

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

15 JUNE 2007

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 a few of the incidents attended, illustrating the diverse and sometimes serious nature of crime and incidents throughout the Force.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is invited to note the current position.

Ian J Latimer
Chief Constable

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: **Shetland**

PERIOD: **From: 01/03/2007 To: 30/04/2007**

1. REDUCING CRIME

During the year ending 31 March 2007 Shetland Command Area achieved a clear up rate of class 1- 5 crime of 71.7%. This comes at the same time as delivering a reduction in class 1 - 5 crime of 8.1%. All staff within the Command Area will work hard to build on these results during the forthcoming year. We are currently working on initiatives to maximise high-visibility foot patrolling and gain benefits accruing from the change in management arrangements of the Neighbourhood Support Workers. Another key focus will be on tackling problems associated with the abuse of alcohol, particularly underage drinking.

In response to concerns about anti-social behaviour involving youths in Lerwick, during peak shopping hours on Saturdays, the Command Area have introduced dedicated footpatrols. The intention is to ensure the Town Centre remains a safe and pleasant area for all to visit. There has been a significant reduction in complaints since the introduction of the patrols. We intend to continue working together with the retailers and local youth workers to ensure this positive trend continues.

Vandalism is a particularly pernicious crime which has a high impact on those individuals and communities affected by it. During the year ending 31 March 2007 reported vandalism in Shetland fell by almost 25%. Whilst pleased with this result we are not complacent and will continue our efforts, in respect of targeted and high-visibility patrolling, to sustain and improve even further.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The year ending 31 March 2007 saw a concerning percentage rise in crimes of violence. This mainly involved young men (representing both victims and assailants) under the influence of alcohol in Lerwick Town Centre. High-Visibility peak time footpatrols have been enhanced as well as enforcement of the new bye-law prohibiting the drinking of alcohol in public places as a means of curtailing this trend. Early indications, during the period under review, are positive and this issue will retain a high level of attention through the tactical tasking process.

During the review period, a young Shetland man was convicted at the High Court in Aberdeen of serious sexual offences against children ranging in age from 7 to 14 years. This was a complex enquiry handled, almost exclusively, from within Command Area resources. At the time of writing, the convicted man remains in custody pending sentence.

In April a house in Lerwick was searched under warrant as part of an ongoing operation aimed at tackling the supply of controlled drugs in Shetland. A quantity of controlled drugs and other items were recovered. Enquiries continue and it is expected a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Lerwick. Drug sniffer dogs played a significant role in this operation.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the period under review there have been 26 vehicular collisions resulting in 5 slightly injured casualties. There is an increase in the number of collisions compared with the corresponding period last year but a reduction in the seriousness of injuries sustained. The Command Area continues to participate in National campaigns, including the forthcoming Summer Safety Campaigns. Planning for a multi-agency check including VOSA and HM Revenue and Customs is progressing with a likely date during the summer. Officers are routinely patrolling and addressing inappropriate driver behaviour in relation to seatbelt legislation, drink/drug and disqualified driving and speeding.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

During the period under review the bye-law, prohibiting the drinking of alcohol within public places in Lerwick, was enacted. An initial 'education' phase was followed by the commencement of full enforcement of the new provisions. Early indications suggest the bye-law will prove to be an effective tool in efforts to enhance public safety and order.

The provision of a CCTV system for Lerwick Town Centre continues to move forward. It is still expected that the new system will be operational by late summer this year.

We continue to work with our partners to ensure 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, this Command Area currently achieves 91% 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 currently achieves 100% within 14 days.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

During April this year the Command Area was involved in the aftermath of the tragic offshore incident involving the oilrig tug 'Bourbon Dolphin' in the North Atlantic, 75 miles north east of Eshaness. The capsizing and subsequent sinking of the vessel resulted in the loss of eight lives. A full emergency was declared and Shetland Command Area was fully involved, supporting Grampian Police, in the multi-agency response.

At the time of writing this report the Command Area are heavily involved in planning for Royal Visits on 31 May 2007 from Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay and

Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway to perform the official opening of the new Shetland Museum and Archive and to conduct a number of other engagements throughout Shetland.

Planning is also underway for a busy midsummer period culminating in the weekend around 22 to 24 June and the Johnsmas Foy, which is centred on Lerwick. This is being co-ordinated through the tactical tasking and co-ordination process.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Orkney

PERIOD: From: 01/03/2007 To: 30/04/2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

The year from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, ended on an excellent note with a 14% reduction in reported crime and a 73.4% detection rate, the highest across the Force.

