

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

14 November 2008

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Crime Situation

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

The report informs Members of notable crimes, incidents, initiatives and convictions since the last report.

BACKGROUND

The following is a brief summary of operational activity, illustrating the diverse and sometimes serious nature of crime and incidents throughout the Force.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is invited to note the current position.

**I Latimer
Chief Constable**

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Shetland

PERIOD: From: 1 July 2008 To: 31 October 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

Class 1 – 4 crime, for the year commencing 1 April, is showing an increase of 9.3%, or 34 crimes overall. However, this increase is almost wholly attributable to a crime spree instigated by a 13-year-old youth who is now, as a result of high level partnership co-operation, in secure accommodation on the mainland. This boy was successfully reported to the Children's Reporter at Lerwick for in excess of 40 crimes. Class 1 crime (crimes of violence) shows an increase from 8 to 12. This needs to be viewed in the context of a significant decrease in this class last year. Class 5 crime (miscellaneous crime – including drugs) has increased from 110 to 134 compared to the corresponding period last year. This demonstrates an increase in pro-activity. Class 2 crime (crimes of indecency) and class 3 crime (crimes of dishonesty) are showing a small increase on the same period last year. Class 4 crime (vandalism) has increased by 11.9%, or by 20 crimes, on the same period last year. However, as already stated, this increase is entirely attributable to the youth mentioned above. The long term trend in this type of offence remains downward. Our detection rate for class 1 – 5 crime stands at 75.2%.

The Command Area continues to promote foot patrol as an effective medium to both reduce the incidence and fear of crime. This has proved to be highly effective and popular, with members of the public and local businesses commenting favourably.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Reported violent crime has increased from 8 – 12 over the course of the current year as compared with the same period last year. Although this represents a percentage increase of 50%, the numbers are remarkably low and last year saw a dramatic reduction in reports of this class of crime. Shetland remains one of the safest areas in the country. The detection rate for this class of crime is 100%.

A major enquiry was instigated following a house fire in Brae as a result of which, tragically, an 8 month baby died. As a result of enquiries a man has been charged with murder and attempted murder. He is currently in prison, on remand awaiting trial.

Class A drugs with a street value of £11,140 have been seized during the current review period. During the current period, 5 offences regarding supply and possession with intent to supply Class A drugs have been recorded, against 7 recorded during the same period last year.

We continue to make progress in tackling the supply of controlled drugs in, and to, Shetland through targeted specific operations. The following is a brief resume of

successes during the review period :

A 45 year old man had his home searched under warrant, resulting in seizure of a small quantity of Class A drugs, £3,000 in cash and further intelligence being gathered.

A 37 year old man was stopped while driving under the influence of drugs. During this procedure, he was found to be in possession of Crack Cocaine, Heroin and £860 cash. He is currently remanded in custody.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the review period the Road Traffic collisions were as follows (2007 figures in brackets) :

Fatal –		0	(1)
Serious –	1	(1)	
Slight –	7	(13)	
Non Injury –	49	(54)	

Enforcement of road traffic legislation has resulted in 15 drivers being charged with drink driving and 2 drivers being charged with drug driving. These figures represent an increase on the same period last year.

Educational and enforcement campaigns were carried out during the review period, including Summer Drink Driving Campaign, Rural Road Weekend, Mobile Phone and Seatbelt Day of Action.

We continue to enforce legislation and have made use of the local media to encourage and advise road users of ongoing issues.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

We continue to work with our partners to ensure speedy and efficient Criminal Justice processes. Against the national target of 80% of police reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal within 28 days of caution and charge, Shetland Command Area has achieved 93.8% within 28 days. Similarly, against the target of 80% of police reports to the Children's Reporter within 14 days of caution and charge, this Command Area has achieved 94.7% within 14 days.

We have a detection rate of 100% for non-sexual crimes against the person in the current period.

We have detected 10 out of the 16 crimes of indecency reported. This represents a detection rate of 62.5%. Positive lines of enquiry are being followed on the undetected crimes.

