

Keeping People Safe in East Renfrewshire

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Introduction



As Local Police Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to provide this report which relates to our performance and policing priorities for Q3 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 third quarter.

The winter months of Q3 brought darker nights and significant events such as Bonfire Night. This is traditionally the most resource intensive and demanding evening for policing in Scotland. I am happy to report that through early planning and successful partnership working, East Renfrewshire achieved a successful evening and event. I want to thank our partners including the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and East Renfrewshire Council for their support. This support allowed the communities of East Renfrewshire to celebrate the evening in a safe and secure way.

Whilst we can highlight many achievements during this period, we can also see the challenges that are being faced by all Local Authority areas. To deliver positive change, these national areas of concern also need to be analysed and understood in the local context. Our Local Policing teams alongside our national assets work with our partners to deliver a collective and targeted approach to these issues.

We will continue to work with our partners to target priorities based on the threat, risk and harm and to influence change ensuring the best outcomes for the people of East Renfrewshire.

Public Protection

This quarter has seen a slight increase in the overall number of sexual crimes. There were 12 more offences this year compared to the same point last year. This brings the total to 94 which is in line with the 5 year average.

Whilst we know the national trend around incident communications continues to climb it is also important to note that many sexual crimes are non-recent offences which are only now being reported to the police. It is encouraging to see that victims now feel more comfortable in coming forward to report offences which may have taken place many years ago. We treat every offence seriously no matter the passage of time and investigate them with the same drive and vigour. As a result 1 in every 2 sexual crimes reported in East Renfrewshire has been successfully detected over this reporting period.

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Sexual Offences)

Domestic Abuse continues to be a focus and priority for our Policing Teams in East Renfrewshire. Our robust policing of offenders has seen 19 individuals arrested for breaching domestic bail conditions this year. It's important that the people of East Renfrewshire feel confident in contacting the police for support. Approximately 42% of domestic related incidents in East Renfrewshire have resulted in an offence being detected. Where no offence is identified, our officers offer support and signposting to relevant partners. We investigated 175 domestic abuse incidents where a crime was associated and we successfully detected 48% of domestic abuse related crime. We will also outline later in this report some of the successes seen this December from the '16 Days of Action Campaign' which works to end violence against women and girls.

East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan (2023-2026)

Quarterly Report 2023/24 Q3: Oct - Dec 2023

Acquisitive Crime

Last year we saw a significant issue with housebreakings both within East Renfrewshire and nationally. I am happy to report that in this quarter, East Renfrewshire has seen a reduction in offences against last year, the 3 year average and the 5 year average. Whilst every housebreaking is one too many, it's important to note that there has been a 54% reduction in housebreakings or attempt housebreaking offences across the 5 year average and a reduction in 41 offences compared to last year's figure of 92. We also continue to see a reduction in the total number of motor vehicle crimes. We have seen 65 offences over the 3 quarters for this year, this is down 17% on last year and 25% down on the 5 year average. It is important that we continue to highlight and promote the small changes we can all make to improve our property and vehicle safety.



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Crimes of Dishonesty)

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

The previously seen reduction in overall crimes of dishonesty has doubled since last quarter, dropping by 8%. Whilst we see positive impacts on housebreakings and motor vehicle crime, we continue to see the upwards national trend in theft by shoplifting and fraud offences being mirrored in East Renfrewshire.

We continue to target theft by shoplifting by working closely with Retailers Against Crime. This approach has resulted 62 detections so far and as a result we successfully detect just over 1 in every 3 thefts by shopliftings.

Frauds have increased by 6% compared to this point last year, this equates to 9 additional offences year on year. It is important to highlight that everyone can be a possible victim of fraud and these offences can be complex and instigated by international criminal gangs. It's important that we all stay alert and report any concerns.

Drug Dealing & Use

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Drug Supply & Manufacture)

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



Detecting drug offences across East Renfrewshire is as a result of proactive policing and community support. I am pleased to say we have seen a 15% increase in number of these offences recorded. This brings the total number of drug offences to 120 for the year. We will continue to deploy uniformed and plain clothed officers to target areas of greatest concern whilst working with our partners to tackle the public health concerns surrounding drug dealing and misuse.

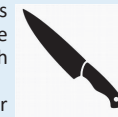
Violent Crime

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



Whilst our numbers of Non-Sexual crimes of violence are amongst the lowest in Scotland, we continue to see an overall increase in these offences. There were 68 offences recorded for this year, this is up from 55 for the same period last year. Our overall detection rate remains stable at 44%.

We have seen 18 serious assaults recorded this year which is 11% below the 5 year average. During this period we have successfully detected 12 serious assaults and with investigations still ongoing, we hope to see this figure climb. In the 9 months of this year we have recorded 12 robbery or assault with intent to rob offences. During the same period we successfully detected 9 of these offences.



Importantly through analysis, we have identified that there are no notable connections or victim groupings identified across these offences.

Anti-social behaviour & Disorder



There have been 416 incidents of disorder reported to the police in this quarter which brings the total to 1369 for this year. This is 1% lower than the same period last year and well below the 3 year and 5 year figures.

I am happy to report that hate crimes and hate incidents are still showing a downwards trend in East Renfrewshire.

Compared to last year, hate incidents are down 3% to 63 and hate crimes are down 39% to 36. We have successfully detected almost one in every two hate crime offences. We continue to keep a close focus on this area to ensure our communities are supported and reassured.

