

**NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**29 January 2010**

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

**I Latimer  
Chief Constable  
18 January 2010**

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Shetland**

**PERIOD: From: 1 October 2009 To: 31 December 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

Over the period commencing 1 October 2009 until the end of December 2009 there has been a decrease in dishonesties from 85 in 2008 to 76 this year and in reported Vandalisms from 73 in 2008 to 55 this year. This is a positive trend which we will work hard to maintain. There has been a 5% reduction in overall reported crime which equates to 35 less victims.

The overall detection rate remains very good for class 1-5 crimes, at 67.8 %.

Due to the successful bid for funding under the 'Safer Streets' initiative there has been an increase in officer numbers during peak times as well as enhanced intelligence led foot and mobile patrols targeting anti social behaviour, drink driving and underage drinking. This will continue during the next quarter.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

Serious crime remains low in Shetland. A continued focus on controlled drugs has resulted in a number of excellent detections.

On 16/10/09, following receipt of intelligence a 28 year old male was stopped as he disembarked a flight from Glasgow to Sumburgh airport. He was found to have heroin with a street value of approximately £17,000. This man is currently in custody, awaiting trial.

On 19/10/09, following receipt of intelligence a 23 year old male and 21 year old female were stopped as they disembarked the Aberdeen – Lerwick Northlink ferry. They were each found to have heroin with a combined street value of approximately £28,000. These individuals are currently in custody, awaiting trial.

On 10/12/09, a suspicious house fire occurred in Lerwick, Bigton. Following enquiry, a 20 year old male has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 11/12/09, Shetland Officers took part in Operation Shield, where intelligence-led drugs warrants were enforced at 8 dwellings in Shetland. No significant seizures were made, however intelligence was gathered and indications are that significant disruption was caused to a number of individuals involved in the supply of controlled drugs. Dwellings in the areas around targeted properties were subsequently issued with leaflets explaining the need for such operations, and encouraging continued community involvement, through intelligence submissions. This has been well received.

On 12/12/09, Officers took part in a local pro-active operation, in partnership with the local charity Dogs Against Drugs, where drugs sniffer dogs were deployed in a number of licensed premises in Lerwick, accompanied by uniformed Officers. No significant seizures resulted, however the community impact and feedback was considerable and positive.

A 46 year old Shetland male, previously reported for drugs offences, following the first Area drugs enforcement day in September, was sentenced to 3 and a half years imprisonment. This had a considerable community impact on the local drugs scene and was reported extensively.

A 35 year old male, previously reported for conveying heroin and Fluoroamphetamine (class A) and Benzopiperazine tablets, with a combined approximate street value of £20,000, was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment at Lerwick Sheriff Court.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

During the period under review road collisions have remained low in Shetland. There has been a slight increase in collisions as a result of the cold conditions during December.

There was one serious injury collision involving a pedestrian and a vehicle in Lerwick Town.

A total number of eight drivers were arrested for drink driving which is a slight reduction from the same period last year.

Police officers have continued to deliver the road safety message within Shetland schools as well as carrying out considerable proactive work in relation to road safety by way of both education and enforcement.

Work involving police, education, the Shetland Islands Council Road Safety Officer, HIFRS and other agencies is continuing with the envisaged running of the Driving Ambitions scheme in Shetland during September/October 2010. This scheme is designed to educate 17 and 18 year olds who are either already learning to drive or who will be starting to learn in the near future.

Plans are at an advanced stage to appoint a part time traffic warden. This post will assist us in dealing with better flow of traffic and traffic education issues especially in the schools.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

We continue to work with our partners to ensure a safe and secure environment within Shetland.

The public space CCTV system for Lerwick was hoped to be completed by the time of

this report but unfortunately technical difficulties have prevented this from occurring. Work is continuing with the company providing the system and they have provided solutions to these technical issues. It is anticipated that they will return to Shetland during January 2010 and the system will then be able to go operational.

The events being run by halls have seen a marked improvement since the implementation of the good practice guidelines and we will continue to work with the Halls Committees and the licensing authorities during the coming months, including the period of local fire festivals to ensure that these events continue to be run in a safe and secure environment

The management rules in relation to the Viking Bus Station have now been implemented and early indications are that these rules along with other work is easing the issues felt within this area.