Our detection rate for crimes of dishonesty has risen from 59.2% to 71% compared to

the same period last year.

The overall percentage of crimes of vandalism cleared up was 63.3% an increase from 48.8% on the same period last year.

The provision of a CCTV system for Lerwick town centre continues to make progress, albeit slowly. Despite planning approval having been granted almost a year ago, negotiations are ongoing with the planning authorities and Historic Scotland to find acceptable solutions to concerns around the siting of some of the cameras. The delays which this project has suffered are disappointing. However, once operational the system will provide real opportunities to enhance public safety and reassurance.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

No new 'racially aggravated' crime was reported during the review period. Only one such crime has been reported since the beginning of April. This involved an arrested man shouting racist abuse at the arresting officer who was Welsh. This represents approximately 0.04 racist incidents per 1,000 population, well below the target of 0.4 incidents per 1,000 population.

Planning is now underway for the Christmas and New Year festivities and the Up-Helly-Aa festivals. Longer term we have begun scoping the police response to two major events. The 'Hamefairin' will take place in 2010, and in 2011 the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race will, again, include Shetland as a port of call.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Orkney

PERIOD: From: 1 July 2008 To: 31 October 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

Since my last report there has been a significant adjustment in the number of reported crimes, up from 272 to 393, an increase of 44.5% for this reporting year. This has been largely made up with increases in Class 3 (Dishonesty), up from 130 to 152 and Class 4(vandalism), up from 93 to 168. While disappointing, this adjustment was not unexpected and largely down to one youth who now is in secure accommodation and no longer resident on Orkney.

Class 5 crimes have also increased, however this is due to an increase in pro-activity by officers in dealing with some minor crimes and offences.

Overall our detection rate for Class 1-5 crimes is 59%, slightly below our intended target of 63%; however steps are being taken to address this during the next period. I would also highlight that Orkney has by far the lowest levels of reported crime in Northern Constabulary.

During this period we exceeded the national targets set for the submission of police reports to both the Children's Reporter (14 calendar days) and the Procurator Fiscal (28 calendar days).

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

It is also disappointing to report the increase in the incidence of crimes of violence against the person (Class 1) which is up from 3 to 9. While the numbers continue to remain low, I note my concern over the use of bottles as a weapon. This should be largely addressed by the introduction of a drinking in public place bye-law, which has been passed by Orkney Islands Council, and we look forward to it as a prevention and public safety measure. It should also be noted that this class of crime includes some serious crimes against children, which continue to be reported as a result of excellent inter agency co-operation in implementing Child Protection guidelines.

The targeting of drug supply and use remains a priority within the Area Command and, while street seizures remain low, intelligence gathering is taking place. This intelligence gathering is particularly targeted at the individuals who choose to import drugs into our community. It is pleasing to note the conviction on 30 October 2008 of a 26 year old male for supplying drugs, following an intelligence led operation resulting in the seizure of ecstasy and the forfeiture of £1740. The male will be sentenced at a later date.

It is also worthy of note that on Friday 17 October 2008 Michael Ross, 29 years, was sentenced for the Murder of Shamsuddin Mahmood. This major crime took place on 2 June 1994 in Kirkwall and resulted in a large scale inquiry at the time of the incident and a subsequent cold case review. The serious nature of this crime was reflected in the punishment tariff set by Lord Hardie at 25 years.

3. SAFER ROADS

Safer Roads continue to be a high priority for the area command, though it is with continued disappointment that drivers still ignore the warning, with 8 drink drivers detected over this period. Extra Patrols have been tasked during this period, in particular looking to the fitness of vehicles for the winter, such as tyres and lights. This is an important priority, highlighted by a tragic accident on 15 October 2008 involving an elderly pedestrian, who subsequently died in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on 29 October 2008. This incident remains under investigation by the Road Policing Unit.

