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Agenda Item	<b>3</b>
Report No	<b>CIA/9/21</b>

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**Committee:** Inverness Area Committee

**Date:** 27 May 2021

**Report Title:** Police – Area Performance Report

**Report By:** Chief Inspector Mairi MacInnes - Area Commander (Inverness Area Command)

**1. Purpose/Executive Summary**

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

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are invited to note:

- i. Progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 1, attached as Annex A to this report, for the period covering 01 April 2020 - 31 March 2021.

**3. Report Format – Police Area Performance Summary Report**

3.1 This document will now cover all priorities featured in the local Policing Plan and evidence Prevention and Intervention work corresponding to each of the policing priorities, provide local narrative in relation to Serious and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism.

**4. Implications**

4.1 Resource – There are no immediate resource applications arising from this noting report.

4.2 Legal – There are no immediate legal implications arising from this noting report.

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Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – There are no immediate community implications arising from this noting report.

Climate Change/Carbon Clever – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Risk – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Gaelic – There are no immediate implications arising from this noting report.

Designation: Chief Inspector

Date: 14 May 2021

Author: Chief Inspector Mairi MacInnes

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**INVERNESS - PERFORMANCE AGAINST LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2020/2023**  
**01 April 2020 – 31 March 2021**

**PRIORITY – Road Safety and Road Crime**

**Intention – Collaborate to reduce casualties and crime on our roads.**

**Objective – Whilst working 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		YTD 2019/20	YTD 2020/21	YTD Variation	Context/Narrative
Reduce the number of people killed on the roads in the Inverness Area Command area.		3	2	-1	12/10/2020 – A82 at Borlum Farm by Drumnadrochit, Highland. (NN/6222/20 refers).  19/11/2020 – B9039 at Castle Stuart by Ardersier, Highland. (NN/6934/20 refers).
Number of people detected for drink/drug driving offences.		113	157	44	Includes failure to provide a specimen of breath.  See Festive Safety Campaign information below.
Number of people detected for speeding.		363	392	29	Increased pro-active patrols targeting known areas of concern.
Number of people detected for mobile phone offences.		49	29	20	
Number of people detected for seat belt offences.		32	38	6	

Road Traffic  
Operations/Campaigns/Prevention and  
Intervention Activity.

**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, in particular the North Coast 500 (NC500) 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.

**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.

**Visitor Management** - There are Road Policing plans in place for motorcyclists/vulnerable road users and Visitor Management for the year ahead and analytical work has been carried out to ensure Police Scotland are targeting the right areas and road users at the right time.

Joint Road Policing and Visitor Management patrols have been conducted within the N Division area, in particular close to the Divisional borders. Further planned patrols are due to take place on the A82, A96 and A9 arterial routes.

**Summer Road Safety Campaign** –

Police Scotland are committed to reducing road casualties across the Highland area and patrols will be conducted on priority routes on a daily basis including the NC500.

Patrols have been and will continue to be conducted at Eastfield Way and Inshes Retail Parks, Inverness in response to reports of Anti-Social Behaviour/Driving in order to educate and target offending drivers.

In addition, Police Scotland has undertaken high visibility speed checks at Schools following their return across the N Division area, including within the Inverness Area Command.

N Division have also held a number of online Question & Answer sessions (via Social Media) with a recent event being facilitated by Road Policing Motorcyclists.

As Licensed Premises reopened, dedicated drink/drug driving patrols have been undertaken across the N Division area, including within the N Division Area Command and officers will continue to undertake a proactive approach to deterring and detecting offenders.

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease, preventative programmes are due to recommence including Close

	Pass (Cycle Safety), Rider Refinement North (motorcycle safety inputs), Driver Engagement North and New Driver Early Intervention.
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## PRIORITY – Serious & Organised Crime

