

Keeping People Safe in ³ 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 Q1 of the financial year 2023-24. The information contained within this report allows us to provide an overview of the challenges we faced and successes we delivered over this first quarter.

This quarter brought with it good weather and a return to high footfall in our public spaces. We have also seen a marked increase in demand with the total number of incidents across East Renfrewshire increasing by 12% compared to last year. This increased activity along with reduced capacity across all public sector organisations has seen us work hard with our partners in East Renfrewshire to focus our resources to address the greatest threats and risk of harm to people and communities.

I am extremely proud of the dedication and professionalism shown by all. We continue to move forward with innovative local initiatives such as our campus officer outreach programme and our wider public health approach to policing to mitigate risk and deliver best value.

Public Protection

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Sexual Offences)

There were 40 Sexual Crimes recorded this quarter which is slightly lower than the same period last year. We have seen a decrease of offences in the categories of Rape and Attempted Rape along with Indecent and Sexual Assaults. We have seen an increase in Communicating Indecently and Threatening / Disclosure of Intimate Images.

We continue to highlight the risk and harm of sextortion and inappropriate communications through our social media messaging and Campus Officer inputs.



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime)

Targeting domestic abusers and supporting victims is a policing priority in East Renfrewshire. The number of criminal domestic abuse incidents has reduced by 4% this year. Our domestic abuse related crime detection rate has increased by 6% to 54%. We continue to maintain a 100% success for our domestic bail check 24 hours compliance rate. These checks along with other robust policing measures have resulted in 13 offences being detected whereby offenders have been caught breaching domestic bail conditions.

East Renfrewshire

Local Police Plan (2023-2026)

Quarterly Report 2023/24 Q1: April to June 2023

Acquisitive Crime

Overall Housebreakings have increased slightly for this period compared to last year. There have been 5 additional offences bringing the total for this quarter to 34. A third of these offences were successfully detected. Every Housebreaking is one too many, however it should be noted that Housebreakings are 27% below the 5 year average for this period. We continue to take every opportunity to promote home security within our communities and to tackle offenders that are identified.



Theft of high value motor vehicles is a subject of concern for many residents in East Renfrewshire. Whilst this has been a significant issue nationally I am happy to report that motor vehicle crime in East Renfrewshire is down 6 percent overall for this year. Theft of motor vehicles are down 17%, however Theft from motor vehicles left insecure increased from 5 to 12. We take every opportunity to reinforce the message of securing property to deter opportunist theft.

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 has increased slightly this quarter compared to the same period last year. Whilst we have seen a 3% increase in the total there has been a decrease in other Group 3 crimes and Common Theft.

Fraud offences have returned to mirror national figures by increasing during this quarter. Whilst they have increased there are only 14 additional offences this quarter compared to the same period last year bringing the total to 78.

Also following a national trend we have unfortunately seen an increase of offences in the category of Theft by Shoplifting. There were 75 offences recorded, which is an increase of 23 compared to this period last year. Over 40% of Theft by Shoplifting offences have been successfully detected during this period.



Violent Crime

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime; Disorder & Antisocial behaviour)

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



There has been an increase in Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence for this quarter. There have been 36 offences recorded for this quarter which is up from 24 last year. We see the highest percentage increase in the category of Serious Assaults which has climbed to 9 offences this year of which 7 have been successfully detected. Analysis has shown that there is no overt pattern or connections across these Serious Assaults and the number of offences is still 14% lower than the 3 year average.

Recorded offences relating to offensive or bladed weapons has also increased. There were 36 offences recorded which is 7 higher than last year. We continue to target violence hotspots to reinforce our enforcement and prevention message.



Anti-social behaviour & Disorder

The number of complaints regarding disorder have remained stable at 657 which is a 0.3% increase from the same period last year. This number is substantially lower than the 1390 incidents recorded for the same period in 2020/21. The number of hate incidents and hate crimes recorded in East Renfrewshire has reduced by 29% and 48% respectfully. We work closely with our diverse communities to identify issues and to address them quickly.



Local Policing Priority—Crime (Disorder & Antisocial behaviour)

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

We are applying a significant focus on Fire-Raisings this year. Some of the fires this quarter have been reported near to or on school grounds. This quarter has seen the number of Fire-Raisings increase to 18 from 9 last year. Our Campus Officers are



working with the Education Department, Youth Services and colleagues in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services to implement a multi-agency approach. This approach is focused on early intervention and education and will also see an interactive programme led by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service being added to our new October outreach initiative.