Overall, there were 39 road collisions recorded over this period, 29 non-injury, 7 slight injury, 2 serious injury and 1 fatal.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

On 20 October 2008 the death of a 50 year old female occurred while engaged on diving on the wrecks within Scapa Flow. This was a tragic incident that highlights the dangers of diving and is subject enquiry by the police and HSE.

Recently we have taken part in public meetings arranged by local councillors concerning anti-social behaviour within housing estates in Stromness and Kirkwall. At these meetings residents' concerns were strongly expressed. It was agreed that, along with our partners in the social housing sector, we would continue to use ASBO (anti-social behaviour orders) and ABC (acceptable behaviour contacts) along with extra visible patrols and enforcement of all relevant legislation to target this problem. It should be noted that the recording of anti-social behaviour remains low, particularly when compared with other similar areas; however, it is at a level that gives concern to our community and we will endeavour to address this, in order that they can continue to enjoy a high quality of life. We look forward to the feedback from the community, councillors and our partners as to the effectiveness of these joint measures.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

It is pleasing to report that there were no reported racially aggravated crimes during the period.

Over the period we have also had a number of events including Stromness Shopping

Week and a number of annual agricultural shows which passed off successfully.

On 14, 15 and 16 September 2008 Orkney entertained HRH Duke & Duchess of Gloucester. The royal party visited several venues over the three days. This visit provided policing challenges, which required detailed planning and additional police resources from outwith Orkney.

Looking forward, the dark nights and winter weather provide challenges to policing; of particular note are Halloween and New Year. These events, while largely good natured, have proved difficult to police in the past, although with the co-operation of the public should pass without incident.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross

PERIOD: From: 1 July 2008 To: 31 October 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

In the period to 31st October 2008, we have continued our reduction in reported crime by some 17.7%, equivalent to some 257 crimes. Our detection rate for class 1-5 crimes has risen by 3.2% to 55.1%. The continued focus on pro-activity in deterring & detecting crimes of dishonesty & vandalism over recent months is beginning to pay dividends with a reduction in vandalism of 150 crimes and 80 crimes in dishonesties.

Operation Jacobite, our monthly anti social behaviour operation has allowed us to actively target some of our resident criminals through intelligence. It has increased uniform visibility which has seen a slight decrease in vandalism and increase in alcohol seized from underage youths, a particular problem in the area command.

The launch on 27th October 2008 of the Gamekeeper Partnership with the North Highland College, Scottish Gamekeepers' Association and the British Association of Shooting & Conservation will increase our eyes & ears on the ground in rural communities and assist in deterring and detecting criminal activity, particularly those crimes committed against wildlife. An intelligence led operation in November will see a joint approach in targeting wildlife crime in the Sutherland area.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

A reduction of violent crimes from 49 reported crimes to 41 is pleasing as we continue to focus on those who perpetrate these crimes of violence.

Intelligence led policing and the use of CCTV has led to a greater recovery of Class A drugs. A number of search warrants have been executed to deter, disrupt and detect those who bring drugs into our area.

In August a 62 year old woman was allegedly raped by her ex-husband. An extensive enquiry saw the male presented as a custody at Court. He awaits trial.

A drug & alcohol fuelled party in Tain during early September saw the attempted murder of a 33 year old man. A quick response and complex enquiry with unco-operative witnesses saw a 27 year old male being apprehended for this crime. He remains in custody awaiting trial. His co-accused were apprehended for attempting to pervert the course of justice. A 24 year old female was also allegedly raped during this party. Forensic enquiries are ongoing.

The discovery of a sophisticated Cannabis Factory at Dornoch led to a significant criminal enquiry, during which it was identified that the organised crime group responsible had other factories throughout the Highlands and other parts of Scotland. As a result of this enquiry a number of men were reported to the Procurator Fiscal. They are currently awaiting trial.

3. SAFER ROADS

Unfortunately we had one fatal road accident in the Easter Ross area during this period. A 19 year old woman tragically lost her life following a road accident in August on the B9165 at Fearn. In September, a 75 year old male driver suffered a serious illness attack whilst driving his car on the A9 road at Nigg Roundabout. The vehicle left the roadway; however the man died as a result of his illness and not the road accident.

