

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

13 May 2009

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Crime Situation

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is invited to note the current position.

**I Latimer
Chief Constable
5 May 2009**

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Shetland

PERIOD: From: 1 January 2009 To: 31 March 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

Class 1 – 5 crime, for the year, is showing an increase of 17%, or 129 crimes overall. However, despite this increase, Shetland Area Command has improved its clear up rate within these classes of crime by 5%, to 75.8%. Class 1 crime (crimes of violence) shows a small increase from 15 to 17. Class 5 crime (miscellaneous crime – including drugs) has increased from 202 to 224 compared to the corresponding period last year. This demonstrates an increase in pro-activity which has been reflected in the quantity of drugs seized.

Class 4 crime (vandalism) has increased by 29%, or by 75 crimes, on the same period last year. However, this increase is almost entirely attributable to the activities of a small number of youths who were reported for in excess of 80 offences.

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

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

Class A drugs with a street value of £5,000 have been seized during the current review period. We continue to make progress in tackling the supply of controlled drugs in, and to, Shetland through targeted specific operations and pro-active work. The following is a brief resume of successes during the review period :

Following the positive search of a known drug user seen leaving the address of a further known drug user in Lerwick, the address was searched under Sheriff Drugs Warrant. 3.4 gms of Heroin was seized from the address, and the 42 year old male occupant was arrested and reported for being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. The male has since appeared at Lerwick Sheriff Court, where he received a 9 month custodial sentence.

A 39 year old man was identified while leaving the Aberdeen – Lerwick Northlink ferry, in Lerwick in the company of a woman who was suspected of involvement in supply of drugs. The man was detained and subsequently admitted having a significant quantity of Heroin in his possession. A package of drugs was recovered and found to have an approximate street value of £4,500.00. The man is to appear at Lerwick Sheriff Court in due course in respect of the offences.

A 48 year old Shetland male was intercepted by French authorities, while in possession

of 31 kg of Cannabis resin (approximately £150,000.00). It is strongly suspected that at least part of this illicit consignment, which was intended for supply in the Northern Force area. He has since been sentenced by French authorities to 30 months imprisonment.

A 46 year old male appeared from remand at Lerwick Sheriff Court, in relation to being involved in the supply of Class A drugs, having been found in possession of approximately £9,000.00 worth of Heroin in February 2008. The man was sentenced to 40 months imprisonment.

It is also worthy of note that a 31 year old Shetland male was reported for a series of break-ins and thefts in the Lerwick area, and was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. A 21 year old Shetland male – already serving a custodial sentence for break-ins and dishonesties in the Lerwick area – has now been reported to the Procurator Fiscal, Lerwick, for a further 7 break-ins and thefts from domestic premises, also in the Lerwick area.

3. SAFER ROADS

During the review period there have been no fatal or serious road accidents. There have been 10 slight injury accidents resulting in casualties receiving hospital treatment. This includes one pedestrian sustaining a broken leg. This represents an increase on the same period in 2008, which only saw 2 slight injury road collisions.

The Shetland Area command has seen 11 Drink Drivers being arrested during the review period, which is an increase of one. In addition to this, one male was charged with Drug Driving after stealing a motor vehicle. Two people have been detected driving whilst using a mobile phone. Lack of detection in relation to this offence is mainly due to the Hi-Visibility methods of patrol, which tend to deter motorists when police vehicles are seen.

In relation to Education and Enforcement, a large number of Fixed Penalty notices have been issued for defective parts on vehicles, speeding and seatbelt offences. A number of vehicles have also been seized as a result of uninsured drivers being stopped on the Roads in Shetland.

The promotion of Road Safety remains one of our key priorities and this is being carried out in conjunction with the Shetland Road Safety Forum and Shetland Island Council's Community Safety Department. A Cycle Road Show involving a company from the Mainland is at the early stages of planning and will be proposed during the forthcoming review period.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

We continue to work with our partners to ensure a speedy and efficient Criminal Justice processes. During the period under review this has entailed the introduction of the new

Intranet Case Reporting System, which allows the submission of reports to the Procurator Fiscal. All police staff have worked extremely hard during the run in phase of this new system and are now competent in its operation. Over the coming months this system will continue to evolve and improve, which will further enhance our capabilities to report cases to both the Procurator Fiscal and the Childrens Reporter. Due to this change over there are no reporting statistics available.

The provision of a CCTV system for Lerwick town centre continues to make progress. It is anticipated that work on installing the system will commence shortly after the final issues regarding planning have been adressed. Installation of the system should take approximately 9 weeks to complete.

A new Community Safety Sergeant, Sgt Jason Beeston, has taken up post in Lerwick and is now liaising with partner agencies with a view to implementing new initiatives to help and enhance the already safe community within Shetland.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Over the festive and local fire festival periods police were able to increase the numbers of officers carrying out "High Visibility" policing. This enabled them to target the areas around licensed premises and residential areas in Shetland during peak times with increased officers. This increase in officer patrol hours was enabled through funding from both the Scottish and local government through the 'Safer Streets' initiative.

A closer working relationship has been established between the Neighbourhood Support Workers and Police during the review period and this has resulted in them working together on a number of issues and occasions in relation to the targeting of underage drinking within Shetland. This is an area in which officers in conjunction with partner agencies will be targeting in the forthcoming months.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Orkney

PERIOD: From: 1 January 2009 To: 31 March 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

As was previously reported there has been a rise in reported crimes from last year's low of 418 reported crimes, up to 561. While this is a significant rise, the level of recorded crime taken over a 5 year period remains level. The rise is largely made up by increases in Class 3 up from 178 to 202 and Class 4 up from 167 to 243 (Dishonesty and Vandalism). These figures result in large percentage increases; however they start from low base line figures. Our detection rate over this period is slightly down at 60.2%, with Class 3 crimes having a detection rate of 53% and Class 4 standing at 48.6%. Our overall detection rate for class 1 – 5 crimes stands at 60.9%.

