

OFFICIAL

Agenda Item	7
Report No	CP/04/21

Highland Council

**Highland Committee
24 February 2021**

Performance against the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020 - 2023

Report by Chief Superintendent Conrad Trickett - Divisional Commander (N Division)

Summary:

To provide an update to Committee Members on the progress with reference to the objectives outlined in the Highland 2020 - 2023 Policing Plan.

1. A summary of the current performance against the 2020 - 2023 Highland Local Policing Plan objectives is at Appendix 1. The period covered by the report is 01 April 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Recommendation: It is recommended that members scrutinise:

1. Local performance against the Highland 2020 - 2023 Policing Plan.

**Chief Superintendent Conrad Trickett
N Division - Divisional Commander
10 February 2021**

HIGHLAND PERFORMANCE AGAINST LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2020/23
01 April 2020 – 31 December 2020

PRIORITY – Road Safety and Road Crime

Intention - With Partners, enhance Road Safety across the Highland Area

Objective – With Partners, deliver a Road Safety Strategy which focuses on: Challenging Driver Behaviour; Education at the road side and elsewhere; Detection of offences linked to contributing factors of Fatal and Serious Road Collisions; and collectively reducing potential harm.

Target	Baseline 5 Year Average	Baseline 3 Year Average	YTD 2019/20	YTD 2020/21	YTD Variation	Context/Narrative
Reduce the number of people killed on the roads in Highland.			23	11	-10	Reduction of traffic on public roads during lockdown period.
Increase the number of people detected for drink / drug driving offences.	285.40	291.33	309	514	205	Reduction of traffic on public roads during lockdown period. Moving towards education and engagement.
Increase the number of people detected for driving with no insurance.			505	654	149	
Increase the number of people detected for speeding.	2570.60	2158.66	2899	2835	-64	
Increase the number of people detected for mobile phone offences.	156.00	100.34	108	66	-42	
Increase the number of people detected for seat belt offences.	197.20	115.01	119	81	-38	
Road Traffic Operations/Campaigns/Prevention and Intervention Activity	<p>Operation Cedar - (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) builds on established practices and will continue to focus on various agencies working in partnership to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured in the area. Operation CEDAR involves proactive multi-agency enforcement operations on the roads, which sits alongside education activity and is aimed at improving the behaviour of drivers of all ages behind the wheel. Partner agencies continue to work together to gain a greater understanding of the factors which could be used to improve the safety of everyone on the roads and together respond to these issues.</p> <p>Driver Engagement North - A multi-agency initiative makes use of an interactive driving simulator designed to assess and highlight a participant's reactions, hazard awareness and any potential vulnerabilities on the roads. The project, launched in Inverness during October 2019, received funding from Transport Scotland and is led</p>					

by Police Scotland, with support from a number of partners including the NHS Highland, Local Authority Community Safety Groups, IAM Roadsmart, Age Concern and RoSPA. The simulator has been specially designed to assess and demonstrate a driver's reactions and abilities in a safe environment under the supervision of specialists who will be able to offer support and advice. While this initiative is aimed at older drivers, we will also be able to offer advice to family members or friends who are concerned about whether someone they know is fit to drive. This initiative is not currently running due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any interested parties looking for more information can contact:-

highlandandislandsdriverengagement@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Festive Safety Campaign 2020 – The campaign ran between 01 December 2020 and 02 January 2021. Police Scotland is committed to achieving the Scottish Government's 2020 casualty reduction targets. Increasing awareness of the risks associated with drink/drug driving supports the Force's efforts to reduce road casualties. The campaign was conducted through a combination of intelligence-led high visibility patrols and static road checks.

53 drink and/or drug drivers were reported in the Highland area, this is an increase of 10 on the same period last year. Following the introduction of S5A Road Traffic Act 1988 in October 2019, preliminary drug drive testing is now available to officers. There were positive drug tests obtained in the Highland area command during the campaign period.

