



Keeping People Safe in East Renfrewshire

Introduction



As Local Police Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present this update for the final quarter of the 2021/22 financial year.

As outlined in my last Q3 report, we prepared for and delivered on our Safe Winter Plan which was supported by all partners following its proposal by the chair of the Safer East Ren Group. I was pleased to see a reduction in anti-social behaviour and violent crime in this period.

In March this year, Temporary Chief Inspector Jane Taylor took up her new role as Area Commander. She brings a wealth of operational and management experience to East Renfrewshire which will help deliver service improvements in the local authority area. My thanks of course also goes to CI Alan Gray who has moved on after serving East Renfrewshire so well. I also offer my congratulations to those elected and re-elected to serve as local Councillors within East Renfrewshire.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact, not just on the performance data in this report, but society as a whole as we see the economy fully reopen and the revival of events and entertainment venues. We remain committed to working closely with the community and our partners, listening to and addressing community concerns.

In Q3 I provided an update on our public health approach to policing and this work continues at pace with a range of partners. I am looking forward to providing an update on many aspects of this approach.

Moving into Quarter 1 of 2022/23, I look forward to our teams continuing to work closely and collaboratively to deliver on the East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan priorities of Crime and Protecting Vulnerable People.

Acquisitive Crime

Year to date, the number of homes broken into (including attempts) is 74, up from 58 in 2020/21

No. of Victims

22 compared to 5 year average

This is still well below the 5 year average figure of 96 domestic housebreakings per year; a reduction of 23%

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

This years data shows an increase in domestic housebreakings compared to 2020/21 but a decrease in the 5 year average. We continue to work with divisional and organisational-wide colleagues to identify perpetrators who work across policing and local authority boundaries. We have captured forensic opportunities to support investigations, provide security advice to victims and alerted local residents via social media messaging & community engagement.

Following a report of 2 homes broken into in the Newton Mearns area, our response officers apprehended a 68 year old male after diligent investigation and recovered the property stolen.

East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan (2020-2023) Quarterly Report (2021-22 Q4: Jan to March 2022)

Public Protection

Sexual Crimes Up to and including Q4, sexual crimes have reduced by 6.4% compared to the previous year—having fallen from 110 crimes to 103. The associated detection rate for this year is 48.5% which is up significantly from 32.7% last year and higher than the 5 year average of 46.7%. Whilst the fall in the number of reported crimes and rise in detection rates are welcome, improving on the detection rates for these crimes will be a priority for us moving forward.

7 compared to last year

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

This year to date we have dealt with 532 "Domestic Abuse" incidents. This figure represents a 6% increase compared to the previous 5 year average.

The number of domestic abuse incidents with associated crime is 291, which is slightly higher than 2020-21 (287) however, 4% less than the 5 year average.

We continue to support victims of domestic abuse, and officers are trained to refer and direct potential victims to support services. We continue to risk assess to protect victim safety working in partnership to ensure appropriate safety planning is in place to protect victim safety and wellbeing.

Drug Dealing & Misuse

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

Targeting the unlawful supply of controlled drugs within East Renfrewshire remains a priority which is in line with our public health approach to policing. This year we have recorded a total of 171 drugs related offences, 28% fewer than last year & 43% fewer than 5 year average.

Working collaboratively to reduce drug related harm is crucial and we continue to work closely with colleagues in East Renfrewshire Drug & Alcohol Partnership and Health & Social Care across a range of issues.

Violent Crime

Minor Assaults Year to date, we have recorded 21 serious assaults, 8 less than compared to the previous year. This is also 23.4% below the 5 year average. There were 50 assaults on emergency workers, a 42.9 %increase in the 5 year average.

22 compared to last year

Serious Assaults **8** compared to last year

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

1 crime of attempted murder was recorded in this period

Reports of robberies remain low, at 5, 6 less than last year and the 5 year average. The detection rate for this crime type currently sits at 100%.

Serious assaults at 21 also remain low and less than the previous year to date (29) and 5 year average data (27), with detection rates also increased to 81%, a 7% improvement in the 5 year average.

This is positive trend, as society returns to full normality, and large scale mixing with no restrictions are allowed.

Antisocial Behaviour & Disorder

Public Nuisance Complaints There were a total of 2089 reports of antisocial behaviour in 2021-22. This is 1284 less than the previous year, however calls regarding Covid breaches or gatherings increased in this year.