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

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

I have previously reported an increase in the incidence of non sexual crimes against the person which now stands at 14 reported crimes for the year. This number is low though the percentage increase from the previous year is large. It should be noted that the detection rate of 100% remains.

Serious crime remains low and we must guard against complacency. To prevent this we are looking at opportunities to promote public safety through increased targeted foot patrols at times and places identified through the Tactical Tasking process.

3. SAFER ROADS

There have been 36 road collisions recorded over this period, 22 non injury, 12 slight injury and 2 serious injury. This is a welcome decrease in the number recorded over the last quarter.

We continue to actively target drink drivers and a number of high visibility operations have been carried out. On a positive note, out of 148 screening breath tests provided over this period only two positive tests have been found. However drivers continue to exceed the speed limit, choose not to wear seatbelts and use mobile phones while driving. These offences will continue to be actively enforced.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

With the introduction of the Force Variable Shift Arrangement (VSA), we have been able to increase foot patrols. This builds upon the success of our increased patrols of the housing areas of Kirkwall and Stromness previously reported. These patrols are targeted to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour, as well as providing reassurance to the residents.

Building upon these opportunities, we look to make a substantial contribution to the Orkney Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreements (SOA). Working together, the various partner agencies have a common aim laid out in the document Orkney 2020.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

Following on from the busy festive period there have been few public events over the period under review. However, with the increasing daylight there will be a number of public events to police. These events provide a differing challenge, but one that after the long dark nights we look forward to policing.

It is pleasing to conclude by saying there were no reported racist incidents during the period.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

CENTRAL DIVISION: Western Isles

PERIOD: From: 1 January 2009 To: 31 March 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

Between January and March 2009 a juvenile offender was involved in numerous acts of anti-social behaviour as well as 5 counts of fireraising. As a result of partnership working with other agencies, this offender has been sent to secure accommodation off the island. This has resulted in the instances of similar behaviour involving the offender's peer group being reduced significantly.

The Western Isles Pro Active Team has been busy over the period, looking at volume crime, and in particular vandalism. In total, 27 cases have been reported, a number of which were committed by the previously referred juvenile and associates.

The detection rate for the Area Command was an extremely creditable 74.7%.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

As a continuation of 2008 enquiries into the supply and misuse of controlled drugs in the Western Isles, one male has now been reported in relation to the possession and intention to supply £6250 worth of amphetamine and the supply of ecstasy over a number of years.

Extensive enquiries are still ongoing into individuals previously identified as concerned in the misuse of drugs in the area.

On 29 March 2009 at the Lochboisdale Hotel, South Uist, a male was stabbed. One male was duly reported for attempted murder.

In January 2009, a 24 year old male was given 3 years imprisonment for drugs related offences and a 18 year old female co-accused was given 1 year probation and 250 hrs unpaid work.

3. SAFER ROADS

Drink driving remains a high priority in the Western Isles and out of the 60 persons breathalysed in the given period, 9 tested positive.

During February 2009, a 43 year old male was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment and disqualified from driving for life for drink driving and driving whilst disqualified. He was detected as a result of pro-active Police enquiry regarding suspected drink drivers in the area.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

During the weekend of 16 January 2009, the Western Isles were subjected to severe weather conditions. As a result of lessons learned from 2005, all agencies held emergency talks and put in place relevant steps to protect the public. Local media releases were issued notifying shops, licensed premises and the transport providers. Although there were various degrees of structural damage throughout the area, no persons were injured.

Unfortunately, during the same weekend and unconnected with weather, a female victim died in a house fire in Stornoway. There are no suspicious circumstances.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

As a result of concerns raised in the Balallan area regarding fire-raising reported in the previous review period, lengthy local consultation took place and this resulted in the formation of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme being set up.

An officer has been appointed to work directly with CnES Social & Community Services Policy Officers, to implement the National Intelligence Model (NIM) method of addressing community safety issues within the Western Isles Safety partnership.

On 15 March 2009 the remains of missing person Simon MacMillan were discovered at Loch Bi, South Uist. There are no suspicious circumstances surrounding this death.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

AREA COMMAND: Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross

PERIOD: From: 1 January 2009 To: 31 March 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

In the period to 31st March 2009, we have continued our reduction in reported crime by some 14.6%, equivalent to some 346 crimes. Unfortunately, our detection rate for class 1-5 crimes has decreased by 3.4% to 52.2 %.

Vandalism over recent months has been a key issue that we have analysed in depth. Our detection rate for vandalism sits at a disappointing 28.1%. The financial cost to the Caithness community between December 2008 and March 2009 is estimated at £20500, with each incident of vandalism costing on average £180 to the victim. We are targeting this through specific patrols; Crimestoppers leaflet drops and a focused media strategy to glean further community intelligence. Our researcher has been tasked with reviewing all vandalisms in Caithness to identify trends and potential suspects.

Operation Jacobite, our monthly anti social behaviour operation, has allowed us to actively target some of our resident criminals. It has been key to giving public reassurance and allowing us to focus resources to target some of our key priorities in communities throughout the Area Command.

Overall, throughout the period reported crime has consistently fallen every month compared to last year's period and is indicative of our intelligence led pro-active policing style.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

A reduction of violent crimes from 83 reported crimes to 68 is pleasing as we continue to focus on those who perpetrate these crimes of violence.

