

**BELLSHILL & DISTRICT
LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP
POLICE REPORT**



**STRATHCLYDE
POLICE**

**January
2008**

(November 2007 – January 2008)

Introduction

The intention of this report is to provide members of the Bellshill & District Local Area Partnership with a brief update on current issues and information relative to the policing activity within Bellshill Sub-Division, one of four Sub-Divisions within the main North Lanarkshire Division.

Divisional Policing Priorities

The Divisional Control Strategy outlines our current policing priorities. In working towards these priorities we seek to involve our partners and local communities in order that a positive input is made upon them. Detailed information about the control strategy can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Issues Relating to All Wards

Safer Scotland Initiative / Safer North Lanarkshire Initiative:-

Members will recall that in October of last year the Safer Scotland Initiative began a campaign focusing on violent behaviour. There was a programme of activity developed to impact on the main strands of the campaign which were identified as

- **Communities Against Knives**
(1 October 2007 to 19 October 2007)
- **Communities Against Alcohol Fuelled Violence**
(3 December 2007 to 21 December 2007)
- **Communities Working with Collective Violence**
(3 March 2008 to 28 March 2008)

Following support from the Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT) North Lanarkshire Division, in December of last year, commenced a programme of initiatives that complemented what Safer Scotland wished to achieve but at the same time put a local perspective on it, hence the Safer North Lanarkshire theme.

Chief Constable Stephen House has recently arrived to take up his new role and has placed the tackling of violence at the top of his agenda which again complements what we are attempting to do with the Safer North Lanarkshire / Safer Scotland initiatives.

Violence, unfortunately, is something which impacts on communities every day of our lives. Each and every police officer within the Bellshill Sub Division has a role to play in reducing this impact and making our Local Partnership Area a safer place for us all.

This communities-based focus however, links in with our belief that violence is everybody's problem. The police alone cannot change Scotland's deep-rooted culture of violence. Only by working with others – be it the health service, education departments or communities themselves – can we begin to make significant inroads.

Communities are key to this. Too many people in too many communities accept violence as part of everyday life – they have become immune to it. We want these communities to lower their tolerance to violence, to refuse to accept it as part of everyday life, and to work with us to make Strathclyde a better and safer place to be.

Each and every officer has a role to play in achieving this aim, be it through stop and searches, alcohol initiatives or simply through having a high visibility presence on our streets and ensuring they are there at the right time and in the right place.

The use of analytical products has greatly assisted in this regard, as has the recently introduced Variable Shift Agreement. In addition to the normal core policing activity in excess of thirty local high profile patrols have taken place during the month of January alone with a similar amount scheduled to take place during February. In addition, a smaller number of patrols by officers in plain clothes have been undertaken to deal with any potential displacement of youths, which may occur.

Every weekend or during the week if required, an action plan is instigated that seeks to address areas of disorder throughout the sub-division. Officers on patrol are specifically deployed based on local intelligence, analysis of recent incidents and information that may come from Local Members or concerned residents.

Any people who are considered to be involved in disorder, whether it be drinking in the street or breaching the peace will be charged accordingly. If on arrival of the police there is no obvious disorder then persons within the vicinity may be searched, if appropriate, moved on or other action taken. However, without public support in terms of providing statements there is often not enough evidence to charge.

The action plans are backed up by intelligence-led products, aimed at identifying and targeting specific offenders whether it is in relation to disorder, controlled drugs or other areas of criminality.

These plans are based on a tactical assessment, allied to local intelligence and are reviewed fortnightly in conjunction with the Divisional Tasking and Co-ordination process.

Test Purchase Scheme:-

December 2007 saw the introduction of the Test Purchase Scheme within the Strathclyde Police Area. The aim being to prevent the sale of alcohol to children and young persons and to detect offences committed within off sales premises. This method is an excellent way to 'Test' the sale of alcohol policy that is adopted by the License holder and their staff. To date we have undertaken about six operations of this kind within the Sub Division and as a result two Licence holders and staff members have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Subsequent reports will also be made to the North Lanarkshire Council Licensing Board.