	Drink Driving			Drug Driving		
	19/20	20/21	Change	19/20	20/21	Change
Inverness	13	8	-5	9	8	-1
North	7	9	2	6	18	12
South	11	6	-5	7	4	-3
Total	31	23	-8	22	30	8

Operation Close Pass – Cyclists are welcome visitors to the Highland and Islands, they contribute to the local economies and in addition, urban cycling whether for leisure or commuting is becoming increasingly more popular throughout Highland and Islands. Operation Close Pass encourages motorists to give consideration to cyclists when passing and respect their status as vulnerable road users.

PRIORITY – Violence, Disorder and Anti-social Behaviour including Alcohol and Drugs Misuse

Intention – With partners, better understand the causes to prevent and reduce instances of Anti-social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder to enhance community safety across the Highland Area

Objective – Work with partners to share information, support Education, Prevention, Diversionary and Enforcement Measures linked to harmful alcohol consumption; maintain robust procedures around licensed premises; support victims of violent crime by working with partners to improve service provision and prevent repeat victimisation.

Target	Baseline 5 Year Average	Baseline 3 Year Average	YTD 2019/20	YTD 2020/21	YTD Variation	Context/Narrative
Licensed Premises Checks.			10273	3376	-6879	Majority of licensed premises were not trading during the COVID-19 lockdown periods.
Increase the number of offences reported for the supply and possession of drugs.	1396.4	1536.0	1032	1115	83	Figure below 5 and 3 year averages.
Supply of Drugs.	103.20	109.33	127	105	-22	
Drug Deaths.			23	22	-1	Decrease on previous reporting year.
Reduce the number of Breach of the Peace/Threatening & Abusive Behaviour.	1184.80	1082.67	1093	988	-105	Figure below 5 and 3 year averages.
Reduce the occurrences of common Assault.	2251.8	2178.0	1385	1221	-164	Figure below 5 and 3 year averages.
Reduce instances of Serious Assault.	119.6	132.0	94	79	-15	Figure below 5 and 3 year averages.
Reduce instances of Robbery.	27.2	29.7	21	26	5	Figure below 5 and 3 year averages.
Reduce instances of Murder.	1.0	1.3	2	4	2	

Reduce the number of premises currently escalated to Stage 3 noisy behaviour through Operation Notebook.				0		Police continue to work closely with partner agencies and a multi-agency robust response to instances of anti-social behaviour. Through early intervention, there are no Stage 3 Notebook addresses. There are 12 addresses subject to Stage 1. Joint visits regularly conducted reinforcing the message that any form of anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.
Number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in place.				3		
Reduce the incidents of vandalism.	1133.20	1005.33	998	961	-396	Figure below 5 and 3 year averages.
In relation to vehicles; increase the use of antisocial behaviour warnings.						Data not available for this reporting period.
In relation to vehicles; increase the number of vehicles seizures for antisocial behaviour.						
Prevention and Intervention Activity	<p><u>No Knives, Better Lives</u> - No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL) is a national capacity-building programme that supports primary prevention work related to knife carrying in Scotland. In 2009, the NKBL National Delivery Team at YouthLink Scotland and the Scottish Government began supporting partners in 11 selected Local Authority areas to implement NKBL. The approach to prevention is informed by the principles and values of youth work and a public health approach to violence prevention. The focus is not just on what it is we do not want young people to do and how to stop them doing it, but also what we do want young people to be able to do, how we support them to understand and navigate risk and to make positive life choices. Police Prevention & Intervention Officers supported this initiative in the Highland area. This is further complemented by the Joint Education and Police Knives In School Protocol which has been progressed and awaits final sign off by one of the Partners.</p> <p><u>Caithness Violence Reduction Initiative</u> - Caithness Violence Reduction Plan – Partnership working with Highland Council, housing providers, Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service, Caithness Community Planning Partnership, elected members and the Caithness Community Council Association led to the development of a violence reduction group in order to address the increase of low level disorder and assaults in the Caithness area. High profile offenders were targeted and enforcement activity and wider prevention work has already led to a marked decrease in reported crimes on the same period last year and has contributed to collective community reassurance.</p> <p><u>Harm Prevention Officer</u> – An 18 month pilot Harm Prevention Officer (HPO) role was introduced within the N Division area in November 2020. This role is filled by a Police Constable who undertakes daily liaison</p>					

