

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 Q2 of the financial year 2023-24. The information contained within this report allows us to provide an overview of the impacts on policing and how we have performed during this second quarter.

This period is traditionally challenging for the Police and our Partners. We see the impacts of the summer,

school holidays, an increase in events and good weather. These factors combined with the current funding climate across all public sector organisations, has presented additional challenges.

Despite these challenges, I am delighted to say that with some additional funding from the East Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) and with funding from our Divisional Commanders Fund, we have delivered additional supportive activities. Our highly successful campus officer outreach programme was this year twinned with a summer engagement project involving licenced premises and young people. This along with our Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) has helped to drive our wider public health approach to policing by educating, diverting and deterring those most at risk. This report shows many successes and highlights areas where we are focussing activities to positively impact on areas of concern.

Public Protection

Compared to last year there has been a 12% decrease in overall recorded Sexual Crimes and Offences. The offences of Communicating Indecently and



Threatening / Disclosure of Intimate images are the only areas to see an increase. This is a wider societal issue which is impacted by a change in social norms and technology. As highlighted in our last report, we continue to emphasis the risk and harm of sextortion and inappropriate communications through our social media messaging and Campus Officer Inputs to young people.

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Sexual Offences)

Since the start of this year Police Officers in East Renfrewshire have dealt with 292 incidents which were reported to the police as domestic situations. 118 of these have been criminal in nature, approximately one in every two domestic crimes during this period have been successfully detected.

We continue to work, learn and listen to our partners and survivors, their experiences and their input is vital to help focus and adapt our approach. Our successful '16 Days of Action Campaign' works to end violence against women and girls. We are committed to delivering a person-centred approach when responding to incidents of violence against women and girls, involving affected communities in the design and delivery of our services to ensure they are supported and their experiences understood and heard.

East Renfrewshire

Local Police Plan (2023-2026)

Quarterly Report 2023/24 Q2: July - Sept 2023

Acquisitive Crime

This quarter shows a significant decrease in Housebreakings for the year to date figures. There have been 37 Housebreakings or Attempt Housebreakings across the local authority area this year. This is 37% below last year, 36% below the 3 year average and 53% below the five year average. Our detection rate for these offences is also up 7% on the same period last year.

As with the last quarter we continue to see a decrease in overall Motor Vehicle Crime. The year to date figure of 49 offences is 4% lower than last year and 11% below the five year average. Our Winter Road Safety Campaign will be reinforced with additional messaging around Vehicle Security.



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Crimes of Dishonesty)

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

Overall, Crimes of Dishonesty are 4% lower for the year to date figure compared to last year. Common Theft has decreased by 12% with 104 offences recorded for this year. Unfortunately we continue to see an increase in Theft by Shoplifting offences, with 120 offences recorded compared to 94 last year. Encouragingly the detection rate for Theft by Shoplifting has increased by 18%. There have been 5 additional Fraud offences recorded this year compared to last year with a total of 113 recorded to the end of Quarter 2. We have seen significant success in recovering funds for victims and this will be outlined later in the report.

Drug Dealing & Use

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Drug Supply & Manufacture)

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



It is critical to support the victims of drug misuse and to tackle the important issue of drug deaths. Whilst supporting our partners in this Social and Public Health approach we must also influence behaviour through enforcement. Recorded Drug Crimes across East Renfrewshire have increased by 13% compared to last year, this is achieved through proactive policing and intelligence gathering. Targeting those who engaged in the supply of drugs is essential and the figures for this period show that 8 offences of supply have been detected.

Violent Crime

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



As with last quarter, we continue to see an increase in Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence. An additional 11 crimes have been recorded bringing the total to 46 for the year. We have successfully detected 44% of these offences. There have been no Murders and only 1 Attempt Murder recorded within the Local Authority Area this year. Offences relating to threats and extortion have increased to 16 from 8 in the same period last year.

There have been no additional Serious Assaults recorded for this quarter meaning the total for the year remains at 9. Only 1 additional Robbery or Assault with intent to Rob was recorded this quarter bring the total to 9 for this year.



Anti-Social Behaviour & Disorder

By the end of this quarter we had received 953 complaints regarding disorder, which is 2% lower than the same period last year. The Police Service does receive a large number of calls that are not criminal in nature. We continue to monitor the impact of other service providers reducing their capacity and capability to address non-criminal behaviour.



Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents continued to show a substantial decrease compared to last year and the 3 year average across this quarter. Due to current international issues we unfortunately expect to see a change in this trend as we look forward. All efforts are currently being made to support our communities and to understand and react proportionately to this change.

Local Policing Priority—Crime (Disorder & Antisocial behaviour)

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

Whilst there have been reductions in offences across many crime areas, we continue to see an increase in crimes relating to antisocial behaviour. These offences have a direct impact on our communities and unfortunately many of these offences are being caused by young people from local areas. Vandalisms have increased by 9% for this period compared to last year. Wilful Fire-Raising offences have reached 25 for the year to date and there have been 23 offences of Culpable and Reckless conduct committed.

We support victims and robustly police and investigate these offences. Resolving and achieving long term societal change will only come through a whole systems approach. We will continue to support our partners in a trauma informed approach to young people and their families.



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

In July, a 28 year old woman was threatened at knife point and a van belonging to her partner was stolen. Numerous police resources were deployed including specialist resource units, resulting in the arrest and charge of a 26 year old man. In August, a 56 year old Barrhead man was violently attacked and suffered significant injuries following an altercation with other males. Through rigorous investigation by our colleagues in the Criminal Investigation Department two men aged 30 and 24 years were identified, arrested and remanded for appearance at court.

Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture

During the second quarter of this reporting period, our officers continue to target individuals and groups who are involved in the supply of controlled drugs. In August, officers acting upon intelligence, executed a search warrant at a property in Neilston. A 26 year old male was arrested and charged with a number of offences after being found in possession of controlled drugs. In September, our local community officers acted on local community concerns following reports of drug taking and anti-social behaviour taking place. Officers stopped a vehicle within the Giffnock area and the 25 year old male driver was detained under Misuse of Drugs legislation and found to be in possession of a quantity of controlled drugs. He was charged and reported to court. We continue to work collaboratively with our partners within East Renfrewshire and overlay our public health approach to support harm from addiction and reduce offending.

Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty

As highlighted earlier in the report, the prevalence of crimes relating to fraud has increased slightly in East Renfrewshire. Criminals will continue to develop and devise ever changing methods to commit fraud and utilise communications networks and the internet to target vulnerable people. Investigations can be complex and lengthy by their very nature, requiring specialist investigative skills and technological expertise. Local and specialist officers continue to support victims and ensure they are kept up to date at all stages of the investigation. During this quarter, approximately £100,000 has been recovered for claimants who have been subject to online & banking fraud.

In July, the home of a couple aged 75 and 72 years was broken into in the Giffnock area. A high value vehicle was stolen as well as approximately £50,000 worth of jewellery. Extensive investigation and enquiry was undertaken by both specialist and local officers and two men aged 36 and 40 were arrested and charged to court.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

Positively influencing driver behaviour and improving road safety remains a local priority as identified by East Renfrewshire residents. We continue to work in partnership to influence driver and road user behaviour, reduce road casualties and detect and deter all types of criminality on our roads. In July, officers on patrol within Newton Mearns, observed a male using a mobile phone whilst driving. He was stopped and subsequent enquiries revealed no insurance was in place for the vehicle. A 26 year old male was arrested for the driving offences as well as obstructing police officers and charged.

In August, reports were received of a vehicle being driven erratically within the Clarkston area. Officers attended the last known area of where the vehicle had been sighted and observed it accident damaged following a collision. A 21 year old male was identified as the driver and found to be under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and charged with a number of driving offences.

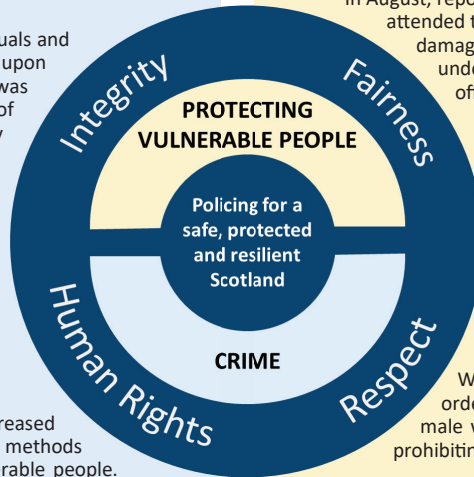
Our Areas of Focus: Domestic Abuse— Adult Protection—Child Protection

Tackling domestic violence and ensuring survivors have the confidence to come forward remains a local and national priority. Police Scotland has a critical role to play in preventing violence and safeguarding women and girls. In East Renfrewshire, we work collaboratively with statutory and third sector partners to improve outcomes for those experiencing violence, abuse and harassment and tackle those perpetrators who harm our communities. In July, a 35 year old Neilston woman reported receiving threatening communication from an ex-partner. Officers acted swiftly and a 34 year old male was arrested and additional support was put in place for the survivor.

We actively ensure bail conditions that have been set by Scottish Courts, are adhered to in order that the survivor or their family suffers no further harm. In September, a 48 year old male was found within the home of a domestic abuse survivor contrary to his bail conditions prohibiting him being there. He was arrested and charged.

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

Our School Campus Officers continue to engage and build on the excellent relationships they have with our school communities including educational staff, pupils and parents / carers. In Q2, our campus officers secured funding from our Divisional Commanders fund and East Renfrewshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership which they used to develop their impressive programme of activities for young people aged between 14-16 years. Fourteen young people embarked on a 3 week programme of fun & educational activities which were varied and exciting and included activities such as water sports, archery and go-karting. The positive effect on these young people has been life changing with feedback from our partners in Education advising that the young people were thrilled at the experience and exuberant on their return to school. Our campus officers were formally recognised and received an award from our Divisional Commander for their commitment and dedication to improving the outcomes for young people within East Renfrewshire.



CONCLUSION

As the Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 2nd Quarter of the year 2023/24.

As outlined in this Cabinet Report, our policing team in East Renfrewshire has delivered against a number of challenges. Through balancing and directing our available resourcing we have tackled and mitigated many risks and concerns. We have seen the successful application of policing across many areas, but also understand that there are areas that still require sustained focus. Whilst challenges lay ahead in addressing a variety of developmental and anti-social behaviour concerns, we understand and appreciate that this can only be achieved through supporting our partners in addressing the root causes for each young person. This approach will take time and we pledge our continued commitment and support. The people of East Renfrewshire continue to receive a high standard of policing, which I am proud to say is delivered daily by our officers and staff. Thank you for your continued support.

Chief Superintendent David Robertson
Divisional Commander