



North Lanarkshire Council/ Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee

Police Scotland Scrutiny Report

4th February 2019



1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the North Lanarkshire Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee with an update in respect of policing performance and activity within North Lanarkshire, focussing upon the priorities outlined within the Local Policing Plan.
- 1.2 The reporting period for this report is 01/04/2018 to 30/11/2018.
- 1.3 The priorities which, as members will recall, were identified through consultation with partners and communities, are shown below:
 - Serious Violent Crime and Public Protection
 - Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Crime
 - Acquisitive Crime
 - Road Safety
 - Serious Organised Crime and Drugs
 - Counter Terrorism
 - Public Confidence and Local Engagement

2. Serious Violent Crime and Public Protection

- 2.1 Lanarkshire Division's focus upon violent crime is twofold:
 - Firstly, seeking to reduce violent offending and preventing it from occurring where possible, and
 - when a violent crime has been committed, supporting the victim and bringing the perpetrator to justice.
- 2.2 The Division's focus upon sexual crime is as outlined above at 2.1, however, it is recognised that sexual crime has previously been underreported and as such, an increase in the reported numbers of these crimes, is assessed to reflect increasing public confidence in reporting such matters.

Key Points

- 2.3 Performance data is provided in the table below, however key points of note are:
 - Crimes of serious violence have increased since 2017/2018 figures (0.9% Increase which equates to 3 crimes).
 - There have however been 8 murders committed within North Lanarkshire within this reporting period, with these having occurred in Holytown, Shotts, Bellshill, Newarthill, Wishaw Coatbridge, Gartcosh and Airdrie. Arrests have been made in relation to all the murders.
 - There has been an increase (5.5%, which equates to 132 charges) in the number of common assaults recorded. Common assaults include

assaults against the police and common assaults at schools, particularly Portland School, Pentland School and St Philips School, these factors contribute to the rise in figures. All three schools provide designated specialist provision for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Staff within the three schools have a zero tolerance policy and all incidents of assaults are reported.

- There has been a rise in the number of sexual crimes reported (10.4%, which equates to 44 charges), however the detection rate at 73.1% is nearly 14% higher than the same period last year. This figure includes Communicating Indecently via Social Media which has contributed to the rise in this area.
- There has been a rise in the number of rapes reported, with 11 more victims than the same period last year (this is an increase of 15.9% this figure includes a drop of 4 rape victims whereby the offence has occurred less than a year prior and an increase of 15 in relation to historical offences which occurred more than a year ago). Analysis has shown that there are no patterns or trends. Historical reporting is on the increase due to media attention to high profile cases encouraging victims to come forward and shows the confidence victims have in reporting offences to Police Scotland. The detection rate for rape is lower for this period however due to the protracted nature of sexual crimes particularly historic crimes this figure is fluid as the enquiries are still ongoing and this figure will rise.

Further Detail

2.4 **Operation Forward**

Lanarkshire Division's Operation Forward has now been running since 22nd October 2018 and there have been significant apprehensions and disruption caused to those people in the community intent on causing harm. A number of weapons have been seized from offenders.

A team of officers were identified from specialist departments their primary focus being to target individuals whose crimes have a serious impact on our communities. This was also supplemented by Local Policing teams and Local Problem Solving Teams doing additional patrols and external resources such as Force Prevention Task Force being tasked with action plans as directed under Operation Forward.

2.5 Individuals whose crimes have a serious impact on our communities have been proactively targeted. A variety of activities have been undertaken including:

- proactive patrols of key areas in order to reduce and prevent offending,
- arresting individuals wanted on warrants,
- targeting of high tariff offenders,

- focussed licensing activity,
- the execution of drugs search warrants, and
- tracing and arresting outstanding suspects for crimes of violence and prolific thieves.

2.6 Operation Forward has resulted in a number of notable arrests and interventions as highlighted below

- A well-known individual was arrested for a number of outstanding warrants which also resulted in a number of offensive weapons being recovered, including three machetes, two knives and a hammer.
- During a routine proactive, vehicle stop of a White Audi RS3 motor vehicle was stopped for a statutory drugs search, during this search a black handled lock back knife was recovered from the driver's door pocket along with a black ski-mask Further search of the vehicle recovered a Stanley hammer within the boot. When the accused a searched at the police office folding lock back knife was found attached to a set of keys.
- Police attended a large scale disturbance at Watson Street and recovered six weapons seized which included a knife, hammer, metal pole and three golf clubs. Three offenders were arrested and detained in custody for court.
- During the execution of a drugs warrant officers recovered five weapons, an air rifle, crossbow, samurai sword and a baseball bat.
- Other items recovered include, a 500,000 Volt Taser, samurai swords and a knuckleduster.

