisions of the new act. The first conviction in respect of the new Domestic Abuse Scotland Act occurred in May 2019 and related to a conviction in respect of a crime based in Greater Glasgow Division.

TACKLING ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Local Policing Priority – Homes Being Broken Into
National Policing Priority – Acquisitive Crime

In April, witness and CCTV evidence was secured by officers who initially attended housebreakings in the Newton Mearns and Thornliebank areas. By carrying out diligent enquiry, a vehicle involved in these housebreakings was linked and two men were subsequently identified as being responsible for a number of similar crimes across the area. A report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and warrants were issued for the arrest of these individuals.

SIGNIFICANT DRUG SEIZURES

Local Policing Priority – Drugs Dealing and Misuse

In May, officers from our Divisional Proactive Unit searched an address in the Barrhead area and recovered over 27 kilograms of herbal cannabis and a large quantity of cannabis plants. This was a substantial recovery of drugs and five males appeared in court the following day and await trial in respect of this incident.

Another search warrant was executed in the Neilston area later in May and a quantity of cocaine and over £6000 in cash was recovered. This was seized under Proceeds of Crime legislation and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Local Problem Solving Team officers have also executed several search warrants at addresses across East Renfrewshire. Quantities of controlled drugs, which included cannabis and heroin were seized and reports have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. We have also shared information regarding house searches with ERC's Housing Department who were able to secure another eviction decree for a tenant that was dealing drugs. Our Campus Police Officers continue to deliver presentations to school pupils on the dangers associated with the misuse of drugs.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Local Policing Priority – Child abuse and child sexual exploitation
Local Policing Priority – Violent Crime
National Policing Priority – Protecting People At Risk of Harm

In June, local officers received an input on the 'Safe and Together' programme. This course enhanced their awareness of key issues in respect of dealing with domestic abuse cases where there were children present and the impact that witnessing this type of behavior may have on them. All of the officers who attended the input stated that they found it beneficial.

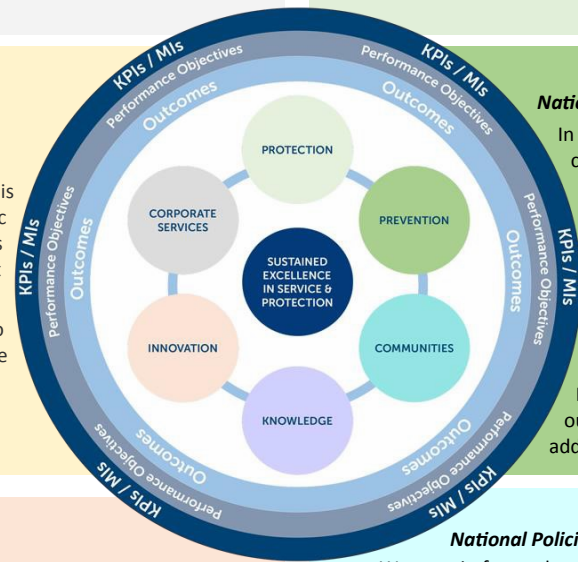
We continue to carry out visits to the addresses of high-risk domestic offenders to ensure that they are complying with their bail conditions and also to provide reassurance to victims of crime.

ROADS SAFETY

National Policing Priority – Road Safety and Road Crime

In the first quarter of 2019, there have been 6 fewer people slightly injured in road crashes in East Renfrewshire which is testament to the good work being carried out by a variety of partners across the Local Authority. We continue to listen to community concerns about speeding in their area. Local officers and also Roads Policing have carried out speed checks at locations across the Local Authority. In the first quarter, we have engaged with a large number of drivers regarding their speed and other road traffic matters. This has resulted in the number of drivers being reported for speeding increasing from 6 in the same period last year to 34 this year, a 467% increase.

We have put in place arrangements for regular liaison meetings between the ERC Roads and Transportation Department, local officers based in East Renfrewshire and our Traffic Management Constable from Road Policing to ensure that we can effectively address issues specific to the Local Authority area.



EFFECTIVE PREVENTION & PARTNERSHIPS

LICENSING

Local Policing Priorities - Violent Crime - Antisocial Behaviour and Disorder

We continue to work closely with ERC's Licensing Department to prevent alcohol related violence. In April, we carried out joint visits at five problematic premises across the Local Authority area to ensure compliance with licensing conditions. As a result of these visits, we submitted a further report to the Procurator Fiscal regarding a shop keeper who had previously been reported for selling alcohol to under-age youths.

CAMPUS POLICE OFFICERS

Our Campus Police Officers continue to work in East Renfrewshire schools. We currently have four nominated schools based officers, 3 of whom are part funded (50%) by ERC Education Department.

Throughout the last academic year (2018-19) these officers delivered in excess of 13,000 pupil inputs in both primary and secondary schools, on a range of issues including Hate Crime, Cyber-bullying, Antisocial Behaviour, Knives & Weapons, amongst many others. Over and above that, our staff have carried out engagements with pupils and parents during careers evenings and parents nights, providing advice on "Internet Safety" and other local safety concerns.

COUNTER TERRORISM AND DOMESTIC EXTREMISM

National Policing Priority – Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

We remain focused on delivering the CONTEST strategy to Protect locations, Prepare for a potential attack, Pursue individuals suspected of being involved in terrorism and Prevent people from becoming engaged in extremism. Counter Terrorism Liaison Officers have been continuing to provide advice and training to local businesses, to mitigate the threat of a terrorist attack and build their resilience to respond to one, should it occur. One of our Local Problem Solving Team supervisors has been appointed as CONTEST champion and provides information to local partners regarding ongoing initiatives.

CONCLUSION

As Local Police Commander responsible for providing policing services in East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present this update on our policing activities in the first quarter of the year and to share some of the positive outcomes achieved. I am also delighted to report that the results of our most recent public satisfaction surveys continue to demonstrate that public levels of satisfaction in the police service remain incredibly high (82.9% compared to 81.3% nationally).

Thank you sincerely for your continued support and access to vital roles and assets.

Hazel Hendren
 Chief Superintendent