



North Lanarkshire Council/ Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee

Police Scotland Scrutiny Report

26th August 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 01/04/2019 to 30/06/2019.
- 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:
- There has been significant improvement in the detection rate for crimes of serious violence (Serious assault detection rate up by 7.2%, robbery up by 16.3%, and common assault up by 2.1%). This is reflective of considerable effort to target those individuals who are responsible for committing serious crimes, and to support the victims of crime.

- Crimes of serious violence have increased since 2018 figures (12.3% increase which equates to 16 crimes). Levels of violence remain reasonably consistent to the previous year however 14 crimes can be attributed to new Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2018, whereby the division are now proactively investigating coercive and controlling behaviour within relationships.
- There has been one murder in the above period this occurred in the New Stevenson area and an arrest has been made.
- There has been an increase in the number of common assaults recorded (4.3% which equates to 43 charges). This number of assaults against members of the public have decreased by 3.5% however assaults against emergency workers/police assaults have increased by 13.3% which has resulted in an increase in an overall figure.
- There has been an increase in the number of sexual crimes reported (28.1% which equates to 47 charges), the detection rate has decreased by 76.1%. This is due to case being detected in the previous period with numerous complainers.
- There has been the same number of rapes reported as the previous period. Analysis has shown that there are no patterns or trends. 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 significantly

Further Detail

2.4 Operation FORWARD (Lanarkshire):

Operation FORWARD is a drug enforcement initiative, with co-ordinated multi-agency support. Noting the climbing drug death toll, the operational strand of the campaign has targeted areas of greatest risk, in the first 5 weeks resulting in:

- 126 drug search warrants executed;
- 55 persons charged with various drug dealing offences;
- 135 persons charged with drug possession;
- Over 260,000 Etizolam ('Street Valium') tablets seized (Etizolam features prominently in drug death toxicology in Lanarkshire), and other seizures including;
- 3,221 Diazepam tablets
- 1.9kg Cocaine
- 150g Heroin
- 5.4kg Herbal Cannabis
- 1.7kg Cannabis Resin
- 0.5kg Amphetamine
- 5.7kg mixing agent
- 5 Cannabis cultivations recovered

All operational activity is followed up by offers of referrals to partner agencies providing addiction services and reported through the multi-agency Lanarkshire Drugs Death Prevention Group and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADP's).

2.5 Criminal Use of the Roads Team

Lanarkshire Division's Criminal Use of the Roads Initiative continues to run. The focus of the operation has been to adopt a preventative approach in 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 aligned to the divisional priorities of addressing acquisitive crime, in particular theft of motor vehicles and drugs possession / supply. Whilst the threat to our communities from drugs is obvious, the threat posed by acquisitive crime is perhaps less so. Theft of motor vehicles does not only impact upon the victims of the crime itself, but as these vehicle are often used to commit more serious crimes they are often driven without any form of documentation and with a total disregard for public safety. As such they pose a serious risk of threat and harm to our communities as well as a significant financial impact upon society.

Results in the quarter included the following:

- 29 persons reported for dangerous / careless driving
- 13 persons reported for drink driving offences
- 16 vehicles seized for no license / insurance
- 11 stolen vehicles recovered
- 69 persons reported for drugs supply offences
- 501g of Cannabis seized
- 204g of Cocaine seized
- 4.4g of Heroin seized
- 2g of Methamphetamine seized
- over £20,000 in cash seized
- Weapons, including knives and sword seized

Serious Violent Crime and Public Protection					
		Apr 2019– June 2019	April 2018 – June 2018	Victims	% Change
1	Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	146	130	16 more	12.3%
2	Murder	1	1	same number	0.0%
3	Attempted Murder	4	4	same number	0.0%
4	Serious Assault detection rate	76.8%	69.6%		7.2%
5	Serious Assault	82	69	13 more	18.2%
6	Robbery detection rate	94.7%	78.3%		16.4%
7	Robbery	19	23	4 fewer	-17.4%
8	Common assault detection rate	70.4%	68.3%		2.1%
9	Common assault	1,036	993	43 more	4.3%
10	Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	572	587		-2.6%
11	Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	61.5%	62.9%		-1.4%
12	Number of Sexual Crimes	214	167	47 more	28.1%
13	Sexual Crimes detection rate	40.7%	116.8%		-76.1%
14	Number of rapes	30	30	same number	0.0%
15	Rape detection rate	63.3%	20.0%		43.3%

Group 2 Crimes – Rape

North Lanarkshire 19/20

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						
30	43.3%	22	12	54.5%	8	1	12.5%

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						
30	73.3%	19	14	73.9%	11	8	72.7%

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 5.6% which equates to 230 less), and the number of vandalisms recorded having also reduced (down 7.7% which equates to 72 less),
- The Hate crimes recorded the detection rate which has increased by 4.9%.
- 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 LPST Coatbridge have been working alongside McDonalds in Coatbridge to drive down anti-social behaviour and improve general disorder in the surrounding areas. Effective Partnership working has resulted in regular meetings with both Local and Regional Managers to coordinate the response from staff and security. Specific targeting of the area by LPST and LPT officers has also assisted with a reduction in call demand.

Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Crime					
		Apr 2019– June 2019	April 2018 – June 2018	Victims	% Change
16	Number of complaints regarding disorder	3,852	4,082	230 fewer	-5.6%
17	Hate Crime and offences detection rate	65.2%	60.3%		4.9%
18	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	24.2%	26.1%		-1.9%
19	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	858	930	72 fewer	-7.7%
20	Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	205	247		-17.0%

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 are higher than this period last year (26.5% more which equates to 53). Analytic work has shown that Domestic Housebreakings are higher and that there are links to drugs particularly in the more deprived areas of North Lanarkshire whereby people are thought to be trying to recover items for drug debts. This has been identified and Operation Forward has been tasked to tackle emerging drug threats.

Further Detail

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

- In May 2019 Cumbernauld officers arrested a 35 year old female for Theft by Housebreaking where the stolen items were recovered.
- In May/ June 2019 there was an increase in incidents relating to bogus workman frauds targeting elderly and vulnerable residents in the Murdostoun Ward. LPST officers identified a particular modus operandi and from descriptions provided by victims a local man was identified. Joint working with Wishaw housing team assisted Police in identifying an associate and address. A male was charged with 14 crimes of Fraud and appeared remanded in custody.
- In June 2019 Cumbernauld officers arrested a 31 year old and 40 year old male for a number of housebreakings and attempted housebreakings. The two males were arrested for a total of 10 crimes.

- In June 2019 Coatbridge officers arrested a 23 year old and 43 year old for fraud/bogus crime whereby an elderly female had been defrauded out of £4,000.
- In June 2019 Airdrie officers carried out extensive enquiries after 6 reports of housebreakings in the area. This resulted in a 31yr old male and 41 year male were arrested and held custody to appear at court.

Acquisitive Crime					
21	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	24.9%	23.5%		1.4%
22	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	253	200	53 more	26.5%
23	Theft by shoplifting detection rate	55.8%	61.3%		-5.5%
24	Theft by shoplifting	539	519	20 more	3.9%

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 2 fatal road accidents this period the same as the previous year. The breakdown for each of these is as follows;

- On 12th April 2019 a female car driver sustained fatal injuries when her car struck a barrier on the A8 westbound on slip at Shawhead.
- On 25th June 2019 a male car driver sustained fatal injuries following losing control of car on a roundabout and colliding with the barrier at M80 southbound junction 3 at Steps.

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. This has also been supplemented by focussed initiatives by Criminal Use of the Roads team and the increased capability of LPST and LPT due to funding provided by partners. This has resulted in increased detections in relation to road traffic offences.

Performance data is provided in the table below, however key points of note are:

- Focussed initiatives targeting speeding and enforcement were carried out as well as social media activity and high visibility patrols, this has resulted an increase in speeding offences (84% which equates to 168 more)
- An increase in disqualified driving offences (88.2% which equates to 15 more)
- Focussed initiatives targeting road users using mobile phone devices whilst driving and driving without wearing a seatbelt.

Road Safety					
		Apr 2019– June 2019	April 2018 – June 2018	Victims	% Change
	People Killed	2	2	same number	0.0%
	People Seriously injured	7	6	1 more	16.7%
	People Slightly Injured	41	63	22 fewer	-34.9%
	Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	None	-
	Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	0	1	1 fewer	- 100.0 %
25	Dangerous driving	43	44		-2.3%
26	Speeding	368	200		84.0%
27	Disqualified driving	32	17		88.2%
28	Driving Licence	116	82		41.5%
29	Insurance	254	214		18.7%
30	Seat Belts	45	37		21.6%
31	Mobile Phone	34	23		47.8%

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.
- 6.3 As of the 16th April, 2018, the definition of cash under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 has been extended to include:-
Precious Metals, Precious Stones, Watches, Artistic Works, Face value vouchers and Postage stamps with a value of £1,000.00 and over, which have been derived from or intended for use in unlawful conduct.