Local Policing Priority—Crime (Disorder & Antisocial behaviour)

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

It is important that our communities feel safe and that we maintain the safe spaces of East Renfrewshire. We continue to work hard with our partners to promote a whole system approach in dealing with anti-social behaviour. This approach must be trauma informed to ensure our young people and their families are supported.

Willful fire-raising have reached pre COVID levels with 42 offences recorded across the 3 quarters of this year. We are hopeful that the multi-agency approach we have supported in tackling this issue will see positive impacts as we move forward.

Vandalisms continue to track around 10% higher than last year and is almost at pre COVID levels. There were 37 offences relating to culpable and reckless conduct recorded this year and we have successfully detected over a third of these offences.



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 November, a 19 year old woman was seriously assaulted at a property in Clarkston. Numerous police resources, including a specialist dog handler attended as the perpetrator had left the scene. A search of the local area by the officers located the male hiding in gardens nearby. He was arrested and appeared at court.

During this quarter, police received reports of a male walking in the Barrhead area whilst in possession of a machete style weapon. An extensive search took place with officers reviewing CCTV and carrying out investigation. A 37 year old male was identified, arrested and the weapon recovered.

Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture

Within East Renfrewshire we are committed to targeting drug supply and misuse and reduce the devastation it can bring to families and communities. During this quarter, officers acting upon intelligence, stopped a vehicle being driven by a male who was suspected of drugs offences. Whilst no drugs were found within the vehicle, a 50 year old male was charged and £100,000 was seized under proceeds of crime.

In October, officers on patrol in Barrhead stopped a vehicle and the occupants were detained under misuse of drugs legislation. Two males aged 31 and 32 were arrested for possession of a quantity of various controlled drugs and charged.

Proactivity patrols are a key activity for our local officers. In November, officers stopped a vehicle which showed as having no insurance. On further investigation, the 19 year old male driver was found to be in possession of controlled drugs. He was charged with drug and road traffic offences.

Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty

We continue to work with our colleagues in specialist departments including the Economic Crime & Financial Investigation Unit to detect, deter and disrupt criminal activity which affects local communities and businesses across the authority.

During this quarter, we have seen offences relating to downloading a Crypto Platform after responding to adverts relating to investment opportunity on social media. These are complex investigation involving a number of specialist resources, during these protracted investigations we maintain contact and provide support and advice to the victims.

We recognise that social networking websites and apps are an important part of many people's lives however, this can be used for harmful or criminal purposes. We continue to work with our partners to advise and warn our communities of the importance in knowing how to manage security and privacy settings and to never share personal or financial information. In November, a 20 year old male responded to an advert selling concert tickets. The victim paid £50.00 however, the tickets were never received. Officers investigated and uncovered several similar crimes committed by the same perpetrator. A 17 year old female was identified as the perpetrator and arrested for appearance at court.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

Keeping all road users safe is a top priority for Police Scotland and remains a focus for officers within East Renfrewshire. We are committed to work with all our partners to target those who cause harm on our roads and networks. In October, officers attended a one vehicle crash in the Giffnock area. The driver was identified and subsequently failed a roadside breath test. He was arrested and found to be five times over the legal limit. He was also charged with drugs offences and held for court appearance.

In the same month, a 35 year old male cyclist in Clarkston, fell from his bike causing himself an injury. Officers attended and he was found to be under the influence of alcohol and unfit to cycle due to intoxication. He was arrested and appeared at court at a future date.

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

Domestic abuse and harm remain a priority for Police Scotland. We are committed to continually improving the service we provide, to build confidence in reporting and in policing more widely. During this quarter, we worked with our partners to deliver on our commitment to eradicate all forms of gender based abuse, violence and harassment during the global 16 Days of Action Campaign. Through this campaign, we have shared knowledge and creative ways to achieve equality and respect for everyone regardless of their background or gender. This work continues with collaboration involving many voluntary and statutory partners who provide invaluable support to survivors and wider communities.

In October, a 47 year old male was arrested after failing to adhere to domestic bail conditions set by the court following a domestic abuse incident. He was arrested and the victim provided additional support and reassurance.

In this quarter, our local officers continued to carry out enquiries in relation to domestic abuse bail visits and to ensure the safety of domestic abuse survivors. During one visit, officers found a 41 year old male breaking his conditions putting the survivor at further risk of harm. He was arrested and remained custody for court.

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

In Q2 we reported on the success of our bespoke diversionary programme involving our campus officers hosting 14 young people from across the authority to be involved in fun and educational activities. This success resulted in an additional diversionary programme being held during the October school break. This course supported and assisted some of the most vulnerable young people in our community to feel safe and secure in making positive life choices. We hope to secure additional funding in order to deliver future programmes in 2024.

During this quarter, our campus officers worked in collaboration with colleagues in SFRS and youth services to host a bespoke Fire Reach course. This week long course developed and nurtured life skills for young people ranging from basic life skills to training with fire fighters. This experience received positive feedback from the young people who thoroughly enjoyed the activities and was recognised as a success by their carer's and guardians.



CONCLUSION

As the Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 3rd Quarter of the year 2023/24.

As outlined in this Cabinet Report, whilst the number of offences recorded in East Renfrewshire continue to be amongst the lowest in Scotland, we are still acutely aware of the challenges that face our communities and policing.

Through looking at the evidence and understanding the national and local threats, we evaluate the risks to our communities in order to best deploy our resources to mitigate harm. This can only be done through a joint understanding and strong partnership working which I am pleased to say is evident in everything we do in East Renfrewshire. Thank you for your continued support.

Chief Superintendent David Robertson
Divisional Commander