Good inter-agency work has taken place with the Anti Social Behaviour Team within the council to deal with noisy neighbours. As a result of information exchange fixed penalty fines have been issued by the council for some council house residents who have not heeded warnings about loud music.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Over the review period we have continued our practice of carrying out "High Visibility" targeted patrols along with joint working where officers have teamed up with Neighbourhood Support Workers. The issues and problem areas are identified through local and Divisional daily meetings and through the Tactical Assessment that is produced by the Divisional N.I.M unit in Wick.

We have been successful in our application for funding from the Scottish Government through the "Safer Streets" initiative for 2009/10 and this grant has begun to be used and will continue to be used into 2010 in connection with the carrying out of increased High Visibility Policing during peak times as well as the intelligence led targeting of underage drinkers, enhanced working with other agencies and targeting of drink drivers.

Child protection incidents have remained on par with the previous period with Shetland having recorded 28% of the total incidents within the Division.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Orkney**

**PERIOD: From: 1 October 2009 To: 31 December 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

During the period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009, reported crime rates have varied for the different types. There has been an increase in dishonesties from 169 in 2008 to 182 this year. There has been a rise in crimes of violence, which although an issue, has been met with a high detection rate. Figures in respect of reported vandalisms are down in comparison to the same period in 2008, from 48 to 38. Vandalisms continue to be an area of focus, and as a Division we are addressing the issue with an Anti Crime Initiative.

The crime rate overall remains low with a 12.6 % decrease so far this year which equates to 61 less victims. The detection rate remains very good at 67.3%

Proactively, as a Command Area, we continue to promote foot patrol to increase our profile within the community and provide public reassurance. We are also proactive in preventing and detecting Crime by introducing an Anti Crime Initiative and an intelligence led operation, which both compliment each other and help build an intelligence picture as to who and what goes on in our community.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009, following a receipt of intelligence, a warrant was executed at the home address of a 22 year old male. During the search of his dwelling a personnel quantity of controlled drugs were recovered.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009, a report was received at Kirkwall Police Station that a male had been stabbed to the chest while drinking in a flat within Kirkwall. Enquiry was carried out and a female detained and interviewed and subsequently arrested. This woman has appeared at court where she was sentenced to 20 months imprisonment.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009, a report was received at Kirkwall Police Station that a male had been stabbed to the chest while within a flat within Kirkwall. Enquiry was carried out and a female detained and interviewed and subsequently arrested. The female is still awaiting trial.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009, following enquiries into a series of thefts committed locally, a 19 year old male was identified, traced and interviewed. The male was subsequently arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Kirkwall for 32 different charges, which he pled guilty to, and now awaits sentence.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009, following enquiries into a series of Housebreakings committed locally, a 16 year old male, a 18 year old male and a 19 year old male,

were detained, interviewed, and subsequently arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Kirkwall for incidents of housebreakings committed locally. All three males appeared from custody and pled guilty for the offences libelled.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

The commitment to ensure the safety of all who use Orkney's roads remains a priority for all staff within the Area Command.

During the review period a total of 35 non-injury road traffic collisions were recorded although it must be stressed that sixteen of those (46%) related directly to adverse road conditions brought about by the current period of extremely cold weather. Only one injury collision was recorded, relating to an ambulance engaged on an emergency call leaving the carriageway due to black ice. Despite extensive damage to the vehicle the crew of two escaped with only one suffering a minor whiplash injury.

Patrols to combat drink driving focused on both rural and urban routes with 126 drivers breath tested. 4 motorists were subsequently arrested and processed after providing positive samples.

A further individual was also arrested after refusing to provide a sample of breath following a minor road traffic collision.

Besides drink driving, officers also addressed a wide range of other offences:  
Failing to wear a seatbelt: 3 ; Speeding: 10 ; Using mobile 'phone whilst driving: 2 ;  
Lights and other construction and use offences: 13 ; No valid MoT certificate: 9 ;  
No insurance: 5 ; No Vehicle Excise Licence: 3 ; Invalid Driving Licence: 1

A further 81 vehicles were stopped and checked but no offences were detected.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

The Area Command responded to 8 incidents of domestic abuse within the review period, five (62%) of which resulted in the perpetrator being arrested and prosecuted. One incident in particular proved serious owing to the injuries sustained by the woman experiencing the abuse. As a result a number of protective measures have been initiated following the accused being released on bail.

