

# 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

Figures recorded at the end of Qtr. 3, show a 14.9% increase (+17) in Group 1 crimes of violence. This is also 16.5% above the previous 5 year average. Increased crime levels are largely due to a rise in serious assaults (+13) and crimes relating to threats & extortion (+12). Attempt murder crimes have also increased slightly (+4). Most crimes relating to threats & extortion involved threats to disclose indecent images via social media and demanding money.

Almost 70% of threat & extortion crimes occurred online, mainly on Facebook or Instagram

489 stop searches have been carried out YTD, 39% had a positive result

Overall public reported ASB incidents continue to show a noticeable downward trend, largely due to a decrease in public nuisance incidents relating to Covid-19 matters. Complaints relating to disorder have reduced by 32.7% (-1,741). ASB related crimes have also reduced by 7.8% (-169). While most ASB crime types have seen a decrease, common assaults have increased by 9.7% (+67). Approx. 1 in 4 common assaults were domestic related with 47% of all assaults taking place in a private setting. In 41% of crimes occurring in a public space the offender was known to the victim.

The detection rate for Grp 1 crimes is 70.2%, which is slightly lower than last year's figure (73.7%). To date, all attempt murder crimes have been detected and 73.8% of all serious assaults, albeit this is also lower than last year's figure (85.4%). The detection rate for common assault has reduced slightly to 63.1% while crimes involving threats & extortion is unchanged year on year at 40% likely due to the complexity involved in investigating online crime.

## Acquisitive Crime

10.8% decrease  
In vehicle crime

33.3% decrease  
In housebreakings

At the end of Qtr 3 the total number of acquisitive crimes recorded remains similar to last year (-0.1%) however the current figure is also 14.5% below the previous 5 year average. Housebreaking (inc. Domestic) and vehicle crimes have seen a noticeable reduction overall though this continues to be offset by a 12.8% increase in fraud (+19) which continues to grow in line with national trends. In line with previously noted trends, the increase in fraud is due to a significant rise in social engineering fraud and credit / debit card frauds. Figures for both shoplifting and common theft have increased compared to lockdown periods last year, but remain well below the previous 5 year average. The detection rate for acquisitive crime is currently at 25.7%, slightly lower than last year's figure (33.8%).



Compared to the same period last year, the total number of bogus crimes has increased from 40 to 51. This is due to a rise in frauds involving scam phone calls or emails. Almost all bogus crimes recorded in Qtr. 3 related to social engineering fraud, with 4 involving cold callers/rogue traders.

## Public Protection

Set against figures recorded at the end of Qtr. 3 last year, Group 2 sexual crimes have increased by 11.4% (+18). Increased crime levels are mainly as a result of a 38.5% increase in sexual assaults (+20). Crimes relating to lewd & libidinous practices have also increased significantly from 6 to 17 (+12) year on year, nearly all relate to non-recent reports. Rape crimes have seen a slight increase of 3% (+1). Almost 70% of indecent assault and lewd & lib crimes occurred in a private setting, with 60% of these being non-recent reports. Following a previous upward trend, crimes relating to indecent images / communication now show a reduction of 13.8% (-9) compared to last year.

92% of indecent assaults (inc. Lewd & Lib) were committed by persons known to the victim.

The overall detection rate for Group 2 sexual crime has improved slightly from 44.9% to 48.3% when compared to last year. The detection rate for indecent/sexual assaults has also increased from 30.8% to 36.1% year on year however for rape crime it has reduced from 60.6% to 44.1%.

## Vulnerable Persons

The number of incidents recorded in West Dunbartonshire where an adult concern has been raised, has increased by 10.3% from 1281 to 1413 compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr 3 last year. Child concerns continue to show a reduction of 5.2% decreasing from 3141 to 2976.



At the end of Qtr 3, 195 missing person reports had been recorded which is a slight increase from 175 in the same period last year. 36% of all MP report related to 5 repeat MP who were aged 14- 18 years. A new Missing Person Coordinator has been identified and repeat missing persons will all be reviewed.

Overall domestic related incidents continue to show an increase from 1067 to 1072 (+5). Domestic abuse crimes have increased by 4.6% from 632 to 661 (+29). Both figures remain above the previous 5 year average by 6.1% and 17.4% respectively.

## West Dunbartonshire

### Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023) Quarterly Report (Qtr. 3 – 2021/22)

## Serious & Organised Crime



Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire 22 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £186,114 seized under POCA.

At the end of Qtr. 3, drugs supply charges had decreased by 14.4% from 90 to 77. Drug possession charges have also reduced by 35.5% from 757 to 488. Both figures remain below the previous 5 year average.