Our CCTV in Thurso, Wick and Tain has been upgraded to provide better quality to this essential tool in fighting & deterring crime on our streets, this has also been supplemented by CCTV Volunteers who monitor the system during the peak period at the weekend.

On 14th March 2009 an 18 year old male was the subject of a sustained vicious assault in Wick. Following a swift enquiry a local male was apprehended and appeared at Wick Sheriff Court on a charge of Attempted Murder – he is currently remanded awaiting trial.

On 28th March 2009, eight Misuse of Drugs Warrants were executed at addresses

within Wick. As a result of this intelligence led operation a substantial amount of Class A & B drugs were recovered along with a quantity of money linked to drug dealing. This case resulted in significant disruption to the dealer network and resulted in three people being apprehended and reported to the procurator Fiscal – the case is currently ongoing.

Throughout March 2009 we have achieved our highest seizure of Class B drugs in Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross to the approximate street value of £17,000.

3. SAFER ROADS

Early March unfortunately saw the loss of one life in a road collision. An 18 year old male tragically lost his life after his vehicle collided with another and left the A9 carriageway at the Gillock junction, Caithness.

There were also 9 drunk drivers detected in the Area Command, a decrease of two since the last period.

The scheme “Driving Ambitions”, aimed at making young drivers responsible and careful drivers, has been rolled out throughout Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross. This has been well received at the High Schools and a proposal is in motion to have the presentation given to the apprentices operating at Vulcan & Dounreay.

Regular road patrols targeting speeding, seatbelts and use of mobile phones has assisted in improving driver behaviour. The use of Anti Social Behaviour legislation warnings for irresponsible driver behaviour has had a significant effect on the “boy racer” element within our communities.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

March 2009 saw the appointment of Constable Joanne Copsey to our Community Safety Officer Unit taking its strength to three Officers. In addition to co-ordinating our community safety initiatives, the Officers assist in operations at peak periods to bolster our presence and to develop better links with our communities.

Our mobile Police Station has visited some of our more remote communities, where the Community Safety Officers have been on hand to distribute leaflets on crime prevention and give advice. We will continue to develop this initiative throughout the coming year.

Local drinking bylaws for Wick and Thurso have been approved by the Scottish Government and are at the final stages, prior to implementation. Its launch will be co-ordinated with a Caithness Pub Watch Scheme.

Our partnership with the ghillies, stalkers & gamekeepers from within the Area

Command lead to an increase in intelligence on poaching. It also led to the success of a joint operation with the SSCPA to disrupt the activity of a large group of poachers engaged in badger baiting activity in North West Sutherland.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

This period saw the delivery of our ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) equipped vehicles which have been in regular use by our Pro-active Teams. As the Officers develop this technology there is no doubt it is beginning to yield benefits in targeting travelling criminals.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

CENTRAL DIVISION: Ross & Cromarty and Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh

PERIOD: From: 1 January 2009 To: 31 March 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

The Division has experienced a very favourable overall detection rate and this is reflected in the following figures.

The Ross & Cromarty Area Command detection rate for crimes class 1 to 5 is currently 63.7% against a Force average of 63.1%

The detection rate for the Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh Area Command at the end of March 2009 stood at 62%. This represents a reduction in crime of 13.2% in comparison with the previous year.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

In Ross and Cromarty there have been a number of incidents of note with the more serious issues being:-

Attempted Murder

On 01/01/09, following the alleged serious assault with a weapon of a 36 year old male in Alness, a 26 year old suspect was arrested for Attempted Murder.

Misuse of Drugs

Following intelligence received, an address in Rosemarkie was searched on 28/01/09, under warrant, where 5 kilos of base amphetamine and substantial quantity of cocaine was seized. A 22 year old male was subsequently arrested and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Total value of drugs approximately £60,000.

Rape

On 07/02/09 a 19 year old female from the Easter Ross area made a serious allegation of sexual assault. A 28 year old male was arrested for this offence.

Assault

On 22/02/09 an alleged serious assault took place within a licensed premises in Ullapool, where a 40 year old male was allegedly struck several times in the face with a knife, sustaining facial injuries. A 43 year old male was arrested for this offence.

During this period one man appeared at Edinburgh High Court and received a prison sentence for an incident in the Conon Bridge area in which he deliberately rammed two

police cars before officers succeeded in subduing and arresting him.

During the period under review, Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh have been fortunate in not having experienced any serious crime issues. Whilst this is in itself unusual, we do hope the trend continues.

3. SAFER ROADS

Emphasis has been placed on Anti-Crime patrols throughout the Division in order to disrupt, detain and gain intelligence on criminals using the road network.

Targeted operations took place during this period under review to address this. Several Level One operations, complementing ACPOS initiatives, were run in separate parts of the Division, tackling speeding, drink driving, seat belt and mobile phone offences.

During the period under review Ross and Cromarty experienced two fatal road accidents resulting in the death of two persons.

The roads in Lochaber and Skye have not claimed any lives during the period under review, although on 11th January, during inclement weather conditions on the A82 in Glencoe, 3 persons sustained serious injuries when the car in which they were travelling left the road and overturned.

On 21st March, at the High Court in Glasgow, a 68 year old man was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and disqualified from driving for 4 years following his conviction after trial for causing death by dangerous driving. This case arose from a 2 vehicle fatal road collision on the A82 at Three Mile Water, south of Fort William, on 17 October 2007.

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.

BLUELIGHT 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 Spa Pavilion in Strathpeffer. The numbers attending were in excess of that anticipated and the event was seen as a success, with more planned for this year.

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.

OPERATION EXCEL – This operation relates to the marking of alcoholic bottles frequently drunk by under age youths in order to identify the source of the alcohol. The objective of this operation is to curtail anti-social behaviour and reduce underage drinking in the Area Command.

