

POLICE SCOTLAND
GREATER GLASGOW DIVISION
REPORT TO EAST RENFREWSHIRE CABINET
POLICE PERFORMANCE OVER THE 1st QUARTER
OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/2019

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members of East Renfrewshire Cabinet on police performance over the first quarter of the financial year 2018/2019.

Local Management

Chief Superintendent Brian McNulty continues as Divisional Commander of Greater Glasgow Division.

Chief Inspector John McQuilter is the new Area Commander, East Renfrewshire supported by the newly appointed Deputy Area Commander Inspector Bryan McGeogh and Constable Jacqueline Petrie, Local Authority Liaison Officer.

East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2017-2020

The priorities within the policing plan were identified through engagement and consultation across East Renfrewshire. The results of our annual community consultation combined with crime analysis and resource demands have led to the following priorities being identified:-

1. Homes Being Broken Into
2. Anti-social Behaviour and Disorder
3. Violent Crime
4. Drug Dealing and Misuse
5. Child Abuse Including Child Sexual Exploitation

Introduction

As Local Police Commander I am pleased to present this policing plan update covering the first Quarter of 2018/19. This update relates directly to our East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2017/20, which is available on the Police Scotland website. The policing plan highlights the issues of most concern in our communities and it emphasises our commitment to addressing these concerns. We continue to provide local community information and updates via community meetings, face-to-face interactions, traditional and social media, however, our regular Cabinet updates help us highlight progress across the policing area.

Personally, I remain totally focused on doing everything possible to drive down crime and maintain record high levels of detections. To achieve these outcomes, I am convinced more than ever that we must work together to exploit opportunities to improve people's lives – keeping people safe, protecting the vulnerable, targeting offenders and making environmental improvements to help foster a true sense of community wellbeing. To help emphasise the importance of maintaining a collaborative approach, this update highlights how our activities link to the objectives highlighted in our policing plan and the focus areas laid out in the Fairer East Ren Plan.

East Renfrewshire Police Scotland Youth Volunteers are now well established and continue to grow in confidence and have been actively involved in a number of events in the community. As a group they receive ongoing training and inputs on current issues affecting young people. In April this year, accompanied by Chief Inspector McQuilter and Mhairi Shaw Director of Education, I had the pleasure of attending their pass out parade at Glasgow City Chambers. They were a credit to the adult volunteers, their schools and more importantly themselves as they received their Certificates of Achievement.

East Renfrewshire continues to part fund school campus officers across the authority. We have recently interviewed and appointed a new campus officer who started at the beginning of the new school term. The campus officers are an integral part of how we deliver Local Policing Plan objectives as identified by communities. Between April and June this year they delivered presentations on "stranger danger", road safety, bullying, internet safety, drugs and alcohol, to primary schools pupils. In addition, secondary school pupils received, amongst other things, inputs on No Knives Better Lives, drugs awareness, water safety, internet safety, anti-social behaviour, fireworks, cyber bullying and hate crime.

Our Local Authority Liaison Officer is currently working in partnership with I Am Me and East Renfrewshire Council to implement the "Keep Safe Premises" initiative throughout East Renfrewshire. The initiative works with local businesses to create safe places for vulnerable individuals who may need support when they are out in their community. Having an awareness that places exist that provide refuge in times of need will build confidence in those individuals who are isolated as a result of their vulnerability and will help encourage them to use the facilities available to them thereby having a positive impact on the Fairer East Ren Plan. This has initially been rolled out in Barrhead with further areas planned for the future. Ongoing engagement is taking place with vulnerable groups and partner organisations in the local authority area to raise awareness of the initiative. I am pleased to report that the official launch of I Am Me in June was a great success and continues to grow within East Renfrewshire.

