

# NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

30 MARCH 2007

Agenda Item	
Report No	

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICE UNIT JANUARY to MARCH 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.

#### SUSTAINABLE CRIME REDUCTION

Throughout 2006/07, Northern Constabulary participated in the ACPOS sponsored Safer Scotland Violence Reduction campaign. Force involvement was co-ordinated by Operational Support personnel assisted by staff from media Services.

Throughout the campaign various violence reduction themes were addressed and specific operations focusing on knives, alcohol, warrants and violence in general were completed. All operations were reported upon to the Safer Scotland Violence Reduction Unit [VRU] and highlighted through the media. During the period under review, specific operations were targeted at enforcing outstanding warrants; knife and offensive weapons offences as well as certain offences related to alcohol consumption by persons under 18 years of age and in public places.

An evaluation report from the VRU is currently being compiled; however it is expected that continuance of the campaign into 2007/08 will happen. Plans are currently being considered to incorporate our response into next year's plans.

During the course of the year, technical equipment was acquired by the Community Safety Section and deployed to Area Commands, to address crimes of dishonesty and anti-social behaviour. Through the deployment of this equipment a number of

successful operations have been run, which have not only had an impact on the detection of theft, but also a number of other crimes.

The most significant equipment, which was delivered following funding being made from the Scottish Executive, is a new seven camera Mobile CCTV Unit. This vehicle, which is available for deployment across the Force, will assist in the detection and prevention of crime in areas which do not have permanent CCTV. To maximise operational effectiveness of this equipment, a team of 8 Special Constables have been trained to staff the vehicle, thereby minimising abstractions from routine operational staffing, yet enhancing the capability of our Special Constabulary. The operation was the subject of a successful media launch supported by Orcadian TV personality Cameron Stout.

### **EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF CRIMINALITY IN RESPECT OF SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME**

Our Dog Section currently operate two drugs detection dogs. These were made available along with a handler for all requests from Area Commands to assist at drugs searches during the period of the review.

The drugs dogs were active in a number of Area Commands and recovered drugs in Brora, Golspie, Dingwall, Alness, Broadford, Wick, Inverness, Aviemore and Nairn.

The amount of drugs seized varied from personal amounts to larger quantities.

Our Firearms range facility upgrade was completed and now has the capability to offer higher specification training for our firearms officers.

### **SAFER ROADS WITH REDUCED DEATHS, INJURY AND CRIME**

Unfortunately during the period the following fatal road traffic accidents occurred;

A two-vehicle fatal road collision occurred about 1140 hours, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2007, on the A82 north of the Clansman Hotel. A Vauxhall Vectra motor car and Citroen ZX motor car collided. The front seat passenger in the Citroen was a 24-year old Dutch female who sustained fatal injuries. The drivers of both vehicles were not seriously injured. Enquiries are continuing into the cause of this collision.

A one-vehicle fatal road collision occurred about 1830 hours, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2007, on the A82 at Tigh Phuirt, Glencoe. A Citroen C4 motor car collided with a pedestrian on the carriageway. The 78-year-old male pedestrian sustained fatal injuries. Enquiries continue.

A one-vehicle fatal road collision occurred about 2140 hours, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007, on the A86 west of Kingussie. A Rover 25 motor car left the carriageway and struck a tree. The 20-year-old male front seat passenger of the vehicle sustained fatal injuries. Enquiries continue.

At 0814 hours on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February a single motor vehicle and passenger train collision occurred on the unclassified Barbraville-Delny road at the Delny Rail Crossing. As a result two 17-year-old male passengers in the Ford Fiesta motor car

sustained fatal injuries and the driver of the Fiesta was seriously injured. No occupants of the two-carriage train were injured. Enquiries continue with BTP and the Rail Accident Investigation Branch.

At 0830 hours on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February a single vehicle collision took place on the A851 Duisdealmore Road, Skye, when a 47-year-old male Roadworker was struck by a 4-wheeled 360-degree excavator. The male was removed to Raigmore Hospital but died from his injuries. HSE attended the scene along with police and enquiries continue.

