



**North Lanarkshire Council/ Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee**

**Police Scotland Scrutiny Report**

**29<sup>th</sup> April 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 31/02/2019.
- 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 (3.0% Increase which equates to 13 crimes).
  - Included within these figures are 9 murders, which occurred in Holytown, Shotts, Bellshill, Newarthill, Wishaw Coatbridge, Gartcosh and Airdrie. Arrests have been made in relation to all.
  - There has been a reduction in serious assaults (-17.3%, which equates to 49 fewer)

- The robbery detection rate has increased by 7.4 %
- There has been an increase (4.8%, which equates to 157 charges) in the number of common assaults recorded. Included within these figures is a 20.2% increase in police assaults, an 83.3% increase of common assaults within Children's Homes, a 51% increase of common assaults at schools. Staff within schools have a zero tolerance policy and all incidents of assaults are reported.
- There has been a decrease in the number of sexual crimes reported (19.6%, which equates to 142 charges), the detection rate at 69.2% is nearly 19.4% higher than the same period last year.
- There has however been a rise in the number of rapes reported, with 25 more victims than in the same period last year, which is an increase of 24.8% (this figure includes an increase of 2 rape victims whereby the offence has occurred less than a year prior and an increase of 23 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 ran since 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 until the end of the year and there has been significant apprehensions and disruption caused to those people in the community intent on causing harm.

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. Regular updates on key arrests and police activity was provided on Police Scotland media sites.

#### **2.5 Criminal Use of the Roads Team**

In February 2019 Lanarkshire Division set up a Criminal Use of the Roads Initiative. The focus of the operation has been to adopt a preventative approach on deterring, disrupting and detecting crime by high visibility robust pro-active policing focussing on criminal's use of vehicles throughout the Division. This has involved a small team of Divisional officers working together in partnership with Road Policing resources focussing on the criminal use of the roads network by those involved in violence disorder, and antisocial behaviour, serious and organised crime, road safety and acquisitive crime. This has encompassed the use of intelligence and analysis of emerging crime trends to task officers effectively and has resulted in the following notable arrests to date

- A vehicle stopped in Motherwell for a routine check the driver was arrested in relation to an outstanding Ayr Sheriff Court Apprehension Warrant. He was in possession of cocaine and was charged with drugs supply offences and high value items and cash were seized under the Proceeds of crime Act.
- Three males stopped in a Ford Transit van near to a scrap yard in Bellshill within the vehicle was found around 0.5 tons of stripped industrial cabling which was suspected stolen. Also found within the vehicle was a suspected stolen Stihl saw, which was found to have a serial number of interest to the police in Belgium.
- Officers observed suspicious activity within a van in the Muirhead area the occupants were detained for a drugs search a quantity of Heroin, Diazepam tablets and various items used in drug dealing were recovered. The occupants are linked to serious and organised crime and were charged in relation to drugs supply offences.
- A Ford Transit van stopped for a routine check in Bellshill, checks revealed the vehicle was a stolen bearing cloned registration plates, having been stolen from Troon. The driver was charged with reset along with other road traffic offences.
- Four juveniles were traced in Motherwell, all were missing persons from various children's homes and were found to have broken in to 4 vehicles attempted to steal from them.
- A Ford Transit Connect van signalled to stop by officers in Wishaw area, the vehicle failed to stop and a pursuit ensued which lasted a substantial period, travelling throughout Wishaw, Coltness, Cleland, and Newarthill. Air support and Local Authority CCTV directed officers to the vehicle in Carfin where the 16 year old driver was arrested. Upon arrest he assaulted officers and was found to have drugs and a large sharpened axe in his possession.

Serious Violent Crime and Public Protection					
		Apr 2018 – Feb 2019	Apr 2017 – Feb 2018	Victims	% Change
1	Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	449	436	13 more	3.0%
2	Murder	9	3	6 more	200.0%
3	Attempted Murder	14	6	8 more	133.3%
4	Serious Assault detection rate	78.3%	74.3%		4.0%
5	Serious Assault	235	284	49 fewer	-17.3%
6	Robbery detection rate	81.1%	73.7%		7.4%
7	Robbery	74	76	2 less	-2.7%
8	Common assault detection rate	68.8%	69.5%		-0.7%
9	Common assault	3,423	3,266	157 more	4.8%
10	Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	2,246	2,324		-3.4%
11	Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	64.2%	67.9%		-3.7%
12	Number of Sexual Crimes	581	723	142 fewer	-19.6%
13	Sexual Crimes detection rate	69.2%	49.4%		19.8%
14	Number of rapes	101	76	25 more	24.8%
15	Rape detection rate	53.5%	80.3%		-26.8%

## 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		
		No.	Detd	%Det	No	Detd	%Detd
ytd	ytd						
101	46.5%	50	23	46.0%	51	24	47.0%

