

Highland Council
Caithness Committee
13th January 2016

Agenda Item	7.
Report No	CC/03/16

Police- Area Performance Summary
Report by the North Area Commander

Summary

To provide a local summary update to Committee Members on progress with reference to the local priorities within the Highland 2014-2017 Policing Plan.

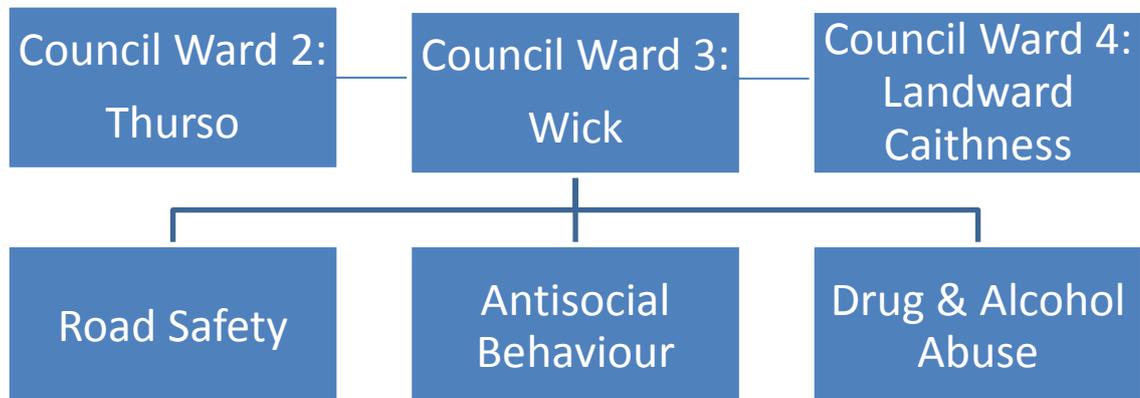
Introduction

In 2014 the Highland Local Policing Plan was considered by the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee (now Community Safety & Public Engagement Committee) and the Education, Children and Adult Services Committee before being approved by full council; the plan sets out the policing priorities and objectives which the 3 Highland Area Commands of the Highland and Islands Division for 3 years from 2014-2017.

The priorities and objectives within the plan have been identified by looking at the national and local intelligence picture; reviewing the community safety trends and securing the views and concerns of the public, locally elected officials and community planning partners.

As we approach the end of the 3rd year as Police Scotland and the end of the 2nd year of the Highland Local Policing Plan we continue to adapt and review local process and plans to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of communities.

The newly formed Caithness Committee sits within the North Highland Area Command of the Highland and Islands Divisional Policing Structure. The Caithness Committee covers three Multi-Member Wards which each have 3 priorities (in this case each ward has the same priorities):



Planning for the Future

Localism is key to empowering communities to take responsibility and have a voice on issues affecting them. Police Scotland recognise the diversity of communities and cultures that exist within Scotland, with the Highland area being no exception to that. Moving forward, the future of Policing in the Highland and Islands Division is about engaging with, listening and responding to local people and ultimately adopting an asset based approach in achieving successful outcomes for communities. Over the coming months, along with key partners, we will remain agile in terms of local development through the community planning partnership and involving and communicating with local people in local communities.

Area Updates

Safer Caithness

This is a new bespoke pilot initiative in Caithness which is based on a similar project in Inverness and tailored to address public and private space issues in communities. The initiative in Caithness combines local resources to respond quickly to local problems to ensure early intervention, better outcomes and value for money.

The focus of the Team is on prevention and early intervention with the recognition that effectively tackling low level antisocial behaviour can reduce the number of such incidents which can often escalate into more serious cases.

The core partners who participate in the daily tactical process include:

- Highland Council
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Police Scotland

with other partners participating on a case by case basis.

The objectives of the initiative are:

- To develop a Safer Caithness Response Team based on best practice and partnership working.
- Collaborative planning and service delivery to achieve more efficient and sustainable solutions to community safety priorities.
- Systematic analysis of information collected from all relevant Partners and analytical products to direct activities.
- Operate at a tactical level but not exclusively.
- Create a Response Team which will in the long term be based in a

dedicated office environment for community safety partners.