Orkney Domestic Abuse Forum, in which the Area Command is actively represented, is presently preparing its new Action Plan for 2010/11.

Through both the local and divisional Tactical Tasking process, officers continue to focus any proactive time on patrolling identified hotspots within the locality. Specifically these relate to addresses/areas with a recent history of anti-social behaviour (noise nuisance and rowdy youths). During the course of patrols 15 persons under the age of 18 years were traced in possession of alcohol and a further 2 in possession of tobacco within public places.

The Kirkwall Pub Watch initiative has received funding from the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership that will enable the purchase of a link radio system that will enable immediate notification to licensed premises of specific problem individuals. A draft operation protocol has now been developed by the management committee and it is anticipated that the scheme should be operational in the near future.

#### Protracted Missing Person Enquiry

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009 Mark Duffy (22) was lost overboard the fishing vessel M/V Noronya approximately 13 nautical miles north west of the Brough of Birsay, Orkney Islands. Since that time Orkney police have worked alongside colleagues from the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA), RAF, Garda Siochana and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) to carry out a full investigation into the circumstances of the incident where Mr Duffy was lost overboard. This entailed interviews with crew members, all personnel concerned in the search operation and numerous others both here and in Eire. The enquiry has been led by Crime Management personnel in Orkney and although not working full-time on this enquiry currently have spent a high percentage of working hours dedicated to this enquiry to ensure that all aspects are covered. Throughout enquiries close contact has been maintained with Mr Duffy's family in Eire

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

Although comparatively uncommon in Orkney, hate crimes are not unknown. Two individuals have been reported in separate incidents (one a juvenile) in relation to racially motivated abuse towards people of Asian origin. Representing 0.1 crime per 1,000 of Orkney's population (20,000) this equals only 25 % of the Force target of 0.4 hate crimes per 1000 of population.

Quite apart from addressing unacceptable behaviour in public places, Area Command officers, in partnership with Orkney Islands Council and Orkney Housing Association Ltd., continue to engage with the ongoing problem caused by householders playing loud music and hosting noisy parties.

During the period under review, a total of four individuals agreed to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, the majority relative to noise nuisance incidents at their home addresses. One person remains subject to an Interim Antisocial Behaviour Order, which to date has resulted in no further incidents being logged.

Traditionally problematic dates such as Hallowe'en and Hogmanay (Kirkwall street gathering) passed peacefully without any significant concerns being raised.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Western Isles**

**PERIOD: From: 1 October 2009 To: 31 December 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The Western Isles detection rate for crimes 1 to 5 is currently at 70.6% against the Force average of 61.2%.

Of particular note is the reduction in crimes of indecency, dishonesty and public order compared to the same period last year.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

The following relates to the more serious and protracted of incidents during the review period.

- 3 incidents of fire raising were reported and detected: 1 relates to a private dwelling in Stornoway and the other 2, again in Stornoway, relate to cars set on fire.
- A 41 year old male was apprehended in Leverburgh following a disturbance at his home address. Negotiators and firearms officers both locally and from the mainland were deployed during this protracted incident.
- A 24 year old male was apprehended at a dwelling in Barra after being seen wandering about Castlebay with a firearm and making threats to public and Police Officers.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

Drink driving continues to be targeted and 9 individuals have been arrested over the period. Only 1 case occurred as a result of a road accident.

The Community Safety officer continues to work closely with CnES and partners in addressing road traffic issues.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

An 18 year old male has been reported for theft of 2 motor vehicles which were thereafter recovered in the sea. These incidents are of particular concern due to the manner in which the vehicles were disposed of by the accused and potential risk to life.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

A number of individuals were reported for a disturbance at a dwelling at Seaforth Road, Stornoway, an address which has been of concern to local residents for some time. Subsequent partnership work with the local authority Anti Social Behaviour officer and Hebridean Housing resulted in the house being vacated and boarded up.

Over the festive period funding from the SAFER STREETS initiative has been used to provide additional foot patrols throughout the Command at peak times in and around licensed premises.

