

Introduction



As Local Police Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to provide this report relating to our performance and policing priorities for Q4 of the financial year 2022-23. The information contained within this report allows us to provide an overview of the challenges we faced and successes we delivered over the last 12 months. I am also delighted to update you that our East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan for period 2023-2026 is now being published after approval by the Authority. This plan outlines our priorities and objectives for the forthcoming period which will be delivered through our Public Health approach to policing. I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who took time to review and feedback on our plan allowing us to shape our activities to best meet the needs of the community. This quarter has also seen us move towards lighter nights and better weather. Planning is already underway with our partners across the Authority to ensure the residents and visitors to East Renfrewshire enjoy our open spaces in a safe and secure way. A prime illustration of this is our Community Policing led water safety group. Since this group was established it has now developed into a Partnership Approach to Water Safety group (PAWS). This is an excellent example of partners working together to deliver safer outcomes for our communities in East Renfrewshire.

Public Protection

There were an additional 28 Sexual Crimes recorded since the last reporting period, which brings the total for 2022/23 to 111. Whilst this is an increase of 10 offences compared to last year, it is 7% lower than the 5 year average. There are 14 Sexual Offence categories, 5 have seen an increase in offences and 5 have seen a decrease, with 4 remaining static since last year. We have successfully detected 39% of all sexual crime offences over this period.



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Sexual Offences)

In line with the 3 year average, there were 224 domestic incidents recorded all criminal in nature. This accounts for 40% of all domestic incidents recorded in East Renfrewshire. Where a Domestic Abuse related crime has been established we have successfully detected 47% of these offences. Our Local Policing teams are supported by dedicated domestic abuse investigators from our divisional Public Protection Unit and Specialist National Resources.

East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan (2020-2023)

Quarterly Report 2022/23 Q4: Jan—March 2023

Acquisitive Crime

Our communities in East Renfrewshire have felt the effect of acquisitive crime over the last year with theft by housebreaking having a significant impact. Substantial local, divisional and national resourcing has been focused on tackling this crime. This investment in time, effort and resources has delivered tangible results for our communities with key nominals arrested during this quarter.

Whilst the number of premises recorded as broken into (including attempts) has increased by 36 from last year, we remain 21% below the 5 year average. This crime type was affected by the restrictions on movement during COVID which placed more people at home for more often. Prior to these restrictions in 2019/20 there were 226 premises effected by this offence opposed to 129 for this year, this is a decrease of 43%.

We continue to monitor these offences in order to establish any trends that may help us to target offenders or locations. I want to thank our communities for working with us to tackle this highly emotive crime.



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

The total number of crimes of dishonesty in East Renfrewshire continues to follow the national trend and is slowly returning towards pre-pandemic levels. Against the 5 year average there has been a 3% increase across all of these offence types. Theft by shoplifting has increased, with 75 additional offences recorded this year compared to last year. The profile of offenders ranges from individuals to organised groups.

Significant arrests were made this year relating to organised criminals targeting East Renfrewshire retailers. Although the national trend is showing an increase in fraud, we have seen success by kerbing fraud offences across East Renfrewshire with a recorded 2% decrease bringing the total to 210 for the year. We will continue to work collaboratively with partners and tackle this crime.



Violent Crime

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



There have been 74 Non Sexual Crimes of Violence this year with no murders recorded in East Renfrewshire. There were 2 attempt murders both of which were successfully detected.

Serious assaults have reduced by 10% compared to last year and 23% compared to the 5 year average. The total number of offences involving an offensive or bladed weapon increased by 6% compared to last year.



We continue to target offenders with one in three stop searched carried out by officers in East Renfrewshire resulting in a positive detection.



There have only been 2 robberies or assault with intent to rob offences recorded since the last reporting period. This takes us to a total of 10 for this year. We have successfully detected 9 of those offences and we continue to work with our colleagues in specialist departments to support the victims and identify the perpetrators across this period.

Anti-social Behaviour & Disorder



Whilst we see pockets of antisocial behaviour and disorder in parts of East Renfrewshire, the Authority wide figures show the number of complaints regarding disorder have reduced by 14% compared to last year. We know how these behaviours impact our communities and we continue to target hotspots with a multi-agency approach

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



Fire-raising have increased to 33 for this reporting period. This figure is still 8% lower than the 5 year average. Common assaults are down by 7% and threatening and abusive behaviour is down by 4% on last year. Consuming alcohol in a public place has also decreased by 16% this year.

Drug Dealing & Use

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

Recorded drug crime has dropped by 16% compared to last year. There have been 143 offences recorded this year with a detection rate of 92%. Our public health approach to policing supports & protects young people and families by tackling this crime and arresting those who deal drugs in our communities. Our prevention & collaborative work is crucial in supporting this.