There were also 16 drunk drivers detected in the Area Command, a decrease of three since the last period. Two drivers had counts that were four times over the limit. One driver was caught drunk driving a 38 tonne articulated goods vehicle in the Lochinver area.

Of note, was a driver who was detected & convicted of drug driving following the effects of prescription drugs in the Wick area. This incident highlights the need to be careful whilst on prescribed medication to ensure fitness to drive.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Blue Light Discos held in Wick & Thurso in July helped to build a rapport between Police and the young people of Caithness moving from Primary to Secondary school.

Safe Highlander Event in September saw 375 school children from Caithness visit a number of workshops including those on drugs, alcohol and vandalism.

Local consultation on the local drinking bylaw for Wick and Thurso has been completed with the papers being submitted to the Scottish Government for final approval. It is hoped that this useful legislation will be in place for the festive period and its launch will be co-ordinated with a Caithness Pub Watch Scheme.

December 2008 will see the introduction of Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology in a marked and unmarked police vehicle within the Area Command, which will increase our ability to detect travelling criminals and increase our intelligence gathering.

Caithness & Sutherland Farm Watch has assisted farmers in preventing thefts and notifying police of suspicious vehicles around their areas. This increased intelligence has led to an ongoing operation focusing on criminal activity within Caithness.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

During the reporting period, there were 6 incidents of racially aggravated crimes. Each incident was detected.

HRH Duke and Duchess's of Rothesay stay at Castle of Mey in early August saw a number of successful and high profile public engagements, including HRH Duke of Rothesay receiving the Freedom of Caithness. The commitment & professionalism of the policing operation saw the annual event pass without incident, which was acknowledged and endorsed by the Royal Household.

On 25th October 2008, Local Councillors Robert Coghill, Bill Fernie & Graeme Smith accompanied us on Operation Jacobite to see first hand the many challenges we face in policing a modern society. They joined Officers on foot & mobile patrol throughout Wick. They observed alcohol being seized from underage youths, licensed premises checks, drugs stop/searches and the apprehension of two intoxicated youths who had been caught committing an assault on CCTV. This operation will be run again on 13th December 2008, with an invitation extended to the local members in Sutherland & Easter Ross.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Ross & Cromarty and Lochaber & Skye

PERIOD: From: 1 July 2008 To: 31 October 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

Detection rates within the area commands remain high with a downward trend being indicated in respect of crimes of vandalism and opportunist thefts. Identified hotspots continue to be identified through our tactical tasking process and regular local level initiatives have been run whereby directed patrols at peak times have been targeting these issues with positive results. The Lochaber based Pubwatch scheme continues to have an effect on low level disorder with 53 persons currently banned from local licensed premises.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

On 27th July 2008, within a dwelling house at Park Road, Kinlochleven, a 27 year old male was assaulted resulting in a slash type wound to his face. The victim received stitches to his wound.

On 8th August 2008, a 19 year old male was assaulted by two males on High Street, Fort William. The victim was wrestled with and punched on the face by the males aged 18 and 24 years. As a result of the assault, the victim sustained a broken cheekbone and a broken nose.

On 10th October 2008, Police received a report of a serious assault whereby an 18 year old male sustained first degree burns to his body. A 17 year old male is sought in connection with this and a report craving warrant has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 5th October 2008 local officers uncovered a suspected cannabis cultivation operation at a domestic dwelling in the Conon Bridge area. Enquiries are ongoing in association with a force wide operation in this respect.

Additionally, On 24th October 2008, Sheriff Court Search Warrants were executed at an address in the Spean Bridge area of Lochaber, which resulted in one male person being arrested for being concerned in the cultivation of Cannabis at that address. Recovered from the address was a significant number of cannabis plants, which have a current street value of nearly £300,000. This person appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday 27th October 2008, at which time he was remanded in custody pending further enquiries.