OPERATION ENDEAVOUR – This operation addressed many of the anti social behaviour issues identified throughout the Division and particular emphasis was placed on frequent, intelligence led, anti crime patrols and initiatives.

OPEN GOALS – A Multi Agency project with Ross County Life Skills Through Sport Team, NCH and Police. This is an initiative involving young persons with behavioural issues to encourage more positive personal development skills.

Lochaber rightly enjoys its reputation as being the outdoor capital of the UK and its mountainous terrain attracts hill walkers and climbers throughout the year. Winter conditions however brought tragedy to the slopes of Buachaille Etive Mhor, Glencoe on 25th January, when 3 walkers lost their lives in an avalanche.

Officers from the Area Command have also investigated 2 major outbreaks of fire in the early part of the year. During the early hours of 14th January, officers on patrol discovered a fire at the Spean Bridge Woollen Mill. Despite the prompt attendance of Fire & Rescue services, the building was totally destroyed. On 18th January, the 258 year old Raasay House, Isle of Raasay, was also destroyed by fire. Extensive forensic fire scene investigations were carried out confirming that no suspicious circumstances existed at either outbreak.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

In the Ross & Cromarty Area Command, regular local initiatives and crime patrols have been carried out throughout the command area to combat anti-social behaviour resulting in numerous offences being detected. This is an ongoing process and for the period ahead several targeted operation are being put in place.

In particular, a recent operation within the Muir of Ord area attracted significant positive local comment from public and local politicians and such operations will be a continuous feature in the new financial year.

In the months ahead the Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh Area Command will host an additional Royal visit to Skye and assist in the extensive events programme throughout Lochaber and Skye. Notably the Scottish Six Day Trials and the World Mountain Bike festival attract visitors from across the world to Lochaber and we are at an advanced stage in planning for the policing of these.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

EAST DIVISION: Inverness and Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey

PERIOD: From: 1 January 2009 To: 31 March 2009

1. REDUCING CRIME

Another busy year has ended with the new East Division having delivered excellent results working with communities and other agencies to ensure the area continues to be as safe as possible. The overall detection rate for Class1-5 Crimes at year end sat at 63.4% with crime increasing by only 0.4%.

The initial focus on fire-raising within Inverness, taking such incidents as wheelie-bins being set on fire as important enough to investigate, led to a rise in reports of such instances, the tasking of resources to the issue and a number of significant prosecutions, which should in the longer term assist in reducing such offences. It was pleasing to note also the decrease in vandalism, where Northern Constabulary remains one of the few police forces to send an officer to every report of such an incident. This is important to ensure the public feel safe and that we investigate with a view to deterring and detecting such nuisance crimes. We will continue to take vandalism seriously and are currently running an operation (Operation Ripple) to follow up detectable crimes of this nature.

Such operations as Operation Respect, which focussed on a multi-agency basis on maximising the amenity of the City Centre during the Winter Festival, have been well received, and that operation has very recently received elected member support to roll out the format as appropriate for local areas, to work on what communities regard as issues with other partners to make a difference. One example is an agreement with The District Procurator Fiscal that those individuals that chose to carry out unprovoked assaults on people will appear from custody rather than be released for subsequent citation. This reflects the seriousness of these criminal acts and the priority we give to crimes of violence.

The benefits of the Divisional structure are most clearly seen in the Badenoch, Strathspey & Nairn area, where the local staff, alongside Divisional assets as required, have combined to significantly reduce crimes of violence, indecency and vandalism.

2. TACKLING SERIOUS CRIME

The effort to reduce the supply of controlled drugs continues to be a focus of activity. An intelligence-led operation (named "Operation Roker") moved to the enforcement stage whereby drug dealers were targeted. This built upon the excellent work undertaken under Operation Reason in 2008. A significant number of addresses were searched and a number of individuals reported for supply/being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

The Board may wish to be aware that the pattern in 2008 of an increased willingness from members of the community to pass information to officers and staff of Northern Constabulary has continued apace. This is fundamental to the success of all that we do and is a trend we will encourage by actioning information once properly assessed and corroborated.

Seizures included differing types of drugs but also cash and other assets. The Proceeds of Crime Act is a powerful tool to disrupt drug dealers and complements sentences of imprisonment.

Operation Roman, the Divisional Crime/Road Policing car, attracted a great deal of publicity when the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr MacAskill MSP, visited Burnett Road Police Station. He expressed praise for the work of the staff used in this operation, whereby over 30 vehicles had been seized under disposal and retention of vehicles legislation. Over 1100 offences were also detected during 2008 by the unit, including some noticeable drug seizures. These seizures not only related to drug supply in the Division, but also criminals transiting the area to access other parts of the force.

A flavour of the incidents the Division deals with, on this occasion taken from Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn Area Command, is shown below:

Following a domestic assault in Nairn, during which boiling water was poured over two residents, a man received a custodial sentence of 3 years and 4 months for serious assault.

An Attempted Robbery at a petrol station in Newtonmore was previously reported to the Board - the person responsible, traced after extensive enquiries was subsequently given a 16 month custodial sentence.

10/01/09 – Critical Incident - Attempted Murder – Assault within a private dwelling house whereby a male was stabbed in the chest with a kitchen knife. The accused is currently on remand pending trial.

29/01/09 – Drugs – Aviemore – Vehicle stopped and checked on the A9. 1.5 kg herbal cannabis with street value of over £7,000 seized. Following further enquiries search warrants executed in Inverness where quantities of other drugs seized. 3 persons reported to the PF for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

01/02/09 – Serious Assault – Aviemore – A male person assaulted, having been hit on the head/face with a glass bottle. 2 males reported to the PF, Inverness.