A woman was charged in April 2007 with a large number of thefts and frauds committed over an 18 month period.

A man from Sanday was fined £1000 at Kirkwall Sheriff Court in April 2007, for seriously injuring a calf in his care during December 2006.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

It is pleasing to report that, although there were a wide range of more minor crimes and offences during the review period, there were relatively few serious crimes. Of particular note, during March 2007, was an enquiry into a number of serious sexual offences allegedly committed by a local man.

During April 2007, enquiries commenced into a report of a number of historical sexual offences. A separate enquiry into other serious sexual offences was also carried out during April 2007.

Following a three day trial at Kirkwall Sheriff Court in February 2007, a man who was living in St Margaret's Hope was convicted of a series of credit card frauds committed in Orkney and elsewhere during 2005. This man was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

A man was jailed for five months at Kirkwall Sheriff Court in March 2007, for possession of a knife in a public place during July 2006.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the review period there were a number of minor collisions but no fatal or serious collisions with seven drink drivers being detected during April 2007.

Following a number of targeted speeding enforcement campaigns, a number of drivers received significant sentences at Kirkwall Sheriff Court, including a six month ban for driving at 98 mph in a 60 mph limit, a six month ban and fine of £400 for driving at 94mph in a 60 mph limit and a fine of £250 for driving at 44 mph in a 30 mph limit.

During April 2007, a man was sentenced at Kirkwall Sheriff Court to 16 months imprisonment for reckless driving and other road traffic offences following a number of incidents and a collision involving serious injuries that occurred near Finstown during September 2006.

Drink driving convictions continued with a number of cases including a man disqualified for 18 months for driving at more than twice the legal limit.

During April 2007, a tragic accident occurred in Graemsay when a man was killed when the car he was driving fell from the pier. Royal Navy divers who were in the area recovered the body.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

During the review period significant work was carried out by the Orkney Area Command and partner agencies in relation to the joint multi-agency inspection of services to protect children. This inspection was led by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education supported by Inspectors from Social Work, Police and the NHS. A detailed report will be produced later this year, which will highlight how well all the relevant agencies in Orkney work together in protecting children.

During March 2007, the Orkney Community Safety Partnership held a very successful strategy development day to focus on the future strategic policy, direction and operation of the Partnership.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Dealing with antisocial behaviour remains a key local objective. During April 2007 there was a small increase in disorderly behaviour, which includes breach of the peace, racially aggravated offences and petty assault compared to the same period last year.

Operation Kaliber continued with regular and significant seizures of alcohol from youngsters. It is of note that during the period from April 2006 until March 2007, 192 youths were found in possession of a total of 643 items of alcohol, which were confiscated and destroyed by local officers. A number of individuals and licensees were also reported to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to the supply of alcohol to underage people.

A multi-agency seminar was held in April 2007, to discuss further development of the local antisocial behaviour strategy.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Western Isles

PERIOD: From: 01/03/2007 To: 30/04/2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

By the end of March 2007 (the end of the reporting year for 2006/07), Police in the Western Isles had dealt with 1125 Class 1-5 crimes, of which 821 were detected - detection rate of 73.0% for the year (87.9% for all crimes and offences). During 2006/07 there was a negligible increase (+5) of Class 1-5 crime reported. However the year saw a significant increase in Class 1 crimes (up from 31 to 55). Of these crimes, however, 53 have been detected to date (96.4%).

April 2007 saw a detection rate of 69.6% for Class 1-5 crimes being achieved for the month - 39 crimes detected of 56 crimes reported, with positive lines of enquiries being followed up on several outstanding crimes. The detection rate for all crimes and offences for April was 88%.

In early March 2007, several distraction thefts were perpetrated throughout Lewis and Harris by a group of travelling criminals. This group had already allegedly committed several such crimes within the Force area on the mainland and were subsequently traced, detained and arrested in Ullapool. They are currently on bail awaiting trial.

On 24th March 2007 two males were arrested for assaulting a male to his severe injury. During the arrest a Police officer sustained injury to his hand. Both males appeared from custody and have been released on Bail.

Notable sentences:

Male - 3 months imprisonment for assault and breach of the peace

Male - 4 months imprisonment for contravention of Criminal Law Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1993 section 49(1), namely carrying a knife in a public place.

