



West Dunbartonshire
Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023)
Quarterly Report (Qtr 4 – 2020/21)

Keeping People Safe in West Dunbartonshire

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

CAVEAT: Data embargo

Please note that this publication (and data) are currently embargoed, and must not be released into the public domain. Elections to the Scottish Parliament are due to take place on 6th May. There is planned pre-election period which will run from 25th March to 6th May. The guidance can be accessed here: [Scottish Parliament Election - 6 May 2021: guidance for the Scottish Government, its agencies and National Devolved Public Bodies](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-parliament-election-6-2021-guidance-scottish-government-agencies-national-devolved-public-bodies/) - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-parliament-election-6-2021-guidance-scottish-government-agencies-national-devolved-public-bodies/>
 (Unless otherwise indicated, all data is from 01/04/20 – 31/03/21)

At the end of February, user satisfaction results show that levels of public confidence in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire remain high at 74%. Furthermore, figures also indicate 81% of persons were satisfied with how police dealt with their incident.

Serious & Organised Crime



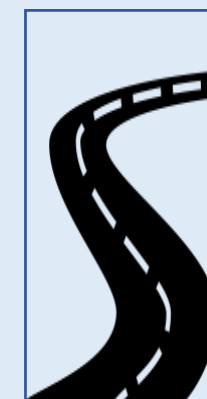
Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire YTD, 61 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £928,176 seized under POCA.

At the end of Qtr 4, detections for drugs supply have decreased by 17.6% YTD from 131 to 108. Detections for drug possession have also reduced by 0.3% from 966 to 963.



YTD there has been 313 cyber enabled crimes recorded within West Dunbartonshire compared to 131 last year. The most commonly recorded types of cyber enabled crimes are crimes involving threatening behaviour (n=99), indecent communications/images (n=76) and fraud (n=112). To date 88 crimes have been detected.

Road Safety & Road Crime



Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr 4 last year, the total number of road casualties recorded YTD has reduced significantly from 86 to 24. Serious injuries have reduced from 29 to 15 and slight injuries from 71 to 23. One fatality has been recorded which is one less than last year.

The significant reduction in road casualties has afforded officers the opportunity to be more proactive which has resulted in significant increases in the recording of insurance offences (+153), drink / drug driving offences (+138), dangerous driving (+3) and careless driving (+51). These increases have been offset largely by a 43.0% (-241) in speeding offences however the overall number of road traffic offences recorded remains 1.7% (+43) higher compared to last year.

Violent Crime & Antisocial Behaviour

Figures recorded at the end of Qtr 4 show violent crimes have reduced by 14.3% from 182 to 157 crimes compared to last year. Serious assaults have reduced from 86 to 62, attempted murder crimes decreased from 8 to 5. Two murders have been recorded YTD compared to 0 last year. None of these occurred within Q4. Robbery crimes have also increased from 12 to 27. Sixteen crimes were committed by persons known to the victim.

61% of all violent crimes occurred in a private space



The detection rate for violent crime has decreased slightly from 69.0% to 67.9%, with both murders and all 5 attempted murders having been detected. Detection rates for serious assault and robbery are 83.9% and 77.8%, respectively.

Public reported ASB incidents remain 30.4% (n=3118) higher than last year. This appears to be largely due to increased public concern relating to reports of persons alleged to be breaching Covid-19 restrictions. ASB crimes also increased marginally by 0.7% (n=20), despite marginal reduction in common assault (n=4). The increase comes largely from an 8.8% (n=22) rise in drinking in public offences and a 29.2% increase in racially aggravated conduct from 24 to 31. The detection rate for racially aggravated conduct is down marginally from 91.7% to 90.3%.

On average 125 stop searches have been carried out each month in WDC

Acquisitive Crime



Vehicle crimes reduced by 19.1%



Housebreaking increased by 15.2%

Acquisitive crimes had decreased by 11.4% at the end of Qtr 4, which equates to 183 fewer crimes being recorded. Despite an overall reduction, fraud crimes continue to show an increase of 53.1% (n=78). Housebreaking crimes have also increased slightly from 178 to 205, largely due to rise in crimes at domestic properties (n=24). These increases have been offset by a 44.4% reduction in shoplifting (n=257), a 9.4% reduction in common theft (n=41) and a 19.1% reduction in vehicle crime (n=27). The detection rate overall has reduced from 39.1% to 32.4%, for housebreaking it has reduced from 20.2% to 19.0%, while for vehicle crime it has increased from 30.5% to 53.5%.



At the end of Qtr 4, 66 bogus crimes had been recorded which is an increase on 32 in the same period last year. Social engineering frauds account for 56 of these crimes, followed by bogus workmen (n=7), bogus callers (n=2) and distraction theft (n=1). To date 6 crimes have been detected.

Public Protection

YTD Group 2 sexual crimes has decreased by 12.8% with 211 crimes recorded versus 242 last year. Rape and attempted rape crimes have decreased slightly with 40 crimes compared to 55 last year, while indecent / sexual assaults also reduced from 91 to 63. Crimes relating to indecent images / communications have recorded the biggest increase YTD from 55 to 91. Almost 60% involved children aged 7–16 years and 91% involved use of the internet.