	<p>between internal/external stakeholders with a view to reducing the risk posed to certain members of the public through alcohol and controlled substance misuse.</p> <p>Further, the HPO works with other partners to target Cuckooing which is a crime whereby crime groups take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for County Lines offences. The HPO works within the nationally recognised Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (Divert, Deter, Disrupt, Detect) targeting the Divert and Deter strands.</p>
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Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour - Stop and Searches			
		April 2020 – December 2020	April 2020 – December 2021 (positive)
	Number of stop and searches conducted (total)	1697	698
	Number of statutory stop and searches conducted	-	-
	Number of consensual stop and searches conducted	-	-
	Number of consensual stop and searches refused	-	-
	Number of seizures made	-	-
<p>Positive Stop Search - A positive stop and search is when an item is recovered where possession of same implies criminality on the part of the individual being searched or any other; or potentially compromises the safety of that individual or another.</p> <p>A seizure occurs when - alcohol, and/or; tobacco product, and/or; cigarette papers are surrendered, or are removed from an individual by a Police Officer, for the purpose of safeguarding the health and well-being of that individual or any other, in circumstances where the stop and search tactic has NOT been utilised and no physical search of an individual has taken place.</p>			

PRIORITY – Acquisitive Crime

Intention – With Partners and Communities, prevent instances of acquisitive crime across the Highland area

Objective – With Partners, share information, support education, prevention, diversionary and enforcement activity linked to acquisitive crime; develop work with targets – recidivist offenders to reduce reoffending linked to acquisitive crime e.g. Persistent Offenders programme; enhance the use of all media platforms to raise awareness of local and national preventative initiatives.

Target	Baseline 5 Year Average	Baseline 3 Year Average	YTD 2019/20	YTD 2020/21	YTD Variation	Context/Narrative
Reduce the number of Theft by Housebreaking.	194.40	189	205	195	-10	Figures include Theft by Housebreaking, Attempted Housebreaking With Intent to Steal. These include dwelling and non-dwelling properties.
Reduce number of Theft by Shoplifting.	649.40	707.66	703	551	-152	Increased reduction in premises not trading during the COVID-19 lockdown periods.
Reduce number of Motor Vehicle Crime (including attempts).	287.6	292.3	180	127	-53	Figure below the 5 and 3 year averages.
Number of Fraud crimes.			209	350	141	See Preventions and Intervention Activity below.
Prevention and Intervention Activity	<p>City Centre Policing Team, Inverness – Continues to work with all retailers within Inverness City Centre to standardise security approach and ensure the focus is on crime prevention and target hardening.</p> <p>Rural Watch - The Highlands are renowned for great natural beauty and their rural communities are safe places in which to live, work and visit. However, the nature of the environment and way of life means there are some crime prevention tips particularly relevant to rural life. Watch Schemes work well as a crime prevention and detection tool but are also extremely valuable in terms of enabling Highland communities to share information, allow agencies to send out relevant crime alerts, and empower local communities to be more resilient.</p> <p>To receive local ALERTS about crime and other threats in your area, simply click the green JOIN button on the Rural Watch Website www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk.</p> <p>Fraud –</p>					

Banking Protocol

Following a number of incidents across the N Division area in respect of Frauds and Banking Protocol, work has been ongoing with various Banks within the Division, with a view to setting up learning sessions between staff members to talk through Banking Protocol. This has allowed for a better understanding of the Police response, management of vulnerabilities and referrals/support available to victims.

This has and will continue to allow Bank staff to be aware as to the point in they feel that they can/should intervene.

Parcel Scam Fraud

General awareness messaging around Parcel/Delivery Company Scams has been circulated electronically to all housing providers across the N Division area and to the University of the Highlands and Islands for sharing with their staff, clients and students.