31% compared to last year

Breach of the Peace **9%** compared to last year

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

Although disorder calls fell significantly this year, the impact of fewer call in relation to Covid issues has impacted on this figure. The demand on Police resources with regard to "typical" antisocial behaviour has returned in East Renfrewshire, and should see normality in the summer months. To that end, planning has commenced to draw up summer safety campaigns, with the Safer East Renfrewshire plan featuring heavily. Furthermore, work is ongoing with Scottish water regarding summer water safety, and SFRS to maximise expertise and provide safety information to the People of East Renfrewshire, particularly the young and vulnerable who gather in places of known risk.

We continue to work closely with BTP who support Policing in East Renfrewshire by monitoring train activity and mitigating issues before they arrive in the community.

CRIME

Our Area of Focus: Violent Crime

There were no reported robberies in this quarter, and one detected serious assault in early January. However, in mid March, a 45 year old man sustained minor injuries after a motor vehicle was deliberately driven at him whilst walking his dogs. Tragically, one dog died after being injured. A 45 year old male has subsequently been identified and arrested.

Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture

Proactive policing patrols are a key part of our activity in reducing the harm caused by drugs. In March, our response officers carried out a routine traffic stop, the driver and occupants of the vehicle were subsequently detained and searched under permitted drug legislation and a significant quantity of controlled drugs and other items were seized. The driver also failed a roadside drug test and the 24 year old male was arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty

We continue to see good use of our Banking Protocol, which supports vulnerable people within our communities and who may be susceptible to crimes of fraud. In March, a 25 year old male was arrested and charged with significant frauds whereby he targeted elderly females by contacting them purporting to be from their bank, persuading them to hand over personal details. He was able to steal thousands of pounds. With his eldest victim being aged 95 this was a significant arrest of a callous individual.

In January 2022 a JCB mini digger and trailer was stolen from the Dundee area. The digger was subsequently traced to a property in Newton Mearns where it was being used by a contractor. It was subsequently recovered by Police and a 40 year old man was arrested in relation to the matter. He was subsequently charged with reset and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Car theft is a distressing crime, often resulting in the total loss of the vehicle. In mid January a car was reported stolen from the Newton Mearns area. Further crimes were reported involving the vehicle. In February 2022, officers on foot patrol spotted the car, and recovered it. The driver of the stolen car was identified, and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

In March, response and community officers continued to make use of road traffic legislation engaging in proactive patrols. A 22 & 24 year old men were arrested in separate incidents after being found unfit to drive through drugs. Both were subsequently charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for road traffic and misuse of drug offences.

Our Areas of Focus: Domestic Abuse— Adult Protection

In January 2022 officers acted upon received intelligence and conducted a welfare check on a domestic abuse survivor in Neilston. Subsequent unreported incidents were disclosed to the officers which were of a harrowing nature and she had suffered over several years. Her partner had a history of violence which had not been reported to police. He was arrested and specific measures were put in place to safeguard the domestic abuse survivor from further risk and harm

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

We continue to engage local schools, educating and supporting young people as they mature and begin to use drink and drugs. We have been actively patrolling areas of youth disorder to engage with young people and discourage anti-social behaviour. Our campus officers work tirelessly within all our schools delivering inputs on our 'No knives, better lives' campaign as well as keeping safe whilst out and about in our open spaces.

Our area of focus: Missing People

We continue to see good uptake of the Herbert Protocol in East Renfrewshire. Families / carers of a person suffering from a dementia related condition can complete a form in slow time with a range of useful information which saves police officers crucial time and supports families at a point of distress, when a missing episode occurs. In January, we received 2 separate missing person reports simultaneously. Both persons were elderly, vulnerable and at immediate risk due to the weather conditions and their poor health. As both families had completed the Herbert protocol, this provided quick and relevant information on the missing persons which resulted in both being found within an hour of being reported missing. We continue to engage with the community highlighting the benefits of this scheme.



CONCLUSION

As Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 4th Quarter of the 2021/2022 year.

It is anticipated that the 1st Quarter of 2022-2023 will provide further policing challenges, both locally and nationally, as we continue to progress through the COVID pandemic and return to a sense of normality. I continue to be encouraged by the many examples of good work our officers are doing as well as the continued collaborative working and collective problem solving with our partners across East Renfrewshire. 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