Male - 2 year Probation Order and 200 hours Community Service - Firearms Offences

Male - 6 months imprisonment for numerous frauds (board & lodgings) within Stornoway.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

There are indications that Class A recreational drug abuse is becoming much more prevalent. Police are addressing this challenge through continued intelligence gathering and referral to the Tactical Tasking Process. Nevertheless, Cannabis and Amphetamines remain the most commonly abused substances.

In the early hours of 29th March 2007, a 28 year old male was found on Bayhead Street, Stornoway, suffering from stab wounds to his body. As a result of Police enquiries, a 28 year old male was arrested in connection with this incident.

On 15th April 2007 Police were called to an address in Matheson Road, Stornoway as a result of a 999 call from a female. Police attended and were met by a female and two children. The male in house could be seen carrying a rifle. Police, children and female retreated from the locus. Negotiation Cell was set up in HQ and Stornoway. After some hours the accused surrendered without incident and the firearm was recovered. This Operation involved local Firearms Team, Public Order Team, Local Officers and Headquarters Staff. The accused was subsequently cautioned and charged with Assault; Assault by Menaces; Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 16A and Breach of the Peace and is currently awaiting sentence.

A search warrant was executed at an address on the Isle of Lewis on 28th April as a result of intelligence received from a Police Force in England. The search related to enquiries into offences regarding obscene and indecent material. A computer and several related items were seized for examination. Enquiries are continuing.

A drugs detection dog and dog handler are currently attending training with Strathclyde Police. Both will be a full-time resource available within the Area Command and will hopefully be operational by the summer. This will further complement our existing operations fighting against the supply and misuse of drugs within the Western Isles.

Notable sentences relating to serious crime:

Male - fined £1250 and Compensation Order of £500 - assault

Male - fined £1750 and Compensation Order of £500 - assault

3. SAFER ROADS

During March and April the Area Command detected significant amounts of road traffic offences. The following figures indicate how successful we were during this time:

Drink Driving - 7 (Negative breath tests - 11)
Speeding - 6
Mobile Phone - 6
Con & use - 17
Excise - 15
Disqualified - 1
Section 2 - 1
Other - 42

There were 31 Road traffic collisions during the review period, thankfully none were serious.

Our ongoing national intelligence model led 'Operation Hillman' - which addresses issues of speeding, drunk/drug driving, documentary offences and other road safety issues, continued to be very successful with 58 local 'initiatives' being recorded which contributed to the above figures.

The Area Command promoted Road Safety through their School Liaison function and attendance at nurseries, encouraging children to be mindful of the need to 'Be Safe, Be Seen' and follow the guidance contained in the Young Person's Highway Code.

Notable Convictions:

1 drink driver disqualified for 6 years and ordered to carry out 200 hrs Community Service.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Information is being collated on a small number of repeat, anti-social offenders that have a detrimental effect on the quality of life in their locality. This information is being referred to the recently appointed Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, employed by CNES.

In response to concerns about increasing anti-social behaviour within Stornoway town centre, the Area Command successfully bid for funding from the Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership to finance additional Police patrols at weekends. 'Operation Harlequin' will provide high-viz uniformed Police patrols comprising of 2 officers for 4 hours each Friday and Saturday. This is an additional resource to normal operational manpower and these officers will not be subject to any other policing activity other than monitoring and responding to anti-social behaviour. Statistics will be recorded and collated to indicate the success of this initiative.

The now annual 'Choices for Life' music and drama show will be returning to Stornoway in June. The show is designed to be educational; mixing music and drama to offer serious messages to Primary 7 pupils on subjects ranging from drugs and alcohol misuse to bullying and peer pressure.

The Area Command has begun the year well (April 2007) in regard to achieving targets relating to Report submission times; 89% of Reports to Procurator Fiscal being submitted within 28 days, 87% of Reports to Childrens Reporter being submitted within 10 days and 95% of SPR8 charge code details being submitted within 5 days of caution and charge.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Issues of public order in the Western Isles mainly arise at licensed premises and at other 'one-off' licensed events. Western Isles Licensing Board, in accordance with long established protocols, advises Police of applications for licence renewals and occasional permissions. These are scrutinised and formal observations or objections made where there are notable concerns for public safety and peace. Furthermore, officers regularly supervise licensed functions to maintain public order and deter drink-induced offending.

In the next few months a number of agricultural shows will take place throughout Lewis and Harris. These events attract large crowds but need the minimum of Police presence as they are all well organised.