**Intention – Reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime including cyber related 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 &amp; Organised Crime.</p>	<p>There are five County Lines gangs actively importing drugs into the Inverness area. The dealing line is a single telephone number used to order drugs and is operated from out with the area. The gangs impacting on our area are predominantly based in Liverpool, Derby and London. These groups import small to medium sized dealing amounts on a little and often basis.</p> <p>They use all modes of transport and use coercion, intimidation and violence (including sexual) to force people to sell or store drugs on their behalf. Those forced to sell or store drugs are vulnerable adults, including people with learning disabilities, Looked After Children accommodated in care homes or otherwise at risk of exploitation.</p> <p>The Policing resource to tackle this was doubled in January 2021. There are 10 Constables working under the direction of a Detective Sergeant and the team has achieved a number of arrests with large quantities of heroin, crack cocaine and thousands of pounds in cash seized. Enforcement has also taken place in Liverpool where thousands of pounds in Scottish notes were recovered. The Inverness team link in with specialist units from Scotland and England to share information and co-ordinate activity to make arrests and progress enquiries.</p> <p>A number of exploited children and young adults have been traced in Inverness. Often these have been classed as missing from their home area and have been completely unaware of their destination and their proposed involvement at the time they have been picked up from their home town.</p> <p>A number of cases have been reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and await prosecution in the courts.</p>
<p>Prevention and Intervention Activity.</p>	<p><b><u>County Lines</u></b> - 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>

**Harm Prevention Officer** – 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.

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.

**HADASS** –

Since December 2020, a Highland Alcohol and Drug Advice & Support Service (HADASS) referral scheme was implemented, offering those found in possession of controlled drugs the necessary support and guidance to reduce dependency and vulnerability.

**Pathfinders** –

In June 2021, a national pilot, Pathfinders, will commence in Inverness in partnership with Scottish Drug Death Task Force and Criminal Justice Subgroup. This is a new and innovative programme operated by Medics Against Violence which will receive referrals from local Police for those who are arrested for drug offences or offences involving drug use, or for those who have associated vulnerabilities and who require support.

Pathfinders are support workers who will work to support those individuals in addressing complex social issues and work to connect them with community recovery and other services. The aim of the programme is to improve wellbeing, social circumstances, engagement with recovery and life chances for those who accept support and to reduce drug related deaths.

### PRIORITY – Acquisitive Crime

**Intention – Reduce crime through preventing offending and reducing re-offending.**

**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
Number of Theft by Housebreaking.	118.60		123	100	-23	Figure below 5 year average.  Figures include Theft by Housebreaking and Attempted Housebreaking With Intent to Steal and are broken down further as follows:-  Dwelling house – 45. Non-dwelling house – 13. Other premises – 42.
Number of Theft by Shoplifting.	588.80		668	442	-226	Figure below 5 year average.  Reduction in number of retail premises trading during the COVID-19 lockdown periods.
Number of Theft of Motor Vehicles.	43.20		47	26	-21	Figure below 5 year average.  Detection Rate – 61.53%.
Number of Theft from Motor Vehicles.	60.00		56	20	-36	Figure below 5 year average.  Detection Rate – 10.00%.
Prevention and Intervention Activity.	<p>The COVID-19 lockdown in Inverness's communities brought out and continues to bring out the best in the majority of the population. Communities have provided support to vulnerable residents and have all collectively looked out for neighbours. However, it was and remains important to highlight that less scrupulous individuals' may seek to exploit people's vulnerabilities.</p> <p>National and local online messaging encouraged people to think about their personal safety and encouraged individuals to be vigilant about who they engage with and accept assistance from.</p> <p><b><u>City Centre Policing Team, Inverness</u></b> – Work continues with all retailers within Inverness City Centre to standardise security approach and ensure the focus is on crime prevention and target hardening.</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.

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](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk).

### **Fraud** –

#### **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 GUIDE TO KEEPING SAFE...”**

‘A GUIDE TO KEEPING SAFE TOGETHER IN YOUR COMMUNITY’ leaflet was compiled by Police Scotland in order to raise safety awareness across the N Division area, in particular raising awareness in relation to Fraud, Cold Callers, protecting your home and bicycles, tackling Hate Crime and fighting County Lines.

The Inverness Common Good Fund partly funded the leaflets and to date, in excess of 50,000 leaflets have been distributed across the N Division area.

Work is ongoing with a view to obtaining a further 10,000 leaflets for distribution to Post Office locations throughout the Division.

