



**North Lanarkshire Council**  
**Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee**  
**Police Scotland Scrutiny Report**  
**28<sup>th</sup> October 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 31/08/2019.
- 1.3 Members will recall that the priorities were identified through consultation with partners and communities, and are as 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 has risen by 14.9%, robbery by 8.1%, and common assault by 4.0%). This is reflective of considerable effort to target those individuals who are responsible for committing serious crimes, and to support the victims of crime.
  - Whilst crimes of serious violence appear to have increased since 2018 figures (a rise of 32 charges) this includes 25 crimes recorded under the new Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2018, whereby the Division is now proactively investigating coercive and controlling behaviour within relationships. The crime level remains therefore reasonably static.

- There have been three murders in the reporting period, occurring in New Stevenson, Motherwell and Airdrie. Arrests have been made in all.
- There has been an increase in the number of common assaults recorded (3.3% which equates to 53 charges), however, the number of assaults against members of the public has decreased by 1 charge. The increase is entirely down to assaults against emergency workers which have increased by 17.6%.
- There has been an increase in the number of sexual crimes reported (7.6% which equates to 23 charges), which reflects a trend we have previously reported on. The detection rate has fallen when compared to last year, however, last year's figures were artificially skewed due to one case with numerous charges.
- There has been a small reduction in the number of rapes reported, when compared to the previous period. Analysis has shown that there are no patterns or trends. The detection rate for rape has slightly improved from last year, and investigations are live in relation to a number of crimes.

<b>Serious Violent Crime and Public Protection</b>				
	April 2019 – August 2019	April 2018 – August 2018	Victims	% Change
Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	245	213	32 more	+15.0%
Murder	3	1	2 more	+200.0%
Attempted Murder	6	7	1 fewer	-14.3%
Serious Assault detection rate	78.8%	63.9%		+14.9%
Serious Assault	132	119	13 more	+10.9%
Robbery detection rate	73.7%	65.6%		+8.1%
Robbery	38	32	6 more	+18.8%
Common assault detection rate	77.0%	67.0%		+10.0%
Common assault	1,661	1,608	53 more	+3.3%
Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	996	1,034		-3.7%
Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	60.9%	62.5%		-1.6%
Number of Sexual Crimes	326	303	23 more	+7.6%
Sexual Crimes detection rate	43.6%	91.1%		-47.5%
Number of rapes	54	57	3 fewer	-9.5%
Rape detection rate	50.0%	48.2%		+1.8%
Number of statutory stop and searches conducted	2,042			
Number of positive statutory stop and searches	682			

## Further Detail

### 2.4 Operation Forward

Members will require our previous reporting in relation to Operation Forward, which ran successfully in late 2018. As has been discussed at previous meetings, our analysis shows a link between drug dealing activity and violence and we are keen to target this.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July this year, we have reintroduced Operation Forward, primarily as a drug enforcement initiative, targeting those causing harm in our communities, with co-ordinated multi-agency support.

Results have been impressive and include:

- 211 drug search warrants executed
- 110 persons charged with various drug dealing offences
- Over 271,000 Etizolam/Diazepam ('Street Valium') tablets seized (Etizolam features prominently in drug death toxicology in Lanarkshire), and other seizures including:
  - 2.6kg Cocaine
  - 417g Heroin
  - 16.3kg Herbal Cannabis
  - 2.8kg Cannabis Resin
  - 2,549 Cannabis plants

The operation has resulted in a vast increase in drug recoveries across the Division and in total, during the first 2 months of the operation, drugs worth £1,954,400 have been taken off the streets of Lanarkshire.

The operation has also had huge success in relation to Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) seizures. Cash and criminal assets valued at £441,915 have been identified and seized by police. This will have a significant impact upon those committing such crimes in Lanarkshire.

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 (ADPs).

## **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:

- Recorded disorder has reduced in Lanarkshire by 4%, which is 274 fewer incidents.
- Vandalism has also fallen sharply, reducing by 8.6%, which is 129 fewer crimes.
- The detection rate for Hate crimes, whilst still high at 65.8% has fallen. We are reviewing these crimes to address this.