In July, Rangers Football Club visit Lewis to open the newly renovated football park at Claypark, Garrabost which hosts Point Football Club matches. A crowd of approximately 400-500 is expected.

The Celtic Festival takes place in Stornoway during mid-July and is also a well organised event. It attracts a large number of visitors to Lewis and usually passes without significant incident. 'Operation Harmonica' is being developed in consultation with the event organisers to ensure public safety.

Another musical event - Feis Barra - will take place in late July. It again is expected to be well attended and a Police presence will be in place, albeit little if any trouble is expected.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: **Caithness & Sutherland**

PERIOD: **From: 01/03/2007 To: 30/04/2007**

1. REDUCING CRIME

During the period under review the Area Command detection rate for crime at 31 March 2007 was 64% and as at 30 April 2007 was 44.3%. The local objective is to clear up 63% of all group 1 to 5 crimes and offences by the end of 2007/2008 in line with the force objective of a 63% detection rate. During the latter period, the Area Command experienced a high level of vandalism which goes some way to explain the low detection rate at the end of April. However a number of detections are expected in the near future.

On 11 April 2007, two 18 year old males were detained and subsequently arrested for the theft of a double barrelled shotgun from a farm in Halkirk. The shotgun was subsequently recovered at an address in Thurso and the two youths have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Wick.

Overnight on 16/17 March 2007 damage was caused to four separate premises in the Dornoch area. A 17 year old male has subsequently been reported to the Procurator Fiscal, Tain for these offences.

Caithness and Sutherland has recently implemented a Vandalism Action Plan aimed at reducing the number of vandalisms committed in the Area Command. This plan incorporates the elements education, prevention and enforcement. This has been implemented by school liaison officers giving an input on vandalism and its impact on the wider community to children aged 10 to 14 years. Dedicated patrols continue to be carried out by uniform and plain clothes officers targeting problem areas at peak times and also youths and underage drinking which appears to be a factor in many of the vandalisms reported and the associated anti-social behaviour.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The Area Command continues to see a rise in the number of drug related offences being detected. This has resulted in a number of persons being reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

During the period under review 30 stop/searches of persons were carried out with 6 proving positive. Five premises were also searched under warrant during this time with 4 of these proving positive. The value of drugs seized was £1661.

On 22 March two local men aged 29 and 18 years were sentenced to 4.5 years and 3 years respectively after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A & C drugs. This followed a successful operation carried out by the Area Command Proactive Team.

On 3 March 2007 a call was received by emergency services from a 30 year old female requesting an ambulance for her partner who had been stabbed in the throat. Police attended the home address in Wick and following enquiries the woman was arrested and placed in custody for attempted murder.

On 21 March a 37 year old man produced fraudulent documents to the court during a Sheriff and Jury trial for embezzlement. He was subsequently cautioned and charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice and a crime report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal at Wick.

An altercation took place on Meadow Lane, Thurso on 24 March 2007 where an assault led to a 32 year old man being charged with attempted murder. He appeared from custody at Wick Sheriff Court.

Other incidences of serious crime in the Area Command remain low with only 3 theft by housebreakings being reported during March and April. Of these 3 incidents 1 has been detected and the other two await results of forensic laboratory examinations.

3. SAFER ROADS

There have been 3 reports of serious road accidents in the Area Command during March and April. 67 persons have been breathalysed resulting in 11 drunk drivers being detected. No drug driving offences have been detected during this period.

The following information shows the numbers of persons detected for various road traffic offences during March and April:

Speeding - 38

Seatbelt offences - 31

Mobile phone offences - 5

Miscellaneous offences - 22

On 10 April 2007 a 36 year old Wick man collided with another vehicle on Bridge Street, Wick. The driver, who was drunk, was apprehended and subsequently found to be disqualified from driving.

Operation Junction, a local initiative, continued during March and April. The aim of this operation is to target all areas of Road Traffic law with an emphasis on anti-social behaviour using the powers available to the Police under the Anti-Social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004. Officers are also taking every opportunity whilst dealing with drivers to encourage responsible driver behaviour and to provide education and advice on maintaining vehicles in a road worthy condition.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Area Command as a whole continues to experience volume calls in relation to the perceived anti-social behaviour of youths and associated issues with underage drinking.