2.7 Following high profile robbery and attempt murder which occurred in the North Carbrain area of Cumbernauld. Six suspects were identified and local officers were able to identify 4 individuals from CCTV images and they were arrested during days of action where search warrants were executed. Two adult males have since been remanded in custody whilst two juvenile males have been ordered by court to take up residency in secure accommodation. A fifth suspect has since been arrested where he has been released pending further enquiry. The area concerned which has been identified as an anti-social hot spot area and plans are in place to enhance public space CCTV.

Serious Violent Crime and Public Protection					
		Apr 2018 – Nov 2018	Apr 2017 - Nov 2017	Victims	% Change
1	Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	324	321	3 more	0.9%
2	Murder	8	2	6 more	300.0%
3	Attempted Murder	10	2	8 more	400.0%
4	Serious Assault detection rate	77.1%	80.5%		-3.4%
5	Serious Assault	170	200	30 fewer	-15.0%
6	Robbery detection rate	71.2%	80.5%		-3.4%
7	Robbery	52	59	7 fewer	-11.9%
8	Common assault detection rate	66.8%	70.8%		-4.0%
9	Common assault	2,543	2,411	132 more	5.5%
10	Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	1,623	1,651		-1.7%
11	Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	63.0%	66.4%		-3.4%
12	Number of Sexual Crimes	468	424	44 more	10.4%
13	Sexual Crimes detection rate	73.1%	59.2%		13.9%
14	Number of rapes	80	69	11	15.9%
15	Rape detection rate	58.8%	66.7%		-7.9%

Group 2 Crimes – Rape

North Lanarkshire 18/19

Number Reported	Detection Rate	Reported less than one year from committed date			Reported more than one year from the committed date			
		ytd	ytd		No.	Detd	%Det	No
80	51.3%	40	22	55.0%	40	19	47.5%	

North Lanarkshire 17/18

Number Reported	Detection Rate	Reported less than one year from committed date			Reported more than one year from the committed date			
		ytd	ytd		No.	Detd	%Det	No
69	68.1%	44	31	70.5%	25	21	84.0%	

3. Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Crime

3.1 Lanarkshire Division is focussed upon tackling anti-social behaviour and hate crime.

Key Points

3.2 The performance data is shown in the table below, however key points are:

- The number of complaints regarding disorder having reduced (down 4.9% which equates to 527 less), and the number of vandalisms recorded having also reduced whilst the detection for same have increased.
- The Hate crimes recorded the detection rate which has fallen by 1.7%, analytic work has been carried out in relation to this which shows there has been an increase in detection rate in relation to targeted premises such as shops or individuals but there has been an increase in random attacks on persons in the street and taxi drivers where there is no CCTV or suspects.
- Strong partnerships are established with North Lanarkshire Council to jointly target and robustly enforce legislation in respect of those committing anti-social behaviour within our communities. Daily two-way information sharing is carried out where either organisation has information suggesting anti-social behaviour has occurred. Joint visits are carried out each weekend with the Anti-Social Behaviour team from the Local Authority and our Local Problem Solving Teams targeting problematic premises. This proactive approach leads to warning notices or eviction notices being served on individuals who repeatedly fail to respect their neighbours and communities.

Further Detail

3.3 The use of motorbikes / quadbikes and their associated dangers or anti-social misuse has remained a persistent issue across North Lanarkshire. This problem has seen a significant rise in public concern in recent months. This has a significant impact on the demand placed on operational policing and is also a risk to the organization and its partners in terms of their perceived inability to deal professionally and effectively with such incidents. A proposal has been submitted to North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) for a joint initiative to tackle the issues associated with the anti-social use of off-road motorbikes. Funding has been granted by NLC to provide police off road motorbikes and associated equipment to the Local Problem Solving Team based at Bellshill Police Office. The motorbikes will be utilised to tackle anti-social behaviour, including the use of off road motorbikes and quadbikes. This will extend the proactive reach of Police resources to disrupt and deter offenders as well as offering conspicuous and highly mobile protection and re-assurance in those most vulnerable areas. Officers commence training on 04 February 2019 with an anticipated go live date at the beginning of May.