In total 208 cyber-crimes had been recorded within West Dunbartonshire at the end of Qtr 3, which is a reduction from 226 in the same period last year. The most commonly reported types of cyber-crime are cyber-enabled fraud (80), threatening messages sent via social media (62) and crimes relating to indecent images/communication (42).

## Road Safety & Road Crime



There were no fatal road collisions recorded within West Dunbartonshire during Qtr 3. Overall road casualties have followed a downward trend reducing by 25% from 48 to 36. This is due to a decrease in slight injuries which have reduced from 33 to 20 year on year. The number of serious injuries recorded remains unchanged at 14, while fatalities increased from 1 to 2 year on year.

At the end of Qtr. 3, figures show a 14.7% decrease in the total number of road traffic offences recorded YTD within West Dunbartonshire. Most types of offences have seen a reduction; speeding offences have decreased from 262 to 239 (-8.8%) and drink / drug driving offences from 193 to 162 (-16.1%). Dangerous Driving offences have decreased from 47 to 34 (-27.7%) and Careless Driving from 161 to 142 (-11.8%).

## User Satisfaction / Complaints

User Satisfaction results show that in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire public confidence levels remain high with overall satisfaction levels at 70%. At the end of Qtr. 3, 83 complaints against the police had been recorded which is a decrease from 102 last year. The number of allegations against officers has also reduced considerably year on year from 266 to 140.

**LIFE CHANGES TRUST AWARD FOR WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – CALL BLOCKERS**

Following an increase in phone scams being reported throughout West Dunbartonshire, Police Scotland and West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteering Services (WDCVS) have launched the roll out of free call blocking devices. This work is supported with funding from the Life Changes Trust. The Trust is funded by The National Lottery Community Fund. The trueCall call blocking units will be installed by Lomond and Clyde Care and Repair. We are looking to supply these to people who are most vulnerable of falling victim to these scams, particularly if you live alone or suffer from a disability or mental impairment such as dementia.

**HERBERT PROTOCOL VIDEO**

Since the launch of the Herbert Protocol, work has continued to raise awareness of this initiative, which aims to help people living with dementia should they go missing, with partners and the wider public. A recent partnership venture with Carers of West Dunbartonshire resulted in a user friendly video focussing on the Herbert Protocol and its benefits. This has been provided to all paid and unpaid carers and featured on social media for public awareness.

**ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

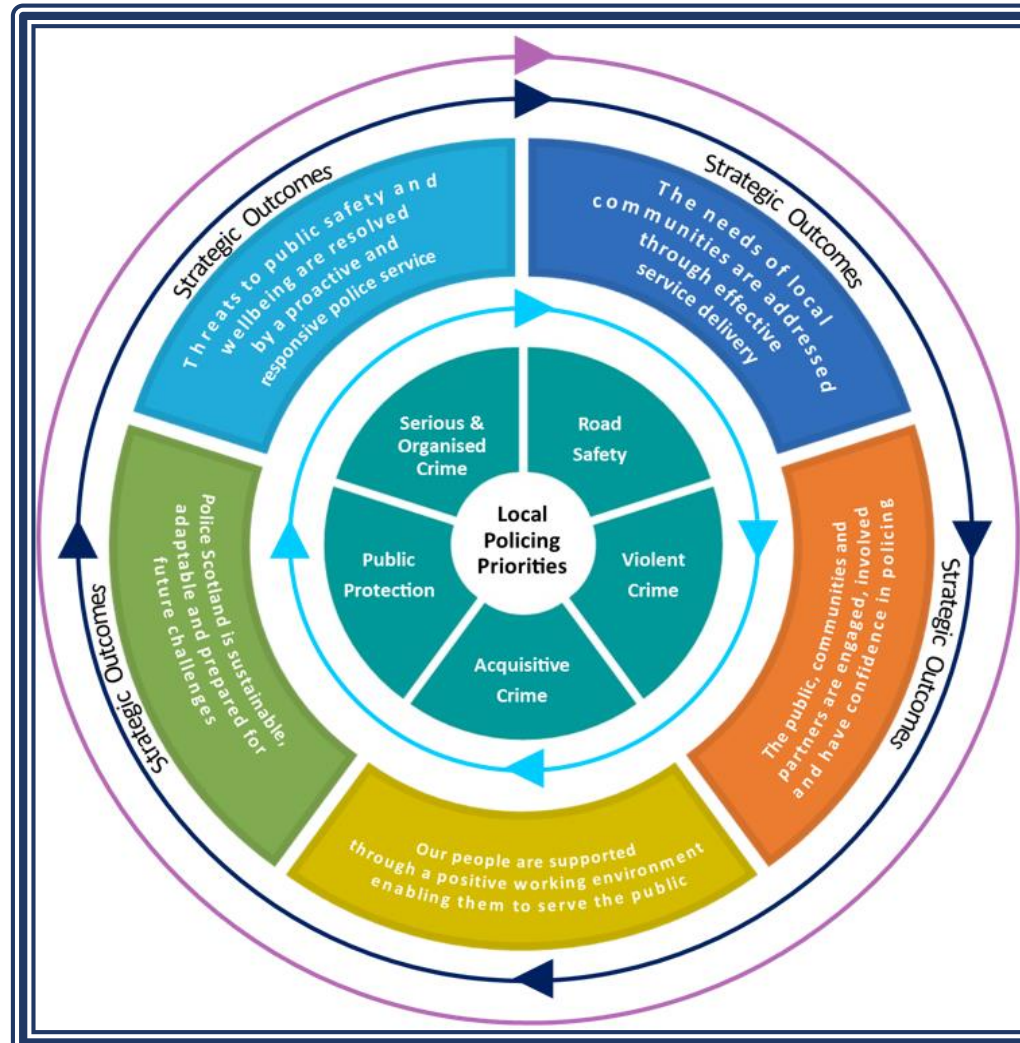
In December 2021, Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Policing Division hosted an evening online event to raise awareness of the opportunities and risks that comes with increasing online use by young people. A total of 42 people attended the event in varying capacities from parents, carers, other guardians and professionals from across both West Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute.