This is being addressed through the local vandalism action plan as explained above along with a new initiative developed by our local community safety officer: the Alcohol Marking Scheme. This scheme has been developed in conjunction with local off-sales premises and involves each shop being allocated a unique code which is then written, with UV pen, on bottles of beverages such as 'alcopops', ciders etc which appear to be the most popular drinks with youths. When underage drinkers are detected and the alcohol seized, the code can then be illuminated with UV light to discover the source of purchase. This should then assist further enquiries into who acquired the alcohol.

A number of local recidivists are presently under review by the Highland Council Anti-Social Behaviour investigation team. The Area Command is actively assisting the team wherever possible.

The Area Command also makes use of the Force's mobile CCTV vehicles during public events and the Camera Partnership vehicles assist in our attempts to reduce speed and road accidents.

The Area Command submission rate for crime reports currently stands at 73.8%. However recent changes in monitoring processes within the local crime management unit anticipate this level will exceed the Force objective of 80% in future.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

During March and April one racial incident was reported in the Command Area. This related to school children making comments on an internet chat room. The person who perceived this to be racist was not the intended recipient. The matter was thoroughly investigated and did not require the submission of a crime report.

85 reports of incidents of breach of the peace and 45 assaults were reported during the period under review. Caithness & Sutherland maintain detection rates well in excess of the Force objective.

The Area Command is due to host the following major events in the coming months namely, Wick Harbourfest, The Duke of Rothesay's annual visit to the Castle of Mey and the Scottish Amateur Golf Championship at Royal Dornoch Golf Course.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: **Ross, Cromarty & Skye**

PERIOD: **From: 01/03/07 To: 30/04/07**

1. REDUCING CRIME

During the reporting period the Area Command experienced an increased number of low value vandalisms, predominantly involving broken windows at school premises during the holiday period. However, many of these have since been detected and this was reflected in the end of year detection rate of 67.4% for class 1-5 crimes. This was due to the efforts of all staff in providing a robust and proactive policing method supported by an effective intelligence model.

Notably, in April, a large number of high value tools and plant were recovered in Dumbarton having been stolen from commercial premises in Contin and Lochluichart. Two men were arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal at Dingwall.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The Area Command continues to tackle drug dealing in a proactive and robust manner. During the reporting period over £8000 was siezed under the Proceeds of Crime legislation from several suspected drug dealers. Two men were arrested in the Muir of Ord area after being found in possession of dealing quantities of Cocaine and Ecstasy tablets and another male was found in possession of a quantity of Ecstasy tablets and several thousands of pounds in cash on the A9 at North Kessock. In addition to this a further 42 people were reported for drugs offences during this period.

In April, a major enquiry was undertaken in response to an allegation of sexual assault on a 15 year old female in Inver, Easter Ross. The enquiry involved 40 officers at its peak and a report is being prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.

3. SAFER ROADS

Road safety continued to be tackled proactively and a total of 95 road traffic offences were reporting during the period. 23 people were reported for drink/driving offences and one person for suspected drug/driving. Sadly, two people died as a result of a serious road traffic collision at Cullicudden on the Black Isle on 17th April involving one vehicle.

During the period an analysis of road traffic offences over the past 6 months was conducted and showed that 177 people were reported for offences of failing to insure against third party risk

and 32 people were reported for failing to produce evidence of insurance. Additionally, 47 vehicles were seized in respect of these insurance offences, several of which were deemed to be unroadworthy and were destroyed thereby removing potentially dangerous vehicles from the road.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Public protection issues, particularly in conjunction with other agencies, continued to challenge the Area Command. There were 36 joint child protection enquiries ranging from underage sex to assaults on children. Most concerning was the increase in cases involving the use of computers where predatory males sought out vulnerable young girls on sites such as Bebo and MSN Messenger. Several cases are ongoing and individuals have been or will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal in the near future. One notable case involved a 35 year old Ullapool man who was convicted of indecent assaults on teenage boys. He is currently awaiting sentencing.

The Area Command jointly hosted a very successful seminar on Domestic Abuse with Women's Aid which was well received by all who attended. The seminar gave the opportunity to raise awareness of the issue and show the public, through local media, how seriously the matter is treated. During the reporting period there were 53 Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the Police, the vast majority of which resulted in a person being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Additionally, the Area Command Community Safety Officer has undertaken a pioneering initiative aimed at encouraging Domestic Abuse offenders to address their own behaviour towards their partners. The 3 month pilot has now been extended for another 6 months due to the level of take-up by offenders.