## **6. OTHER**

A protracted missing person enquiry was made for a 41 year old female who had temporarily taken up residence in Stornoway. She was eventually traced safe and well 21 days later in Sutherland, having travelled throughout the Highlands.

As a result of the firearms incident previously mentioned on Barra, the 2 officers concerned have been recommended for a commendation due to their tenacity and bravery in confronting and apprehending an individual armed with a firearm.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**AREA COMMAND: Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross**

**PERIOD: From: 1 October 2009 To: 31 December 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

Crime has increased slightly this year by 2.1% which is 33 crimes. Within the Command Area we are working very hard to reduce the level of crime. The detection rate is 54.2%, an increase of 0.5% on this time last year.

Vandalism continues to be our largest area of concern, as well as the single most prevalent crime. In order to continue to improve our detection rate, a number of initiatives have been commenced, including targeted leaflet drops in specific areas during which Officers knock on doors at the same time as the leaflets are delivered. The leaflets are designed to combat drug dealing but Officers take the opportunity to glean information about anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

All crimes of vandalism are collated by the Divisional NIM (National Intelligence Model) Unit and "hot spots" identified. These areas are then the subject of specific foot patrols during another initiative, namely, the Community Response Team. The Team aims to carry out two dedicated operations per month at peak times, taking advantage of the overlaps provided by the VSA (Variable Shift Arrangement).

In one recent instance a total of 76 crimes of vandalism have been detected in Caithness. These have not yet been reflected in the performance figures.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

The detection rate for serious crime, Class 1 (violence) – 100% and Class 2 (sexual) – 97.1% remains very good. There has been a reduction in these classes of crime from 104 to 80 which is also very encouraging.

In December 2009 51 officers from North Division took part in an enforcement day against local drug dealers. Some Officers worked their Rest Days or were on Annual Leave. This operation was carried out with support from Central Division and Headquarters. 31 addresses were targeted with recoveries from most.

Whilst there was no single seizure of a large quantity of drugs, there has been a very significant reduction in all classes of crime after this operation, when compared with the same period in 2008. This was particularly evident in Wick where the majority of the operations were carried out. Planning is in a very early stage to address the same challenges in Thurso. The reduction in crime has allowed Officers to concentrate on other Pro-Active work, as well as dealing with the current adverse weather. Simple analysis into the post enforcement day has evidenced that crimes fell by 60% saving an estimated 500 officer hours.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

There has been one fatal road accident, an elderly gentleman from Thurso. There is no blame attributed to the driver of the lorry involved.

Routine speed detection has been greatly reduced due to the persistent cold conditions. Instead, specific patrols have been regularly carried out on the most severely affected roads – the A9 being the most prominent. The Area Command has received less heavy snowfall than much of the Force area; however, persistent black ice and snow has led to many largely minor accidents. The more remote parts of Sutherland have not been neglected; in December an injury road accident occurred on a remote road near Lochinver. A joint rescue operation was mounted after the NHS Ambulance was unable to reach the accident scene. Two Police 4 x 4 vehicles were despatched and liaison made with Council snowplough crews. All persons present were eventually rescued. This incident is one small example of the challenges faced by the emergency services in remote areas.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

In November 2009 a joint community consultation event for the Command Area was held at Helmsdale. Senior Officers led the event which was attended by Local Councillors, Community Councillors and other interested parties. This event culminated in each person present casting three votes for the issues of concern that they believed were the most important. Road Safety matters featured prominently in the results which have already been used to inform our operational work.

A Road Safety “stall” was held at UKAEA Dounreay during which practical advice was delivered on a wide range of road traffic issues.

Four secondary schools in the Area Command took part in the “Driving Ambitions” presentation during which all the S6 Students were shown the Donald Geddes DVD. Numerous favourable comments were received concerning how this had been received.

The Area Command Community Safety Officers are in the early stages of planning a “Senior Safe Highlanders” event, which will target the elderly with stalls from HIFRS, Northern Constabulary, CAB, Food Standards etc. This is a pilot project within the Area Command.

### **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

**Castle of Mey:** Planning for the 2010 visit of HRH Duke and Duchess of Rothesay to the Castle of Mey next August has commenced.

