

Highland Council
Lochaber Committee
18th January 2017

Agenda Item	3
Report No	LA/1/17

Police- Area Performance Summary
Report by the South 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.

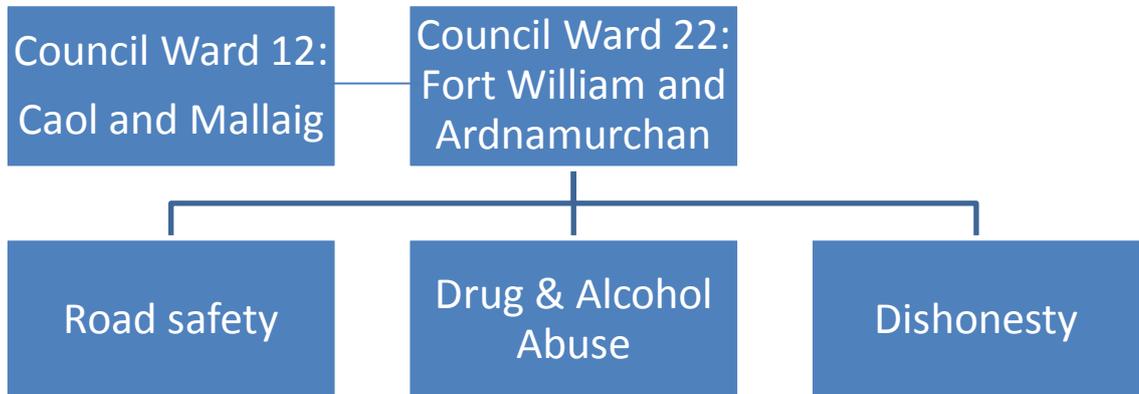
Introduction

In 2014 the Highland Local Policing Plan was considered by the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee (now Communities and Partnerships 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 Lochaber Committee sits within the South Highland Area Command of the Highland and Islands Divisional Policing Structure. The Lochaber Committee covers the 2 Multi-Member Wards which each have 3 priorities (in this case they each have the same priorities):



Your View Counts

Since the launch of 'YourViewCounts' in April just under 16,000 surveys have been completed across Scotland by 30th September 2016.

This valuable feedback on crimes and other issues that impact on communities, together with evidence from a number of other important sources will help us to formulate future national and local policing plans. We have tried to enhance the survey to best meet needs across Scotland, launching a Polish version in July, an "Easy Read" version and we are looking to develop a BSL (British Sign Language) version.

You can access the results for the Highland & Islands area by following this [link](#):

If you have not had time to take part yet, it's not too late and we would encourage you to take just 15 minutes of your time to tell us what is important to you about policing through www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts.

Demands on Service

Police Scotland Officers based in South Highland area deal with a wide variety of calls many of which are not crime related. Calls relating to vulnerable people in a variety of contexts are steadily increasing and officers are regularly required to attend.

The figures below related to the period 1st April – 30th November 2016. The total number of calls where vulnerability was the primary concern is 677. In the same period there were 1543 (Class 1-6) recorded and 1580 Advice/Assistance calls:

SOUTH	Number of calls
Mental Health Calls	115
Medical Calls	231
Concern Calls	165
Missing Person Calls	166

The following report provides an overview of performance in terms of the four priorities identified for the Lochaber 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 inputs were presented to pupils at Mallaig High School, Lochaber High School and Ardnamurchan High School attended by a total of 140 S5/6 pupils.

Further Driving Ambitions presentations are scheduled to take in the Lochaber area during August 2017.

Lochaber Summary

(1 July 2016 – 30 November 2016)-

There have been 2 fatal collisions in the Lochaber area during this reporting period:

- Collision occurred on A82 Glencoe, near to Ski Centre and involved 1 vehicle. The front seat passenger later died in hospital as a result of complications of a relatively minor injury caused by RTC.
- Incident occurred on A82, North Road, Fort William and involved a HGV and cyclist. Cyclist sustained fatal injuries.

Across Scotland the causes of fatal and serious road traffic are reported as follows:

- **Driver/rider errors or reactions** were reported in 66 per cent of **all** reported accidents with 'failed to look properly' the most common type

(involved in 31%).

- **Travelling too fast for the conditions** or **excessive speed** was reported in 11% of all reported accidents and 19% of fatal accidents.
- **Pedestrian only** factors were reported in 22% of **fatal** accidents whilst **loss of control** and **failed to look properly** were the most frequently reported driver/rider factors (involved in 30% and 25% of fatal accidents respectively).