At 2215 hours on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2007 a Volkswagen motor car and pedal cycle collision occurred on the A96 at Sandown Road, Nairn. The 15-year-old male pedal cyclist unfortunately sustained fatal injuries. Enquiries continue.

During the year Apr 2006 – to date, Northern Safety Camera Partnership staff were deployed for a total of 738.5 hrs at the identified deployment sites This led to the issue of 4640 Conditional Offers Fixed Penalty so far this year.

Work by the Partnership Communications Manager during the period has led to a substantial increase in marketing of Partnership Operations with several instances of positive media coverage being achieved.

An analysis of accidents was made which showed 25% of fatalities during the preceding year to have been motorcyclists. Although not possible in all cases to ascribe speeding as a contributory factor, it was recognised that efforts should be directed to attempting to enforce speeding legislation against motorcyclists. To this end both Partnership Camera Vans were equipped with multi camera equipment systems to enable detection of speeding motorcyclists.

Furthermore, Roads Policing Officers participated in a number of Road Safety initiatives as follows;

A Pilot of 'Driving Ambition', which is a multi-agency educational event targeting young drivers, was delivered at Invergordon Academy and Golspie High School on 21/22 February 2007. It is hoped this can be extended to other schools later this year. Work is ongoing to achieve this.

The ACPOS Festive Safety campaign ran from 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 with high visibility patrols and multi-vehicle roadside checks at key times. Weekly radio adverts and weekly press releases on figures and trends compared to previous year figures.

Our officers also carried out site safety audits of all fatal collision locations, along with personnel from Scotland Transerv and BEAR (Scotland).

In addition to these safety audits, all road hazard reports submitted by patrol officers were processed and forwarded to the Trunk roads contractors and Local Authorities within 5 working days of receipt. This is intended to pre-empt any safety issues before accidents occur.

Our Community Safety officers also delivered forty educational inputs to approximately 3000 youths throughout the year. This has been achieved through involvement in the Safe Highlander events at Inverness, Fort William, Wick and Portree.

Our officers were also involved in the marketing of road safety issues through the media. A series of 9 weeks of radio adverts on MFR commenced in September and ran until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

A series of nine 1-week radio adverts also were aired throughout the winter on MFR and island commercial radio stations for the 4-week festive safety campaign dates.

Finally, two-week radio adverts were aired on MFR from 27<sup>th</sup> February highlighting the increase in mobile phone offence penalties.

### **PUBLIC RE-ASSURANCE IN THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITIES**

In our 2006/07 Policing Plan we set a target to provide 10 deployments of the mobile CCTV system to assist Area Commands to respond to public disorder and anti social behaviour.

This action has been achieved with a total of 99 deployments so far throughout the year of the Mobile Display Vehicle. This is further complemented by 8 deployments of the new purpose-built 7 camera Mobile CCTV Vehicle.

We also set a target for our Constable working within the Highland Council Anti-Social Behaviour team to respond to 100% of requests made for intelligence packages on named individuals to progress anti social behaviour order applications. To date, all requests have been met and the necessary information supplied for ASBO applications.

Our Emergency Planning Staff assisted at the following exercises to prepare our major incident preparedness;

- ◆ National pandemic influenza - 16, 19, 20/02/07
- ◆ Caledonian canal - 28/02/07

We also committed to produce and publish a Community Risk Register to meet the requirements of the Civil Contingencies legislation. Northern Constabulary, along with multi-agency partners in the Highlands & Islands Strategic Co-ordinating Group, has now produced a Community Risk register which has been published on the Force website.

Finally, the Dogs Section carried out 41 talks, demonstrations and presentations to interest groups. These have included Contact the Elderly, Support Staff induction, Fortrose Gala, Portree High School, Kinlochbervie High School, Avoch Brownies, Farr High School and Drummond School.