**National Mod:** Senior Officers have met with the Mod organisers to plan the Caithness National Mod which is being held in October 2010 at venues throughout Caithness. Officers have been able to give the organisers significant advice regarding suitable venues for large scale public events.

**Community Response Team:** The Community Response Team is continuing to develop the ideas behind the scheme. Some areas of Caithness which have already been targeted have seen a reduction in complaints, as well as favourable public comment. 9 initiatives have taken place seeing 110 vehicles being stopped and checked, 71 officer generated reports being completed and favourable comment received from local people.

These events will continue during 2010.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

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

**PERIOD: From: 1 October 2009 To: 31 December 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The detection rate for Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh at the end of December 2009 stood at 53.1%. In terms of crime reduction we can demonstrate a highly credible reduction in crime of 13.8% in comparison with the previous year. This equates to 155 fewer crimes (or victims of crime) across the Area.

The Ross and Cromarty Area Command detection rate for crime Class 1 to 5 is currently 65.6% against the Force average of 61.18%. This is particularly impressive when shown that there has been an 11% decrease in crime but an increase in the detection rate of 2.1%.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

#### **Sustained Crime Reduction**

The significant drop in serious crimes during the first half of 2009 has been sustained. The following serious crimes have been the subject of successful enquiries.

#### **Thefts by Housebreaking / Sneak-in thefts / Theft of motor vehicles**

During November 2009 a number of dwelling houses were broken into in the South Skye and Lochalsh areas. During the same period 2 vehicles were stolen and premises were subject to sneak-in thefts. Extensive enquiries were carried out locally and in liaison with other Police Forces. As a result a 39 year old man from the Glasgow area was arrested and is currently remanded in custody pending trial. Stolen property including jewellery and vehicles has been recovered.

#### **Misuse of Drugs**

On 18 November 2009 as a result of information received from a member of the public, police executed a Warrant granted under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 at a caravan near Fort William. As a result 46 cannabis plants and a hydroponics system were recovered. A 32 year old man has been the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal. Later that day in an unrelated incident, officers on patrol on the A82 in Fort William stopped and checked a motor vehicle and as a result exercised powers of search under the Misuse of Drugs Act. This led to the recovery of Class A drugs valued at approx. £60,000. A 40 year old man is the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

#### **Notable Convictions**

On 29 December 2009 at Portree Sheriff Court, a 25 year old man and 26 year old female were sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months and 8 months respectively. This was the culmination of an extensive police enquiry by Portree based officers into the supply of Class A drugs throughout Skye & Lochalsh.

On 16 December 2009 at Dingwall Sheriff Court, a male from the Alness area received a 5 year prison sentence for Police Assault having lunged at an officer with a knife.

Ross and Cromarty also had a significant number of incidents of note, however the more serious issues are;-

### **Housebreakings**

In October a male was arrested for a series of thefts by HB at Commercial premises in the Black Isle and Evanton Areas.

November saw a number of private dwelling houses broken into on the Black Isle but after extensive enquiries were carried out two males were arrested. Significantly it is worth noting that these males came from the Inverness area.

### **Proceeds of Crime Act**

As a result of continued enquiries into the criminal activity of one individual in the Invergordon area, £4,000 was seized from him seriously disrupting his activities.

### **Drug Seizures**

There have been a significant amount of drug seizures involving Heroin, Cocaine, Amphetamine, Ecstasy. The more notable ones being:

4 kg of Cocaine recovered from a male in the Black Isle area and 1 kg of Cocaine recovered from a male in the Dingwall area.

### **Mountain Rescue**

Unfortunately during the period under review a male died in an Avalanche in Torridon and there were also two fatalities in a separate avalanche in Ben Nevis, Lochaber.

## **3. SAFER ROADS**

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009 a one vehicle road collision occurred on the B8007 road near Ardmamurchan Lighthouse involving a BMW motor cycle. The rider, a 58 year old man from the Manchester area, sustained serious injuries and was removed to hospital in Glasgow where he subsequently died.

