

POLICE SCOTLAND
GREATER GLASGOW DIVISION
REPORT TO EAST RENFREWSHIRE CABINET
POLICE PERFORMANCE OVER THE 4th 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 fourth 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 Area Commander, East Renfrewshire supported by his 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 fourth 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.

We have well established partnerships within East Renfrewshire and I am confident that through the various partner activities we undertake, we are improving the quality of life for people in East Renfrewshire. This was evident when our Campus Officers along with our colleagues in Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SF&RS) delivered a series of presentations in schools regarding antisocial behaviour and fire raising. This activity has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of thefts which were associated with the fire-raising and the number of incidents reported. It is our intention to repeat this at certain points through the year to build on the good work that has already been done.

Regular meetings and interaction with the Communities, Elected Members, Community Safety, Social Work, Housing, and HSCP assist us in deploying our officers to the right locations to address the issues raised by residents in an attempt to make people feel safer in their homes and streets throughout the area. Our Local Authority Liaison Officer and ERC's Community Planning Team provided an update to our Local Problem Solving Team officers regarding the work that was being done in 'Locality Plan' areas and what priorities have been raised by local residents. This type of information and engagement gives officers an insight into the issues that are affecting communities on a daily basis.

As you are aware, I have amended this report to focus more closely on the number of victims affected by crimes in East Renfrewshire. However, we must also remember that East Renfrewshire has the lowest recorded crime rates in mainland Scotland and remains one of the safest places to live and work in.

Summary of Performance – April 2018 to March 2019

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.

Over the last year, there has been a reduction of 25 victims of domestic housebreaking against last year's figures and a reduction of 42 victims against the 5 year average. Detecting those responsible for housebreaking can at times be difficult and protracted however, with the skills of the attending officers in preserving the scene, capturing forensic evidence and support from our specialist teams, we have improved the ability to detect those responsible for these crimes.

The importance of this was highlighted when forensic evidence was secured by officers initially attended at a housebreaking in the Barrhead area in January. This was subsequently identified as belonging to a person from the local area. By using this evidence and other investigative techniques, this individual has now been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for four separate housebreakings in the Barrhead and Newton Mearns area.

However, prevention is always preferred to detection and in the last quarter officers from our Safer Communities Department have visited residents in both urban and rural areas and provided them with home security advice. Alongside this, local officers have carried out a number of high profile road checks across the Local Authority. Large numbers of vehicles were stopped and the drivers spoken with. This activity appears to have contributed to the overall reduction in the number of homes being broken into.

Homes Broken Into				
Crime	Period	Victims	Detected	Detection Rate
Homes broken into (including attempts)	April 2018 – Mar 2019	97	22	23%
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	122	22	18%
	April – Mar (5 year average)	139	32	23%

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).

In the past year, we have seen a significant decrease of 21% compared to last year regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour. Our Campus Officers continue to deliver inputs at schools regarding ASB and along with colleagues from SFRS, we have now rolled out these inputs to include parents' evenings across the area to highlight the effects that this type of behaviour has in community. Over 300 parents were present at these events and the input was extremely well received.

We also worked with Community Safety to deliver an Antisocial Behaviour workshop to explore ways to improve joint working. A variety of partner agencies attended the workshop along with a leading ASB practitioner with a vast amount of experience in this area. A number of case studies were reviewed and through group discussion, a number of improvements are being developed. Our focus remains on preventing disorder and anti-social behaviour and we continue to deploy resources after discussions at the weekly GRIP meeting.

Disorder			
Issue	Period	Number	Change
Complaints of Disorder	April 2018 – Mar 2019	2084	-565
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	2649	-21%
Crimes of Consuming alcohol	April 2018 – Mar 2019	31	31
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	62	-50%
	April – Mar (5 year average)	122	
Crimes of Vandalism	April 2018 – Mar 2019	340	-125
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	465	-27%
	April – Mar (5 year average)	398	

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 an Emergency Worker.

There have been 89 less victims of violence in the past year compared to last year's figures and 50 less than the 5 year average. The detection rate sits at 68% which is above 2017 and the 5 year average. There has been an increase in serious assaults, primarily in the first quarter of 2018, however, there is a detection rate of 77% which is an improvement on the previous year. This can be attributed to the actions of the attending officers and the subsequent investigation carried out by the CID. Robberies are down from last year and also against the 5 year average. In addition to detecting every robbery committed this year, we have also detected a crime from 2017. Common assaults are down with 66% of those crimes being detected which is higher than last year and the 5 year average.

We remain focused on dealing quickly and effectively with incidents of domestic abuse. Compared to last year, the number of domestic abuse crimes has reduced which is a positive, however, there has also been a slight reduction in detection rates. The number of reported incidents is shown and as you will see, just under 50% of reports we receive, results in a crime being recorded. This is indicative of the continued willingness of individuals to report domestic abuse to us.