11/02/09 – Drugs – Croy – Van stopped and checked at Croy and 1 kg of cannabis resin seized from within the vehicle. Further search of an address resulted in a quantity of cannabis and cocaine being found. 1 male reported to the PF for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

02/03/09 – Abduction – Nairn – Male person forced his way into ex-partner's flat and held her against her will for over 4 hours whilst threatening her with a knife. 1 person subsequently arrested and reported to the PF, Inverness.

03/03/09 – Firearms Incident – Aviemore – Drunken male brandishing a firearm (air rifle) on Grampian Road, Aviemore, arrested and report sent to the PF, Inverness.

In terms of volume, Inverness Area Command deals with significantly more incidents, and a snapshot of some of those will be given at the next Board report.

3. SAFER ROADS

Tragically during the period under review there has been 1 road traffic collision involving 1 fatality. This incident involved a female passenger in a car being driven by a male whereby the vehicle collided with a wall at the Marine Road / Glebe Street junction in Nairn on Sunday 29th March 2009.

Significant resource has been directed to targeting irresponsible driver behaviour on the main arterial routes of the A9, A95, A96, as well as other routes, with particular emphasis on dangerous overtaking, speeding and dangerous/inconsiderate driving. It is heartening to note that all types of road traffic collisions are showing a decrease. The detection of speeders on both main arterial and other routes remains a priority both for the Camera Partnership and local traffic/anti crime response units.

Over the course of 2008/09 staff on the Division apprehended 323 drink/drug drivers – a priority for policing, to ensure we all can use the roads safely. Those arrested are representative of a cross section of the community. The trend, commented upon above, of increasing public notification, has been particularly helpful and undoubtedly has helped to reduce the RTC rate in the Division.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES

The main focus of the Inverness Community Beats Team has been and will continue to be the interaction with Community Councils, schools and community groups across the City, thus highlighting emerging issues or community concerns at an early stage, to allow the early intervention and right approach at the right time. Significant time is also put aside by Senior officers across the Division to ensure community meetings are adequately resourced, and very positive interaction with elected members ensures that real issues are focussed upon.

As a consequence of the community consultation process, agreement has been reached for the extension of the alcohol by-laws to cover the villages of Boat of Garten, Kingussie and Newtonmore. Discussions now centre around setting the boundaries for the designative areas for each community, after which the local authority will progress the appropriate legislative arrangements for implementation in respect of both the

drinking of alcohol in public and being in possession of an open container containing alcohol in public.

Emphasis also continues to be directed at education and enforcement through a variety of mediums, highlighting both parental and the general public's responsibility in resolving issues of alcohol fuelled disorder.

During the period under review, 178 persons were reported missing or on unauthorised absence across the City. 26 of those were assessed to have been of high risk, due to their own vulnerability or the circumstances of their disappearance, and 103 medium risk. The previous figures absorb a great deal of necessary police resource. All missing people were traced.

Since December, 394 Child concern forms were submitted by officers concerning young people whom they had encountered whilst attending calls and had varying levels of concern for. This translated into 99 Child protection enquiries and 12 Vulnerable Adult cases. Over 130 Domestic Incidents were also attended.

Senior Staff held a meeting with the local authority and members of the local church community and Youth Leaders re the development and implementation of the Street Pastors Scheme in Badenoch and Strathspey. This has been agreed in principle and the recruitment, selection and training of personnel is being progressed. A revised local policy based on the Inverness model is being drafted and it is hoped to be able to deploy the street pastors towards the end of the year, as part of the current street workers initiative in Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn.

A Special Needs On Board (SNOB) card scheme for disabled persons is being developed with Highland Council. This Card will be carried by severely disabled persons and will hold medical information about that person which can be used by the emergency services in the case of a road traffic collision or similar incident.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of Sandy Bennett MBE, Traffic Warden, Special Constable and Community Councillor of many years standing within Kingussie. His passing will leave a significant gap within the community and the significant numbers at his funeral bore testimony to the high esteem that he was held within Northern Constabulary and the wider community as a whole.

5. MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER

The Board will recall from the last report that the Force is fully committed to co-operating with local Football clubs to maximise public safety. Part of that is ensuring that supporters can enjoy spectating without being subject to inappropriate verbal taunts and in particular any sectarian or racist abuse. There have only been a small number of arrests at stadiums and on the whole the vast majority of supporters have behaved very well and have warmed to the approachable and proactive engagement style adopted by the Division this season. Significant work has been done to move policing of such events on from the more confrontational style of policing to an

approach that is far more in sync with not only our Force style, but also what the local community values, and is at the forefront of national football policing changes.

Key to successful policing of SPL matches is the close working relationship that has been developed between Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Club and the Force. This has ensured any fans attending the venue may do so in a safe, controlled and enjoyable environment. Alongside this is targeting of those few who persist in anti-social/criminal behaviour in and around SPL games. The Division and ICTFC is fully committed to the Scottish Government strategy to tackle sectarian behaviour and has implemented an anti-sectarian initiative to complement the standard operational policing plan for SPL games at the Stadium.

An important part of this response has, with support from ICTFC, been the inclusion of stewards from key visiting SPL teams. This provides an opportunity for those clubs to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to stamping out the blight of sectarianism and assists in identifying supporters whose behaviour is unacceptable.

As a direct result of this partnership approach, out of the current season's attendance figure to date of 85,000 supporters, a small number of individuals have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in respect of sectarian offences.

On 4th January 2009 a Rangers supporter was arrested and charged with a sectarian Breach of the Peace at the Tulloch Caledonian Stadium. He received a £350 fine and a football banning order for six months.