In the lead up to the festive period officers across the Lochaber Area Command were involved in the "early bird" initiative which was aimed at discouraging drink drivers and promoting road safety. Over 1000 vehicles were stopped and checked and it was encouraging to note that the drink drive message appeared to be heeded as no drunk drivers were detected. Over and above these only 2 drivers were arrested during December for driving with excess alcohol

Within the Ross & Cromarty area command a significant amount of proactive work was carried out. This undoubtedly had a direct effect on road safety as accidents were reduced by 47% but more importantly the casualty rate dropped by 32% over the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 31 December 2009.

The ACPOS Winter Drink/Drugs Driving Campaign took place resulting in a number of Drink Drivers being arrested throughout the Division. Operation Blitzen, which was an intelligence led operation, targeted travelling criminals as well as drink drivers and other road traffic issues.

Emphasis over the period has been placed on Anti-Crime checks throughout the Division in order to disrupt and gain intelligence on criminals using the road network.

#### 4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

Considerable commitment has been made in relation to ensuring the continued safety of our communities with the following being of particular note:-

**Blue Light Disco** - During the period the Police, in conjunction with the other emergency services and Health and local authority staff, held another Blue Light Disco for secondary school age youngsters at the Strathpeffer Spa Pavilion. The numbers attending were in excess of that anticipated and the event was seen as a success.

**MARAC** - This is a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing meeting held between the Police and Social Work Department to agree on actions to promote the wellbeing and safety of victims and families, at Very High/High risk of Domestic Abuse. This MARAC currently meets on a monthly basis and can discuss up to 30 families.

**Safe Ross-Shire Initiative** - Work continues to set up the first SHOP-SAFE type initiative in Dingwall in association with the Inverness Co-Ordinator. A significant number of retail premises have expressed interest and work is underway to provide Radio coverage in the area.

**Open Goals** - A Multi-Agency project with the Ross County Skills Through Sport Team, NCH and Police. This is an initiative involving young persons with behavioural issues to encourage more positive personal developmental skills.

**Community Response Team** - The Ross & Cromarty Community Response Team have been extremely active in order to continue to drive down anti social behaviour. In particular extra patrols have been carried out across the Black Isle and from Muir of Ord to Ullapool.

In addition to this proactive enforcement work, we have been again working closely with Youth Action and have been engaging with these youngsters through a more conciliatory approach to the problem. Advice and discussions have taken place between Youth Action and a large number of local youths throughout Ross and Cromarty and this appears to have had a positive effect.

#### 5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Lochaber Pubwatch together with its Skye & Lochalsh counterpart continues to be a key partner in tackling anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and violence in and around licensed premises. The benefits of the scheme, when compared with historical data, are clearly evidenced with the inroads we have made in removing scenes of drunken violence from the community.

In the Ross and Cromarty Area Command, regular crime patrols are being carried out alongside local initiatives to combat anti-social behaviour and counteract crime, which has resulted in good detections. This is "work in progress" and will continue over the coming months as vandalisms and dishonesties remain our most common crimes.

## **NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD**

**EAST DIVISION: Inverness and Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey**

**PERIOD: From: 1 October 2009 To: 31 December 2009**

### **1. REDUCING CRIME**

The period of April – December 2009 has seen a significant reduction in reported Class 1 - 5 crimes in East Division in comparison with the same period last year, from 6020 to 5111 crimes, a reduction of 909 crimes. The detection rate for Class 1 – 5 crimes has decreased from 62.7% to 61% in comparison with the same period last year.

Class 1 – 5 crime decreased throughout the Division. Class 1 crime (serious and violent crime) reduced by 32 crimes, Class 2 crime (sexual offences) by 65 crimes, Class 3 crimes (dishonesties) by 466 crimes, Class 4 crimes (vandalism) by 279 crimes and Class 5 crimes (other crimes) by 67 crimes.

The current detection rate for Class 1 crime is 86.9%, Class 2 crime is 81.3%, Class 3 crime is 48.5%, Class 4 crime is 33.6% and Class 5 crime is 99.3%.

Broken down into Area Commands, the current Inverness Area Command detection rate is 59.5%, a decrease of 1.3% from December 2008. The number of Class 1 - 5 crimes has reduced by 667 crimes.

The current Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn detection rate is 68.2%, a decrease of 2.9% from December 2009. The number of Class 1 – 5 crimes has fallen by 242 crimes.

