

Keeping People Safe in West Dunbartonshire

Our Purpose:- To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland

Violent Crime & Antisocial Behaviour

In Quarter 1 violent crime reduced by 47.3% with 29 crimes versus 55 last year. Serious assaults reduced to 13 from 30 last year, and attempted murder crimes decreased from 3 to 1. One murder took place in Quarter 1. COVID-19 lockdown restrictions are likely to have contributed to the reduction in recorded crime.

56.7% of all violent crimes occurred in a private space

On average 127 stop search have been carried out each month in WDC

Public reported ASB incidents increased by 30.7% (n=657) in Quarter 1 and complaints relating to disorder by 50.6% (n=769). In the main, these increases in public concern relate to reports of persons believed to be breaching Scottish Government pandemic control measures. ASB crimes reduced overall by 7.1% (n=139), largely due to a 21.9% (n=59) decrease in common assault however crimes relating to drinking in public increased by 80% (n=64) and racially aggravated conduct by 120% from 5 to 11.

The detection rate for violent crime has increased from 60% to 69%. The single attempted murder crime has been detected as has the murder. The detection rate for Serious Assault is at 84.6%, up from 63.3% last year.

Public Protection

At the end of Qtr 1, Group 2 sexual crimes had decreased by 7.3% with 38 crimes recorded versus 41 last year. Rape crimes reduced from 11 to 7 and indecent / sexual assaults reduced from 16 to 14, however crimes relating to indecent images / communications increased from 2 to 12. Six of the 12 crimes involved children, all were aged 12 – 16 years. Approx. 21% of all sexual crimes in WDC were non-recent reports.

35% of crimes relating to indecent communication / images involve persons known to the victim

Approx. 21.1% of all sexual crimes recorded have been non recent reports.

Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr 1 last year, the detection rate for Group 2 sexual crime has increased from 36.6% to 52.6%. The detection rate for rape crime also increased from 30% to 140%, this figure includes retrospective detections from last year.



39 missing persons incidents have been recorded within West Dunbartonshire in Qtr1 of 2020-21. Around 30% of these involved Children or Looked After Children.

Overall the number of unique incidents resulting in an Adult / Child Concern reduced by 8.4% (n=97). Child Concerns have reduced by 4.2% (n=41) however Adult concerns (inc. Domestic Abuse) have risen by 2.1% (n=10).

In Qtr 1 the total number of domestic abuse incidents recorded reduced by 6.6% (n=16) compared to last year. Crimes also reduced by 17.1% (n=36). It is likely however that there has been under reporting as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown.

At the end of Qtr 1, user satisfaction results show that levels of public confidence in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire remain high at 72%. Furthermore, figures also indicate 86% of persons were satisfied with how police dealt with their incident.

In total, 43 complaints about the Police have been received YTD, which equates to 48.2 per 10,000 head of population.

West Dunbartonshire

Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023) Quarterly Report (Qtr 1 – 2020/21)

Serious & Organised Crime



Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire 22 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and over £33k seized under POCA.

At the end of Quarter 1, detections for drugs supply had decreased from 33 to 32 YTD, where drug possession had seen a slight increase from 268 to 293 (9.3%).



YTD there has been a total of 57 cyber enabled crimes recorded within West Dunbartonshire. The most commonly recorded types of cyber enabled crimes are crimes involving threatening behaviour (24) and fraud (n=21). To date 8 crimes have been detected.

Acquisitive Crime



Vehicle crimes reduced by 10.3%



Housebreaking increased by 4.4%

Acquisitive crime decreased by 29.6% in Quarter 1 which equates to 133 fewer crimes recorded. Despite an overall reduction, fraud crimes continue to show an increase with 43 recorded versus 33 last year. Housebreaking crimes have also increased slightly from 45 to 47 due to rise in crimes at domestic properties (n=4). These increases have been offset by an 82% reduction in shoplifting (n=155), a 17.9% reduction in common theft (n=20) and a 10% reduction in vehicle crime (n=4). Overall detection rates have reduced slightly from 38.2% to 33.1%. The detection rate for housebreaking has also reduced from 31.1% to 17% while for vehicle crime it has increased from 25.6% to 68.6%.



8 bogus crimes were recorded during Qtr 1 which is no change on the same period last year. Social engineering frauds are most common crime type. To date none of these crimes have been detected.