The Area Co-ordinator now chairs the Ross & Cromarty Racial Diversity Group which has been considering issues in respect of effective response to the influx of eastern european migrants. Examples include the intention to offer to Police Officers, on a voluntary basis, places on forthcoming language courses in order to provide staff with basic language skills to help engage with this emerging community. Additionally, the Community Safety Officer will be involved in two forthcoming information days in Dingwall and Inverness for migrant workers.

During the period there were 56 reports of missing persons of which 9 were assessed as high risk and 11 related to abscondee from care. Notably, in April, a major search and enquiry was carried out across the Force area after the disappearance of a 51 year old man from Easter Ross due to concerns for his safety. Thankfully the man returned home safe and well.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Each sub-area of the Area Command has regularly carried out proactive public order initiatives targeting late night disorder and violence. During the reporting period the number of reported assaults showed a marked decrease from the previous period last year. There were 34 instances where alcohol was confiscated from young people and all licensed premises in the Area Command were also contacted and issued with a booklet for staff to remind them of their

obligations under the current Licensing legislation. Preliminary work has also been undertaken to establish a Ross-shire-wide Pubwatch scheme.

The Area Command continued to encourage the use of Anti-Social Behaviour powers in respect of the use of motor vehicles. Two vehicles were seized under these powers after drivers were warned regarding their behaviour and re-offended. The owners then had to pay over £100 to recover their vehicles.

During the reporting period planning was undertaken for a two-day Royal Visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to Lochcarron and Portree on 11th and 12th April. Additionally, planning was well underway for the two-day Skye Music Festival in May with a potential maximum of 16,000 attendees. The Area Command will also be providing staff for other large events such as Rockness, Belladrum and Runrig in addition to our own commitments to the Black Isle Show and Loopallu Music Festival in Ullapool.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Inverness

PERIOD: From: 01/03/2007 To: 30/04/2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

During the period in question the Area Command detection rate for crime stands at 60.5%. The force objective is to clear up 63% of all crimes and offences comprising groups 1-5 by the end of 2007/2008. The local objective is to clear up 62% of all crimes. Offences of Assault, Sexual Offences, Dishonesties and Vandalism were all investigated.

The review period has seen an increase of Housebreaking in the city in comparison to the same period last year. The majority of these incidents were detected at the time due to the initial response of the attending officers.

On the 10 March 2007 police investigated a Robbery at Culloden Road, Westhill, Inverness. A male person aged 15 years has been reported to the Childrens Panel.

On 14/15 April 2007 there were two serious assaults, one on Keppoch Road, Culloden, Inverness and one on Baron Taylor Street, Inverness. Both incidents were detected and persons reported to Procurator Fiscal Inverness.

Work is ongoing to improve police visibility in the six beats in the City with a focus upon partnership working. This has already been successful in the Hilton and Merkinch areas.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The detection rate for Domestic Housebreaking is 40%. The force objective is 50%.

Drug Trafficking continues to be a concern in the Area Command. During the period under review a 120 drug searches were carried out with 43 proving positive.

On the 3 March 2007 a male person was arrested in relation to a serious Domestic Assault in Kiltarlity. A male person has appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court and has been released on bail.

On the 17 April 2007 a male person reported that he had been robbed in the City Centre. Extensive police resources and enquiries were carried out and it transpired that the person fabricated the allegation, he was arrested and charged with wasting police time and has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal, Inverness.

Between the 24 April and 30 April 2007 a number of young females who were walking in Inverness were approached by a male in a motor car. The behaviour of this male was such that

all the females were distressed to varying degrees. An 18 year old male has been arrested and reported the Procurator Fiscal for these incidents. He is currently on bail.

On the 1 March 2007 a female was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment at Inverness Sheriff Court. This was in relation to an incident in which she assaulted two police officers by throwing two knives at them, fortunately neither were injured in any way.

On 29 March 2007 three males were sentenced to a total of 4 years imprisonment after they pled guilty to an assault and robbery charge. This was in relation to an incident in Kinmylies, Inverness.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the period under review there has been one serious road accident. There have been 74 Drink Drivers and 3 Drug Driving Offences.

Increased mobile patrols on the main arterial routes into the Command Area are carried out on a frequent basis. There was a particular focus on rural roads with increased visibility and enforcement activities.