42% of crimes relating to indecent communication / images involve persons known to the victim



Approx. 29% of all sexual crimes recorded have been non recent reports.

The detection rate for rape and attempted rape crime has improved from 36.4% to 60.0%. Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr 4 last year, the detection rate for Group 2 sexual crime overall has decreased from 43.8% to 41.7%.



258 missing persons incidents had been recorded within West Dunbartonshire by the end of Qtr 4 2020-21, which equates to 21.5 per month. Adults were the most frequently reported missing person type (n=114).

Overall the number of unique incidents resulting in an Adult / Child Concern increased by 2.9% (n=121). Child Concerns have increased by 13.7% (n=412) and Adult concerns (inc. Domestic Abuse) have increased by 11.6% (n=102).

The total number of domestic abuse incidents recorded YTD* has increased by 12.5% (n=162) compared to last year, while crimes have increased by 5.1% (n=40). The detection rate has increased by 6.3% and is currently at 66.8%.
 *(Date range 30/3/20 – 28/03/21)

DISABILITY HATE CRIME

Police Scotland in partnership with I Am Me Scotland delivered the first of a number of Keep Safe Supporters inputs to West Dunbartonshire Councils Kickstart Employment Programme, enabling more than 50 young people aged 16-24yrs to gain employment at the COVID-19 Vaccination Centres throughout the area. Keep Safe training provided the new employees with vital information on how they can support people with disabilities or who may feel more vulnerable due to impacts of social isolation. The training also includes awareness on disability hate crime, reporting methods and signposting to local Keep Safe Places. Further inputs are planned over coming months.

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO WATER SAFETY IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

In partnership with members of West Dunbartonshire's Safer DIG, Police Scotland are supporting newly established Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Group. The initiative will use a combination of partnership planning, educational awareness and safety interventions at key locations to make our extensive shores/waterways safer.

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

We are working with partners in Education and Youth Services to deliver in-person prevention and awareness raising sessions to young people in schools in West Dunbartonshire. This will continue to be complemented with awareness raising information which is already being shared with pupils and parents electronically.

FRAUD PREVENTION

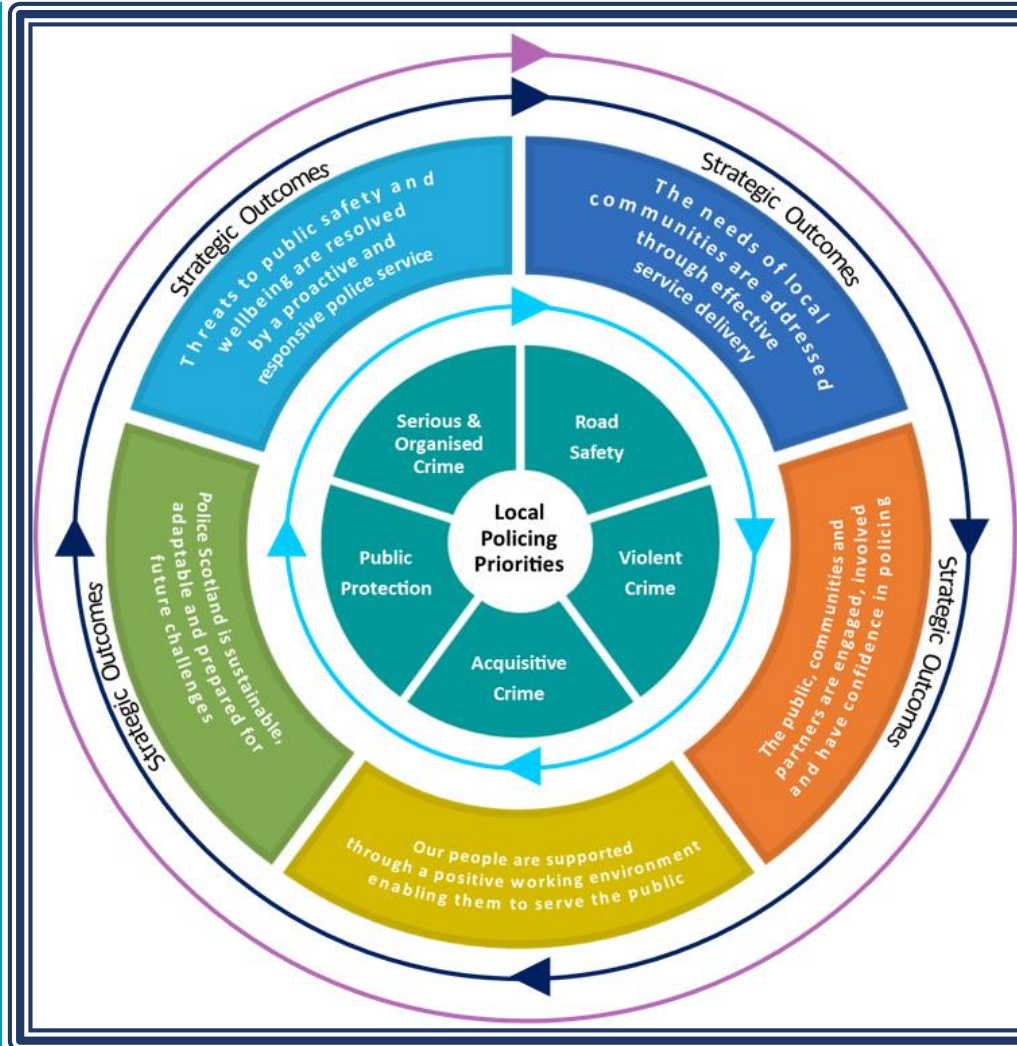
We have developed a Fraud Prevention Delivery Plan which will focus on Education, Prevention and Enforcement over the coming months. Prevention activity and education will focus on working with our partners to increase awareness and resilience across our communities, particularly targeted at those most at risk and vulnerable.