The virtual session was opened by Area Commander for West Dunbartonshire, Chief Inspector Coleen Wylie. PC Jules Wreford, local Youth Engagement Officer delivered a presentation that highlighted the opportunities now available through the internet and passed on some useful advice. This aligned with Christmas often bringing new mobile devices for many young people.

Wider online safety advice in relation to “sextortion” is regularly provided through social media channels to ensure the public are assisted on how to manage their privacy settings.

**OPERATION MOONBEAM AND PROACTIVE PATROLS**

For Bonfire night, Operation Moonbeam saw coordinated patrols in areas known to be problematic over this period. Working with SFRS and the local authority to increase awareness of the risk and impact on residents of ASB at this time of year, and also remove illegal bonfires prior to the event. Local officers continued these dedicated patrols in areas that have seen an increase in ASB/disorder incidents. This included working with licensed premises to ensure as alcohol often plays a crucial part in these types of offences.

**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

The above campaign took place between 25<sup>th</sup> November, (which is International Day for Elimination of Violence) and 10<sup>th</sup> December, (which is Human Rights Day).

The campaign provided key messages to demonstrate our commitment to tackling domestic abuse and keeping people safe. Police Scotland highlighted various initiatives that have been established to help tackle domestic abuse and provide support for victims, including:

- Holly Guard app, a safeguarding tool that can be downloaded onto any mobile telephone.
- Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS) which aims to prevent domestic abuse by given people the right to ask about the background of their partner.
- Ask for ANI initiative that provides members of the public with a safe and private safe to provide a phone to call 999 or to be able to contact the Domestic Abuse Helpline. The Ask for ANI initiative involves community based pharmacies as an alternative to attending at a police station.

Following this, a new campaign was launched on 20<sup>th</sup> December to increase reporting of domestic abuse. As the festive period can cause an increase in domestic abuse incidents, our campaign has been created to encourage the public, including friends and relatives or those at risk, to contact police by phone, in person or by use of the DSDAS form.

**OFF ROAD BIKES – DETECTIONS**

Following a number of reports of anti-social behaviour involving off road bikes in Clydebank, a male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for a number of road traffic offences including dangerous driving and no licence or insurance. The bike was also seized under Road Traffic legislation. Local Roads Policing officers have been providing extra attention to the areas raised by the public of most concern.

**DEATH OF CAROLINE GLACHAN 1996**

In November 2021, two men and a woman were arrested and charged in connection with the death of Caroline Glachan who was discovered in the River Leven, Renton in 1996. The Major Investigations Team thanked the public who have assisted in the investigation and those who came forward with important information surrounding Caroline’s death.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Planning for Summer Safety.
- Planning for Local Council Elections.
- Ongoing monitoring of Covid-19 and regulations.
- Distress Brief Intervention training for Police Scotland and partners.

**AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019 – NOW LIVE**

The Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 1029 (or ACRA) was implemented on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The main legislative change provided, is that a child cannot be held criminally responsible for harmful behaviour that amounts to a crime or offence, which occurred when the child is aged under 12 and cannot be arrested or charged with crimes or offences. All officers have undergone training on this new legislation.

**EMPLOYEE SAFEGUARDING PROCESS DEVELOPED**

Police Scotland has developed an Employee Safeguarding Process to record concerns and enable the support made available to officers and police staff in order to manage them. The process has been established following requests for advice from officers and staff and complements existing arrangements already in place to support the integrity of policing.