From the joint meeting with various East Renfrewshire Council departments and officers from a number of our own divisional departments in March, constructive and progressive discussion took place in relation to the licensing and governance of public events in East Renfrewshire. Our joint aim was to ensure that efficient inter-departmental and inter-agency procedures were in place to facilitate safe events in the area. We have already seen positive outcomes from this meeting in relation to the planning and licensing of a number of events due to take place in East Renfrewshire in the forthcoming months.

Summary of Performance – April to June 2018

Local Policing Priority – Homes being broken into

National Policing Priority – Acquisitive Crime

We are committed to our focus on preventing and detecting crimes of dishonesty including homes being broken into.

Our objectives include a commitment to:

- Raise awareness of crime prevention and encourage crime prevention tactics to protect homes against theft;
- Focus on intelligence in relation to offenders and locations;
- Undertake high visibility patrols in priority areas.

In relation to homes being broken into, there has been a reduction in this year's figures from YTD last year. Our detection rate is up from last year and continues to be an improving picture. In addition to our uniformed officers providing a visible presence throughout the local community, a team of dedicated officers continues to investigate all such crimes across Greater Glasgow Division, seven days a week. Officers within the unit are experienced in current investigative techniques and ensure that all available evidential opportunities are exploited. They also investigate crime patterns and link crimes, to ensure recidivist offenders are brought to justice. As well as focusing on detections, officers in the unit also provide victims with crime prevention advice and arrange for crime prevention surveys to be carried out.

Crime	Period		% Change
Theft by Housebreaking (inc attempts)	April 2018 – June 2018	23	-25.8%
	April 2017 – June 2017	31	
	April – June 2018(5 year average)	39	
Detection Rates			
Theft by Housebreaking (inc attempts)	April 2018 – June 2018	21.7%	
	April 2017 – June 2017	12.9%	

Local Policing Priority – Anti-social behaviour and disorder

National Policing Priority – Violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour

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

Anti-social behaviour remains a community priority and we continue to focus efforts on preventing disorder. Our objectives include:

- Influencing young people, by using our dedicated school campus officers to help them understand the impact ASB has on communities;
- Identify and analyse repeat callers reporting ASB, instigating appropriate measures to address underlying issues;
- Maximise opportunities to reduce ASB and disorder through Greater Results in Partnership (GRIP).

During May 2018 local problem solving officers worked alongside Licensing Standards Officers to tackle the issue of alcohol being sold to juveniles under the age of 18. They visited Off-Licenses and provided advice and guidance to prevent “proxy buying” and patrolled in areas known to be used by youths to gather and consume their alcohol. This is seen as an important step in an attempt to prevent and/or reduce Anti-Social behaviour.

In terms of disorder and antisocial behaviour figures for the first quarter, we are pleased to report a significant decrease of 20% compared to last year. We continue to deploy resources to ‘hot spot’ areas and have seen the trend reducing however, we still encourage the Community to report this type of behaviour. Our focus remains on disorder and anti-social behaviour and we task our problem solving teams accordingly.

We continue to work with our partners in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service tackling the thefts, and subsequent setting on fire, of wheelie bins in the Netherlee area of East Renfrewshire and we are again pleased to report that there was a significant reduction in these incidents from the last quarter’s report. Together, campus officers and fire officers are presenting inputs to secondary school pupils around the dangers and impact on communities that anti-social behaviour and the wilful setting of fires has. These inputs have been in addition to the inputs on vandalism, in respect of which the numbers of complaints across the local authority area have remained static.

Disorder			
Issue	Period	No. of Complaints	% Change
Complaints of Disorder	April 2018 – June 2018	650	-20.9%
	April 2017 – June 2017	822	
Consuming alcohol	April 2018 – June 2018	19	0%
	April 2017 – June 2017	19	
Vandalism	April 2018 – June 2018	135	0%
	April 2017 – June 2017	135	

Local Policing Priority – Violent crime

National Policing Priority – Violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour

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

Reducing and preventing violent crime remains a key priority and our objectives in this area include:

- Adopt a partnership approach to increase community awareness, particularly in schools, about the gravity of weapon carrying to prevent serious violence;
- Develop ways of increasing intelligence on alcohol related violence to identify the most vulnerable people and areas;
- Encourage third party reporting of domestic abuse;
- Work with specialist departments to identify repeat victims of domestic abuse.

