

Keeping People Safe in East Renfrewshire

Introduction



As Local Police Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to provide this report relating to our performance and policing priorities during the second quarter of the 2021-22 financial year.

This quarter has seen the continued easing of Covid restrictions, including the reintroduction of large scale events across the country, such as The Playground Festival in Rouken Glen Park in late September.

Our officers have continued to focus on delivering against local policing priorities identified by our communities, as set out in our 2020-2023 Policing Plan.

In tackling the priority of addressing anti social behaviour and disorder, I have been particularly pleased to see development and successful delivery of the Safe East Ren Summer Plan during this quarter.

This has followed significant planning and engagement from all partners, with our local management team and officers being supported in the delivery phase by policing colleagues from specialist departments across Greater Glasgow and the Force's Operational Support Division, including, innovatively, use of our Air Support Unit drone.

As we move into Quarter 3, I look forward to our teams continuing to work closely and collaboratively to maximise effectiveness of the services we deliver to communities across East Renfrewshire.

We will ensure partners are kept fully abreast of our plans to delivering business as usual services locally, whilst we police the COP26 Summit in Glasgow in October / November 2021.

Acquisitive Crime

Year to date, the number of homes broken into (including attempts) is 34, unchanged from last year's figure.



This is well below the 5 year average figure of 49.0 domestic housebreakings per year; a reduction of over 30%



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Crimes of Dishonesty)

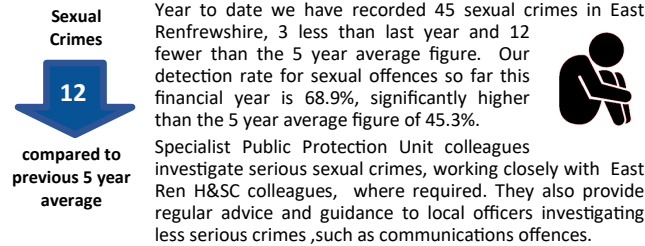
Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety

Overall crimes of dishonesty in the first half of this year were 7.6% lower than for the same period last year and 16% lower than the five year average.

As highlighted in our Q1 report and in line with wider national (Scottish and UK) trends, we continue to see increases in reports of online frauds. Our Economic Crime Unit continue to support local officers with expert advice to progress such investigations and we continue to raise awareness of new and emerging scams via local social media, to alert our residents.

East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan (2020-2023) Quarterly Report (2021-22 Q2: July to Sept2021)

Public Protection



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime)

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Sexual Offences)

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

This year to date we have dealt with 270 "Domestic Abuse" incidents. This figure represents a 5% increase compared to the previous 5 year average, although is marginally less than last years figure.

As highlighted in our Q1 report, the number of domestic abuse incidents where associated crimes have been recorded, remains well below the previous 5 year average figure of 45.1% and is currently 37.4%.

We continue to encourage positive engagement with potential victims of domestic abuse to ensure that advice, support and interventions can be put in place at the earliest opportunities. We robustly review all such reports, both at a local level and with the support of our Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit colleagues.

Drug Dealing & Misuse

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Drug Supply & Manufacture)

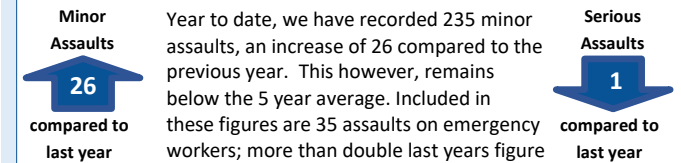


To date this year we have recorded a total of 71 drugs related offences.

Whilst this is 13.4% fewer than last year, the number of offences recorded relating to the supply of drugs is 22.4% higher than the previous 5 year average. This increase in drugs supply offences can be attributed to the pro-active work carried out by local, divisional and national officers and their continuing efforts to minimise the risks associated with misuse of illicit substances and the negative impacts it has in our communities.

This work continues in line with our ongoing focus on a public health approach to policing.

Violent Crime



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime)

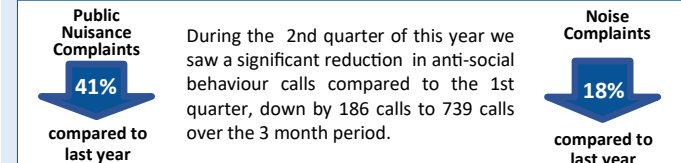
Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety

No crimes of homicide were recorded in the first half of the year. Reports of robberies remain low, at 4, a static position to last years year to date figures and a reduction in 3 from the 5 year average. The detection rate for this crime type currently sits at 100%.

Serious assaults at 14 also remain low and remain in line with previous year to date (14) and 5 year average data (also 13), with detection rates also comparable at 77%.

We continue to closely monitor the effects of relaxations on Covid restrictions on this crime type, which saw increased social mobility and the re-introduction of large scale gatherings and events during this period.