- Evolve over time in terms of membership and act as a catalyst for further integration and partnership working.
- Improve information flow from communities, their representative and colleagues direct to the professionals involved in the daily tactical process.
- Support other thematic groups deliver the Highland Single Outcome Agreement.

The pilot commenced in September 2015 and will run for 6 months with reports of progress going to this Area Committee for scrutiny. Statistical information will be provided to evidence success or otherwise and victims of antisocial behaviour will be surveyed along with staff involved with the response team providing qualitative evidence along with statistical information.

Ward Trending and National Resources

Police Scotland now utilise a ward trending tool which is monitored by the Divisional Violence Reduction Unit. This enhanced analysis has allowed us to direct resources and focus on emerging issues. Throughout October and November 2015 local Police Officers and Special Constables from Caithness joined up with officers from the Flexible Policing Unit (based in Inverness) to carry out anti-crime patrols in Thurso, Wick and surrounding areas. The patrols formed part of Police Scotland's Operation Respect, aimed at reducing incidents of violence and disorder and crimes in and around licensed premises.

The Flexible Policing Team were deployed in Caithness for 14 out of 31 deployable days during October and November and provided an additional 609 hours of officers' time. The team worked pro-actively in the area throughout this period; this involved carrying out curfew order checks, licensed premises checks and increased visible presence at key times. There were 4 Street Briefings carried out in Wick and Thurso.

Recruitment

As part of Police Scotland's ongoing recruitment drive; a local candidate briefing session will take place in Wick Police Station, Bankhead Road, Wick on Saturday 16th January 2016 from 11:30am- 1.00pm. Booking is essential and can be done by calling: 01224 306684 or e-mailing: policerecruitmentaberdeen@scotland.pnn.police.uk

We are recruiting police officers for your community, this briefing session provides an excellent opportunity for local people of all ages to come along and meet those involved in recruitment, learn more about what is required on application and ask any questions that they may have.

The following report provides an overview of performance in terms of the three priorities identified for the Caithness area as detailed above:

1. Priority 1- Road Safety

The impact of death and injury on our roads is significant, not only from the impact on victims and their families but to communities and the wider economy. It consistently features as a concern for the communities in Highland and Road Policing remains a priority for every officer.

We continue to work in partnership to improve road user behaviour through education, enforcement and engineering solutions. This informs our actions, using intelligence and analysis to identify priority routes and road users who may be vulnerable. Evidence has shown that a highly visible presence on our roads has a significant impact on driver behaviour. We continue to ensure our officers are in the 'right place at the right time' to employ both prevention and enforcement tactics and continue working with partners to consider the development of appropriate schemes for diversion from prosecution. We are continuing to support Local Authorities, Community and Road Safety Partnerships in delivering road safety activities.

These commitments are reflected in Police Scotland's three year Road Safety and Road Crime Strategy, published in 2015.

Over the past year the Divisional and Trunk Roads Policing Unit has increased its establishment and currently has 45 dedicated officers covering the Division who can be tasked with local issues in each of the wards.

Driving Ambition has taken place in Thurso and Wick High Schools in 2015.

Caithness Summary
(1 April 2015- 30 November 2015)-

- There has been 1 fatal collision in the Caithness & Sutherland area during this first reporting period:

A9 Rams Craigs- This was a 5 vehicle collision where 1 person sustained fatal injuries. A French foreign national has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal in relation to this.

The below tables provide an overview of figures for the Caithness Area; these figures relate to the reporting period -1st April 2015 to 30th November 2015:

CAITHNESS	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	21	27	+ 6 (Figure includes failure to provide a specimen)

* Please note: Some of the Multi-Member Ward data results in small numbers. Where this occurs great care should be taken in the interpretation of emerging trends or percentage changes.

In this reporting year, in the Caithness and wider Highland area, the tactical approach being taken by the Division involves targeting speed, use of mobile phones whilst driving and seatbelts. It is disappointing to see the numbers increasing however, we know that if we can reduce speed and ensure that people use their seatbelts and avoid the use of mobile phones whilst driving then they are less likely to be involved in a collision.