The below tables provide an overview of figures for the Locharber Area; these figures relate to the reporting period -1st April 2016 to 30th November 2016:

LOCHABER	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Drink/Drug Driving (Detections)	27	19	-7 (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.

SOUTH	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Speeding (Detections)	1913	1651	-262
Seatbelt Offences (Detections)	187	81	-106
Mobile Phone Offences (Detections)	86	49	-37

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

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 or suffer less serious injury if involved in a collision.

Operations/Campaigns

December 2016 – Festive Drink/Drug Campaign

The Festive Drink/Drug Drive Initiative 2016 commenced at 0700 hours Friday 2 December 2016 and will run for a period of five weeks until 0700 hours Friday 6 January 2017.

Despite the general perception that drink/drug driving is socially unacceptable, many who persist in doing so consider it to be a low-risk activity in terms of the

likelihood of being involved in a collision or being caught. This year's initiative focussed on offenders who are just over the drink drive limit and 'morning after' offenders.

The 'Festive Drink/Drug Drive Initiative 2016' was conducted through high visibility patrol work in marked police vehicles and static road checks. Based upon research and analysis of previous campaign returns, the aim of the initiative was to conduct high profile, high visibility patrols of main arterial routes and drink/drive hotspots.

2017 – Abandoned/Uninsured Vehicles Campaign

Road Policing supported by Local Policing are to participate in a local Multi-Agency two day initiative specifically targeted to resolve and address the high number of complaints to Police Scotland in relation to Antisocial Behaviour specifically around vehicles.

Members of the public have been subjected to Antisocial behaviour from particular individuals who utilise residential parking spaces, and the public road for what can only be described as end of life vehicles. They leave mechanical debris littering the local footpaths and roads. Individuals have been identified and again while some positive action has already been taken this operation will progress things further.

The planning for this is under way and it is hoped to take action with partners early 2017.

2. **Priority 2- Drug & Alcohol Abuse**

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.

Between 01 April 2016 and 31 October 2016 there were no drug related deaths in the Lochaber area.

The production and supply of new psychoactive substances (NPS) is now illegal, mere possession of these substances does not constitute an offence. Police Scotland has policies in place to robustly deal with the dangers posed by NPS. The message from police Scotland remains there is no 'safe' way to take NPS – there is always a risk. The only way of staying safe is to avoid NPS altogether.

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.

SOUTH	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Supply of Drugs or being concerned in the supply of drugs (Detections)	14	21	+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- Dishonesty

Although the likelihood of being a victim of crimes such as housebreaking, thefts and bogus caller fraud is small, when they do occur they have a disproportionate effect on individuals, families and communities in respect of their feelings of safety.

Festive Campaign

Police Scotland Festive campaign was launched during the week commencing 28th November 2016

The themes of this year's force campaign were:

Festive Shoppers (Those out and about within town centres/shopping centres)

Online Safety (Personal and financial security and awareness when online – shopping/browsing or otherwise)

Party safety (Those out socialising over festive period, specifically those engaging on work nights out)

Home safety (Homeowners/Occupiers in raising awareness of home security over festive period)

Business safety (this was predominantly targeted in the last week and its purpose was to raise awareness of business security)

The Preventions and Interventions Team carried out a series of events throughout the Highlands. On **9 December 2016**, the team attended at Fort William for the purpose of active engagement with members of the public in order to promote winter safety/festive messages.

**Lochaber Performance Summary
(1 April 2016 – 30 November 2016)-**

LOCHABER	15/16 FYTD	16/17 FYTD	Variation
Number of Thefts by Housebreaking (Dwelling house, Non-dwelling, Other premises)			
Caol & Mallaig	2	-	-2
Fort William & Ardnamurchan	9	2	-7
TOTAL:	11	2	-9
Theft by Shoplifting			
Caol & Mallaig	4	-	-4
Fort William & Ardnamurchan	15	10	-5
TOTAL:	19	10	-9
Number of Thefts from motor vehicles (This figure includes opening lockfast places- motor vehicle, theft of and from a motor vehicle and attempted theft of a motor vehicle).			
Caol & Mallaig	1	2	+1
Fort William & Ardnamurchan	6	5	- 1
TOTAL:	7	7	-

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, Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Dishonesty.

**T/Chief Inspector Brian Mackay
South Highland Area Commander
5th January 2017**