Work is ongoing across the Division to address Child Protection and Domestic Abuse issues. A dedicated Domestic Abuse Liaison Officer has been appointed to ensure that satisfactory risk assessments are carried out for victims of domestic abuse and that suitable support networks are in place. Work also continues on the national programme for change, Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). During the review period, 94 Child Protection enquiries have taken place from October – December 2009, with many enquiries of a protracted nature.

Dedicated patrols continue to be utilised to improve Police visibility in the City, with a focus upon partnership working and problem solving policing. Community Safety Officers continue to provide advice with Security Surveys and CCTV surveys being carried out.

### **2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME**

Between April – December 2009, there were 34 recorded offences for supply and possession with intent to supply Class A drugs in East Division. During the period of October – December 2009, 8 offences for supply and possession with intent to supply Class A drugs were made known. In total, there were 294 drug offences made known during this period.

Notable seizures of drugs over this period include the following incidents:

- On 01/10/09, a dwelling house in Smithton, Inverness, was searched under warrant leading to the seizure of 13 Cannabis plants with a total value of £3,900. A male and female have been cautioned and charged.
- On 10/10/09, two females were searched following a vehicle check on Longman Road, Inverness. One female was found in possession of 3.3g Heroin whilst the other female was found in possession of 1g Cannabis resin. The females were travelling with their 5 and 11 year old daughters.
- On 18/10/09, a dwelling house in Inverness, was searched under warrant leading to the seizure of 800 Ecstasy tablets, 162g brown powder, a quantity of Cannabis resin and a quantity of white powder. A male has been cautioned and charged.
- On 17/11/09, three males were searched following a vehicle check on Grampian Road, Aviemore. One male was found in possession of 20.7g Cannabis resin, with another found in possession of 7.2g Cannabis resin and the final male in possession of 1.4g Cannabis resin. The three males were cautioned and charged.
- On 29/11/09, a dwelling house in Croy, was searched under warrant leading to the recovery of 2x 9oz bars Cannabis resin, 30g herbal Cannabis, 7x small bags containing 100 Valium tablets each and 4x bags containing herbal Cannabis. Total value approx £5,000. Two males have been cautioned and charged.
- On 01/12/09, a male was searched within Burnett Road Police Station, Inverness, and found to be in possession of 16.7g Heroin valued at approx £1,500. The male was cautioned and charged.
- On 29/12/09, two males were searched following a vehicle check on Elizabeth Street, Nairn. One male was found in possession of 3 lumps of Cannabis resin, 94 Valium tablets and 5.6g Heroin. The other male was found in possession of 91 Valium tablets and 4.1g Heroin. Both males were cautioned and charged.
- On 30/12/09, two males were searched at Finlays Bar, Tomnahurich Street, Inverness, following a disturbance. 248g Cocaine and 12 BZP tablets (not controlled) were seized. 12 Ecstasy tablets were subsequently recovered from the home address of one of the males. Both males were cautioned and charged.

A number of Firearms operations have been run in the Division over the review period due to members of the public alerting the Police to individuals allegedly brandishing firearms or other weapons in public or following intelligence received relating to the illegal possession of weapons. As a result of these incidents, firearms, other weapons and ammunition have been seized and individuals have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Convictions of note during this period include:

- In October 2009, a 43 year old male was convicted at Inverness Sheriff Court of stabbing a 17 year old male in the leg during a fracas in a house in Craigellachie Crescent, Aviemore, in November 2008. He was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.
- In November 2009, a 55 year old Inverness woman was convicted at Inverness Sheriff Court of stabbing a 13 year old male within a property in Brown Street, Inverness, in December 2008. She was sentenced to 300 hours community service.
- In December 2009, two Inverness males aged 30 and 34 years were convicted at the High Court in Aberdeen of supplying Cocaine, Cannabis and Ecstasy between 2006 and 2008. The males were each sentenced to 12 years imprisonment at the High Court in Glasgow.

### **3. SAFER ROADS**

Force targets to reduce the number of persons killed and seriously injured as a result of road collisions are currently being met by the Division.