We have developed a new 'cared for at home network' which is enabling Police Scotland and Trading Standards to share "alerts" with carers about emerging bogus activity, which they in turn can share with those they care for during face to face visits. We are also working in partnership with Trading Standards to install Call Blocking devices in the homes of vulnerable people to screen unrecognised/unwelcome callers.

Local officers have been identified to receive Fraud Champions Training, enhancing necessary skills to investigate the increasingly sophisticated and fast changing types of fraud including online fraud.

MULTI AGENCY ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TASKING GROUP

This group has been refreshed and joint action plans are being finalised to focus on prevention activity at key locations. Our Spring/Summer Safety plan has been implemented, including partnership working with West Dunbartonshire Council, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service as well as voluntary groups. We will have dedicated patrols in key locations, particularly during periods of good weather and in light of the easing of COVID restrictions.



ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Responding to speeding concerns raised at local community council meetings, Roads Policing and local officers have carried out speed checks at highlighted locations to influence driver behaviour and detect any speeding offences. Plans for local action in support of upcoming campaigns are also in place. These include Motorcycle Safety (April), Operation Close Pass (April), Global Road Safety Week (May) and the National Seatbelt Campaign (May/June).

CYCLE THEFT

During the lockdown last year, people across West Dunbartonshire took to their bikes for exercise. The significant increase in the use of cycles was accompanied by a rise in the number of bicycles being stolen. To combat this, the Pedal Protect initiative has been launched, providing a range of crime prevention and cycle security advice. Locally, the first of a number of Bike Marking Events will take place in Clydebank in April 2021 with our local officers providing cycle safety/security advice along with bike marking.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME - HOUSEBREAKING

We continue to exploit all forensic and investigative opportunities to identify those responsible for acquisitive crime. We also proactively review all Housebreakings and Attempted Housebreakings to properties and where appropriate offer crime prevention surveys and advice. During the spring/summer we will focus on sharing Home Security advice through the Neighbourhood Watch Alert scheme and press/social media channels.

ARREST REFERRAL SCHEME

Working closely with West Dunbartonshire's Alcohol and Drugs Partnership we will continue to provide support to those affected by drug misuse. It is often the case that people in police custody do not routinely engage with community support services or their GP and are often in crisis. The Arrest Referral scheme offers a focused and easily accessible intervention pathway.

Nurtured (Children & Young People

Empowered Residents

WHAT3WORDS APP NOW USED BY POLICE OFFICERS

The location sharing app what3words has been made available for operational use. What3words works by dividing the Earth into 3x3 metre squares - the coordinates of each are then given three unique words to pinpoint an exact location.

Our Contact, Command and Control centres can also accept what3words locations from members of the public calling 999 and 101. A postal address will always be asked as default when a member of the public calls 999/101, but this will be useful for members of the public contacting police who are lost or at a very rural location.

KEEPING IN TOUCH EVENTS GO VIRTUAL

Supporting our staff at important stages in their lives is important and we recently held a virtual Keeping in Touch Event which provided advice and information for colleagues about pregnancy and maternity leave as well as Shared Parental Leave, Adoption, etc; Making use of virtual technology allowed colleagues from around the division to come together in a virtual network.

ARGYLL AND WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS WIN AT NATIONAL AWARDS

The Scottish Women's Development Forum (SWDF) is a Police Scotland Diversity Staff Association. They held their annual awards on International Women's Day (8 March 2021) to recognise the contributions and achievements of police staff, police officers and those who volunteer with Police Scotland or the Scottish Police Authority. Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Policing Division had colleagues recognised in 7 out of the 10 categories with Clydebank & Dumbarton Police Scotland Youth Volunteers winning the Team of the Year Award and Alexandria & Dumbarton Community Officers winning an award for Outstanding Contribution in Extraordinary Times.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Easing of Lockdown restrictions
- Elections
- Football
- Resumption of events / parades
- Summer visitors / tourism
- COP26