Since the extension Police Officers in Lanarkshire Division have seized high value watches, jewellery and betting slips further disrupting Serious and Organised Criminals within the community. This results in the Scottish Government Minister's returning the criminal benefit to communities via there payback programme.

Further Detail

- 6.4 There are many examples of positive results within the Division when targeting these crimes. A small sample is provided below for members' information:
- In April 2019 Motherwell officers executed a drugs warrant and arrested to males for being concerned in the supply of amphetamine and cannabis and seized over £5,000 cash.
 - In April 2019 Airdrie officers executed a drugs warrant and recovered 80 cannabis plants. A 30 year old and 26 year old were arrested.
 - In May 2019 Cumbernauld plain clothes officers stopped a vehicle they has seen acting suspiciously and recovered a quantity of cocaine, driver was arrested for being concerned in the supply.
 - In May 2019 Coatbridge officers stopped a motor vehicle due to the manner of driving, that driver was charged with drunk driving and found to be in possession of cannabis valued at £11,000
 - In May 2019 Bellshill officers stopped a motor vehicle and the 46 year old driver was in possession of 1kg of Heroin with a street value of £27000. As a result of investigations a drug warrant was granted for a dwelling in Glasgow and further drugs were recovered with a street value

of in excess of half a million pounds, including Heroin, Cocaine and Etizolam.

- In May 2019 Coatbridge officers executed a drugs warrant and recovered 236 cannabis plants, A 30 year old male was arrested.
- In June 2019 Cumbernauld officers executed a drugs warrant and recovered cocaine valued at £2,000. A 32yr old male was arrested.
- In June 2019 Wishaw officers stopped a motor vehicle and recovered a quantity of drugs which resulted in drug warrants being granted and cocaine, crystal meth and £1,600 being recovered.
- In June 2019 in Gartcosh whilst working in partnership with Trading Standards, Sheriff Search Warrant was executed at the home address of a male suspected to be selling counterfeit cigarettes. Subsequent search recovered 16,980 Mayfair King-size cigarettes which have been confirmed as counterfeit by Brand Protection and have a potential resale value of £8,490.

Serious Organised Crime and Drugs					
		Apr 2019– June 2019	April 2018– June 2018	Victims	% Change
32	Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	59	66		-10.6%

7. Counter Terrorism

- 7.1 In June 2019 The Prevent Professional Concerns (PPC) table top exercise was carried out pan Lanarkshire. Attendees participated in a mock table top exercise using a case study. Participants identified vulnerabilities and established actions which would assist in safeguarding the subject of concern. There has been positive feedback by attendees.
- 7.2 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.

- From 15-19 April 2019, Safer Community officers and Local Policing teams in support of the national 'Shut out Scammers' campaign carried out a series of awareness and engagement events throughout Lanarkshire. The events were aimed to increase awareness and vigilance around bogus workmen and other fraudulent schemes. The campaign was supported by various partner agencies including trading standards, HMRC, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and PSYV.
- On 26th June 2019 Lanarkshire Police Division hosted their 4th annual Cultural Football Festival, in partnership with Nil by Mouth. The event was attended by 60-70 boys from local schools and as well as the football tournament, participants took part in a workshop hosted by the charity Nil by Mouth. The workshop provides discussion and education around the issue of sectarianism and cultural intolerance. After a closely contested final the 'Kiss Bigotry Goodbye' Cup was won by Our Lady's High School, Motherwell.
- Cumbernauld LPST has been working in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service with the aim to reducing fires within the Cumbernauld/Kilsyth area and surrounding villages. Joint inputs have been delivered to LPT /LPST officers identifying vulnerable members of the communities whose properties may be at risk i.e. dwelling houses that do not have a fitted smoke alarm overpopulated electrical sockets are overpopulated or evidence resident smokes in bed. A referral form submitted by the police to SFRS on the agreement of the property owner is enough for The Fire Service's community branch to attend and make an assessment and identify how they can best assist the individual. The aim of the initiative is of course to save lives and reducing House fires.

Public Confidence and Local Engagement

		Apr 2019– June 2019	April 2018 – June 2018 positive	Victims	% Change
33	Number of stop and searches conducted (total)	1,200	398		
34	Number of statutory stop and searches conducted	1,200	398		
35	Number of consensual stop and searches conducted	0	0		
36	Number of consensual stop and searches refused	0	-		
37	Number of seizures made	55	-		

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.

		Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
38	Complaints received about the Police	55		19.9	
		On Duty Allegation	Off Duty Allegation	Quality of Service Allegation	Total Number of Allegations
39	Total Allegations Recorded	69	0	13	82