## PRIORITY – Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

**Intention – Engage with the public and communities to reduce and prevent crime.**

**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.			3915	1403	-2512	Majority of licensed premises were not trading during the COVID-19 lockdown periods.
Increase the number of offences reported for the possession, supply or being concerned with the supply of controlled substances.	815.00		796	773	-23	Figure below 5 year average. Number of detections for Drugs supply, production and cultivation.
Drugs Deaths			15	13	-2	
Reduce the number of Breach of the Peace/Threatening & Abusive Behaviour Crimes.	844.20		697	606	-91	Figure below 5 year average.
Reduce the occurrences of common Assault.	885.20		796	707	-89	Figure below 5 year average.
Number of Assaults on Emergency Workers.	126.00		138	139	1	Detection rate – 100%.
Reduce the incidents of Vandalism.	627.40		511	488	-23	Figure below 5 year average. Includes Malicious Mischief.
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

				<p>Stage 3 Notebook addresses. There are 3 addresses subject to Stage 1.</p> <p>Joint visits regularly conducted reinforcing the message that any form of Anti-Social Behaviour will not be tolerated.</p>
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<b>Violence, Disorder &amp; Antisocial Behaviour - Stop and Searches</b>			
		April 2020 – March 2021	April 2020 – March 2021 (Positive)
	Number of stop and searches conducted (total)	975	501
	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><b>Positive Stop Search</b> - 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 <b>seizure</b> 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>			

Number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in place.		2		There are currently 2 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in place in the Inverness area.
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### **City Centre v Merkinch**

Following the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a 168% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence within Inverness City Centre. This reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence can be attributed to the closure of the numerous Licensed Premises within the City Centre.

By comparison, the Merkinch area of Inverness (approximately 1 one mile from the City Centre) has witnessed a 99% increase in Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence, the highest levels of violence since 2013/14. This has now stabilised, with a reduction in violent crime each month from January 2021.

#### **What the public can expect -**

There will continue to be a Police presence on the streets across Inverness with visible patrols, primarily foot and cycle patrols. As the hospitality industry re-opens fully during May 2021 and the coming months, the impact on the City Centre will be closely monitored.

**PRIORITY – Protecting Vulnerable People**

**Intention – Support people considered vulnerable through working with partners.**

**Objective – With Partners and as corporate parents we will deliver the Highland CHAMPS (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
Class 2 Crimes - Sexual Crimes.	228.60		200	160	-40	Includes historical offences which have been recorded in this reporting period.
Ensure that people who report hate incidents feel satisfied with the	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.					

response received from public agencies.	
Prevention and Intervention Activity.	<p><b><u>Mental Health</u></b> -</p> <p>N Division and Inverness Area Command has noted an increase in the number of Mental Health related calls being received from members of the public and partner agencies.</p> <p>These calls range from persons suffering from anxiety and depression to self-harming and suicide attempts.</p> <p>NHS Highland has recently established the Mental Health Unscheduled Care Assessment Unit (MHUCA) based at New Craig's Hospital, Inverness. The MHUCA provide a Triage telephone service to support users in crises at the time of a call being received from a user with further signposting being put in place at that time.</p> <p><b><u>CERAG</u></b> –</p> <p>The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Group (CERAG) meets regularly, involving teams from Child Protection, Prevention and Intervention, Youth Offending, Youth Exploitation, Missing Person Co-ordinator, County Lines Team and colleagues from Barnados. The partnership aims to address child exploitation, tackling those responsible and supporting the children involved.</p> <p><b><u>Highland CHAMPS</u></b> - The Highland CHAMPS (Children have Amazing Minds, Potential and Stories) are a group based in Clachnaharry, Inverness, Highland. Highland CHAMPS welcome any young person from the Highland area who identifies as care-experienced whether they are a care-leaver, looked after at home, fostered, adopted, in residential care or other. Highland CHAMPS provide a safe space for activities, opportunities, socialising and fun. Further information regarding Highland CHAMPS can be found at:-  <a href="https://www.highland.gov.uk/highlandchamps">https://www.highland.gov.uk/highlandchamps</a>.</p>

**PRIORITY – Terrorism and Public Order**

**Intention – Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare through collaborative preparedness.**

**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 respond effectively to any terrorist attack (with a specific focus on emerging high-risk threats, and specialist capabilities).**

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism.

Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP).

WRAP is an interactive facilitated workshop aimed at front line staff such as police, social services, probation, education and health staff. It seeks to support staff to recognise that using their existing expertise and professional judgement, they may be able to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals.

	Work is ongoing to develop contacts in the South Highland Area Command in order to run workshops for relevant staff.
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