- 3.4 There had been ongoing antisocial issues in Bargeddie Village and after liaising with the community and partners agreed that the installation of CCTV in the village would assist to tackle the priorities already identified by the community. The venture was funded through the Community Partnership and the Local Problem Solving officers were pivotal in identifying the location of the 4 cameras to provide the greatest opportunities and positive community impact. Local Policing and CCTV have strengthened partnerships in this area and, as a result, crime and disorder in the village has dropped significantly.
- 3.5 A violent feud and acts of anti-social behaviour between two rival families within Caldercruix, Airdrie resulting in serious assaults and use of both weapons and firearms. Dedicated patrols were provided to the village over an extended period of time by both local and divisional officers to provide public reassurance. The persons responsible for the anti-social behaviour were identified and arrested. Through partnership work with NLC, key individuals moved from the area.

Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Crime					
		Apr 2018 - Nov 2018	Apr 2017 - Nov 2017	Victims	% Change
16	Number of complaints regarding disorder	10,180	10,707	527 fewer	-4.9%
17	Hate Crime and offences detection rate	70.6%	72.3%		-1.7%
18	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	24.3%	21.0%		3.3%
19	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	2,383	2,398	15 fewer	-0.6%
20	Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	595	681		-12.6%

4. Acquisitive Crime

- 4.1 Lanarkshire Division is committed to tackling acquisitive crime, recognising the impact that this can have on communities and individuals.

Key Points

- 4.2 Theft by housebreakings continue to be lower than this period last year (139 fewer). Analytic work has shown that Domestic Housebreakings are at the same level but there has been a reduction in thefts from commercial premises, sheds, rural housebreakings and quad bikes. Dedicated patrols have been

carried out at key locations identified as being vulnerable to the risk of crime, as well as robust management of known offenders within communities. Also a media campaign in relation to crime prevention and advice and site visits by Safer Communities has assisted in the reduction of housebreakings.

Further Detail

4.3 There are many examples of significant arrests within North Lanarkshire. A small sample are provided below for members' information.

- There had been series of theft by shopliftings in the Clarkston area of Airdrie with 3 premises being repeatedly targeted. Crime prevention advice was provided to all businesses with one employing a part time security guard and another reconfiguring their shop layout. Two prolific offenders - who had committed in excess of 50 crimes of dishonesty between them throughout 2018 identified and arrested. A 42 year old male is now remanded in custody for a period of 11 months.
- Since August 2018 there have been 40 Ford Transit vans stolen from the North Lanarkshire area. Officers at Cumbernauld have been developing intelligence in respect of this which lead to the discovered of a "chop shop" in Salsburgh in December 2018. A large amount of vehicle parts were seized and this has no doubt made a significant impact on the ability of the persons responsible to continue in their offending. At present 10 vehicles have been identified and it is likely that more will be identified in due course. A 37 year old male will be reported for the offences.
- In November 2018 officers became aware of a 34 year old female and 36 year old male from Kilsyth who had committed a Theft by housebreaking. Intelligence was developed and warrants sought. This resulted in the seizure of a significant amount of suspect stolen property. The property was later identified with 5 other theft by housebreakings being detected and the victims being reunited with their property.
- Officers became aware of a 24 year old male from Cumbernauld who had stolen a motor vehicle in November 2018. Further intelligence was developed and the offender was investigated. This resulted in a further 5 crimes being detected for which he will be arrested.

Acquisitive Crime					
21	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	20.3%	19.9%		0.4%
22	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	579	715	139 fewer	-19.4%
23	Theft by shoplifting detection rate	61.6%	61.7%		-0.1%
24	Theft by shoplifting	1,413	1,227	186 more	15.2%

5. Road Safety

5.1 Lanarkshire Division is committed to reducing the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.

Key Points

5.2 The performance data shown in the table below, shows that there are significantly less people being injured as a result of road crashes within North Lanarkshire. The Road Safety Governance Board is committed to ensuring the road networks within Lanarkshire are as safe as they can be, continually reviewing trends, patterns or emerging concerns identified and taking appropriate action.

