

Supplementary Agenda



Housing and Communities Committee

Date: Wednesday, 3 November 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Format: Hybrid Meeting

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Dear Member

ITEM TO FOLLOW

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting that was issued on 21 October 2021 and now enclose a copy of **Item 15 (A) – Police Scrutiny Report** which was not available for issue at that time.

Yours faithfully

JOYCE WHITE

Chief Executive

Note referred to:-

15 SCRUTINY REPORTS

(A) POLICE SCRUTINY REPORT

243 - 244

Submit report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland providing members with an update.

Distribution:-

Councillor Diane Docherty (Chair)
Councillor Ian Dickson (Vice Chair)
Councillor Gail Casey
Councillor Karen Conaghan
Councillor Jim Finn
Provost William Hendrie
Councillor David McBride
Councillor Jonathan McColl
Councillor Iain McLaren
Councillor John Millar
Councillor John Mooney
Councillor Sally Page

All other Councillors for information

Chief Executive
Chief Officer - Housing & Employability
Chief Officer - Regulation and Regeneration
Chief Officer - Supply, Distribution and Property

Date issued: 28 October 2021



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

At the end of Qtr. 2, crimes of serious violence increased by 27.3% compared to last year, from 66 to 84 crimes. This is above the 5 year average (n=74). The increase is largely due to a rise in serious assaults from 27 to 47 crimes. Crimes relating to attempted murders, threats and extortion have also risen by 4 from the previous year. 30 of the 47 serious assaults were committed by persons known to the victim and in 28 alcohol was found to be a factor. The detection rate for violent crime has slightly decreased from 75.8% to 75% year on year. This remains in line with the previous 5 year average. The detection rate for serious assaults has reduced from 85.2% to 72.3%

42% of all violent crimes occurred in a private space

Public complaints relating to disorder have continued to decrease significantly (by 29.8%), from 3908 to 2744. This is largely due to a reduction in the number of public nuisance incidents which had increased last year during the initial lockdown. Crimes relating to Breach of the Peace and Threatening & Abusive Behaviour also reduced from 666 to 644 (-22) year on year. ASB related crimes have also fallen by 4.6% from 1515 to 1430 (-85) however common assaults have increased from 454 to 513, which is above the 5 year average (n=462). Approximately 59% of common assaults were committed by persons known to the victim, with 120 crimes being domestic related. A further 85 crimes related to assaults on police officers. The detection rate for common assault has remained consistent at 63.7%.

Acquisitive Crime



Fraud crimes Increased by 20.6%



Housebreaking Reduced by 35.6%



Acquisitive crimes within West Dunbartonshire have increased by 7.2%, with 727 crimes compared to 678 the previous year, however this remains 15.3% below the 5 year average (n=859). Fraud crimes have increased by 20.6% from 97 to 117 (+20) year on year. The increase is largely due to a rise in social engineering fraud, from 10 to 25 crimes (+15) year on year. Frauds involving stolen credit/debit cards have also risen from 10 to 21 (+11). Housebreakings have seen the largest reduction YTD from 104 to 67 crimes. This is primarily due to a reduction of 46.7% (n=35) in crimes at domestic dwelling properties. Shoplifting and motor vehicle crimes have increased from 127 to 220 (+93) and 57 to 63 (+6) compared to last year, but remain below the 5 year averages of 280 and 82 respectively.



The number of bogus crimes within West Dunbartonshire has increased from 23 to 33 crimes at the end of Qtr. 2. This is due to a rise in frauds involving scam phone calls or emails. There has been no increase in crimes relating to bogus callers/workmen with 6 crimes recorded YTD.

Public Protection

At the end of Qtr. 2, recorded sexual crimes have increased by 15%, from 104 to 115 crime. This is 23% above the previous 5 year average (n=94). The increase is largely due to a rise in sexual assaults from 31 to 47 crimes. Rape offences have marginally reduced from 28 to 27 year on year. Approximately 78% of rape and sexual assault offences occurred within private space, with the majority being committed by persons known to the victim. 10 of the 47 sexual assaults were domestic related and 21 were committed by a family member, friend or neighbour.

45% of crimes relating to indecent communication /images involve persons known to the victim

Approx. 41% of all recorded sexual crimes involved non-recent reporting

Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr. 2 last year, the detection rate for sexual crime has increased from 43.3% to 48.7%. The detection rate for rape however has reduced from 64.3% to 29.6% with the majority of those unresolved reports relating to ongoing investigations.



At the end of Qtr 2, there were 140 missing person reports recorded within West Dunbartonshire. This equates to around 23 per month.

The number of incidents where an Adult Concern is raised has increased by 13.2% within West Dunbartonshire – rising from 849 to 961 (+112) at the end of Qtr. 2. The number of Child Concerns have seen a reduction of 4.8% from 2097 to 1996 (-101) year on year.