Road Safety & Road Crime



At the end of Q1 no fatal road collisions had been recorded within West Dunbartonshire. In addition serious injuries have decreased from 6 to 3 and slight injuries have reduced from 15 to 3. It is highly likely that this reduction has resulted from the travel restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Vehicle related offences recorded within West Dunbartonshire were 4.3% higher than last year (n=27). Increased crime levels are largely due to proactive policing with drink, drug driving offences and driving while uninsured accounting for most of the increase, whereas most other road traffic offences decreased.

National Park Crisis Response Group

Following the easing of the Covid-19 travel restrictions there was an increase in persons visiting locations within the Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Division for exercise, recreation and leisure which resulted in a number of issues impacting on local communities at these locations; a lack of facilities such as parking and toilets all exasperated by levels of conduct clearly not in keeping with Government Guidance. One area significantly affected was the Lomond & Trossachs National Park and surrounding areas. High volumes of visitors at beauty spots and locations on the loch were not compatible with social distancing regulations. Numerous complaints were received in respect this and general anti-social behaviour, urinating in public, littering. Road traffic complaints also featured with dangerous parking on road verges and reports of vehicles travelling at high speed. These issues all attracted high levels of media attention. While an existing partnership existed with the National Park it was necessary to escalate this to a Crisis Response Group meeting to include management representation from the Local Authorities, Forestry Commission, Traffic Scotland, Police Scotland across 3 Divisions and the National Park. Extensive work was required to provide a daily response ensuring consistent and key media messaging, local policing plans supported by partners where available and a cross partnership communication product to provide real time management of developing issues.

Disrupting Serious & Organised Crime

While in the course of their duties officers detected the strong smell of cannabis coming from a warehouse unit in Clydebank led to a subsequent search of the building under warrant and resulted in the seizure of a large cultivation of cannabis plants. Further police pro-activity in West Dunbartonshire during Qtr 1 resulted in an address in Clydebank being searched under warrant and over 3kg of herbal cannabis and large quantity of cash being seized.