### 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		
		No.	Detd	%Det	No	Detd	%Detd
ytd	ytd						
76	75%	48	34	70.8%	28	23	82.1%

## 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 678 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 increased by 5.3%.
- 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 After identifying the Carbrain district of Cumbernauld as a hot spot area for anti-social and violent crime, the Cumbernauld Local Problem Solving Team have been working closely with the North Lanarkshire Community Partnership Team and local partners including Health, Social Work, NLC Housing, Sanctuary Housing, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Carbrain Community Council and third sector organisations. A series of meetings have led to the 'Carbrain Local Action Group' being set up who meet monthly to discuss priorities and key actions for the area. Initial priorities have been identified as, reduce levels of crime associated with drugs and alcohol abuse, Poverty, Homelessness, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Community Spirit and Capacity Building, Maximising community access to facilities, Community engagement, Children Young People and Families

<b>Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Crime</b>					
		Apr 2018 – Feb 2019	Apr 2017 – Feb 2018	Victims	% Change
16	Number of complaints regarding disorder	13,286	13,964	678 fewer	-4.9%
17	Hate Crime and offences detection rate	72.2%	66.9%		5.3%
18	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	23.9%	21.2%		2.7%
19	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	3,217	3,222	5 fewer	-0.2%
20	Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	815	790		3.2%

## **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 (89 fewer). Analytic work has shown that Domestic Housebreakings are at the same level but there has been a significant reduction in thefts from commercial premises, sheds, rural housebreakings and quad bikes. Offenders are targeting dwellings for higher value property such as car keys. 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.

- In December 2018 Cumbernauld officers arrested a 26 year old male for theft. The male was remanded in custody charged with 17 crimes ranging from housebreaking with intent to steal, sneak in theft and theft. The male pled guilty and was given a custodial sentence.
- In January 2019 Cumbernauld officers arrested a 35 year old male and 19 year old male following enquiry into a theft by housebreaking whereby £2000 worth of whisky was stolen. Enquiry resulted in 2 search warrants being executed in the Moodiesburn area and stolen property being recovered and the two nominals arrested. The 35 year old male was sentenced to prison with the 19 year old released with curfew bail conditions.
- In February 2019 Cumbernauld Officers investigated, interviewed a 25 year old male and recovered a stolen vehicle. A further 5 incidents were detected, all having occurred in the Cumbernauld area. He was subsequently charged with 5 crimes of dishonesty.
- In February 2019 Cumbernauld officers arrested a 37 year old for 8 crimes of theft and fraud all committed over January into February, this resulted in a custodial sentence. The male was released in end of March and enquiry is being made to arrest him again on an outstanding apprehension warrant and as suspect for 4 thefts for which he has been identified.
- In February 2019, Coatbridge officers carried out enquiries after the report of an attempt Housebreaking with Intent to steal had occurred at the property of a vulnerable local male. After diligent door to door and CCTV enquiries were carried out a 37 year old male was identified as being responsible for this incident who was subsequently traced and charged.

<b>Acquisitive Crime</b>					
21	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	19.0%	19.7%		-0.7%
22	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	822	911	89 fewer	-9.8%
23	Theft by shoplifting detection rate	62.3%	61.6%		0.7%
24	Theft by shoplifting	1,899	1,699	200 more	11.8%



## 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 3 more fatal road accident this period compared with last year (the total being 6). The breakdown for each of these is as follows;
- On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 a female pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle on Old Edinburgh Road, Viewpark.
  - On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 a male motorcyclist died following losing control of his bike on Longriggend Road, Airdrie.
  - On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 a female pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle on Airbles Road, Motherwell.
  - On 21<sup>st</sup> 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.
  - On the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2018 a male crashed into a dwelling house in Newlands St, Coatbridge.
  - On the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019 a 12yr old pedestrian was knocked down by a motorist in The Loaning, Motherwell.

Each 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. There has been a 10.6% increase in persons charged with speeding.

<b>Road Safety</b>		Apr 2018 – Feb 2019	Apr 2017 – Feb 2018	Victims	% Change
People Killed		6	3	3 more	100.0%
People Seriously injured		63	69	6 fewer	-8.7%
People Slightly Injured		324	424	100 fewer	-23.6%
Children (aged<16) Killed		1	0	1 more	100.0
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured		8	7	1 more	14.4%
25	Dangerous driving	151	150		0.7%
26	Speeding	520	470		10.6%
27	Disqualified driving	85	81		4.9%
28	Driving Licence	318	371		-4.4%
29	Insurance	800	837		-4.4%
30	Seat Belts	80	84		-4.8%
31	Mobile Phone	87	106		-17.9%

