

# NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

14 SEPTEMBER 2007

Agenda Item	
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## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICE UNIT

1 MAY TO 31 JULY 2007

### Report by the Chief Constable

#### UNIT OVERVIEW.

The Operational Support Service Unit comprises the following Sections, which are based at Police Headquarters and Burnett Road Police Station, Inverness; Dingwall Police Office and the NSCP Office, Tain. In addition, one officer from the Community Safety Section is seconded to the Highland Council Anti Social Behaviour Team in Inverness.

- Community Safety.
- Dogs Section
- Drugs & Alcohol Co-ordinator
- Emergency Planning
- Firearms
- Northern Safety Camera Partnership(NSCP)
- Road Policing Section, inc. Road Safety.
- Special Constables co-ordinator

Our work during the period was focused on the strategic aims of the Chief Constable. The following is a resume of our work.

#### REDUCING CRIME

Area Commands on the mainland have continued to utilise the technical equipment purchased by the Community Safety Department to assist with the detection and prevention of crime.

The mobile CCTV unit, while continuing to be used on a weekly basis within Inverness, has also been utilised at a number of high profile music festivals, including Rockness, Skye Music Festival and the Hebridean Celtic Festival in the Western Isles. Following the arrival of additional equipment and the training of staff within the Community Safety Department, the vehicle is now fully enabled for utilising the Automatic NumberPlate Recognition system (ANPR). This system was fully tested while the vehicle was deployed on the A9 over the weekend of the 'Outsiders' Event at Rothiemurchus.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July, Community Safety Officers assisted along with Highland Council staff and other agencies in a Street Athletics Event at Ness Walk, Inverness. Street Athletics is organised by "Nuff Respect", which involves international athletes Linford Christie and Darren Campbell. Their aim is to promote athletics amongst children who would not normally be involved in organised activities diverting them from anti social behaviour and criminal activity. Both Linford Christie and Darren Campbell were in Inverness for the event, which attracted over 100 young people between the

ages of 8 and 20 to take part in a 60-metre race. The winners of the different age groups will now participate in a National final on the 8<sup>th</sup> September in Dundee.

The work of the officer seconded to the Highland Council Anti –Social behaviour Unit also continued with him providing the link between the Constabulary and Highland Council for information sharing. A number of individuals were or are currently being processed for Anti-Social Behaviour legislation sanctions.

## **TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

The Firearms Section Officers were involved in four Royal Visits to the Force Area. Firearms and Roads Policing officers also contributed to the enhanced security at Inverness airport in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Glasgow by providing armed patrols. Dogs Section officers as well as other staff also contributed to this emergency response.

Preparations are currently being progressed for two future Royal visits as well as the continued delivery of a full firearms training programme for all officers.

## **SAFER ROADS**

Unfortunately during the period, the following fatal road traffic accidents occurred:-

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007 a 2 vehicle road traffic collision occurred on the A9 Inverness – Perth road at Meadowside, Kincaig. Involved were a car and a van. As a result of the collision the 18 year old male driver of the car sustained fatal injuries.

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007 a one-vehicle road traffic collision took place on the B9177 road at Balvonie Cottage, Inverness. Involved were a car driven by 17year old man from Inverness. He was accompanied by 3 other people aged 15, 14 and 16 years. As a result of the collision the 15 year old passenger sustained fatal injuries.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 a 1 vehicle road traffic collision occurred on the A970 Lerwick to Brae road approx. ½ mile north of South Nesting junction. Involved was a motorcycle being driven by 22 year old local man, who sustained fatal injuries as a result.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2007 a one vehicle road traffic collision occurred on the B9169 Culbokie – Cromarty road. Involved was a quad bike being driven by local 51 year old man. As a result of this incident the man sustained fatal injuries.

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007 a 1-vehicle road accident occurred on the A894 roadway at Scourie, Sutherland. Involved was a 1000cc motorcycle driven by a 39 year old man. The man unfortunately sustained fatal injuries.

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007 a one vehicle road traffic collision occurred on the A970 road near Brindister Quarry, Shetland. Involved was a motorcycle driven by 51 year old man. As a result the male sustained fatal injuries.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 a pedal cycle accident happened on an unclassified road at Kingussie. The 44 year old female rider sustained fatal injuries. No other vehicle was involved.