At the end of Qtr. 2, domestic abuse incidents within West Dunbartonshire have increased by 2.4% from 723 to 740 (+17) with a 1.4% increase in domestic abuse crimes, rising from 414 to 420 (+6). Both figures are above the previous 5 year averages of 678 and 377 respectively.

YTD, 55 complaints about the police have been recorded within West Dunbartonshire. This is a reduction from 81 in the same period last year, where the number of complaints were significantly higher due to Covid-19 and the influx of visitors to the area. The number of allegations against officers on duty has also reduced considerably from 143 to 56 year on year.

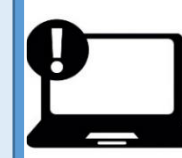
West Dunbartonshire Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023) Quarterly Report (Qtr. 2 – 2021/22)

Serious & Organised Crime



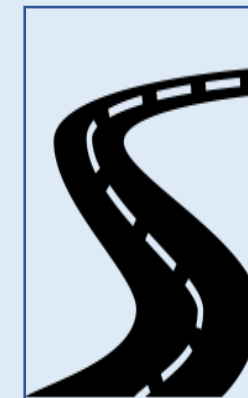
Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire, 17 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested, and £114,778 seized under POCA.

At the end of Qtr. 2, detections for drugs supply have decreased by 16.7% from 60 to 50. Drug possession charges have also reduced by 29.6%, from 537 to 378. Both figures remain below the previous 5 year average.



In total, 125 cyber-crimes have been recorded within West Dunbartonshire at the end of Qtr. 2. This is a marginal reduction from 129 in the same period last year. 53 crimes related to cyber-enabled fraud, 36 to threatening messages sent via social media, 28 to indecent images/communication, 6 to extortion/breach of bail offences and 2 to unauthorised access or alterations to computer systems.

Road Safety & Road Crime



Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr. 2 last year, the total number of road casualties recorded YTD has increased from 15 to 18. There were 2 fatal road collisions compared to none last year. The number of serious injuries have slightly increased from 6 to 7. The number of slight injuries remains unchanged with 9 recorded YTD.

Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr. 2 last year, the total number of driving offences recorded within West Dunbartonshire reduced by 13.4%, from 1295 to 1121. This is 9.8% below the previous 5 year average (n=1243).

Speeding offences reduced from 223 to 173 (-50) and dangerous and careless driving from 34 to 23 (-11) and 117 to 88 (-29) respectively. Insurance offences have also seen a significant reduction of 35.6%, which equates to 83 fewer crimes year on year. Neglect of traffic directions, driving without a test certificate and mobile phone offences are the only crimes to experience an increase compared to the previous year.

398 stop searches have been carried out at the end of Qtr 2, which equates to 66 per month



KEEP SAFE IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

During September, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) in Clydebank and Dumbarton assisted the Keep Safe Scotland initiative by attending the Clyde Shopping Centre and Dumbarton High Street during weekends. The volunteers engaged with local business owners and premises managers in relation to the Keep Safe Scotland program where 40 business approach letters were accepted by the premises. This approach for the Keep Safe Scotland initiative has identified 8 new premises with 2 being successfully registered and 6 awaiting training. West Dunbartonshire now has 26 Keep Safe places.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Frontline police officers across West Dunbartonshire have been provided with z-cards which can be offered to members of our community at the scene of any sudden death. These cards contain information on wider support that is available to those suffering loss and how to contact Stepping Stones, who have been commissioned by West Dunbartonshire Council, to offer dedicated bereavement support as part of the wider work of the Suicide Prevention Group.