Operation Navigate is an ongoing road traffic initiative focusing on Drink/Drug Driving, Disqualified Drivers, the wearing of seatbelts and Speeding Offences.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Youth calls continue to be resource intensive in the Command Area. Part of this could be attributed to the recent school holidays.

Youths congregating and underage drinking appear to be the main issues. Work is ongoing to develop a "ring round" facility for the neighbourhood watch schemes.

The use of the mobile CCTV equipment is deployed primarily at the weekends to hotspot areas which are addressed through the Daily Tactical Tasking process.

Initiatives are ongoing with the Inverness Crime Prevention Panel and Safe Inverness. Operation Notebook is an ongoing operation which increases public reassurance and confidence and safety of the community. An additional Community Beat Officer was appointed in Hilton, Raigmore and Drakies beat. There was also an additional officer appointed for Merkinch and Longman beat and this is already showing positive benefits.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

During the period there were 149 Assaults reported and 10 assaults on police. There were also 259 reported incidents of Breach of the Peace. The assaults on police officers fortunately were of a minor nature and no officer required formal medical treatment as a result of these incidents.

The police are also enforcing Curfew Checks/Bail Offences/Apprehension Warrants. This is an ongoing issue.

Operation Notebook is the Area Command operation which covers Public Order.

During the coming months there are major events planned in the Command Area which include Rock Ness, Elton John Concert, Belladrum Music Festival and the Runrig Concert.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD REPORT

AREA COMMAND: **Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn**

PERIOD: **From: 01/03/07 To: 30/04/07**

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Area command detection rate is currently 57.4%, against a Force average of 56.6%, with the biggest problem being that of vandalism. This is in keeping with the trend throughout the Force area. There have been some good detections, particularly in the Nairn and Boat of Garten areas, where youngsters were causing particular problems and, indeed, in one particular case the youngsters actually made good the damage done and apologised to local Community representatives.

This period has seen the launch of Op Magma in the Area Command. This aims to reduce youth disorder whilst recognising alcohol abuse as a major contributory factor. It also involves inputs at schools and visits and support to licensed premises. On 25/03/07 two males were arrested for smashing windows, Housebreaking and resisting arrest after being pursued by officers and members of the public in Grantown on Spey. On 13/04/07 three males were apprehended in Nairn when they were caught setting fire to the public toilets. On 22/03/07 two other males had similarly been caught for similar offences. This period also saw two men both given 160 hours Community Service Orders having been found guilty of drug dealing in the Nairn area.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Operation Matron continues to produce results. This is an operation by all mainland Area Commands focussing on the A9 and A96, main arterial routes into the Force area. This has seen drugs seized, stolen property recovered, disqualified drivers and persons arrested on warrant. This was in recognition of the Area Command having two of the three main access/egress routes to the Force area.

During March a spate of 'break-ins' and vandalisms occurred on the west side of Nairn. Following extensive enquiries two males were arrested and charged with several offences. On 15/04/07, following a report of young girls missing from Inverness, a 64 year old male in the Auldrean area was charged with sexual offences, in the Auldearn area, after he had taken them in for the night.

During this period a male from Nairn was sentenced to 1 year's probation and 80 hours community service having been charged with domestic violence offences. Another male was given 150 hours Community Service and placed on the Sex Offenders Register as a result of his sexual relationship with a 15 year old girl.

3. SAFER ROADS

As well as Operation Matron, we have run Initiatives with the 'Boy Racers' from Grantown and Kingussie. This saw input from Police as well as representatives from the 'Pass Plus' scheme and Institute for Advanced Motorists. There has also been an offer to attend the 'skid pan' in Elgin for those who attended this Initiative, all to improve and enhance the driving abilities and awareness of the young drivers. This has been well attended and well received.

This period saw several drivers sentenced for drink driving offences, ranging from 3 months imprisonment, £500 fines, to 18 months disqualification.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Following a series of complaints regarding anti-social behaviour by youths in Kingussie a meeting was organised at Kingussie Police Station involving complainers, youth representatives, youth workers and Community Council member. An action plan was drawn up to which everybody agreed. A further meeting is planned for the end of May. However, all indications are that there has been a major improvement with little or no complaints being received during this period.

The Balmakeith area of Nairn was, again, visited by a large group of Travelling Persons and they were moved on by landowners and Police using powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Although we were again successful, it is not an ideal situation and one which may well get worse. To this end landowners have been requested to take steps to make their land less accessible and this work is currently ongoing. The position will be monitored.