Please be aware that the data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Board Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

Due to year end reconciliation processes it is not appropriate that the figures referred to in the report are used as official statistics.

CRIME

Our Area of Focus: Violent Crime

Violent crime remains low however, the reduction of violent crime in our communities remains a priority for local policing in East Renfrewshire. In February, a 34 year old male was seriously assaulted in the Barrhead area following an altercation with other males. The incident was observed by East Renfrewshire CCTV operators who immediately contacted police. Officers acted swiftly and bravely, rendering first aid to the victim who had sustained injuries consistent with a bladed weapon. Three males aged 35, 34 and 26 were arrested and charged with a number of offences. Also in February, staff working within a local licensed premises within the Thornliebank area were threatened by a male who presented a weapon and demanded money. A three figure sum and alcohol was stolen during the robbery and staff were extremely shaken. Colleagues from our criminal investigation department worked tirelessly to identify the person responsible and our uniform officers provided additional reassurance and support to the staff and community. A 38 year old male was subsequently identified, arrested and charged; and was held custody to appear at court following his arrest.

Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture

As previously mentioned, our officers have continued to target those individuals and organised crime groups who are involved in the production and supply of drugs. In early January, our community officers searched a property in the Neilston area. A 50 year old male was arrested for being concerned in the production of cannabis plants. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. Whilst acting upon intelligence, our colleagues from our Specialist Crime Division executed a search warrant at a property in Barrhead. A 40 year old male was arrested for being concerned in the supply of benzodiazepines and cannabis.

Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty

Our focus remains on protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities. We continue to work with our partners in specialist departments such as the economic and financial investigation unit, to ensure a high quality approach to protection and investigation as well as support to victims, businesses and the wider community.

In March, a 34 year old male was arrested and charged with fraud after receiving a four-figure sum of money for landscaping work which he never intended to carry out. After defrauding the victim, he refused to engage and tried to actively evade police however, we continue to pursue these individuals regardless of the passage of time.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

In January 2023, police received reports relating to drivers concerned about an elderly male riding a mobility scooter with no lights and inappropriately dressed for the inclement weather and time of night. Officers attended the location last seen and could find no trace. Officers undertook a full search despite no information on his identity and through their diligence and investigation skills, located the 75 year old male and his scooter within a field. The male had fallen from his scooter and was unable to move due to his poor mobility and exposure to treacherous winter conditions. The officers acted swiftly and heroically preventing further risk or injury to the male.

Road safety remains a key priority for East Renfrewshire residents and we continue to work with our partners and carry out proactivity to influence driver behaviour and detect, deter and disrupt those who cause harm. During this quarter, a 34 year old male was arrested after driving his vehicle whilst unfit through drugs. He was charged with numerous road traffic offences and his vehicle was seized.

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

Our focus remains on protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities. We continue to work with our partners in specialist departments such as divisional rape and child abuse units to ensure a high quality approach to protection and investigation as well as support to survivors and their loved ones.

In March, a 27 year old male was arrested after he failed to comply with bail conditions set by the court with regards to a previous domestic assault. He showed flagrant disregard for the court conditions by attending at the survivor's home address and assaulting a 25 year old female. Officers arrested the perpetrator and ensured he remained custody to court following being charged.

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

Following on from our successful East Renfrewshire Action on Alcohol event which took place in November 2022, we continue to engage with partners and our local schools to highlight the dangers of alcohol consumption and associated risks. As we prepare for our Safer Open Spaces and Safer Summer campaigns, our launch of our Community Alcohol Partnership is being prepared. This will help us identify local needs and aims to impact positively on underage drinking trends by targeting our hotspots and areas of concern. The results and impact of the partnership will be reported in Q1 of 2023/24.

Our campus officers are continuing with their programme of events and inputs within all our schools focussing on wellbeing and keeping safe. Planning has commenced for their summer diversionary programme which includes a varied and exciting range of activities!



CONCLUSION

As Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 4th Quarter of the year 2022/2023.

As stated earlier, this Cabinet Report outlines some of the challenges and successes we have faced and delivered in East Renfrewshire. I am immensely proud of our officers and staff, their professionalism and resilience is clear to see. Our teams are many things to many people, from Campus Officers providing pastoral support, to local authority liaison officers coordinating responses, to frontline officers responding to people in crisis. We reflect society and we can only police with consent. I hope this report demonstrates our passion and commitment to policing in East Renfrewshire. We move forward into this new reporting year with a focus on the priorities set out by the people of East Renfrewshire. We will continue to deliver the highest standard of policing in these challenging times and I thank you for your continued support.

Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland
Divisional Commander