A total of 400 leaflets, in relation to this particular type of scam, were also supplied to Co-op and Tesco stores and Filling Stations across Wick and Thurso. This Police Scotland leaflet provides information in relation to phishing emails, purportedly from well-known delivery companies, which claim that they have been unable to deliver parcels, packages or large letters, asking the recipient to pay a fee or provide additional details in order to rearrange the delivery. In addition this leaflet advises the public to be aware of an increased risk of scam phone calls and texts impersonating delivery companies, as well as fake delivery notices posted through letterboxes. In view of the number of on-line purchases that have been and will continue to be made during COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, this safety messaging is deemed to be very relevant.

Festive Safety Messaging

In order to reach as many households as was possible, a general festive safety leaflet was distributed through Home Delivery services at the following locations: Sainsbury's (Nairn) - 1000 leaflets. Tesco (Dingwall) - 1000 leaflets which were delivered as far as Dornoch, Skye and the Black Isle area. Tesco Extra (Inverness) - 1200 leaflets which were delivered as far as the Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn areas.

The Police Scotland leaflets were distributed along with festive messaging from Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

PRIORITY – Protecting People at Risk of Harm

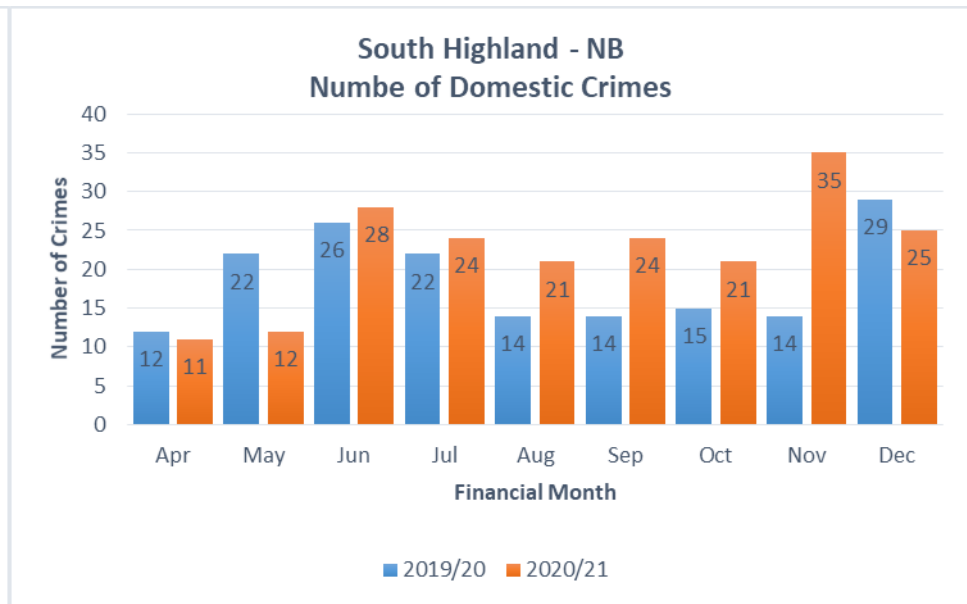
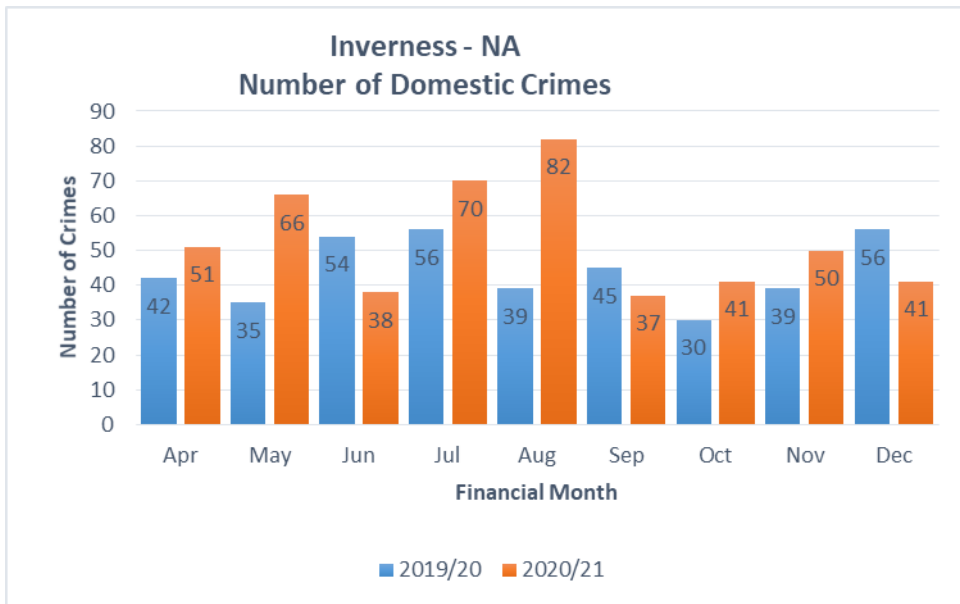
Intention – Protect people at risk of harm

