



# 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 for Q3 of the financial year 2022-23.

This quarter is renowned as a demanding period for both our police and our partners with Halloween, Bonfire night and the increase in footfall to our shopping and entertainment venues. Our teams have worked hard to ensure the public receive the best possible service delivery over this period.

During this quarter we delivered a successful festive campaign with our partners in East Renfrewshire Council. This saw us working together to target retail crime and road safety, keeping the people of east Renfrewshire safe.

Through additional Police Scotland funding, our Community Inspector Michelle Grant organised the East Renfrewshire Action on Alcohol Conference. This saw elected members, partners and importantly youth representatives engaging and taking part in workshops, presentations and discussion. This event is another example of our public health approach to policing as we tackle alcohol related harm and its related youth disorder within the authority.

Our continued emergence from the Covid 19 pandemic has seen some traditional crime types returning to pre-pandemic levels. Acquisitive crime including housebreaking and shoplifting are 2 such examples and I am determined to ensure a professional and robust approach to such crimes.

## Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime and in particular theft by housebreaking has a significant impact on our communities. In this reporting period the number of premises recorded as broken into (including attempts) was 31. Our year to date total of 92 is 26% lower than the 5 year average but up 21% on last year. This has been a priority with significant resources both locally and nationally dedicated to enhance prevention and bring offenders to justice. This has recently delivered significant success which will be reflected in the final report in Quarter 4. This is not just an East Renfrewshire issue and we are working with partners across the UK to share information, intelligence and best practise.



**Local Policing Priority: Crime (Crimes of Dishonesty)**

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

Overall crimes of dishonesty have slowed in growth, down from a 30% increase last quarter to a 21% increase for the year and remain in line with the 5 year average. Motor vehicle crime is down compared to last year and the 3 and 5 year averages. There have been 77 motor vehicle crimes recorded this year. Theft by shoplifting continued to climb with 26 more offences than last quarter. Our festive campaign contributed to slowing this increase over the Christmas period.

## East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan (2020-2023)

### Quarterly Report (2022-23 Q3: Oct—Dec 2022)

## Public Protection

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

There have been 83 Sexual Crimes recorded for this reporting period. Whilst this is an increase of 18 offences compared to last year, it remains below the 3 and 5 year average. In this area 33% of offences have been successfully detected. We continue to see a trend in offences relating to online sexual extortion taking place. These offences can be orchestrated from anywhere in the world and have a significant impact on the victims. We highlight prevention and safety messaging on our social media platforms and through community engagement in schools.



### Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime)

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

We have seen 409 Domestic incidents recorded this year, in 40% of these incidents a crime was established. Where a crime is established we exhaust all opportunities to gather evidence with a 50% detection rate for Domestic Abuse related crime. Part of our robust aftercare involves the policing of Domestic Bail conditions. We achieved a 93% compliance rate in safe and well visits that ensure victims are updated with bail conditions within 24 hrs of being set by the court. This is one of the highest rates across Greater Glasgow Policing Division. Our Community Policing Team will follow up these initial visits, where appropriate, with scheduled checks to ensure the victim is safe and supported by Police Scotland and other partners.

## Drug Dealing & Use

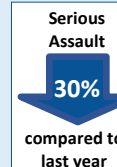
### Local Policing Priority: Crime (Drug Supply & Manufacture)

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



During this reporting period we have recorded 103 drug crimes. Of these offences 96 resulted in a crime detection. Since our last report, through working with the community and through effective intelligence gathering we have also successfully increased our recording of offences in relation to the supply of drugs, including possession with intent to supply. These have increased significantly from 4 to 10.

## Violent Crime



Serious assaults currently sit at 14 for this year, which is 30% lower than last year. There have been 55 Non Sexual Crimes of Violence recorded this year, this is up from 46 for the same period last year. Although this is a small increase of 9, we remain focused on this area and this focus has delivered a successful detection rate of 46%.

### Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime)

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

Crimes of robbery or assault with intent to rob have stayed largely static since our last report with an increase of 1, this has resulted in a total of 8 for the year to date, with 7 being successfully detected. Crimes relating to threats and extortion have climbed to 16, this is up 33% on last year.

## Antisocial Behaviour & Disorder



We continue to see a downwards trend in calls relating to Anti-Social behaviour. As well as seeing this trend across the 3 and 5 year average, we have also seen a decrease of 20% on this year compared to last year.



### Local Policing Priority—Crime (Disorder & Antisocial behaviour)

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



There have been 25 Fire-raising this year which is currently below the 5 and 3 year average. In protracted incidents, the expertise of the Fire Service can be an invaluable asset.

Antisocial behaviour can have a lasting impact on individuals, communities and business. We work hard with our partners to understand the causes and how a multi-agency holistic approach can influence behaviour. One of these strands is proactive policing, our targeted stop searches have a 30% success rate. The total number of crimes involving an offensive or bladed weapon are down by 20% on the 3 year average and we have a successful detection rate of 50%. Policing alone will not deliver against antisocial behaviour, it is only through working with our partners we achieve this long-term success.