Overall crimes of violence include - Murder, Attempt Murder, Culpable Homicide, Serious Assault, Culpable and Reckless Conduct, Robbery, Assault with Intent to Rob, Common Assault and Common Assault on and Emergency Worker.

In terms of violent crimes compared to last year, serious assaults have increased, common assaults have decreased and there has been a significant reduction in robberies. Detection rates remain high for robberies and serious assaults although there has been a slight reduction in detection rates for common assaults. There does not appear to be any pattern or any indication as to why there has been an increase in serious assaults but further detections are likely as investigations continue as a priority.

Crimes			
Crime	Period	Number of Crimes	% Change
Crimes of Violence	April 2018 – June 2018	22	69.2%
	April 2017 – June 2017	13	
	April - June(5 year average)	13	
Serious Assault	April 2018 – June 2018	13	160%
	April 2017 – June 2017	5	
	April - June(5 year average)	5.6	
Robbery	April 2018 – June 2018	1	-83.3%
	April 2017 – June 2017	6	
	April - June(5 year average)	3	
Common Assault	April 2018 – June 2018	88	-27.9%
	April 2017 – June 2017	122	
	April - June(5 year average)	99.4	

Detection Rates			
Crime	Period	Detection Rate	
Serious Assault	April 2018 – June 2018	69.2%	
	April 2017 – June 2017	60.0%	
Robbery	April 2018 – June 2018	200%	
	April 2017 – June 2017	100%	
Common Assault	April 2018 – June 2018	63.6%	
	April 2017 – June 2017	67.2%	

Crime	Period		% Change
Domestic Abuse	April 2018 – June 2018	56	-9.7%
	April 2017 – June 2017	62	
Detection Rates			
Domestic Abuse	April 2018 – June 2018	51.8%	
	April 2017 – June 2017	72.6%	

In relation to domestic violence, we have remained focused on dealing quickly and effectively with incidences of domestic abuse and compared to the same period last year, the number of domestic abuse crimes has reduced which is a welcomed trend however, there has also been a slight reduction in detection rates. The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland continues to ensure that information can be shared about domestic offenders and monthly multi-agency meetings ensure any such requests for information are managed efficiently and every opportunity is taken to ensure those at risk are empowered to stay safe. The co-location of our Domestic Abuse Unit with ASSIST partners at Eastgate continues to ensure that victims get access to critical support quickly and responders are able to better coordinate their interventions.

Local Policing Priority – Drug dealing and misuse

National Policing Priority – Serious Organised Crime

Fairer East Ren Plan – Improve the positive mental health, wellbeing and quality of life of our residents

Drug dealing and misuse at a local level results from Organised Crime Groups supplying those drugs to smaller dealers within local communities. We are committed to

- Gathering information on those who supply controlled drugs and focus activity on disruption, intervention and enforcement;
- Influence young people by using our dedicated school campus officers and key partners to raise awareness of the life hanging effects of drug misuse and abuse;
- Support and work in close partnership with Police colleagues and partners to tackle SOCGs.

Tackling serious and organised crime remains one of our key priorities. A current threat from terrorism and domestic extremism persists and these are things we are working hard to combat.

In terms of serious and organised crime (SAOC), in the first quarter of 2018, 53 individuals of note were arrested, all of whom had a direct link to SAOC and 15 of whom were classed as Principles or Members. Officers have continued to focus on these individuals and have exploited the Proceeds of Crime Act to deprive them of cash and assets obtained illegally. So far this year we have seized in the region of £674,558 in cash and assets.

In the first quarter of 2018, Greater Glasgow SAOC and Intelligence officers executed a number of operations which disrupted organised criminality across Glasgow and further afield. There have been significant seizures of controlled drugs and numerous cannabis cultivations disrupted with several significant arrests being made.