On 1st February 2009, a Celtic supporter was arrested and charged with a sectarian Breach of the Peace at the Tulloch Stadium. He received a £400 fine and a football banning order for 12 months.

A number of other fans have been reported to the procurator fiscal in relation to sectarian offences and these cases have not as yet been concluded.

Planning continues for the Force's largest event, Rockness, due to be held in June 2009. Other events such as Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival also involve significant police planning work.

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

13 May 2009

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Youth Crime

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

To provide the Board with information regarding the levels of youth crime and the actions being taken by the Force in this regard.

BACKGROUND

In recent weeks a number of articles have appeared in the media regarding youth crime within Northern Constabulary.

The purpose of this paper is to provide members with information regarding the levels of youth crime and the actions being taken by the Force in this regard.

Northern Constabulary has the highest detection rate and lowest levels of crime within Scotland which reflects the fact that most people, including youths, within our communities are law abiding.

The following data provided by Highland Council shows that only 2% of our children aged 0 to 15 years actually commit an offence. It should also be noted that a small number of children commit a disproportionate number of crimes.

	01.03.06 – 28.02.07	01.03.07 – 28.02.08	01.03.08 – 28.02.09
% of Highland population (aged 0 – 15yrs) offending during period	1.56%	1.97%	2.03%

The following figures and charts provide detail around the type of offence, age of offender and the volume of youth crime, by crime class, occurring within the Force over the past three years.

Youth crime has increased from 2496 incidents during 2006/2007 to 3014 during 2008/2009, an increase of 518 incidents.

Examination of the classes of crimes indicates that Class 5 (drugs) have increased from 191 during 2006/2007 to 397 during 2008/2009, an increase of 206. Miscellaneous offences, e.g. Breach of the Peace, have increased from 932 to 1324 over the same period, an increase of 392.

The combined increase in these two crime categories totals 598, which accounts for the overall increase from 2006/2007 to 2008/2009. Much of this increase can be attributed to higher levels of Police proactivity in dealing with drugs and taking early intervention to deal with youth disorder e.g. Breach of the Peace.

Over the past two years the Force has been attempting to reduce the levels of vandalism within our communities and it is pleasing to see that vandalism has fallen from 893 incidents during 2006/2007 to 809 during 2008/2009.

Youth Crime Figures

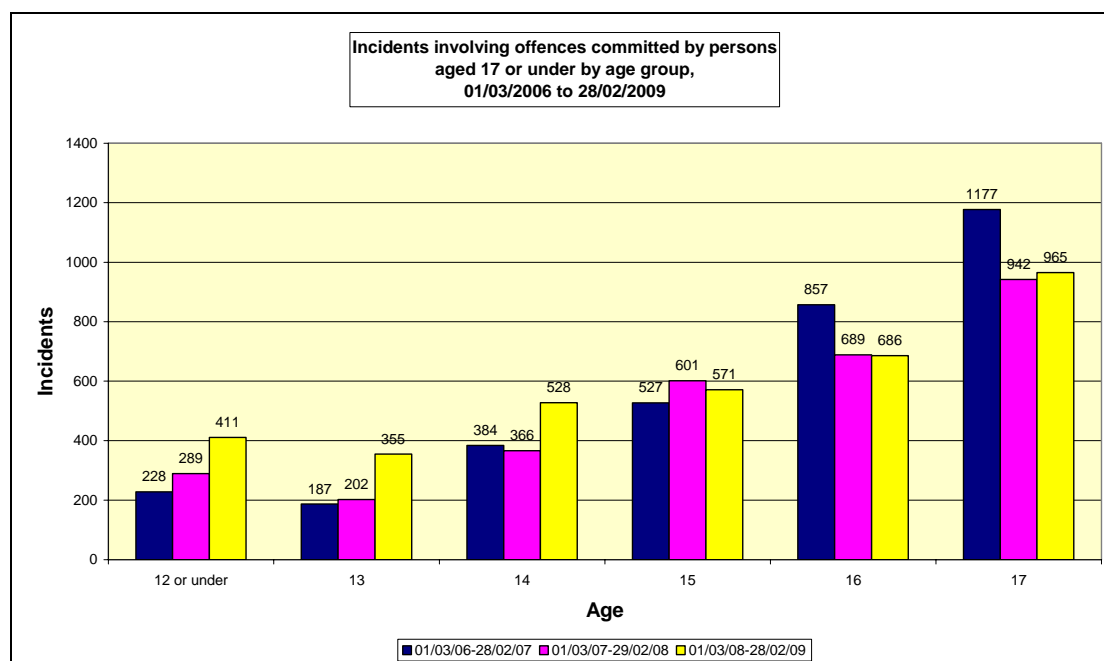
Number of Incidents

During the three-year period there has been an annual increase in the number of incidents involving youth offenders, aged 17 and under. In particular, there has been a 16% increase in such incidents in the last year (from 2599 to 3014 incidents), as summarised below.

Year	No. of incidents
2006/2007	2496
2007/2008	2599
2008/2009	3014

Consistently, the majority of incidents have involved male youths - 78.9% of the incidents in 2006/2007, dropping to 74.1% in 2007/2008 and rising again to 78.6% in 2008/2009.

The data has been examined further in relation to the age of the offenders, and the number of incidents by each age group is summarised in the chart below, which highlights the fluctuations in the volume of incidents involving youths of the different ages in the past three years;



Age group	01/03/06-28/02/07	01/03/07-29/02/08	01/03/08-28/02/09
12 or under	228	289	411
13	187	202	355
14	384	366	528
15	527	601	571
16	857	689	686
17	1177	942	965

Type of offence

Incidents involving youths have ranged widely in nature and the classification of the offences for the individual incidents are summarised in the following table.