## CRIME

### **Our Area of Focus: Violent Crime**

In October 2022, officers attended a report on an ongoing housebreaking within the Newton Mearns area. On attendance, officers observed a male nearby who appeared to be acting suspiciously. On further investigation and using appropriate legislation, the male was searched and found to be in possession of a knife and firearm. The firearm was later identified as imitation however, the recovery was significant and the male was arrested and charged to appear at Paisley Sheriff Court.

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

During this quarter, we continue to target, detect and disrupt those individuals and groups who are involved in the supply of controlled drugs. In October 2022, our LPST officers acted on intelligence and executed a search warrant at a property within the Barrhead area. A significant quantity of controlled drugs were seized as well as other items involved in the supply of drugs. A 35 year old woman was arrested and charged with drug related offences. In November 2022, uniformed officers stopped two males who were acting suspiciously near to a parked vehicle. The males were detained under Misuse of Drugs legislation and were found to be in possession of over 16 kilograms of cannabis. The males were arrested and charged for numerous offences.

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

We continue to detect, deter and disrupt those involved in fraudulent activity in order to protect victims and the most vulnerable within East Renfrewshire. In December 2022, officers from our Economic Crime & Financial Investigation Unit, Local Community Policing Team and our colleagues in Trading Standards, held a joint information evening presenting to elected members at a Councillor Briefing. This provided valuable insight into the remit and work of this specialist local department. During this reporting period, our LPST team continued to work in partnership with external agencies such as Retailers Against Crime, business owners and shopping centre management in order to address the rise shoplifting crimes. This included high value thefts where an intelligence led operation saw a number of individuals of an organised crime group being identified as the main ring leaders in this large scale operation. LPST officers executed search warrants at properties across the West of Scotland and a number of persons were arrested. This operation also led to the identification of a vulnerable 79 year old woman being used by the group to commit thefts. We were able to work with partner agencies to provide additional support to her in order to prevent further offending and mitigate the risk of harm.

## PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

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

This quarter saw Police Scotland's National Calendar of Road Safety Activity focussed on our National Speeding Campaign. Officers from East Renfrewshire actively took part in this campaign which ran from 10th to 30th of October 2022. During this campaign, a 67 year old male was charged with careless driving for speeding within the Eaglesham area. In Neilston, a 27 year old male failed to stop following a road accident and reports of careless driving. He was identified and charged with various road traffic offences and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

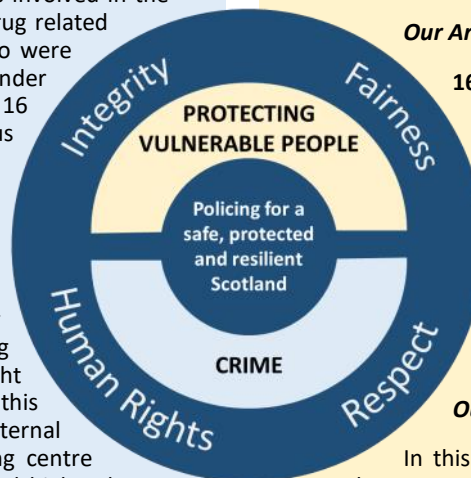
Road safety remains a key priority amongst residents within East Renfrewshire and our officers carried out high visibility speed checks at key locations. In Giffnock during November 2022, a 48 year old female was found to be driving whilst 4 times the legal limit of alcohol and separately, a 58 year old woman was found to be 6 times the legal limit of alcohol. Both were arrested and have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

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

**16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.** The annual campaign commenced during this reporting quarter. Officers in East Renfrewshire worked together with our specialist departments such as Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Unit in support of this campaign. We remain committed to tackling this crime, irrespective of the passage of time and identifying those offenders who cause harm in our society. In October, officers received a report from a 70 year old female who had endured years of significant abuse and coercive control which had went unreported. Through extensive support and investigation, officers arrested the perpetrator and secured additional bail conditions to mitigate further risk to the domestic abuse survivor.

### **Our Areas of Focus: Young People**

In this quarter, we had several events within East Renfrewshire which attracted large crowds, such as GHA Fireworks event on 5th November. On the lead up to Guy Fawkes night our campus officers worked with colleagues in Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and delivered inputs to children in both primary and secondary schools across East Renfrewshire. This included safety inputs, on the dangers of fireworks as well as discussing the legislation regarding possession and other associated offences. This quarter saw 28 calls to police in relation to youths in possession of fireworks and associated anti-social behaviour. Work is being undertaken well in advance of this year's events to tackle these issues and work with partners to address community concerns.



## CONCLUSION

As Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 3rd Quarter of the year 2022/2023.

The cabinet Report outlines just some of the work being undertaken by our officers who continue to target offenders, support victims and assist the most vulnerable across East Renfrewshire. We continue to work with all our partners to improve the joint services we provide to our communities which supports our Public Health approach to policing. As we move forward I know that the cost of living crisis will impact how we all work. In recognition of this we will be focussing on poverty which is the third strand of our Public Health approach to policing.

We will continue to deliver the highest standard of policing possible in these challenging times and I thank you for your continued support.

Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland  
Divisional Commander