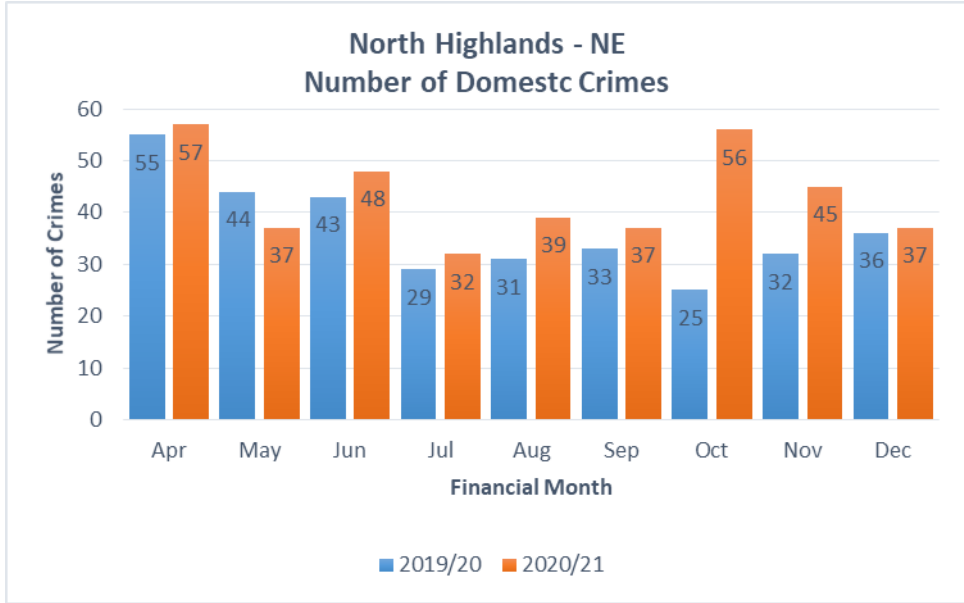
Objective – With Partners and as corporate parents we will deliver the C.H.A.M.P.S (Highland Champion Board) strategy; with Partners we will focus on safeguarding communities; with Partners we will address emerging issues through Prevention and Intervention

Target	Baseline 5 Year Average	Baseline 3 Year Average	YTD 2019/20	YTD 2020/21	YTD Variation	Context/Narrative																								
Number of Sexual Crimes.	538	596	389	343	-46	Includes historical offences which have been recorded in this reporting period.																								
Number of Domestic Crimes.			892	1065	173	National and Local support - Messaging and awareness circulated highlighting reporting and support mechanisms. See rend graphs below.																								
Increase in reporting of Hate Crimes.			57	40	-35	National and Local support - Messaging and awareness circulated highlighting reporting and support mechanisms.																								
Missing Persons	<p>Police Scotland takes every report of a missing person seriously and investigates appropriately with access to local, regional and national specialist resources. Missing persons investigations are a core part of local policing and it is local officers who undertake all investigations, supported by specialist colleagues where necessary. Further, each Division including N Division has an allocated Missing Persons Co-ordinator who advises on operational and preventative approaches.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of Missing Person Investigations</th> <th>19/20</th> <th>20/21</th> <th>Variation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>360</td> <td>157</td> <td>-203</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cared for Adult</td> <td>61</td> <td>37</td> <td>-24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Care Experienced Child</td> <td>379</td> <td>114</td> <td>-265</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child</td> <td>235</td> <td>70</td> <td>-165</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1035</td> <td>378</td> <td>-657</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: the Police Scotland National Missing Persons Database definition of a child changed from <16 in 2016/17 to <18 in 2017/18 to reflect the changes introduced by the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016.</p> <p>Reduction in missing person figures may be linked to the COVID-19 lockdown periods.</p>						Number of Missing Person Investigations	19/20	20/21	Variation	Adult	360	157	-203	Cared for Adult	61	37	-24	Care Experienced Child	379	114	-265	Child	235	70	-165	Total	1035	378	-657
Number of Missing Person Investigations	19/20	20/21	Variation																											
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	<p>Over the last reporting year, each area command have appointed a local police liaison officer who maintains contact and liaison with the residential units in the area. This role has developed and regular contact has built a good relationship with residential unit(s). Where required this officer also works in conjunction with the missing person co-ordinator who similarly enjoys a good working relationship with residential units.</p>
<p>Prevention and Intervention Activity</p>	<p>Police Scotland underwent a national inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) in relation to Hate Crime with N Division (Highland and Islands) being identified as one of three focussed Divisions. The result of this report will be circulated to elected members when available.</p>

