

### Introduction



As Local Police Commander, I am pleased to present this update for the third quarter of 2020/21. Our performance is largely positive and very welcome but has been strongly influenced by the pandemic. In this reporting period, we saw a return to the more stringent restrictions experienced earlier in the year with people's daily lives being very different. This highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over and added complexity to the challenges faced by our officers on a daily basis. We also remain mindful that these restrictions may have resulted in under reporting by victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable families that may be at the risk of harm. We have continued to work closely with our partners in Social Work and the voluntary sector in relation to adult and child protection.

Alongside the reintroduction of restrictions, we saw an increase in youth disorder in some parts of the Local Authority. This was particularly evident in the run up to Bonfire Night when we started to receive calls regarding the use of fireworks. We worked with partner agencies, including the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the council's Trading Standards Department to target this issue. This joint working ensured not only the sharing of knowledge and resources, but saw new ways of working, such as innovative online presentations delivered in schools regarding firework safety. By working together and planning ahead, we reduced the potential for disorder and antisocial behaviour on what was a very different Bonfire Night.

This partnership working continued as we prepared for what again was a completely different Festive Season. In the absence of policing "party nights" at licensed premises, our officers focused on the safe sale of alcohol by off-license premises and also carried out high visibility patrols to make this as safe as possible for people across East Renfrewshire. On Christmas Day when limited mixing indoors was permitted, we received very few calls and it appears that the vast majority of people complied with Scottish Government guidelines.

This report highlights some of the positives outcomes and good work carried out in the third quarter of the year as we move into 2021, dealing with the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Public Protection

#### Local Policing Priority: Crime (Sexual Offences)

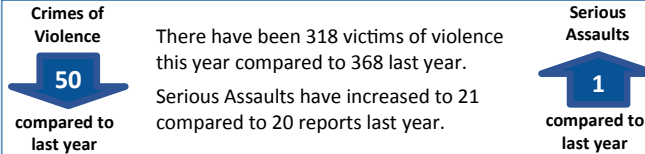


The second quarter has seen a continued decrease in the reporting of sexual crimes, with 84 victims having come forward compared to 112 last year. This reduction in numbers is welcome, however we continue to work with partner agencies to provide support to victims and to give them the confidence to come forward and report both ongoing and historical incidents.



## East Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan (2020-2023) Quarterly Report (Q3: Oct — Dec 2020)

### Violent Crime



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

We remain committed to reducing and preventing violent crime and I am pleased to report that there has been an overall reduction this year compared to last year. There has been a slight increase in the number of robberies reported, with 8 reports compared to 6 last year. Detection rates for both Serious Assaults (75%) and Robbery (71%) remain high.

The number of common assaults recorded is significantly lower with 287 crimes having been reported compared to 341 last year. This represents a 16% reduction. The detection rate sits at 60%, up from 55% at the same point last year.

In the third quarter, the number of domestic abuse crimes has reduced from 238 to 233 and the number of domestic incidents attended by the Police has also went down slightly with 383 this year compared to 400 last year. Local officers, along with our specialist Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit continue to pursue all investigative avenues in respect of these crime and provide support to victims. All of our officers have also been briefed regarding the new 'Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately)' code word scheme. This has introduced to provide a discreet way for victims of domestic abuse to signal that they need emergency help from the safety of their local pharmacy.

### Drug Dealing & Misuse

#### Local Policing Priority: Crime (Drug Supply & Manufacture) Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety



Despite the challenges presented by coronavirus, our officers have continued to target individuals who are involved in the supply of controlled drugs through the execution of search warrants and legislative searches whilst on patrol.

The number of reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal for persons involved in the supply, production and cultivation of drugs has decreased slightly from 20 to 19 compared to the same period last year, however we have seized large quantities of controlled drugs, including herbal cannabis, cocaine and heroin.

### Acquisitive Crime



The number of homes having being broken into is down from 65 to 48 compared to last year.  
This is also significantly down against the 5 year average of 87 crimes



#### Local Policing Priority: Crime (Crimes of Dishonesty) Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety

There have been 17 less victims of domestic housebreaking against last year's figures with 48 crimes being reported as opposed to 65 at the same point last year. This is also significantly lower than the 5 year average where there were 87 victims of domestic housebreaking.

The reduction in crimes of domestic housebreakings continues to follow the trend reported in the first 6 months of the year and may be partly due to people spending more time at home. However, we continue to monitor this type of crime so that any patterns are quickly identified.

Our local officers continue to carry out high visibility patrols to deter any would be offenders and carry out robust enquiries in relation to all crimes that are reported. Good forensic awareness and specialist support from Scene Examiners and our Community Investigation Unit has led to the apprehension of offenders several months later when scene to person 'hits' have been obtained.

### Antisocial Behaviour & Disorder



In the first 9 months of the year, there were 2493 anti-social behaviour calls made to the Police compared to 1526 last year.



#### Local Policing Priority – Crime (Disorder and Antisocial behaviour) Fairer East Ren Plan—Reducing social isolation, loneliness and increasing safety

Reducing anti-social behaviour remains a community priority and we continue to focus efforts on preventing disorder. As previously reported, we experienced a significant increase in the number of calls made to the Police during the first part of the year. Consequently, antisocial behaviour calls remain higher than the numbers normally reported.