The reduction in domestic abuse crimes in the past year is welcome, however, we continue to work with our partners in Education, Social Work, Health and the Third Sector to encourage the reporting of incidents to ensure we provide support and protection to those who need it. In addition to this, Police Scotland provided additional training in domestic abuse incidents where there has been coercive and controlling behaviour, as introduced by

the Domestic Abuse Act (Scotland) 2018. This provided our officers with more guidance when dealing with victims of this type of behaviour.

We continue to work closely with ERC's Licensing Department to prevent alcohol related violence and have carried out joint visits to a number of premises across the Local Authority. In March, we secured the temporary suspension of a licensee who was failing to operate their premises in a fit and proper manner and have also reported a shop keeper for selling alcohol to under age youths. It is anticipated that this individual's license will be reviewed in the coming months.

Crimes of Violence				
Crime	Period	Victims	Detected	Detection Rate
All Crimes of Violence	April 2018 – Mar 2019	399	272	68%
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	493	302	61%
	April - Mar(5 year average)	439	284	65%
Serious Assault	April 2018 – Mar 2019	31	24	77%
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	21	15	71%
	April - Mar(5 year average)	23	19	82%
Robbery	April 2018 – Mar 2019	8	9	113%
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	14	12	86%
	April - Mar(5 year average)	11	9	82%
Common Assault	April 2018 – Mar 2019	358	236	66%
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	457	274	60%
	April - Mar(5 year average)	403	254	62%

Domestic Abuse				
Crimes	Period	Victims	Detected	Detection Rate
All Domestic Crimes	April 2018 – Mar 2019	234	152	65%
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	290	203	70%
	April – Mar (5 year average)	322		
Incidents	Period	Number		
Reported Domestic Incidents	April 2018 – Mar 2019	504		
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	534		

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.

There has been continued proactivity in the final quarter of 2018 with seizures of a variety of controlled drugs with several arrests being made. This proactivity has resulted in an increase in the number of people being detected for the supply of controlled drugs in the last year and a 24% increase against the 5 year average.

Local Problem Solving Team officers have executed several search warrants at addresses in the Barrhead and Newton Mearns areas. Quantities of controlled drugs, which included cannabis, cocaine and LSD 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 2 eviction decrees for tenants that were dealing drugs.

Officers from our Divisional Proactive Unit also searched an address in the Newton Mearns area and recovered 2 kilograms of cannabis and 17,000 etizolam tablets. This was a substantial recovery of drugs and again, a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Drugs			
Crime	Period	Number of detections	Change
Drugs supply, production & cultivation	April 2018 – Mar 2019	36	2
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	34	6%
	April – Mar (5year average)	29	

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

As previously reported, there has continued to be an increase in the reporting of sexual crimes which is partly due to the continued trend of 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.

In January, local officers attended at four premises in the Barrhead area with officers from Home Office Immigration Enforcement. This joint operation was to identify people who may have been subject to exploitation or Human Trafficking. One individual was subsequently arrested for immigration offences and HMRC are carrying out further investigations in respect of one of the premises.

In February, our campus officers attended additional Child Protection training arranged by the Health and Social Care Partnership. This course enhanced their awareness of key issues in child protection, explained some of the signs that a child may be in need of care or protection, and detailed the appropriate referral mechanisms to partner agencies. All of the officers who attended have stated that they found the training 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.

Public Protection				
Crime	Period	Victims	Detected	Detection Rate
Sexual Crimes	April 2018 – Mar 2019	146	76	52.1%
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	109	54	49.5%
	April - Mar(5 year average)	81	51	62.6%

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, 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.

As you can see from the following update, close partnership working with East Renfrewshire Council's Education and Roads Department has contributed to a reduction in the number of children seriously injured as a result of road traffic crashes. Whilst the numbers thankfully are relatively small, any reduction in this area is welcome. There has also been 26 people less slightly injured in road crashes 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 have carried out speed checks at locations across the Local Authority in the last quarter and have engaged with a large number of drivers regarding their speed and other road traffic matters. Officers from Road Policing also carried out a week long action plan at a location which had received a large number of complaints, this resulted in 10 drivers being reported for speeding offences and a further 13 warned regarding their driving behaviour.

Road Safety			
Issue	Period	Casualties	Change
People Killed	April 2018 – Mar 2019	1	1
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	0	100%
People Seriously Injured	April 2018 – Mar 2019	15	-1
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	16	-6%
People Slightly Injured	April 2018 – Mar 2019	69	26
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	95	-27%
Children (aged<16) Seriously injured	April 2018 – Mar 2019	1	-2
	April 2017 – Mar 2018	3	-67%

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. Local Problem Solving Team officers have delivered inputs to local Housing Associations to raise awareness of counter terrorism and extremism and how to report instances where they were concerned about behaviour or other things that they have encountered when dealing with the public.

Conclusion

As Local Police Commander, I am pleased to present this update on our policing activities in the fourth 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