Domestic Crime within N Division (Highland) –





PRIORITY – Serious & Organised Crime

Intention – With Partners, reduce the threat, risk and harm caused by Serious Organised Crime

Objective – With Partners work to safeguard the Highland area by taking all opportunities to prevent crime and make the Highland area a hostile environment for Serious & Organised Crime Groups; to improve outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce offending through prevention, early intervention and diversion; in support of our Partners in the Local Authority and NHS via the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy we will direct those who are substance dependant towards recovery through prevention, treatment and support services; with Partners work to reduce the instances of substance misuse in our communities

<p>Serious & Organised Crime</p>	<p>Over the last reporting year, a significant number of arrests have been made in connection with the supply of controlled drugs within the division, the majority of which have been linked to County Lines. All subjects were the focus of targeted activity resulting in significant cash and drug seizures and revealing further lines of enquiry currently being developed. Around 20 juveniles or looked after children from various UK cities have also been safeguarded, having been found within N division being exploited as part of County Lines Gangs. All of the reported cases that have been taken on petition are still to come to trial as a result of the impact of covid-19 on the courts. Information and intelligence submitted by communities in the Inverness and Highland area is always well received and actioned appropriately by Police.</p> <p>Over the last reporting year in Highland, 145 individuals were arrested for supply of drugs resulting in 211 charges and 1059 individuals were charged with possession type offences totalling 1515.</p> <p>Approximately £815,565 (street value) of drugs were seized within the Division while £49,035 of cash and £2,469,223 assets were seized or identified for consideration of confiscation.</p>
<p>Prevention and Intervention Activity</p>	<p>County Lines - When Organised Crime Groups from major cities such as Liverpool, Derby, London and Birmingham are expanding their drug networks to other areas, bringing with it serious criminal behaviour such as violence, exploitation and abuse. The term County Lines refers to the use of a single telephone number to order drugs, operated from outside the local area. They often set up a base in a rural town for a short time, taking over the home of a vulnerable person by 'cuckooing' and use adults and children to act as drug runners. Preventions and Interventions delivered advisory presentations to Partner agencies including Housing, Social Work and NHS.</p> <p>Police Scotland has relaunched an awareness-raising initiative aimed at preventing young people from falling into a life of crime. Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, police have devised an educational pack for young people that shows the devastating effects of Serious Organised Crime.</p> <p>N Division has also recently expanded it's team of dedicated officers with the sole purpose of targeting County Line offenders, working in partnership with partner agencies and protecting vulnerable persons.</p>

	<p><u>Harm Prevention Officer</u> – An 18 month pilot Harm Prevention Officer (HPO) role was introduced within the N Division area in November 2020. This role is filled by a Police Constable who undertakes daily liaison between internal/external stakeholders with a view to reducing the risk posed to certain members of the public through alcohol and controlled substance misuse.</p>
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Further, the HPO works with other partners to target Cuckooing which is a crime whereby crime groups take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for County Lines offences. The HPO works within the nationally recognised Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (Divert, Deter, Disrupt, Detect) targeting the Divert and Deter strands.