NORTH	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Speeding (Detections)	815	1328	+ 513
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	162	216	+ 54
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	125	190	+ 65

* Please note that due to system configurations the above figures are not available at multi-member ward level.

Operations/Campaigns

The following campaigns have been running recently throughout the Division:

- Getting Ready for Winter
- Brake National Road Safety Week
- Festive Drink & Drug Drive Campaign

2. **Priority 2- Alcohol and Drugs Abuse/Misuse**

By working effectively with our partners in the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership and supporting campaigns such as 'Meet the Macphersons' we are working hard to reduce alcohol and drug abuse/misuse in the Highland area.

We know that this remains a priority for our communities and we recognise the detrimental impact that drugs and/or alcohol has on the quality of life of individuals, their families and the community in which they live.

Since April 2015 there have been 4 drug related deaths in Caithness.

Over the past year Caithness has seen increased use of New Psychoactive Substances. The danger of these so-called 'legal highs' is well documented and local officers have been working closely with partners in the NHS and Caithness Drug and Alcohol Forum to address issues and provide education and guidance to young people, parents/carers, teachers and youth leaders. Ensuring a robust response to information received about drugs in the community is key and sends a clear message of intolerance to those considering supplying and/or consuming illegal and non-prescribed recreational drugs.

Our communities have a significant role to play in reporting suspicious activities, we rely heavily on the support of the public in supplying us with information to disrupt the supply of drugs and arrest those responsible for causing harm to our communities.

Caithness Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 30 November 2015)-

- Operation Respect is an ongoing multi-agency partnership initiative which aims to reduce street violence, disorder and incidents linked to licensed premises. Working with key partners in order to make our streets safer and to reduce the risk to the public.
- Regular licensed premises checks and collaborative working with licensees has been a key factor in reducing crime such as serious assaults and drink/drug driving. Since April 2015 an additional 383 licensed premises checks were carried out in Caithness compared with the same period last year (682 last year compared to 1065 this year).
- Throughout the coming year we will be continuing to carry out a range of initiatives with schools, youth and community groups to help raise awareness and educate young people on the dangers of New Psychoactive Substances.

NORTH	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections)	23	30	+ 7 (This figure includes detections for drugs supply, productions and cultivations)

* Please note that due to system configurations the above figures are not available at multi-member ward level.

Police Scotland has now established a National Stop and Search Unit to provide scrutiny and governance around the use of this policing tactic.

3. Priority 3- Antisocial Behaviour/Disorder

Antisocial behaviour remains a concern within our communities. As a member of the Antisocial Behaviour Group within the safer Highland Community Planning Framework we have contributed to the review and update of the antisocial behaviour strategy. This will continue to be developed over the coming year and updates and progress against the Antisocial Behaviour Action Plan and partnership delivery models (Safer Caithness) will be presented at future Caithness Committee meetings.

Operation Notebook aims to identify and deal with offenders at an early stage and has proved successful in terms of multi-agency work addressing and resolving issues before they escalate. This operation has a clear remit in terms of reducing antisocial behaviour and the number of people who are victims of antisocial behaviour and noise calls.

Caithness Performance Summary (1 April 2015- 30 November 2015)-

NORTH	14/15 FYTD	15/16 FYTD	Variation
Breach of the Peace/Threatening & Abusive Behaviour			
Thurso	30	49	+ 19
Wick	39	45	+ 6
Landward Caithness	34	14	- 20
TOTAL:	103	108	+ 5
Common Assault			
Thurso	69	50	- 19
Wick	51	62	+ 11
Landward Caithness	18	20	+ 2
TOTAL:	138	132	- 6
Vandalism (Including Malicious Mischief)			
Thurso	64	54	- 10
Wick	77	74	- 3
Landward Caithness	24	17	- 7
TOTAL:	165	145	- 20

* Please note: Some of the multi-member ward data results in small numbers. Where this occurs great care should be taken in the interpretation of emerging trends or percentage changes.

- (i) **Recommendation:** The committee is invited to scrutinise and discuss the progress report and updates in relation to the 3 Priorities; Road Safety, Alcohol and Drug Abuse/Misuse and Antisocial Behaviour

**Chief Inspector Iain MacLelland
North Highland Area Commander
5th January 2015**