Antisocial Behaviour & Disorder



Local Policing Priority – Crime (Disorder and Antisocial behaviour)

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

Following an increase in reports of anti social behaviour and disorder during Q4 2020-2021 in the aftermath of significant COVID restrictions, with foreign travel restricted through Q2 of this year, we anticipated increased use of local parks and open spaces in East Ren, with more residents spending summer holidays at home. Planning was progressed through Q1 with partners in the Safe East Ren Group to deliver a "Summer Plan" during Q2. Regular weekly briefings involved Police Scotland, British Transport Police, SF&RS, ERC Community Safety, ERC Youth Services and linked with other agencies such as Scottish Water, in view of anticipated activity around our reservoirs. This ensured shared awareness of information and intelligence, planned events and emerging issues, with deployment of available resources then co-ordinated effectively throughout the summer months. There were no significant incident of disorder throughout the period and a decline in ASB.

CRIME

Our Area of Focus: Violent Crime

In late August a robbery was reported at shop premises in Busby. Our robust and effective call handling process ensured that a number of police resources were deployed promptly and an 18 year old man was traced nearby and subsequently charged with the crime.

In early September a 19 year old man was subject of a street robbery in the Giffnock area. This was not reported to us until a short time after the incident when the perpetrators had made off in a vehicle. Through rigorous investigation, three suspects were linked to another similar crime in Ayrshire. Two men have now been arrested and charged with both robberies.

Occurrences of these types of crime are thankfully low and our year to date detection rate is 100%.

Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty

Whilst victims of fraud come from all age groups, we remain alert to criminals attempting to coerce vulnerable residents to attend in person at banks to transfer or withdraw large sums of cash. Through effective partnership working with ERC Trading Standards Prevention Team officers and local banks, an agreed "Banking Protocol" results in regular alerts being made to us of suspicious activity. This enables our officers to quickly attend and investigate the circumstances, ensuring the safety of potential victims and preventing the potential loss of finances. In mid August bank staff in East Renfrewshire alerted us to a 68 year old man seeking to transfer a five figure sum of money. Initial enquiry by bank staff had caused concern and police were requested to attend. Enquiry revealed that the man was not the victim of any crime and his intentions were legitimate. In early September a 91 year old lady was the victim of "courier fraud" whereby she was persuaded to attend in person at her bank in East Ren with the intention of withdrawing £3500 cash to be handed over to a representative who attended to collect this. Despite being told not to divulge the story to staff in the bank, they were sufficiently alert to the risk and contacted police. We were thereby able to elicit the precise circumstances, preventing any financial loss to the victim and allowing further preventative measures to be offered.

We have robust processes in place to identify developing crime trends, with investigations and intelligence reviewed on a daily basis and our resources tasked to tackle local issues. During September, a spate of thefts and attempted thefts occurred in the Newton Mearns area. Enquiries were linked and investigated by our Local Problem Solving Team officers, with one of our Campus Officers subsequently identifying a suspect via CCTV footage recovered via door to door enquiries. A Sheriff's search warrant was executed and a 43 year old man was interviewed and charged with a total of 12 crimes, with a number of victims later reunited with their property.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

Our Local Problem Solving Team officers continue to regularly carry out road side speed checks at locations where members of the public raise concerns. In addition to this we liaise closely with the local authority Roads and Transportation Department to ensure that all possible efforts are explored to maximise the safety of all road users. Following the start of the Autumn school term one such location highlighted by local residents was Neilston Road. We carried out regular speed checks, liaised closely with residents, highlighted concerns raised more widely via social media and are working with the roads authority to consider further means of influencing driver behaviour and improve road safety in the area.

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

On the evening of 02 September, Response Policing officers on patrol in the Barrhead area were stopped by members of the public to report a 2 year old child having fallen out of a third floor window in Barrhead. Scottish Ambulance Service colleagues subsequently attended and following a stay in hospital, the child is recovering from their injuries. A subsequent police enquiry was carried out, working closely with East Renfrewshire HSCP colleagues. A 34 year old man has since been charged with an offence under the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937.

Following on from an extensive police investigation, a 76 year old man from Barrhead appeared at Paisley Sheriff Court in early August and pled guilty to charges relating to the possession and distribution of indecent images of children which had been taken secretly at numerous locations across Scotland. Thousands of images were recovered following a search of his home under warrant and many were shown to have been shared on a paedophile website.

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

Our Campus Officers have worked closely with staff and pupils throughout the COVID pandemic. Health and wellbeing impacts of the pandemic on young people, both physical and mental, have been a concern for all partners. During the summer months our Campus Officers secured funding from our Local Partnership Fund to support a Summer Youth Project for a group of 14 young people, identified in liaison with ERC Pastoral Teaching staff, who were recognised as being worthy of inclusion. Throughout the summer holidays, 2 days per week, Campus Officers and participants took part in a range of activities, providing these young people with opportunities and



CONCLUSION

As Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 2nd Quarter of the year.

It is anticipated that the 3rd Quarter of 2021-2022 will provide further policing challenges, both locally and nationally, as we continue to progress through the COVID pandemic and prepare for the delivery phase of COP26. In preparation for this significant event, we have been liaising closely with East Renfrewshire Council colleagues and local Elected Members, to ensure all remain sighted on the demands of this event and our commitment to maintain access to business as usual policing services throughout, for the residents of East Renfrewshire and beyond.

Our Local Police Plan will as ever, continue to provide focus to drive our daily business to address the issues which are of most concern to our residents.

Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland
Divisional Commander