On 30th October an Easter Ross man was jailed for two and a half years for serious firearms offences in respect of a firearms incident earlier in the year. A report has been prepared for the Chief Constable recommending commendations for the officers who were involved in the arrest of this dangerous individual.

In early October police attended to a report of a dangerous driving in the Conon Bridge area. Units from Dingwall and Inverness attended and a male person was subsequently arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal for attempted murder of three police officers.

3. SAFER ROADS

Within Ross & Cromarty, Road Traffic Collisions are generally showing a decrease from the same period last year. However, sadly, there were six fatal road traffic collisions during this period.

Proactive road policing continues to be a main priority in the Area Commands during this period, with 294 road traffic offences detected, 89 of which were speeding, and 33 of which were drink drivers, several of which involved persons 3 or more times over the legal limit and who were dealt with swiftly through the courts in order to remove these dangerous people from our roads.

In Lochaber & Skye during the period there were seven serious injury road accidents and 68 slight injury road accidents. There were four fatal road accidents recorded. These occurred on the A82 near Onich, two on the A87 between Kyleakin and Portree and on the A890 near Stromeferry.

Lochaber Area Command continues to work with the A82 Campaign Group, who are seeking high level investment and governmental commitment to upgrade the Glasgow to Inverness Trunk road.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

BLUELIGHT DISCO – During the period the Police, in conjunction with the other emergency services and health and local authority staff, held the second Blue Light disco for secondary school age youngsters at the Spa Pavilion in Strathpeffer. Over 340 youngsters attended the event, which was significantly up on the first Blue Light disco, with very favourable comments received.

DOMESTIC ABUSE – The Division have agreed to undertake a pathfinder project as part of the national GIRFEC agenda in respect of the setting up of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings. The process has begun and the first MARAC is expected to take place in November this year. During the period there have been 75 domestic abuse incidents reported in Ross & Cromarty with another 38 reported in Lochaber and Skye. This is an area of policing which requires significant input in order to tackle the abusers and protect their victims.

SAFE ROSS-SHIRE INITIATIVE – The Shop-safe initiative in Dingwall is progressing. Radio coverage is now in place and our Community Safety Officer is working closely

with local retail outlets in respect of training and awareness-raising.

Rehearsals for the Drugs and Alcohol Play directed by Iona Munro, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, and aimed at P7, S1 and S2 Lochaber pupils, commence on 3rd November, with the play being delivered to the four high schools in the Lochaber area during the week 17th – 21st November.

Members of Lochaber Pubwatch continue to meet and deal with incidents of anti-social behaviour within licensed premises. There are now 53 persons on the banned list.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Police ran a successful policing operation in partnership with the organisers at this year's Loopallu music festival held in Ullapool in September. It was pleasing to note that there were no reported thefts from the campsite this year, in contrast to the significant number last year. This was put down to the pre-event advertising, advice given to patrons and a high visibility approach to policing the vulnerable areas.

An operation was carried out during the evenings of Friday 8th and Saturday 9th August 2008 in the Kinlochleven, Ballachulish and Glencoe areas. This was initiated as a result of a number of reports of anti social behaviour over the preceding weeks and months. This included instances of vandalism, disturbances, drunkenness, noisy parties and assaults. This was causing increasing concern to members of the community, in particular the elderly and vulnerable. The operation was resourced with local officers, officers based at Fort William, Crime Management Staff and the Central Division Pro Active team and through robust and zero tolerance foot patrols of the relevant areas and mobile and static checks on the main trunk road A82 and relevant minor roads. The police presence was well received by residents within the communities and both evenings passed peacefully. In addition a number of minor drugs seizures and an arrest on warrant were effected.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Western Isles

PERIOD: From: 1 July 2008 To: 31 October 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area Command detection rate for crimes class 1 to 5 is currently 72.7% against a Force average of 63.1%.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Misuse of Drugs

On 3rd July 2008 enquiry into misuse of drugs revealed a 34 year old male concerned in the supply of controlled drugs in the Stornoway area. A search of premises found cannabis cultivation with resin and eight mature plants being seized. As a result of this the male appeared at Stornoway Sheriff Court where he received a fine of £3,350.