During the period under review, there were 13 people killed or seriously injured as a result of 8 road collisions. This includes 3 children who were killed or seriously injured on our roads. Unfortunately, 5 people were killed in 2 road collisions:

- On 26/11/09, a vehicle collided with two oncoming on the A9 at Dalwhinnie. A 39 year old female and 64 year old male were killed and a 6 year old boy sustained a serious facial injury and a broken arm.
- On 05/12/09, a vehicle collided with two oncoming vehicles whilst negotiating a sweeping left hand bend on the A95 near Avielochan. A 36 year old female and her two sons aged 13 and 11 years were killed.

During the period under review (October – December 2009), the Division continued to target drink and drug drivers, with 47 individuals charged with drink driving offences. There were no individuals reported for driving under the influence of drugs.

The Division also participated in Operation Bottle, the ACPOS festive drink/drug driving campaign, between 07/12/09 and 04/01/10.

Targeted patrols continue, with emphasis remaining on the A9, A96 and A82 trunk roads.

### **4. SAFER COMMUNITIES**

Between April – December 2009, 67% of Police reports to the Children's Reporter were sent within 14 calendar days of caution and charge.

During the same period, 75.5% of Police reports to the Procurator Fiscal were sent within 28 days of caution and charge.

The detection rate for non sexual crimes of violence against the person for April – December 2009 stands at 86.9%.

The detection rate for crimes of indecency is 81%, above the Force target of 80%.

The detection rate for crimes of dishonesty is currently at 48.5%; however, there has been a drop in the number of incidents.

The detection rate for crimes of fire-raising and vandalism is currently at 33.6%, but again there has been a reduction in the number of incidents.

The Division continues to develop meaningful partnerships with our key partners and communities with a clear focus upon business at Highland Council Ward level. The Community Beat Team continues to work closely with local communities in identifying local issues and solutions. During the review period, Senior Officers and Community Beat Constables attended Council Ward Forum Meetings and Community Council

Meetings to closely engage with our communities and provide them with feedback on policing priorities and performance.

Under age drinking, public drinking and public drunkenness continue to be issues which pervade our communities and create a policing challenge which must be tackled on a multi agency basis. The Division continues to target underage drinking and public drunkenness through pro-active policing, Operation Respect in Inverness, Operations Magma and Mexican in Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn, and work with the Licensing Board, Licensed Trade Association and Licensees. In particular, Operation Respect was given a higher profile for the Festive period, with multi agency participation in a number of events and initiatives including: safe zones, night rider buses and taxi marshals as well as increased police patrols.

The Division continues to be involved in a large number of partnership initiatives aimed at diverting young people away from anti-social behaviour, underage drinking and other offending. Initiatives include Blue Light Discos, 'Twilight Sports', Operation Youth Advantage (5-day courses run by the army) and Safe Highlanders (involving primary seven pupils in a number of major child safety events). These events have proved to be very popular and attract children and youths from throughout the area. The majority of these activities also contain an educational element focussing on issues such as health, fitness, behaviour, social and personal issues. The activities also encourage youngsters to make friends and socialise in a way that does not involve inappropriate behaviour. As a result, these activities not only divert youngsters away from offending, but encourage them to make friends with youngsters from throughout the area, boost their confidence and foster better community feeling.

Also worthy of note is the other work carried out by officers in respect of co-ordination of Mountain Rescue Incidents; youth work; Street Pastors liaison; Pub watch schemes in Badenoch, Nairn and Inverness; CCTV and liaison with the Highland Council Anti Social Behaviour team, which are all directed at making our Communities safer.

## **5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER**

During the period October – December 2009 there were 421 Breaches of the Peace. Maintaining public order continues to be a key priority within the Division, particularly at peak periods during the weekend. Fixed Penalty Notices for anti social behaviour and public disorder continue to be used to good effect and have reduced the amount time spent by officers in reporting procedures and in Court related duties, all to the benefit of improved front line operational policing. Curfew checks and identification of bail offenders also continues.

The Inverness Winter Festival this year ran between Halloween and Hogmanay and incorporated many events, including the Inverness Bonfire and Fireworks Display. All events went well, although the planned Hogmanay concert in Inverness was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. High visibility policing has a positive impact on public confidence and reassurance and importantly acts as a deterrent to those who are intent on indulging in criminal behaviour and public disorder. The forthcoming months will see considerable commitment in the planning of a number of large-scale events to be held in the Division over the summer. These include music festivals/concerts and sporting events.