As expected, we experienced an increase in firework calls in the run up to, and including Bonfire Night. We worked closely with colleagues from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the knowledge that people were unable to attend organised displays and may be letting off fireworks in less safe environments. Our officers responded to calls from the public and provided advice when necessary.

Through our local tasking process, we continue to deploy officers as part of a disorder action plan focussing on identified hot-spot areas. This has contributed to a reduction in crimes of vandalism which are down from 296 to 259 compared to the same point last year, this is also a reduction against the 5 year average of 361 crimes.

**CRIME**

**Our Area of Focus: Violent Crime**

The reduction of violent crime in our communities remains a priority for local policing within East Renfrewshire.

In December, an attempt was made to rob a 14 year old female of her mobile phone in the Giffnock area. Community Investigation Unit officers carried out an in depth investigation and arrested a 20 year old male who is due to appear at court in the near future.

A 25 year old man has been charged with serious assault, possession of a knife and possession of an offensive weapon following a disturbance in Barrhead in late November, during which a 25 year old man sustained injuries to his legs. Thankfully these were not life threatening.

Victim support remains key to ensure victims and witnesses are given an appropriate level of support when required. We continue to make referrals to Victim Support when appropriate.

**Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture**

As previously mentioned, our officers have continued to target individuals involved in the supply of controlled drugs.

In early October, officers searched a house under warrant in the Barrhead area. A 53 year old male was arrested for being concerned in the supply of heroin. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

In December, a 31 year old male was arrested for being concerned in the supply of cocaine after his house in Clarkston was searched. In addition to this, approximately three thousand pounds were seized under Proceeds of Crime legislation.

Information received from the public continues to be crucial in targeting this type of criminal activity.

**Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty**

In October, two males aged 34 and 35 years were identified and arrested through scenes of crime and significant investigation for a housebreaking within the Newton Mearns area. As a result of further enquiries carried out, they were also reported for a number of crimes across the south of Glasgow.

Later the same month, officers responded to the report of housebreaking in progress at an address in Barrhead. A 24 year old male was arrested and a report was submitted to the PF.

Fraudulent activity, in particular online and telephone fraud, has continued through the third quarter. Locally, we supported the national 'Take 5 for Fraud' campaign and have used social media to raise awareness of this type of crime. Posters and flyers were also delivered to local commercial premises and our Local Authority Liaison Officer, PC Petrie continues to liaise with colleagues in Trading Standards.

**PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

**Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users**

Driver and road safety remains a local priority within East Renfrewshire as highlighted through community engagement. In the third quarter, seven drivers have been caught driving whilst over the prescribed limit of alcohol and have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. In Giffnock during December, a 59 year old man was found to be driving whilst nearly 5 times the legal limit of alcohol and separately, a 58 year old man was found to be nearly 6 times the legal limit of alcohol. Both were arrested and have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Our officers continue to be vigilant for vehicles that are not roadworthy and drivers who do not have insurance. 29 people have been reported for having uninsured vehicles in the third quarter and a number of these were seized under road traffic legislation.

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

In September, Greater Glasgow Division rolled out the 'Herbert Protocol'. This protocol encourages family members/carers of someone diagnosed with dementia to complete and store an information pack which contains vital information for the Police in the event that they are reported missing. It is not intended to replace existing safeguarding and security measures, instead provide additional support and reassurance. The existence of this information will save Police critical time in establishing the history of the missing person and their potential location.

The mental health assessment centres established last year continue to support front line officers and provide support for people in crisis and facilitate early access to trained professionals and services.

**Our Areas of Focus: Young People**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the wellbeing of many young people in the community. Campus officers have maintained contact with their respective schools to ensure continuity and support for those individuals with the greatest needs.

We have continued to provide advice and guidance on a range of topics and in the run up to Bonfire Night in November, our focus shifted to firework safety. Our Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV), delivered crime prevention literature in relation to wheelie bin thefts to homes in the Netherlee area. Working with colleagues from Scottish Fire and Rescue, we delivered a number of inputs to a large numbers of school pupils. A large number of fireworks were recovered from a group of young people on 5<sup>th</sup> November, but thankfully the vast majority heeded the advice which made the night safer for all.

Our PSYV group, working with local officers, continue to be actively involved in addressing local issues and have also distributed crime prevention advice relating to fraud and housebreaking.



**CONCLUSION**

As the Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of the year. I have highlighted some of the positive work that is being undertaken by my officers as we strive to keep our communities safe.

My officers have continued to adapt to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the various restrictions that have been put in place. However, as I have highlighted earlier in the report, they have continued to engage with the public, target offenders and support victims and witnesses at every opportunity.

As many people in our communities have had to do, we, along with partner agencies have used technology to maintain contact and ensure that the various partnership activities that we undertake continue. This has allowed us to identify emerging issues, implement solutions and improve the lives of people across East Renfrewshire.

It goes without saying that we as an organisation will maintain our levels of professionalism in everything we do and I thank you for your continued support at this extremely challenging time as we all strive to return to some form of normality in the coming months.

Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland  
Divisional Commander