PRIORITY – Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism

Intention – Support the delivery of the CONTEST strategy to reduce the threat posed by terrorism and domestic extremism

Objective – Strengthen PREVENT work with Partners and institutions; with Partners, support individuals who are vulnerable to terrorism and violent extremism; strengthen PREVENT work in relation to the internet and Social Media; Effective Multi-agency planning in respect of Counter Terrorism is taking place; Develop our ability to response effectively to any terrorist attack (with a specific focus on emerging high-risk threats, and specialist capabilities).

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism	WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) The workshop covers issues such as crime, normal social processes that are used to influence and manipulate, case studies that cut across the spectrum of extremism, terrorist ideologies and factors which may contribute to an individual’s susceptibility to a terrorist ideology.
Prevention & Intervention Activity	<p>In particular, it seeks to support them to recognise that using their existing expertise and professional judgement, they may be able to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to being persuaded by an extremist or terrorist ideology. Workshops delivered to partners across the Highlands.</p> <p>ACT Now delivered to schools across the Highlands.</p>

COVID-19

Police Scotland's Response -

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Police Scotland continues to provide all essential services that partners and public expect, while supporting the NHS and other organisations to keep everyone safe.

The response to COVID-19 continues to be fast moving and Police Scotland urges everyone to do what they can to comply with the advice from Government and the health service. Police Scotland and other partner agencies continue to require the support of communities and partners to ensure that they are able to help those that need assistance during this time of national crisis.

Police Scotland has had its own challenges surrounding the pandemic due to absence amongst staff, operational challenges, Personal Protective Equipment provision amongst other areas. However, a number of working groups and functions were established to meet those challenges which resulted in Police Scotland continuing to provide the essential services expected from stakeholders.

New Police Powers –

The United Kingdom and Scottish Governments introduced separate pieces of legislation in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities:-

- **Restrictions imposed by The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020.**
- **Coronavirus Act 2020.**

Each piece of legislation contains separate powers for Police Scotland's officers enabling them to help ensure that the current restrictions in place across the country are being followed. The fundamental principles of both pieces of legislation are to reduce transmission and keep people safe.

The vast majority of the public have and will continue to comply with the current restrictions. The policing style adopted is central to ensuring the compliance of fellow citizens. Officers continue to Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. This could be by asking individuals, groups or businesses whether they have heard about the new regulations and restrictions. Officers will stress the risks to public health and the NHS. Enforcement is used as a last resort.

What the public can expect -

There will continue to be a Police presence on the streets across the N Division area with highly visible Police patrols. Our officers are there to help and assist members of the public and will seek to engage with those who are not complying with current guidance.

Police Scotland is founded upon public service and operates under the fundamental principle of policing by consent.

The powers granted under the Coronavirus Act will enable officers to fulfil their duty to uphold the law and keep the public safe. Our officers will continue to engage with the public in a positive and constructive tone as we support our colleagues in the health service at this extraordinary time. The powers being afforded to our officers will be used as a last resort and only where people are defying very clear and sensible advice which is designed to protect them and others from harm.

N Division (Highland) –

During this reporting period, N Division (Highland area) received 2314 calls from the public relating to COVID-19. In addition, N Division officers were involved with the following interactions with members of the public/groups utilising The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 legislation:-

DIVISION	DISPERSED WHEN INFORMED	DISPERSED BUT ONLY WHEN INSTRUCTED	DISPERSED USING REASONABLE FORCE	ISSUED A FIXED PENALTY NOTICE	ARRESTED	ISSUED FIXED PENALTY NOTICE UNDER TRAVEL REGULATIONS
N	4139	1084	10	208	32	13

Note – Not all interactions with members of the public/groups contained in these figures are as a direct result of a call received by Police Scotland. Some of these figures were as a result of N Division officers being on visible patrol and delivering a service in line with the national 4 E's approach - Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce.

N Division officers have also reported 15 instances of Culpable and Reckless Conduct to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.