Class of crime	01/03/06-28/02/07		01/03/07-29/02/08		01/03/08-28/02/09	
	No. of incidents	% of total	No. of incidents	% of total	No. of incidents	% of total
CLASS 1 (Crimes of Violence)	26	0.9%	19	0.6%	40	1.2%
CLASS 2 (Crimes of Indecency)	31	1.1%	40	1.4%	46	1.3%
CLASS 3 (Crimes of Dishonesty)	507	18.1%	515	17.5%	537	15.5%
CLASS 4 (Crimes of Vandalism)	893	31.9%	697	23.7%	809	23.3%
CLASS 5 (Other crimes/Drugs)	191	6.8%	274	9.3%	397	11.4%
CLASS 6 (Miscellaneous Offences)	932	33.3%	1171	39.9%	1324	38.2%
CLASS 7 (Road Traffic Offences)	217	7.8%	221	7.5%	315	9.1%

As can be seen, a high proportion of the incidents are consistently in relation to Miscellaneous Offences. Over the three year period, 52.2% of the Class 6 offences were in relation to Breach of the Peace while a further 36.2% were for Petty Assault. While these may be considered “minor” offences, nonetheless they have the potential of escalating to more serious offending, particularly in relation to offences of violence.

Also representing a high proportion of the incidents are offences of vandalism. Indeed, over the three years, there have been a total of 2399 incidents in relation to Class 4 – these have resulted in a total of 5155 Class 4 offences, highlighting that such incidents often include multiple offences and offenders.

The above statistics demonstrate where the Police have dealt with offenders by way of a warning, restorative warning or reported the matter to the Children’s Reporter or Procurator Fiscal. Whilst this may be viewed as the primary role of the Police, Northern Constabulary have been heavily involved with a number of partner agencies in providing a range of diversionary activities for children, in an effort to prevent children offending. A great deal of these events and activities have only been made possible by staff assisting in their own time. The monitoring of youth crime and the co-ordination of many of the activities has been undertaken by a multi-agency group set up to drive forward actions under the Single Outcome Agreements.

These activities have included:

- Street Football
- Street Rugby
- Twilight Basketball
- Blue Light Discos
- Safe Highlanders
- Operation Youth Advantage
- Choices for Life, with further events planned for Stornoway, Kirkwall, Lerwick and Inverness on 7, 12, 14 and 26 May 2009.

PC Rosanna MacSween will be available on the day of the Board to provide more details regarding these activities and the work being undertaken in relation to youth matters.

In addition to the above mentioned it should be pointed out that many staff across the Force undertake voluntary work to provide activities for the youth within local communities, again this is mostly undertaken in their own time.

Looking Ahead

It is the intention of Northern Constabulary to continue to work closely with other partners to prevent youth crime and disorder occurring. This work will include the provision of diversionary activities and education.

Where crime has been committed this will be robustly investigated and where a child has offended the most appropriate action will be taken to address the needs of the child. In all instances staff within the new Divisional Public Protection Units will consider each case using the new Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) principles currently being rolled out across the Force. Again this is a multi-agency response, which should ensure that all of the child's circumstances are considered and that the right support is provided as quickly as possible to prevent further offending.

In relation to youths who continually offend and cause misery within communities, Northern Constabulary has identified a number of areas within existing national procedures which could be improved. These suggestions have been submitted to the Association of Police Officers in Scotland and the Scottish Government officers for consideration. These include powers to restrict the movement of persistent offenders within certain times or locations but do not include blank curfews as suggested in some media reports. It is accepted that this is a difficult area for legislators but, should such measures be agreed, then Northern Constabulary has volunteered to pilot this on behalf of Scotland.

In conclusion, youth crime remains low within Northern Constabulary. Recent increases can be linked to higher levels of proactive policing. The recent increases in Police numbers will enhance Police visibility and this, along with proactive initiatives within Divisions, should assist in reducing youth disorder within communities. The Force intends to continue working with other partners to address the issue, both by way of enforcement and support, to ensure that the young within our communities achieve their full potential.

A recent newspaper report highlighting some of the success is attached to this report for the information of members.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to note the content of this report and to support the Police and other agencies in addressing youth issues within our communities.

I Latimer
Chief Constable
5 May 2009

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

13 May 2009

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Drugs Related Crime

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

To inform the Board of Northern Constabulary's targeting of Drugs Crime.

BACKGROUND

Northern Constabulary has been successfully targeting drug related crime over recent weeks and months and removing illegal drugs from circulation in our communities across the Highlands and Islands.

Significant work has gone into targeting drug related offences, both dealing and possession of illegal substances. We are continuing to remove a substantial quantity of dealing drugs from our streets and a large number of arrests have been made in recent weeks and months.

The recent high level of seizures is a result of the co-operation received by Northern Constabulary from the public. Much of the information which has led to arrests and secured the conviction of dealers came from members of the public who are to be thanked for their continued support.

Calendar of Activity

The following chart shows highlights of just some of the drug enforcement activity across the force area in recent months.