5.3 There has been 1 more fatal road accident this period compared with last year (the total being 4). The breakdown for each of these is as follows;

- On 25th May 2018 a female pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle on Old Edinburgh Road, Viewpark.
- On 13th June 2018 a male motorcyclist died following losing control of his bike on Longriggend Road, Airdrie.
- On 15th September 2018 a female pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle on Airbles Road, Motherwell.
- On 21st November 2018 an elderly male pedestrian was injured when struck by a motor vehicle when crossing the road Stirling Road, Kilsyth the male later succumbed to his injuries.

Each individual fatal road accident is robustly investigated to ensure criminality has not been a contributory factor. Site visits have been carried out by the Traffic Management Officer to ensure that the road conditions and signage are to the required standard. There has been an increase across the whole force area in relation to pedestrian fatalities.

Further Detail

5.4 Lanarkshire Road Policing Department continues to focus upon driver behaviour seeking to change behaviour through both enforcement and education. Examples of this include:

- They conducted a focussed initiative targeting motorcyclists speeding. Enforcement was carried out as well as social media activity and high visibility patrols.
- They conducted a focussed initiative targeting road users committing speeding, using mobile phone devices whilst driving and driving without wearing a seatbelt.

5.5 At the Lanarkshire Road Safety Governance Board it was agreed that speeding issues identified through the use of speed monitoring equipment, for locations raised by the Community, will be subject to enforcement by Local Problem Solving Teams using the newly purchased speed detection equipment.

Road Safety					
		Apr 2018 - Nov 2018	Apr 2017 - Nov 2017	Victims	% Change
People Killed		4	3	1 more	33.3%
People Seriously injured		43	51	8 fewer	-15.7%
People Slightly Injured		232	308	76 fewer	-24.7%
Children (aged<16) Killed		0	0	None	
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured		6	6	same number	0.0%
25	Dangerous driving	115	118		-2.5%
26	Speeding	404	402		0.5%
27	Disqualified driving	62	65		-4.6%
28	Driving Licence	230	284		-19.0%
29	Insurance	587	637		-7.8
30	Seat Belts	55	73		-24.7%
31	Mobile Phone	59	84		-29.8%

6. Serious Organised Crime and Drugs

- 6.1 Lanarkshire Division continues to target those individuals actively involved in organised crime, including those involved in the sale and supply of controlled drugs.
- 6.2 There is a reduction in the number of detections year to date, when compared to last year, the Division remains focussed on disrupting such activity. The lower number is due to a reduction in the amount of confirmed intelligence that can legally be acted upon and warrants granted. There has been an increase in drugs possession charges which is not included in this figure, this is due to an increase in stop search activity and warrants that have been executed do not have amounts of drugs required for supply charges.

Further Detail

- 6.3 There are many examples of positive results within the Division when targeting these crimes. A small sample is provided below for members' information:
- A warrant executed in Wishaw under the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) resulted in 26g of cocaine being recovered along with £1400. A 25 year old male was arrested and charged.
 - A drugs warrant executed in New Stevenson discovered an illicit laboratory that was being used to extract highly concentrated cannabis products from cannabis bud using butane gas. Similar labs have been discovered in Ayrshire and Glasgow only at the point when the butane gas has ignited causing significant damage and injury. A male was arrested, drugs and cash seized and due to danger posed, a male and female were charged with Children and Young Persons offences.
 - As part of an operation 3 drugs warrants were executed at addresses across Motherwell. This resulted in a male being reported for numerous drugs offences and dealer quantities of Cannabis resin and herbal cannabis being recovered.
 - A drugs warrant was sought after a male was stopped in Bellshill and found to be possession of controlled drugs. The male was found to have 17 deals of heroin and 95 blue tablets. £450 was also seized. The male was arrested and charged.
 - A day of action in Shotts saw the execution of three drugs warrants. One male was found in possession of 14g cocaine and was arrested and charged with supply offences. In a second address £1700 and numerous designer watches were seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.
 - In November 2018 Cumbernauld officers executed a drugs warrant at an address in Airdrie where 66.5g of Cannabis Resin and 1029 Etizolam tablets (Class C drug). A 33 year old woman has been arrested.

- A drugs warrant was executed in Stepps, during the search officers recovered 260.4g of Cocaine and 57.9g of Heroin, valued at £13000 and £1600 respectively. A 36 years old male was be reported for concerned in the supply of a Class A drugs.
- In November 2018 officers based at Cumbernauld executed a drugs search warrant within Airdrie whereby a 30 year old male was arrested for being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. The male was found to be in possession of 23 bags of Cocaine weighing 12g, valued at £460 and 25.4g of Herbal Cannabis valued at £200.
- A day of action was conducted in Cumbernauld where 5 dwelling were subject to drugs search warrants, during which £2500 worth of Cocaine (95g)
- In Cumbernauld drugs search warrants were executed specifically targeting at a prominent Organised Crime family living in the area. This resulted in the seizure of £5335 and 900 Euros under Proceeds of Crime Act as well as males being reported for possession of controlled drugs.