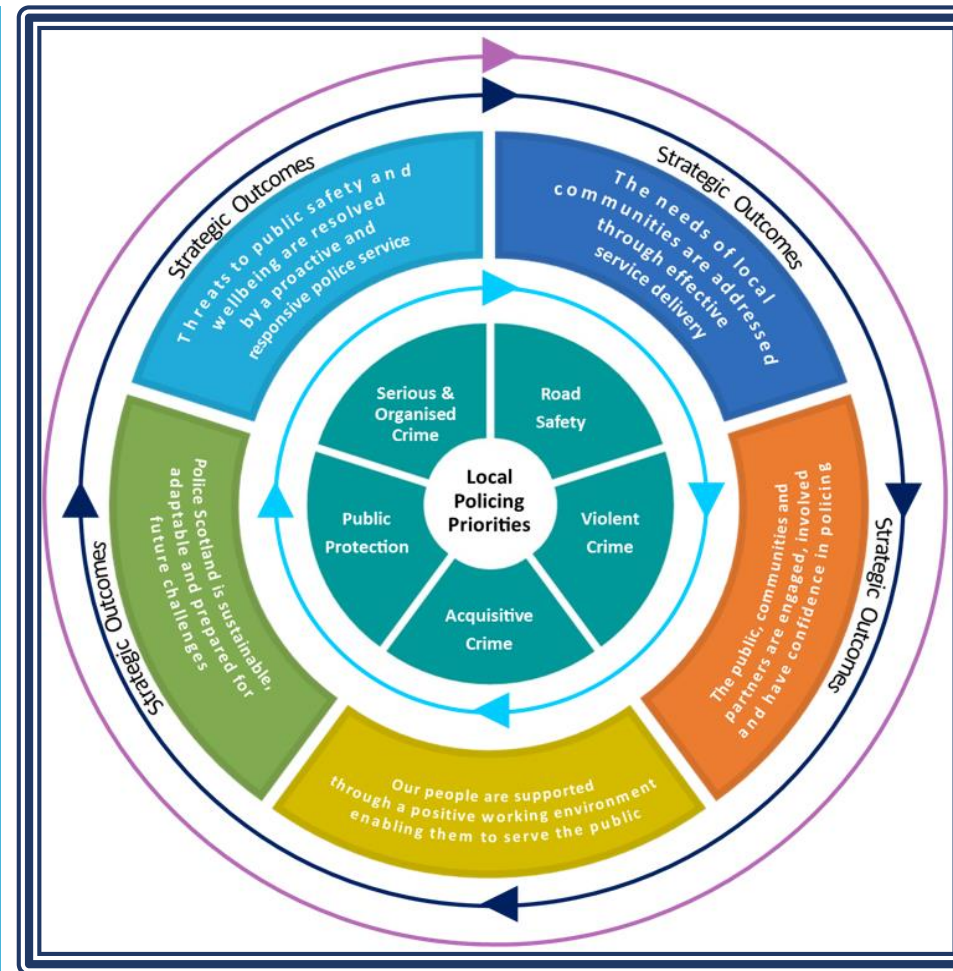
Bogus Worker Crime

In August a bogus workman incident occurred in the Clydebank area where the victim was coerced into parting with a large sum of money. Police officers worked alongside the local community to establish how these individuals were operating. As a result of this work a suspect was identified and apprehended attempting to commit similar type fraudulent behaviour. The suspect is believed to have been involved in similar crimes across Scotland and enquiries remain ongoing to identify these and any associates of the suspect involved in this criminality.

Tackling Fraud Crime

Fraud is the most commonly experienced crime in the UK and costs the UK many billions of pounds every year. The impact of fraud can be devastating and range from unaffordable personal losses suffered by vulnerable victims to impacting the ability of organisations to stay in business.

Due to the significant increase in crime levels across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire, a fraud investigation toolkit has been produced for circulation across the division supplemented by specialist briefings to front line officers to enable a more consistent and productive outcome for victims of this crime type.



Public Engagement during the Covid-19 Lockdown

With the use of bicycles for exercise during the COVID-19 Lockdown, Community and Road Policing officers engaged with motorists and cyclists daily to encourage social distancing and safe driving/cycling. Community Officers in particular spoke with hundreds of cyclists on the cycle paths. This engagement was highlighted on social media, through which we continue to engage with the public, with particular effort made to reach out to our vulnerable and potentially harder to reach members of the community. This engagement also gave the public the opportunity to comment, ask questions or highlight areas of concern. Additionally, to combat bogus/doorstep crime Area Commander was joined by a number of Community Inspectors and Community Constables to record a short video with advice and tips on avoiding becoming victim to a Bogus/Doorstep Caller or a Rogue Trader. The video was well received and was viewed online more than 5000 times. At strategic level the Divisional Commander has written on a regular basis to the CEO and Leader of the Council to provide updates on the policing response to COVID-19.

Child Safety Online

In line with trends noted across Scotland, the number of crimes being recorded relating to indecent images and communication have seen a notable increase since the start of the Covid-19 lockdown. To combat this increasing trend, significant proactive work has been undertaken in partnership with the Child Protection Committees and local media to improve public awareness regarding online safety. This includes messages being sent to parents and secondary pupils encouraging them to be ever vigilant and keep safe. Information has also posted on the CPC website offering advice on how to spot the danger signs of harmful online behaviour and where to get information, help and advice.

Strategic Workforce Plan

A Strategic Workforce Planning framework has been created to document how Police Scotland is responding to changes within society and how these changes will impact on our people, our most important asset. The framework addresses social and demographic change, adapting our skills to fit a transforming labour market and how we can target our resources to best meet future requirements.

The key aims relate to capability, flexibility and diversity. We will increase our capabilities by making sure we have the right people with the right knowledge and skills mix. Our capacity and flexibility will increase through embracing technology and modern use of data. This will provide a better understanding of demands on our service and allow us to match resources accordingly. Our overall approach to workforce planning, will improve the diversity of our workforce.

Your Safety Matters Assault Pledge

Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM has outlined his commitment to reduce the impact of violence and to improve the safety of officers and staff in his new Your Safety Matters Assault Pledge. The Chief has made it clear that aggressive or threatening behaviour or verbal abuse against Police Scotland personnel is simply not part of the job and has promised to provide improved safety and welfare support. With over 1,775 reported assaults on officers and staff across the Force between April and June 2020 the Your Safety Matters group, which includes staff associations, unions, experts from across the Service and supported by the Lord Advocate and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, is undertaking an end-to-end strategic review of all violence and abuse towards officers and staff, with the aims of ensuring all personnel feel safe and supported while discharging their duties, are well prepared in terms of procedures, guidance and equipment, have confidence in reporting incidents in a timely manner and can seek additional support when required.