We are looking to address the issue of underage drinking by means of a 'bottle marking' scheme. This was used successfully in Caithness and it is believed could be effective here also. In essence, it enables police to identify where alcohol originated from, having been seized from young offenders. On 21/04/07 a male was arrested in Grantown for serious assault, after badly beating another male, in a lane off the High Street. Also during this period a male was sentenced to 200 hours Community Service for assault to injury and disfigurement.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

The two main public events forthcoming in this area will be the World Orienteering Championships at Grantown and the Rothiemurchus 'Outside' Event.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Lochaber

PERIOD: From: 01/03/2007 To: 30/04/2007

1. REDUCING CRIME

Members of Lochaber Pubwatch continue to meet on a monthly basis where incidents of anti-social behaviour within licensed premises are dealt with by offenders being banned from member premises. This has proven to be an excellent deterrent and has resulted in a decrease in calls to licensed premises. All premises within the Fort William town centre are members.

Presentations on the 'Get Real' DVD are being delivered to local schools and the protocol with under-age drinkers is reinforced. This also provides an opportunity to address the issue of attendant anti-social behaviour. Anti-Social behaviour continues to be one of the main areas of concern from residents throughout Lochaber and continues to be addressed through our partnership working on the Anti-Social Behaviour Group, Community Wardens, liaison with the District Procurator Fiscal and enforcing the Persistent Offender protocol.

Following the Vandalism initiative where a play was delivered to Primary 7, Secondary 1 and 2 pupils, vandalism will be the theme at this year's Lochaber Safe Highlander Event. Opportunities to highlight ongoing vandalism issues were explored with the local media.

Through joint working with Lochaber Women's Aid, victims of Domestic Abuse continue to be visited and ongoing support and advice given. Liaison with the local Housing Department who implement security recommendations help to reduce incidents of repeat offenders gaining access to the victim's home.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

During the year ending 31st March 2007, Lochaber Area Command achieved a clear up rate of Class 1 - 5 crime of 67.3%

On 20th March, officers were called to an apparent serious assault in the Caol area. One male was detained and another was rushed to hospital with a serious, life threatening leg injury. As enquiries progressed, a third male was found, deceased, within a nearby house. Two males are now on remand charged with Murder.

On 24th March, a local man was found seriously injured outside the Shinty Club in Fort William. He had sustained a fractured skull. Two other local men were detained on suspicion of Attempted Murder. Enquiries are continuing.

On 27th April, a report was received from a Fort William pensioner to the effect that in excess of £40,000 had been stolen from his bank account. A positive line of enquiry is being pursued.

Following a number of complaints received throughout the Force Area from females reporting that they had been in receipt of a number of anonymous sexualised telephone calls, enquiries were carried out jointly in Lochaber and Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn. This resulted in a Portuguese male being identified working in the South of England. Officers executed a warrant at his place of work and detained the individual. He appeared in court in Inverness from custody and is currently on Bail.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the period under review, there were 9 slight injury road accidents and 50 non-injury road accidents in Lochaber Command Area. There were no fatal or serious road accidents recorded. 26 drivers were subjected to breath test procedures 9 of whom were over the prescribed limit. One disqualified driver was detected

Nightly anti-crime road checks continue to be carried out throughout the Command Area as well as regular inter-force initiatives and joint checks with partner agencies and indeed neighbouring Police Forces (Strathclyde and Central Scotland). All of these initiatives are conducted to detect travelling criminals and drug dealers; enforce road traffic legislation and provide reassurance to the thousands of law abiding drivers travelling to or passing through Lochaber.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

During the period under review under-age drinkers were pro-actively targeted. 16 incidents of under-age persons being in possession of alcohol were recorded. This equates to a total of 66 youths who were spoken to by police having been found in possession of alcohol or in a group, out of doors where alcohol was readily available. This is an ongoing initiative which will have a positive impact on all of the other areas of review in this report.

The new Kilmallie Police Station was opened in Caol by former Chair of the NJPB, Mrs Janet Home, and Councillor Olwyn MacDonald. Constable Bradley O'Neil was presented with the Ewen MacRae Memorial Trophy of the Year Award in recognition for the work carried out by him in the Kilmallie area, particularly a football initiative which diverted offenders from anti-social behaviour.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Continued use and enforcement of ASBO legislation and curfews/restriction of liberty orders is sending a message throughout the communities that public disorder will not be tolerated.