Breach of the Peace

On 21st July 2008 a call to emergency services reporting a male stranded by tide in the Point area of Lewis resulted in Coastguard helicopter attending and attempting to rescue the 27 year old. During this rescue attempt the male boarded the aircraft and behaved in an aggressive manner, whereby the Police were contacted and the male required to be arrested, restrained and removed from the aircraft. He thereafter appeared in Stornoway Sheriff Court.

Assault

On 2nd August 2008 a 34 year old male was arrested in Stornoway town centre after he had been removed from licensed premises and thereafter returned to the bar armed with a knife stating he was intending to stab the owner of the premises. The male appeared in Stornoway Sheriff Court and was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the period 1st July – 30th September there were 7 recorded slight injury accidents, 4 serious injury and no fatal road accidents.

The Area Command continues to pro-actively police roads and has an active response to enforcement through Operation Hillman.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Through the Community Safety Department 3 young people from the Western Isles took part in the Army Operation Youth Advantage initiative. All three passed the course and received certificates presented by the Area Inspector.

The Western Isles Vandalism Action Group produced a DVD for circulation at schools addressing youth offending and aimed at reducing the level of vandalism across the area.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

- Operation Harlequin, which is an ongoing operation targeting anti social behaviour throughout the Western Isles, continues to tackle the underage drinking culture each weekend. As a result of this operation over 48 youths have had alcohol removed from them.
- Of note are 4 cases of underage youths being supplied alcohol. As a result 4 people have been reported to the PF.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

EAST DIVISION: Inverness and Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey

PERIOD: From: 1 July 2008 To: 31 October 2008

1. REDUCING CRIME

The new Divisional structure has been in place for six months and the benefits are slowly but surely beginning to manifest themselves. Given the major work of assembling several specialists units under the Public Protection Unit umbrella and giving them a wider Divisional remit, it is pleasing to note the many incidents involving children or vulnerable people that have been dealt with. This is largely unseen by the public and media but nonetheless uses significant staff resources to maximise public safety. For those who like statistics, staff have dealt with 317 Child Protection Enquiries, participated in 93 multi-agency case conferences and dealt with 454 vulnerable adult/mental health referrals since the start of the year.

Whilst there are still a number of vacancies in key posts, most posts should be filled by year end and this has enabled staff to focus on their key roles. As a Division, the detection rates for Class 1 (Crimes against the person), Class 2 (Crimes of Indecency) and Class 3 (Crimes of Dishonesty) are significantly up on last year, with a particular highlight being over 90% of Class 1 crimes detected. Overall the detection rate for the Division across Class 1-5 Crime lies at 60.8%, with a slight increase in crime of 2%, down from 5% in June 2008.

The work of all police staff and police officers is directed at making the Division as safe as possible and their hard work is reflected in the many examples of operations/incidents detailed below.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

East Division continues to direct significant resource and effort to tackling serious crime, with emphasis on drug supply, violent crime and transient criminal activity.

On 05/08/08 – Critical Incident/Police Firearms Deployment – following a report of an intoxicated male driving a motor car in the Aviemore area in possession of a weapon and under the influence of drink or drugs, a spontaneous police operation was run, resulting in a man being arrested and a report sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

A number of other Firearms operations have been run due to members of the public alerting the police to individuals brandishing firearms in public. The response put in place by Northern Constabulary has been text book but one should not underestimate the resources used, nor the potential seriousness of these incidents. Community Safety officers are currently engaged in reminding retailers that the sale of imitation firearms is illegal except under very specific conditions. The Force will continue to monitor this

issue.

On 17/08/08 – Fraud involving commercial premises in the High Street, Nairn. Extensive national enquiries identified a 35 year old Eastern European male who has also been reported in relation to a number of similar offences across the force area.