Date	Activity and Arrests
October 2008	<p>A 34 year old man was detained by police officers at Holmsgarth Ferry Terminal, Shetland, disembarking the ferry from Aberdeen in possession of a quantity of Heroin.</p> <p>A 32 year old man was arrested following the search of a house in Lerwick involving police drugs dog Joey. Heroin, Cocaine and Cannabis with an estimated street value of £8000 was recovered.</p> <p>Another house in Lerwick was searched and Heroin was seized.</p> <p>A 24 year old man was reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with possession of cannabis and Valium at Caledonian Stadium, Inverness</p>
November 2008	<p>After a search within Culloden Academy, three males in their teens were reported to the Children's Reporter and the Procurator Fiscal.</p>

	<p>Police in Stornoway recovered suspected Class A drugs with an estimated street value of £30,000 following an intelligence led operation. A 28-year-old man appeared at Stornoway Sheriff Court in connection with alleged offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act.</p>
<p>December 2008</p>	<p>A major Police operation across 19 addresses in the Inverness, Ardersier and Foyers area resulted in 7 arrests, several more detentions, and a dealing quantity of drugs seized.</p> <p>The operation involved 40 police officers, dog handlers and financial investigators. Heroin, Cannabis and Dihydrocodeine were recovered.</p> <p>Several drugs presentations and drugs dog demonstrations were also given to pupils at Portree High School.</p> <p>Eight premises were searched on the Isle of Lewis, as part of an intelligence-led drugs operation. Drugs were seized and 5 persons reported to the Procurator Fiscal. (Over £100,000 worth of cocaine was seized in the area in 2008.)</p> <p>Police searched four addresses across Nairn: one man was detained and a 37-year-old female was the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Dealing quantities of suspected cannabis and amphetamine were seized.</p> <p>20 police officers, from the Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross Area Command, were involved in an intelligence-led drugs enforcement operation on the Mansfield Estate, Tain. Four houses were searched and as a result, three persons reported to the Procurator Fiscal at Tain.</p>
<p>January 2009</p>	<p>Around £2,500 worth of drugs, including heroin, cocaine and cannabis, was seized in a number of searches across the Inverness and Easter Ross area in early January, from Alness and Invergordon to Dunvegan and Kyleakin.</p> <p>Three separate searches in Alness resulted in further quantities of drugs being recovered. Three men and one woman were detained.</p> <p>In the Inverness area, over £35,000 worth of drugs was recovered in a period of 2 weeks alone. This includes heroin with a street value of over £20,000, around £9,000 of cannabis resin, £3,000 of crystal ecstasy and several other illegal drugs. Over this period, approximately £3,000 cash was seized. There were a total of 34 positive searches and 8 people were charged with supply.</p> <p>Significant drugs arrests included: A 29 year-old male from Inverness was arrested at Inverness Railway Station in possession of suspected heroin with an estimated street value of £17,500.</p> <p>A 30 year-old male from Orkney was arrested following a search by the Road Crime Unit on the A9. Over £8,000 worth of cannabis resin</p>

	<p>was recovered, together with white powder. It is believed the drugs may have been headed for Orkney.</p> <p>A man in possession of heroin with a street value of over £4,000 was arrested in an Inverness street.</p> <p>Over £65,000 worth of drugs (amphetamine and cocaine) were recovered in a search of a premises in Rosemarkie. A 22-year-old Inverness man, a 19-year-old Inverness female and a 43-year-old Oldham man appeared at Dingwall Sheriff Court. A four figure sum was also seized in connection with the incident.</p> <p>Two men, aged 20 and 23, were arrested on the A9 on 29 February 2009 and £10,000 worth of cannabis and ecstasy was seized after police searched a car and properties over the weekend. Both men and a 19-year-old female appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court.</p>
February 2009	<p>Police arrested a 17-year-old man in connection with alleged drug dealing offences after tablets and white powder, with an estimated street value of £3,700, were recovered from a house in the Milton of Leys area, Inverness.</p> <p>In Wick Police recovered £2000 of suspected herbal cannabis and, as a result, three people were reported to the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>In Portree, a man and a woman were reported to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with alleged offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act.</p> <p>Northern Constabulary officers work closely with police forces around the UK and elsewhere in the world to tackle the supply and trade of illegal drugs. On 25th February a 47 year old man from Shetland was arrested by French Customs officers on the A63 motorway near its border with Spain, whilst returning to the UK. The man was found to be in possession of approximately 31 kg of Cannabis Resin. This has a potential UK street value of £155,000.</p>
March 2009	<p>Significant quantities of Heroin, Cocaine, Diazepam and Cannabis with a street value of approximately £10,000 were recovered in the Inverness area. Cash in excess of £7000 was also seized. Four people appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court.</p> <p>A number of drug searches took place in and around Inverness and six people were arrested. Class A drugs with a street value of £20,000 and a sum of cash were recovered.</p> <p>Twenty-five officers were involved in a search of eight addresses in Caithness, resulting in the recovery of drugs, including cannabis resin with a street value of approximately £12,500, and sums of cash. Two men, aged 44 and 26 and a 23-year-old woman were arrested and six further people were reported to the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>In a separate operation in Shetland, almost £3000 of heroin was seized and a 39-year-old man was arrested.</p>

	Tip-offs from the public led to three men being detained in Nairn. As a result of subsequent investigations, a thirty-six-year-old man was charged.
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Drugs Sentences of Note

The majority of recent arrests have yet to come to court, but here are a few examples of the outcome of cases in recent weeks.

Name	Offence	Sentence
Jason Headech (37), Darren Gear (32) and Robert Young (38)	Supply of Class A drugs, including crack cocaine, to Shetland	Total of 11 years
Lin Min Guo	Cannabis Factory cultivation	20 months young offenders institution
Aida Mackenzie	Worked in a chemist, Supply of drugs (Inverness)	40 months
Robert Charles Ruby	Heroin courier Lerwick	44 months
Jing Hai Zeng	Evelix and Fearn Cannabis Cultivation	Pled guilty sentencing 18 May
George MacPhee	Supply of drugs (Inverness)	6 years
William McCulloch	Supply of drugs (Inverness)	2 years
Richard MacKinnon	Supply of drugs (Inverness)	3 years

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to note the content of this report.

**I Latimer
Chief Constable
5 May 2009**