Fixed Penalty Notices:-

To assist police officers to tackle low level offending a system of fixed penalty notices can now be issued to persons who commit offences such as drinking in public, urinating in public, minor breach of the peace and licensing offences. The offender, who must be subject to certain conditions, may be given a £40 fixed penalty by the officer as an alternative to a report been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. The use of fixed penalties as a method of enforcement is steadily increasing and this has a positive effect on allowing officers to spend more time on patrol and less time in the office writing police reports. In addition, this should reduce the amount of time officers are required to spend at court and again allows a greater presence on the street.

Mutual Aid:-

On a fortnightly basis at the Divisional Tasking and Co-ordinating meeting the opportunity is presented for the Sub Division to request the assistance of other Force Resources. Obviously these requests are compared with others across the Force area and competing demands for these limited resources means that our requests are not always successful. That said, recently we have had assistance within the Sub Division from the Mounted Branch, Tactical Firearms Unit, Support Services and Road Policing. These additional officers have been deployed in a variety of ways throughout the Sub Division in areas that have been causing particular issues and their contribution has been greatly welcomed.

Issues Relating to Individual Ward Areas

Ward 13: Thorniewood: (Beat 71/ 72/ 73):-

Community Police Officers for Ward 13:-

Constables Gordon Robertson and Barry Scott. There is presently one vacancy for this ward which will be filled shortly.

On going police issues:-

The area surrounding the Tandoori Sizzler, 405 Laburnum Rd, Viewpark has experienced several instances of youth disorder including a racial incident. As police were aware of the increase in youth disorder, an overt camera supplied by Community Safety was placed within the store which captured the racial incident, allowing an arrest to be obtained. Although there are still sporadic incidents in this area reported, the camera, coupled with an increase in high profile patrols is alleviating the issue.

Emerging Trends:-

Overall, during the period covered by this report, there has been a general levelling of instances of youth related disorder. Previous initiatives regarding the Osprey Drive area proved successful, with the submission of community service clear up requests to

have litter and bottles removed. Most recently, there has been a small increase in reports of disorder in the vicinity of Tannochside Business Park

Ongoing Initiatives / Police Activity:-

Additional high profile patrols allowed by the new variable shift agreement have targeted the Viewpark area to address the complaints of youth disorder. This coupled with good community intelligence has allowed patrols to be targeted to the areas and times of most concern. A youth diversion initiative led by Community Police Officers through the local primary schools, which is in its early stages, will further enhance community relations

Incidents of note/ Noteworthy Arrests:-

Beat 71:

Two local youths were arrested for possession of an offensive weapon near to Second Avenue, Tannochside.

Beat 72:

Male arrested for Robbery at William Hill Bookmakers, Old Edinburgh Road.

Recent anti violence patrols have utilised Special Constables to good effect, and resulted in a number of licensed premises visits and stop searches, whereby intelligence was submitted

Beat 73:

Nothing of note

Ward 14: Bellshill: (Beat 74/ 75/ 76/ 77/ 78)

Community Police Officers for Ward 14:-

Constables David Paterson, Alan Mulholland, David Pattison and Paul Roarty (who is being promoted away from the Division on 25/2/08 and will be replaced)

On going police issues:-

The Jewel Scheme continues to represent a challenge to local officers within this ward. During the period, incidents of disorder have continued, however, robust policing has addressed this issue head on, which has included a significant number of high profile proactive patrols in the area, and the use of CCTV, and mutual aid.

Partnership working with NLC Anti Social Task Force has resulted in ongoing proceedings and enquiries into a number of individuals with the aim of obtaining Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

Housebreakings to schools have increased, however two juveniles have been reported and since their apprehension, this type of crime has seen a significant reduction.

Emerging Trends:-

During the current period, there have been several instances of thefts of diesel fuel, and thefts from commercial premises in Righead industrial estate. Pro active patrols and mutual aid from Road Policing were utilised. Two local persons have been arrested recently for similar crimes in this area.