Serious Organised Crime and Drugs					
		Apr 2018 – Nov 2018	Apr 2017 - Nov 2017	Victims	% Change
32	Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	159	195		-18.5%

7. Counter Terrorism

7.1 During the lead to the festive period Police Scotland worked closely with partner agencies in ensuring that Action Counter Terrorism (ACT) awareness was highlighted to staff and security during many of the large arranged events that took place throughout the North Lanarkshire area in the form of Police led briefings prior to the start of events. Given the possibility of large crowds attending festive activities Police Scotland utilised Social media to raise safety awareness of the attending public. ACT now and Run, Hide, Tell products were widely and well received by the social media audience.

7.2 Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer from Lanarkshire Division met with executive staff at Airdrie sheriff court regarding the future plans to provide an input to court staff. The aim is to develop the staffs understanding for the workings of PREVENT. PREVENT is one of the four pillars of the UK Governments counter terrorism strategy which is known as CONTEST. There will be further talks regarding possible Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training.

- 7.3 Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer from Lanarkshire Division gave a CONTEST presentation to 24 Police Probationers constables along with Lanarkshire Training department. The input provided a stronger understanding of the roles and responsibility of working closely with partner agencies and current threat levels.
- 7.4 A successful awareness event was held at Jackton Force Training Centre by Safer Communities Lanarkshire, Police Scotland officers provided awareness of Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism to 100 court staff from the South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway Sheriffdom. Staff from all parts of the court system in the North attended the staff engagement event. CONTEST and Document awareness presentations were well received and as such further events are to be planned with remaining court staff from North and South Lanarkshire with future staff development days.

8. Public Confidence and Local Engagement

- 8.1 The Division continues to make efforts to ensure that local communities are kept appropriately informed re key issues. Some examples of this are outlined below:
- Social media continues to be utilised by Lanarkshire Division to highlight local policing activities, promote community safety and update the community on good work carried out by our officers. Twitter is actively being used to support Operation Forward with the Local Problem Solving Team Inspectors providing updates on ongoing initiatives and successes in their area.
 - Members of the Senior Management Team represented Police Scotland at Remembrance Day services on 11th November 2018. Local officers also provided assistance at parades throughout Lanarkshire.
 - On the 8th November 2018 members of the Senior Management Team represented Police Scotland at Police Scotland Bravery and Meritorious Awards. Police officers and members of the public were recipients of the awards.
 - On the 9th January 2019 Superintendent Hay attended the Best Bar None awards for Lanarkshire. The purpose of The Best Bar None awards is to promote Partnership working to identify good practice and areas for improvement in relation to licenced premises.
- 8.2 Police Scotland have relaunched an awareness-raising initiative called “The Slide” which consists of a short video aimed at preventing young people from

falling into a life of crime. “The Slide” is a specially created film that details a young man’s downward spiral into criminality from his teenage years into early adult life. Officers in Lanarkshire will receive training which will allow them to deliver “The Slide” to target audiences.

Public Confidence and Local Engagement					
		Apr 2018 – Nov 2018	Apr 2018 – Nov 2018 positive	Victims	% Change
33	Number of stop and searches conducted (total)	1,102	503		
34	Number of statutory stop and searches conducted	1,102	503		
35	Number of consensual stop and searches conducted	0	0		
36	Number of consensual stop and searches refused	0	-		
37	Number of seizures made	107	-		
<p>On the 11th May 2017 Police Scotland adopted a new code of practice on the use of stop and search. At this time the use of non-statutory (Consensual) search ceased. The period covered by this report includes searches conducted prior to the introduction of the code. The table above provides information on consensual searches carried out before 11th May. Further information on Police Scotland's use of stop and search and on the code of practice is available on the Police Scotland Website.</p>					
		Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
38	Complaints received about the Police	210		29.4%	
		On Duty Allegation	Off Duty Allegation	Quality of Service Allegation	Total Number of Allegations
39	Total Allegations Recorded	244	0	74	318