Drug Dealing & Use

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Drug Supply & Manufacture)

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

Drug Crime Offences recorded for this quarter sit at 48, which is a 7% increase on last year with 98% of offences successfully detected. We have recorded an increase in the Supply of Drugs Offences, with 5 recorded this quarter.

We continue to work in partnership with East Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership to tackle public health issues associated with drug use and to support the mobile harm reduction unit by signposting those in need.

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 continues to be a concern for our communities and our officers have dealt with a number of violent offenders in the first quarter of this year. In April, a 24 year old woman was assaulted and found injured outside a property in Barrhead. Three males aged 19 and 21 were identified as being responsible, arrested and charged.

During this quarter, our community officers carried out proactive patrols, addressing community concerns in relation to disorder and violence. They identified and arrested a 26 year old male within the Barrhead area after he was found in possession of a knife within a public place.

Following reports of a 43 year old male having been assaulted and threatened in June, extensive investigation identified a 63 year old female and a 32 year old male as responsible, both were arrested and charged.

Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture

The first quarter of 2023-24 has seen some significant seizures of controlled substances. We continue to act upon intelligence and undertake proactive patrols which are a key part of our activity in reducing harm in our community.

In April, officers stopped the driver of a vehicle within the Local Authority area under misuse of drugs legislation. The 21 year old male driver was arrested for failing a roadside drug swipe and charged with road traffic offences and possession of controlled drugs.

In June we assisted officers from our Serious and Organised Crime Unit who had attended an address in the Barrhead area in order to execute a search warrant. A 36 year old male was arrested after significant drug and cash recoveries were made with a street value of approximately £10,000.

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 Trading Standards and our Economic & Financial Investigation Unit to ensure a high quality approach to investigating these crimes as well as protection and support to victims, businesses and wider community. During this quarter, officers investigated a large scale fraud involving a Giffnock business being defrauded of monies to the value of over £100,000. Throughout the lengthy and complex investigation, the victim was supported by our specialist investigation unit as well as local policing. The collaboration between local and specialist officers with our partners in the banking industry and other UK Police Forces, saw the victim being refunded the funds. The victim was so pleased with the police investigation and professional conduct of all involved that he wrote to our Chief Constable praising them.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

Police Scotland will work in partnership to influence driver and road user behaviour, reduce road casualties and detect and deter all types of criminality on our roads.

We work with a range of partners and specialist Road Policing Officers work within East Renfrewshire to target criminality on our roads. In April, a 30 year old male was charged with careless driving after being found driving in excess of the speed limit on the M77.

In May, a 34 year old male was charged with various road traffic offences after being observed by officers within the Clarkston area driving a vehicle in such a condition that it was dangerous to other road users.

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

In September 2022, East Renfrewshire was chosen to take part in a Custody Court pilot scheme whereby all key evidence in relation to domestic crimes would be presented to the Crown Prosecution & Fiscal Service at the very start of legal proceedings. This would allow evidence to be reviewed and outcomes reached much sooner in order to protect and support victims and witnesses and avoid delays. In this quarter, 90% of reported cases were concluded via this process meaning victims and witnesses did not have to endure giving evidence at court or being impacted by court attendance. The success of this pilot is now being measured with a view of it being rolled out nationally across all other areas.

Police Scotland's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls was presented to the SPA in Q4 and was subject to final approval in Q1. There are a number of proposals within the strategy and we continue to work together with our partners within East Renfrewshire Violence Against Women & Girls group to tackle this issue and create a society free from violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation.

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

Across our partnership approach we believe that it is important to understand the issues and root causes that impact on our young people. The establishment of a bespoke tactical group involving a range of partners including colleagues from Community Safety, Youth Services, Education and Health & Social Care Partnership has seen positive steps and activities being set up to address a variety of developmental and anti-social behaviour concerns. Our campus officers took part in a number of activities to support young people in their life choices and to discourage anti-social behaviour as they embarked on their summer holidays. Through this interaction and exposure to new and different challenges we aimed to build self-esteem, confidence and social skills. We continue on this theme into Q2 and the year ahead.



CONCLUSION

As the Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 1st Quarter of the year 2023/24.

As outlined in this Cabinet Report, East Renfrewshire is maintaining its place as one of the safest places to work and live in Scotland. Our multi-agency approach will be key to delivering and maintaining this environment as we move forward into a restricted financial environment. I have great confidence that the foundations and building blocks already in place within East Renfrewshire will give us a strong basis to deliver the best possible service for the communities we serve. Thank you for your continued support.

Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland
Divisional Commander