Ongoing Initiatives/ Police Activity:-

As outlined in the introductory overview, the Jewel Scheme, and in particular, Turquoise Terrace has been subject to intensive policing, and partnership working. This included improved communication regarding the use of CCTV for evidential purposes.

The implementation of the new Variable Shift Pattern, on 10th September 2007, has permitted even greater targeting of local resources in response to emerging issues, and in response to public concern at peak times.

Incidents of note/ Noteworthy Arrests:-

<p>Beat 74: Two persons were arrested for thefts from commercial premises</p> <p>Beat 75: Mounted Branch mutual aid patrols of North Road / Kelvin Road</p> <p>Beat 76: Recent thefts of charity boxes in town centre. One male has been reported</p> <p>Beat 77: Curfew order was obtained on known offender, who was subsequently arrested and imprisoned. Known housebreakers arrested in relation to Housebreakings at Lawmuir Primary School and Cardinal Newman High School</p> <p>Beat 78: A 28 yr old male was arrested for possession of class A and Class B drugs</p>
--

Ward 15 & Ward 17: Mossend / Holytown / New Stevenson / Newarthill (Beat 79/ 80/ 81)

Community Police Officers for Ward 15 & part of 17:-

Constables John MacLeod, Garry Thomson, Pauline Smith and Kenneth MacRobert

On going police issues:-

Disorder in the Holytown area is an ongoing challenge and additional resources have been provided on an ongoing basis to alleviate the problem. Hand held evidence gathering cameras, cycle patrols and mutual aid resources have all been used in the area to good effect.

Emerging Trends:-

The area surrounding Ledi Path, Newarthill, including local licensed premises at Martin Place, has been a focus for local youths, who have been responsible for a number of vandalisms to unoccupied North Lanarkshire Council properties.

Ongoing Initiatives/ Police Activity:-

Local actions have focused additional patrols, from both Community Police and core groups, in the area of Ledi Path / Martin Place, and Myrtle Drive / Redwood Road, Holytown. The Mobile CCTV has also been utilised to good effect in off sales premises at Martin Place and Myrtle Drive.

Most recently, Community Officers provided High Profile Policing of the area, liaising with core groups and mutual aid from the Road Policing Department, and Support Services. Community Safety Department have liaised with local representatives of Eurocentral, and locally identified actions have now been implemented in respect of the area of Eurocentral, to prevent persons taking commercial vehicles into the car parking areas of the Dakota hotel.

The Sub Division Continues to address the misuse of controlled drugs across all ward areas.

Incidents of note/ Noteworthy Arrests:-

Beat 79:

One male reported for a large number of housebreakings to garden sheds in the New Stevenston, Carfin and Newarthill area.

Beat 80:

Five local youths were charged with serious assault, following an incident In Spruce Way, Holytown

Beat 81:

14yr old male was arrested for possession of a knife and a meat cleaver, his 40yr old mother was charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

One 17yr old male reported for serious assault having stabbed another male.

Two persons reported for drug dealing

Force Control Strategy

CHILD PROTECTION

AIM:-

To protect children from the threat of sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

OBJECTIVE:-

To detect, disrupt and deter those involved in paedophilia and exploitation and sexual abuse of children.

DRUGS

AIM:-

To impact upon the supply, misuse and availability of all controlled drugs.

OBJECTIVE:-

Increase the weight of seizures and detections of those involved in the supply and possession of control drugs.

TERRORISM

AIM:-

To reduce the risk to the community from terrorism and extremist activity.

OBJECTIVE:-

To raise awareness of the threat from Terrorism and Extremist activity in the community.

DISORDER AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

AIM:-

To enhance community safety and well being by impacting on disorder and antisocial behaviour.

OBJECTIVE:-

Maintain and strengthen key partnerships to reduce disorder and antisocial behaviour.

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

AIM:-

To impact on serious and organised crime.

OBJECTIVE:-

Detect, disrupt and deter those involved in serious and organised crime.

VIOLENT CRIME

AIM:-

To engage with partners to achieve a sustainable reduction in violence in North Lanarkshire through problem solving and innovation.

OBJECTIVE:-

Reduce violent crime and its impact.