On 17/08/08 – Theft by Housebreaking Strathspey Railway and Aviemore Mountain Resort, whereby significant amount of cash stolen and damage caused to gaming machines and premises; two males and a juvenile arrested. Reports sent to Procurator Fiscal and Children's Reporter.

On 28/09/08 – Attempted Murder - following a domestic incident at an address in Nairn, whereby a male sustained a serious head injury and two knife wounds. A female was arrested and charged and a report forwarded to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 15/09/08 – Drug Supply – following a proactive policing operation within Nairn, a warrant was executed and discovered within the premises was a full hydroponic cultivation system, along with bags containing a large amount of Cannabis. A large scale investigation across the force has revealed a number of other similar factories.

On 28/09/08 £21,000 of multi commodity controlled drugs were recovered from a house in Oldtown Road, Inverness. One male has been reported for serious misuse of drugs offences.

On 08/10/08 in Redwood Crescent, Inverness, a major cultivation of cannabis was detected within a privately rented house. Two persons have been reported for serious misuse of drugs offences. Drugs to the value of £320,000 were recovered.

On 01/10/08 – Drugs Supply (school) – following police enquiries, a 15 year old male was arrested in relation to the supply of controlled drugs over the last 12 months in and around the Nairn/Auldearn area, and Nairn Academy – report has been forwarded to the Children's Reporter.

On 21/10/08 – Critical Incident/Firearms/Vulnerable Person –male traced in possession of three firearms/imitation firearms, along with knives, in the Glenfeshie area. Report sent to Procurator Fiscal.

On 24/10/08 in Drumnadrochit a major cultivation of cannabis was detected within residential premises. One male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Drugs to the value of £150,000 were recovered.

On 29/10/08 in Upper Kessock Street, Inverness £2300 worth of heroin was seized from within a flat. One male has been reported for serious misuse of drugs offences.

During the period there have been five drugs related deaths within the City. None of these deaths are connected. Work continues (as seen in the above examples) to ensure intelligence led targeting of drug dealers alongside assisting our colleagues in the NHS to reduce the harm caused by drug misuse.

The number of reported fireraising incidents in the area over the period has reduced. The most notable fire has been at the Inverness High School on the 8th October. Enquiries into the cause of this fire are still ongoing.

3. SAFER ROADS

Whilst the Force and Division are well within targets for reducing Fatal and Serious RTCs during the period under review, there has been one fatal RTC on the A9 at the Nuide straight by Kingussie, involving two vehicles, one of which was a foreign national, and another fatal RTC at the Longman Industrial Estate, Inverness.

Each Fatal RTC is thoroughly investigated by experts from the Force Road Policing Unit.

In order to target irresponsible driver behaviour, a directed traffic patrol matrix has been developed with a view to tackling issues on the main arterial routes of the A9, A95, A96 and A82, as well as other routes, with particular emphasis on overtaking, speeding and dangerous/inconsiderate driving. Significant resources are being directed to targeting drink/drug and disqualified drivers. There remains an unacceptably high level of drink driving within the area and work continues to target offenders.

The Divisional Road Crime Car continues to increase public visibility on the arterial routes. This is a key asset in targeting travelling criminals as well as proactively targeting irresponsible driver behaviour. Its use complements other Divisional units and the Force Road Policing Unit and NSCP camera vehicles.

Notable conviction – two motorcyclists who were detected by police on patrol driving in tandem at speeds in excess of 100 mph on the A95 Aviemore to Grantown road at Auchendean on 04/06/08 have appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court where they were fined £300 each and disqualified for 28 days.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Division continues to support the Blue Light Discos and street football initiatives that have taken place. There is clear evidence that there is no criminal activity or anti social behaviour linked to these events and long-term it is hoped that a reduction in vandalism and anti social behaviour reported involving young people will ensue.