### Further Detail

- In July 2019 Airdrie LPST identified an increase in anti-social and violent behaviour in the Petersburn area of Airdrie. The team has worked closely with elected members, NLC Housing, NLC Community Partnership Team and the Town Centre Activities team to resolve the issues. A public meeting was held to discuss the issues with the wider community. As a result of this partnership work and community engagement, persons were arrested, private sector housing landlords contacted and arrangements made for the installation of CCTV which is due in October. The area has since experienced a reduction in anti-social and violent crimes.
- Due to a reported increase in anti-social behaviour and drug misuse in the Coatbridge area, officers attended local high schools in order to educate the pupils on knife crime and anti-social behaviour linked with alcohol consumption/drug use. Officers have delivered PIP (Pitching In Programme) to pupils and Skills Academy, which takes in pupils from across North Lanarkshire, addressing sectarianism, pyrotechnics and offensive language and behaviours. Weekly joint visits with the Anti-Social Task Force Investigators have been conducted, tackling ongoing neighbourhood disputes and anti-social behaviour in the community.
- 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.
- In July 2019 concerns were expressed regarding 3 addresses in the Craigneuk area of Airdrie being used for drug dealing, under age alcohol consumption and the harbouring of juvenile missing persons/absconders. Airdrie Local Problem Solving Team supported local residents, liaised with a local councillor and also the newly appointed Head Teacher at the local high school. Directed patrols and joint action with NLC Housing has resulted in these issues being resolved.

<b>Anti-social Behaviour and Hate Crime</b>				
	April 2019 – August 2019	April 2018 – August 2018	Victims	% Change
Number of complaints regarding disorder	6,548	6,822	274 fewer	-4.0%
Hate Crime and offences detection rate	65.8%	73.6%		-7.8%
Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	26.3%	25.9%		+0.4%
Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	1,363	1,492	129 fewer	-8.6%
Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	383	378		+1.3%

#### **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 Thefts by housebreaking are higher than this period last year (16.8%, a rise of 59). Analysis has shown that in part, this can be attributed to drugs, and various associated disputes. This has been identified and as has been previously reported, with Operation Forward tasked to tackle emerging drug threats.

##### Further Detail

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

- In July/August 2019 Bellshill LPST carried out a 5 week housebreaking initiative which resulted in 11 people being arrested and charged with crimes of dishonesty, 6 of whom were remanded in custody.
- In July 2019 Wishaw Officers arrested a 32 year old male for Theft by Housebreaking, Theft and 2 Civic Government (S) Act 1982 Sec 57, all of which occurred on the same day with property to the value of £18,000 stolen. Enquiries resulted in all property being recovered the same day within an address and the male was arrested and remanded in custody.
- In August 2019 Airdrie officers arrested a 41 year old prolific housebreaker following an enquiry into a theft by housebreaking whereby property to the value of £2,500 was stolen, including bank cards, which were subsequently used throughout Airdrie and Coatbridge.
- In August 2019 a series of housebreakings occurred within Kilsyth. A 23 year old male had his address searched under warrant leading to the full recovery of property from at least 3 housebreakings. The male was subsequently arrested and held in custody and the stolen property was returned to the rightful owners.

Acquisitive Crime				
	April 2019 – August 2019	April 2018 – August 2018	Victims	% Change
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	20.9%	22.2%		-1.3%
Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	411	352	59 more	+16.8%
Theft by shoplifting detection rate	59.1%	63.2%		-4.1%
Theft by shoplifting	870	878	8 fewer	-0.9%

## 5. Road Safety

5.1 Lanarkshire Division is committed to reducing the number 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, albeit we recognise the increase in those being seriously injured. 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 4 fatal road accidents this period, twice as many as in the same period last year. Two of these were on the motorway network (M80 & M8) and the others were on the A73 and A8.

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.

### 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 with focussed initiatives by the 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 (124.1% which equates to 340 more)

- An increase in disqualified driving offences (64.7% which equates to 22 more)
- Focussed initiatives targeting road users using mobile phone devices whilst driving and those driving without wearing a seatbelt.

<b>Road Safety</b>				
	April 2019 – August 2019	April 2018 – August 2018	Victims	% Change
People Killed	4	2	2 more	+100.0%
People Seriously injured	31	24	7 more	+29.2%
People Slightly Injured	108	159	51 fewer	-32.1%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	None	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	3	3	same number	0.0%
Dangerous driving	75	70		+7.1%
Speeding	614	274		+124.1%
Disqualified driving	56	34		+64.7%
Driving Licence	194	146		+32.9%
Insurance	451	377		+19.6%
Seat Belts	78	43		+81.4%
Mobile Phone	49	40		+22.5%

## 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.

### Key Points

6.2 There has been a significant increase in the number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions and drugs cultivations (12.3% more which equates to 13). This is primarily due to Operation Forward enhancing the Division's proactive capacity to tackle emerging drug threats.