## 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:

- In January 2019 Cumbernauld officers detected a smell of cannabis from a property in Cumbernauld. A warrant was granted for the property and the recovered of 6.04kg of herbal cannabis which was valued at £24000. A 26 year old male was subsequently charged.
- In January 2019, Coatbridge officers acted upon information that a 46 year old male was actively involved in the supply of drugs from his home address, his address was searched under warrant and a quantity of drugs seized. The male was arrested and the actions of the team disrupted drugs activity in a local tower block.
- In January 2019 officers of the Airdrie officers stopped a suspicious vehicle the 41yr old driver and vehicle were searched and recovered 318g of Heroin valued at £10000. A 41 year old male was arrested for the offence.
- In February 2019 officers of the Cumbernauld officers received reports of a smell of drugs from a dwelling, they obtained a warrant which recovered 28 cannabis plants valued at £14000 and 897g of Herbal cannabis valued at £4200. A 37 year old male has been charged.
- In February 2019 Cumbernauld officers executed a drugs warrant and recovered 148 Cannabis plants valued at £89000 whereby a 42 year old male has been charged.
- In February 2019 Bellshill officers executed a drugs warrant at industrial units within the North Road area of Bellshill. A cannabis cultivation of 298 plants was recovered spread over 4 units.
- In February 2019 Motherwell officers executed a drugs warrant and recovered 100 Cannabis plants were recovered and a substantial electricity by pass.
- In February 2019 Wishaw officers stopped a vehicle for suspected drug dealing and recovered £13,500 cash and £6,500 watch under Proceeds of Crime Act
- In February 2019 officers from SSPCA and Police Scotland attended at an address in Airdrie in possession of a warrant under the Animal Welfare (S) Act 2006 where a dog was removed for having its ears cropped. Due to findings within the address further warrants were granted and a 34 year old female was arrested and charged with Misuse of Drug and Firearm offences.

<b>Serious Organised Crime and Drugs</b>					
		Apr 2018 – Feb 2109	Apr 2017 – Feb 2018	Victims	% Change
32	Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	224	267		-16.1%

## **7. Counter Terrorism**

- 7.1 Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer from Lanarkshire Division with the return of educational semesters has been providing further Terrorism awareness inputs to working groups from various college establishments within the North Lanarkshire area. Close working with such venues as New College Motherwell saw engagement with a variety of audience. Most recent was an input to personal safety (Run, Hide, and Tell) with supportive learning staff and students.
- 7.2 Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer from Lanarkshire Division provided a current threat level update regarding both national and International to Multi agency partners within quarterly SOC / CT meetings. The group were also provided with an accurate insight into the intelligence gained so far in response to the events of suspicious packages discovered in both England and Scotland. Partner agencies are receiving further guidance and advice in response to the potential threat from such events involving suspect mail / packages.
- 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 Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer as part of the ongoing partnership working with Local Resilience partnerships continue in light of the EU exit. Preparation and intelligence has been provided on a weekly basis as part of the resilience group. Counter terrorism liaison officer continues to monitor and offer advice on any new intelligence related to the current political climate.

## **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.
  - Lanarkshire Division have continued to regularly engage with all sections of the community. In particular, officers have continued their strong links with the local Mosques in Coatbridge and Bellshill providing reassurance in light of the recent incidents in New Zealand. Officers attend a monthly meeting of women's group at the Mosque forging valuable relationships.
  - In February 2018, residents near to Barra place, Coatbridge expressed concern at anti-social behaviour occurring in a lane situated to residential properties. Coatbridge Local Policing Officers have supported the

residents setting up a meeting with a local councillor and assisting residents in setting up a Neighbourhood watch scheme. Officers also engaged in high visibility patrols of the area. Reports of anti-social behaviour have reduced.

- On the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the Best Bar None National Finals were held in Dunblane Hydro, Lanarkshire had finalists in six of the categories. This is the first time so many Lanarkshire premises have made the finals which showcases the hard work and dedication the premises have made to reach the finalist stage.
- Bellshill officers have been working with partners in Fire and Rescue, Housing, Council and school to reduce the amount of bin thefts and fire-raising. Officers have been working with FLAME OUT project to deliver inputs to secondary schools in a bid to tackle the issue while educating the youths.

Public Confidence and Local Engagement					
		Apr 2018 – Feb 2019	Apr 2018 – Feb 2019	Victims	% Change
33	Number of stop and searches conducted (total)	1,827	818		
34	Number of statutory stop and searches conducted	1,827	818		
35	Number of consensual stop and searches conducted	0	0		
36	Number of consensual stop and searches refused	0	-		
37	Number of seizures made	185	-		
<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	281		29.2	
		On Duty Allegation	Off Duty Allegation	Quality of Service Allegation	Total Number of Allegations
39	Total Allegations Recorded	324	0	95	419