One of the challenges recently in Inverness has been the level of anti social behaviour committed within residential premises. A structured approach is being used in Inverness in targeting those people who have no respect or regard for their neighbours. If there are three or more calls to premises during the month then the local beat officer will call at the address, warn the householder about their behaviour, highlighting the

impact it is having and the potential for criminal proceedings. If during the next month the activity continues then the beat officer accompanied by the Sergeant will return and warn householders. If despite this the behaviour continues then a written warning will be delivered personally by the Area Commander and the Housing Provider. Whilst this may seem a lengthy process liaison takes place with the housing provider at every stage and action is escalated within the time scales in proportion to the activity and the impact it has. The positive outcome of this activity has been recognised in a number of areas within the city. This approach will continue to target those with disregard for others and reduce demand on this service. This is in addition to response officers attending but will in time enable their time to be freed up for urgent calls.

Protocols between the Police/ Licensing Clerk are now in place and will lead to a more efficient service. A dedicated Licensing Enquiry officers post has now been filled with the member of support staff starting on the 2nd November.

With the introduction of the new Licensing Scotland Act 2005 a number of changes have had to be made by licensees in the operation of their premises. This included the provision of Stewards who must be licensed. We are currently working with the SIA to ensure that all stewards are licensed.

The Inverness Community Beats Team has been expanded, with two of the four new officers taking up post. The new structure was publically launched at an event on the 20th October which was attended by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr Kenny MacAskill. The intention is to use this team to target particular problem areas and individuals throughout the City, with the aim of solving the issues as opposed to displacing them or temporarily addressing matters. Whilst we recognise that this will take time to bear fruit, we are confident that this approach, with identifiable officers for particular areas, will produce results and is in the best traditions of community policing.

In order to address key concerns highlighted by Community Councils and Ward Forums in respect of alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour occurring within a number of towns and villages within Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn, two operations under the banner of Operation Mexican and Operation Magma have been developed and linked to a directed patrol matrix to target anti-social behaviour. This has included various tactical options, including mobile CCTV, police dogs, crime car and high visibility patrols, and this has met with success, with significant amounts of alcohol being confiscated and a number of persons being arrested for alcohol and drug related offences. 17 Warning Letters have been sent to parents/guardians since 01/08/08 in respect of children involved with alcohol who were detected as part of these ongoing Operations.

In order to provide a proportionate response to tackle the issues of alcohol-fuelled disorder, community consultation is on-going with a view to extending the alcohol by-laws to enable the issue of fixed penalties fines, which will facilitate a tangible solution to the problem and concerns of the local community, without criminalising individuals, and deliver smarter justice.

A local initiative undertaken by the police community safety officer involving eight children from Kingussie High School on work experience proved very successful. This

involved a week's activity looking at the various aspects of policing and the criminal justice functions, culminating in a presentation on the subject of alcohol disorder.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

The Tartan Heart Festival 2008 took place at Belladrum over four days in August. The event received positive feedback in policing terms with very few incidents taking place over four days. Unfortunately several people received burns due to a gas canister exploding as a result of inappropriate fitting but otherwise 8-10,000 people enjoyed a festival in a safe environment, with many positive comments being received about the approachable but firm policing.

Inverness Caledonian Thistle has played 6 competitive home matches in this year's SPL. The most high profile and well attended game was against Celtic on the 18th October. All games have been well policed with very few minor incidents taking place. Police tactics have been modified to take account of national best practice and this has been well received by fans, the clubs and the officers involved. Staff from throughout the Division have been involved in this to broaden experience.

Other major events which have involved extensive planning and deployment have been the Aviemore Harley Davidson 'Thunder in the Glen' event, which involved over 2000 motorcyclists, and the Tartan Army annual event.

The Area Command is presently working very closely with the Highland Council in preparation for the Winter Festival of Events under Operation Respect. . The main aim is to make Inverness City a more enjoyable, busier and lively place to be over the festival period, whilst respecting other people's right to go about their business/leisure activities. The Provost, Mr Jimmy Gray, will play a leading role, supported by the police, in co-ordinating and delivering activity from all the statutory agencies and those commercially interested partners.