Local officers continue to gather intelligence to construct a picture of drug dealing and supply across Greater Glasgow. This allows our Divisional Proactive Units and Local Problem Solving Teams to target those people at the source of the drug supply and use disruption tactics to impact on their day to day activities.

Drugs			
Crime	Period	Number detections	of % Change
Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	April 2018 – June 2018	9	125%
	April 2017 – June 2017	4	

Local Policing Priority – Child abuse and child sexual exploitation

National Policing Priority – Protecting people at risk of harm

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

Protecting people at risk of harm remains a key priority for Police Scotland, we continue to work in partnership to increase awareness of all forms of abuse, exploitation and neglect. Our objectives include

- Utilise information sharing protocols to work with partners to identify vulnerable individuals at risk
- Encourage third party reporting through engagement with local partnerships

Digital technology provides great opportunities for children and young people to interact, learn and have fun, therefore it is vitally important that professionals, parents and carers work together to improve their skills and knowledge in order to help children stay safe online, and children and young people have the support and confidence to report concerns. Some of our Campus officers are now trained in Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection (CEOP) and are able to train teachers and other professionals to deliver CEOP safety to their classes. We are absolutely committed to tackling online child sexual abuse. We continue to work with the National Crime Agency; other law enforcement agencies and industry to identify those who use digital technology to abuse or exploit our children and identify children who may be at risk of such harm.

The campus officers have already organized advice and guidance inputs to parents on what to look out for on line to keep their children safe. We will continue to offer these opportunities to parents on a regular basis.

There has been an increase in the reporting of sexual crimes which is partly due to the confidence of victims to come forward and report ongoing and historical incidents. We have a dedicated team of officers within the Division who use their skills and knowledge to investigate these incidents using every investigative tool available to bring offenders to justice.

Public Protection			
Crime	Period		% Change
Sexual Crimes	April 2018– June 2018	26	116.7%
	April 2017 – June 2017	12	
	April - June(5 year average)	14.8	
Detection Rates			
Sexual Crimes	April 2018 – June 2018	57.7%	-50.6%
	April 2017 – June 2017	108.3%	

National Policing Priority – Road Safety and Road Crime

Officers from East Renfrewshire sit on our Greater Glasgow Division Road Safety Governance Group. This is a multi-agency group which includes officers from local authority Roads and Transportation Departments. This group monitors emerging issues and seeks to work in close partnership to minimise road safety risks in our communities through local and national campaigns. In addition to this, together, we have put in place arrangements for regular liaison meetings between the ERC Roads and Transportation Department and Police officers based in East Renfrewshire, to ensure that we can effectively address issues specific to the local authority area. Regular meetings between our Divisional Roads Policing Unit, Traffic Management Constable also take place.

In June 2018 officers from Roads Policing and our Campus officers worked together to promote safer driving and parking outside local schools. They highlighted the vulnerable road users and offered advice and continue to monitor and assist schools to reduce incidents of inconsiderate parking.

National Policing Priority – Counter terrorism and Domestic Extremism

In relation to 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. Our 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. Our Safer Communities Department also chair the multi-agency Contest Group which directs and oversees the delivery of the Contest strategy locally.

In this regard, on 30th May, our Safer Communities Department also held a Citizen Aid Conference for 250 people from businesses and organisations. The event complemented our commitment to ensure that we are fully prepared to mitigate the impact of any terrorist attack on our communities. It provided attendees with knowledge and skills to help them react safely, pass effective messages to emergency services and give lifesaving first aid to maximise the chances of surviving a terrorist attack. Empowering the public to act in these difficult situations can help save lives whilst awaiting the arrival of the emergency services.

Conclusion

As Local Police Commander, 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 and confidence in the police service remain incredibly high.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support.

Brian McNulty
Chief Superintendent
Divisional Commander
Greater Glasgow Division

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