### 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 July 2019 Airdrie officers held a local day of action in regards to drug dealing. The operation consisted of 25 officers, including officers from specialist units. Three drug warrants were executed resulting in £23,000 of drugs being recovered and £4,000 in money being seized under the POCA. Three males were arrested and charged.
- In July 2019 officers from Cumbernauld had occasion to stop a vehicle. The occupants of the vehicle and the car itself were searched whereupon supply amounts of herbal cannabis, valium and cocaine were found within the vehicle. Both males were subsequently arrested.
- In July 2019 Sheriff Search warrants were executed at two addresses in the Coatbridge area, with officers acting on information that controlled drugs were within. During the course of the search at one address, 14.5g cocaine and £3,760 cash was seized. During the search of the other address, 441g cocaine, 3kg herbal cannabis and 3kg mixing agent were recovered. Males aged 50, 24 and 21 and a female aged 20 were arrested and potential value of drugs recovered is approx. £65,000.
- In August 2019 a large scale cannabis cultivation was recovered within factory premises in Bellshill. This resulted in the recovery of approximately 2500 plants with a potential value of over £1.5 million and enquiries continue to identify those involved.
- In August 2019 Shotts officers executed a drugs warrant which resulted in a 54 year old female being arrested for being concerned in the supply of cocaine.
- In August 2019 Bellshill officers stopped a motor vehicle and through subsequent enquiries arrested a male for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs and seized watches to the value of £35,000 and a £6000 ring under the POCA.
- In August 2019 Motherwell officers executed a drugs warrant and arrested to 30 year old male for being concerned in the supply of cocaine and seized over £3,000 cash.
- In August 2019 Motherwell officers executed a drugs warrant in the Newmains area and recovered 263,025 Etizolam tablets valued at £88,000. A 32 year old male was arrested.
- In August 2019 Bellshill officers executed a warrant which resulted in over 47,000 cigarettes and £19,000 cash being recovered.

<b>Serious Organised Crime and Drugs</b>				
	April 2019 – August 2019	April 2018 – August 2018	Victims	% Change
Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	119	106		+12.3%

## **7. Counter Terrorism**

7.1 The Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer (CTLO) continues to focus upon briefing and raising awareness during the reporting period. This has included:

- Delivering workshops to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training at University of the West of Scotland Hamilton for 260 final year students being placed out to hospitals and other care facilities.
- Attending return to term student events.
- Providing training at commercial establishments in Lanarkshire.

## **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:

- Two new off road motorbikes have been bought by Community Matters, Locality Partnership for Local Policing Teams to tackle the growing number of issues caused by people riding quad-bikes and motorised vehicles. Funding was approved to provide two new specialist Honda bikes along with protective equipment for police officers to improve the safety of local people. Trained police officers will use the bikes to patrol known hot-spot areas throughout North Lanarkshire to address the increased levels of anti-social behaviour caused by the illegal use of quad-bikes on public roads, footpaths and fields. The police motorbikes will be a valuable asset in disrupting such behaviour and will extend the proactive reach of police resources to deter offenders as well as offering conspicuous and highly mobile re-assurance to the community.
- In August and September 2019 Lanarkshire Safer Communities officers carried out an intensive programme attending schools and providing inputs for the 10-16 age group regarding drug and New Psychoactive Substance awareness, designed to provide increased knowledge to encourage reporting of any concerns. These inputs are scheduled to be carried out until the end of the year.
- In August 2019 Lanarkshire Safer Communities officers attended various Fresher's Week events throughout the Division. Officers provided inputs and hosted information stalls providing safety and crime prevention advice on a range of topics. Also included was an awareness re counterfeit goods and the links to organised crime as well as information about 'money mule' type criminality which has recently been employed by crime groups to target students, particularly from overseas.
- 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.
- Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) have been in attendance at a number of gala days taking place throughout Lanarkshire undertaking

roles as marshals or managing information stalls. PSYV Cumbernauld have also been participating in a number of fundraising days both for their own funds and for good causes. PSYV participated in a recruitment day in conjunction with the Special Constabulary, with new recruits expected to start in September. Peer education training has also been completed and they are now delivering sessions in school in partnership with pupil support staff.

<b>Public Confidence</b>				
April 2019 – August 2019				
	Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
Complaints received about the Police	129		28.3	
	On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegation	Total Number of Allegations
Total Allegations Recorded	159	0	38	197