In each case full accident investigations were carried out and reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

It should be noted however that overall serious and slight injury accidents and casualties fell during the period.

Officers from Roads Policing also co-ordinated and took part in the following ACPOS National Campaigns:-

MAY 11-13 Rural Roads  
MAY 21-25 Walk to School

JUNE 22 Seatbelt/Speeding  
JUNE 18-24 Child Safety Week

JULY 16-29 Summer Drink/Drug driving

Each of these campaigns focussed on a particular issue to highlight road safety matters to the public. During the Summer Drink/Drug Driving Campaign, all Forces fully supported a pilot project during which officers breathalysed not only drivers who were suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or having being involved in a road accident collision but also all drivers who committed a moving traffic offence. This new initiative sought to highlight all legal procedures available to officers to deal with drink driving offences.

Within the Force area over the period of the campaign, a total of 33 drivers were detected drink driving and 2 drivers were detected drug driving.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007 Northern Constabulary Road Policing Officers were invited to Mitchell's Motorcycle's Open Day in Inverness to promote Bikesafe and Bikeaid. 53 motorcyclists signed up for the training on the day and requests continue to be made to Bikesafe website for additional training places.

Bikesafe/Bikeaid courses took place in Dingwall in July 2007, with more courses arranged for August and September in Shetland and Western Isles.

### **Northern Safety Camera Partnership (NSCP)**

The recent introduction of an additional camera system to assist in the detection of speeding motorcyclists has proved effective with detections having been made for alleged speeds in excess of 100mph.

The move to Grant Funding of the Partnership from the Scottish Executive has been concluded and a budget set sufficient to enable the continued operation of the Partnership. The Grant levels have been set for two years and this has enabled a move to two-year Staff Contracts thus increasing stability within the Partnership Staffing.

A capital grant was also allocated and this will enable the Partnership to upgrade equipment to Digital technology, giving increased reliability for future operations.

During the period of review, NSCP vehicles were deployed on sites for a total of 293.3 hrs. As a result of this activity, a total of 1860 Notices of Intended Prosecution were issued, together with 1613 Conditional offers of Fixed Penalty

## **SAFER COMMUNITIES**

During May 2007, officers from the Community Safety Department along with a number of partner agencies were involved in delivering the Safe Highlanders event in Inverness. This event is aimed at primary 7 schoolchildren and is an educational programme promoting safety in relation to roads, railways, fire, building sites and farms. There is also a practical demonstration on the impact and effects of vandalism. This event was also run at a number of other venues around the Force Area. Over 2,500 children attended these events.

The Choices for Life 2007 events (Lifestyle and Drugs misuse education) took place across the Force Area during the latter part of May and the first weeks of June 2007 (three events over three days in Inverness, and one day per Island). The venues this year were the Leisure Centre, Inverness and the leisure complexes at Stornoway and Kirkwall. Shetland schools were unable to take part this year due to a clash of dates and their usual packed curriculum for the schools precluding alternatives. For the first time, thanks to increased capacity afforded by the use of the Leisure Centre at Inverness, we were able to offer places to schools from Moray with 26 taking up the offer, some attending for the first time. This boosted the audience at Inverness over the three days to 2,500 P7s plus teachers. Add to this the Islands events and some 3,500 P7 children received the messages covering drugs, alcohol, smoking, bullying, and peer pressure. Funding was provided by The Scottish Executive for this year's event and we are hopeful that their support will continue. Work has begun on the 2008 events, with the dates set and the venues booked. We will see Shetland schools at next year's event, with an enhanced audience of those who missed out this year. Feedback from teachers and pupils leaving the events has been excellent.

Emergency Planning staff held multi-agency tabletop exercises in advance of the Rockness and Outsider music festivals to test the arrangements in place to deal with a range of likely emergencies. Staff also participated in the following exercises:

- Benbecula Airport Liveplay Exercise 20/06/07
- Animal Health Exercise at Inverness 27/06/07

Planning is in progress for Force participation in the following major incident exercises:

- Exercise Lonestar – strategic level 12/09/07
- Severe Weather Tabletop Exercise, Benbecula 05/09/07
- Wick Airport Liveplay Exercise 20/09/07
- Animal Health Exercise 24/09/07
- Inverness Airport Liveplay Exercise 25/09/07
- Stornoway Airport Tabletop Exercise 26/09/07

**I Latimer**  
**Chief Constable**