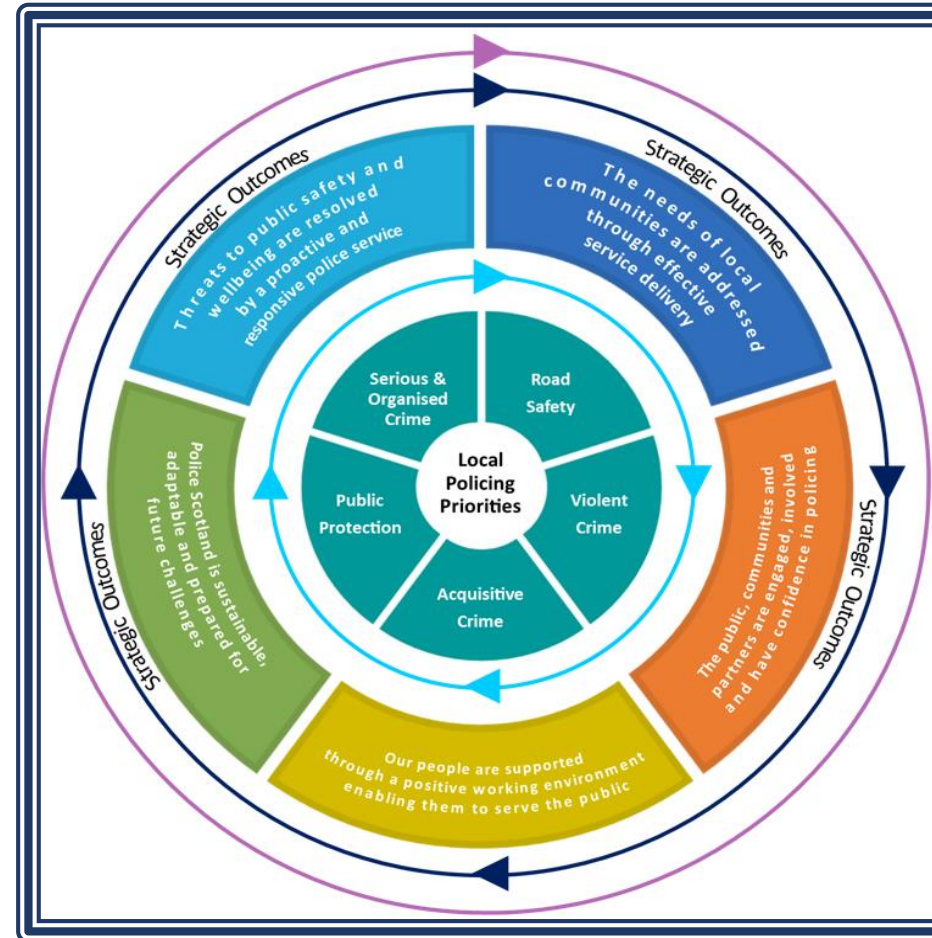
ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The first Online CSE event was held on 26th August hosted by Argyll Third Sector Interface and supported by West Dunbartonshire Community Volunteering Service. This was delivered by Police Scotland National Safer Communities, and supported by the Divisional Community Engagement Team. The event was a great success with 21 attendees representing both community groups and statutory partners. Feedback from the event showed 100% of participants felt the event was beneficial and raised their awareness of how to keep children safe online.

Work is now underway to publicly launch the 'Online Internet Safety Guide' that accompanied this input for all parents and carers throughout West Dunbartonshire. This provides information on basic internet safety with hyperlinks to other materials through Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP). Discussions are ongoing for a further input specifically for parents as an evening online session and discussions are underway to develop this before it is advertised.

MSP QUESTION AND ANSWER

PSYV Clydebank and Dumbarton held an online Question and Answer Session with Ash Denham (MSP) for Community Safety which was well received. The Community Safety Minister tweeted her support for the youths engaging in the PSYV programme and volunteering to help keep our communities safe.



ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Police Scotland's Community Engagement team supported by local Roads Policing officers carried out a number of deployments for Operation Close Pass in Balloch, Jamestown and Alexandria. This initiative supported National Vulnerable Road Users Week. Officers engaged with a number of drivers with 2 being charged with Road Traffic offences and education provided to a number of motorists and cyclists.

Following complaints regarding off-road motorcycles from residents in Bonhill, extra police patrols were put in place. This resulted in a number of people being reported to the Procurator Fiscal in Dumbarton for Road Traffic offences and a motorbike also being seized by police.

BIKE MARKING

Due to the continued trend in bike purchases and feedback from other events held, further bike marking events were carried out by PSYV Dumbarton where 40 bikes were registered. This offered the PSYV to engage with their community as well as provide crime prevention advice. PSYV are aiming to hold other bike marking events in Clydebank and Bowling during October.

EARLY EVENING HOUSEBREAKING INITIATIVE

PSYV in Clydebank and Dumbarton will be providing leaflet drops to support Police Scotland's 'After Dark' housebreaking initiative. This will educate residents on how to keep their homes safer when the darker evenings set in.

Nurtured (Children & Young People

Empowered Residents

MOBILE WORKING PROJECT UPDATE

Phase 1 of the Mobile Working Project saw uniformed officers across the county being equipped with mobile devices. Phase 2 of the project is now well underway, providing specialist, detective and Special Constables with mobile devices. The roll out of devices to detective officers means they will have instant access to police systems and can input statements directly which will have a huge benefit to investigating crimes and helping to keep our communities safe.

SAFE SUMMER 2022

Early engagement with West Dunbartonshire Council, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and Forestry Land Scotland is already underway for the 2022 visitor season as a result of the vast visitor numbers experienced this year. This will ensure robust multi-agency plans are in place to enhance community reassurance and public safety.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Age of Criminal Responsibility Act
- COP26
- Resumption of events / parades including Bonfire Night and Hogmanay events
- Body Worn Video Consultation Review

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO WATER SAFETY (PAWS)

The West Dunbartonshire PAWS group has instigated a review of all signage at layby/picnic hotspots around Loch Lomond with pictorial signage being developed which will include location markers and What 3 Words references. The PAWS group recently attended a water safety demonstration at Pinkston water sports facility to show tactics/equipment for fast flowing water rescue. A review of all existing Public Rescue Equipment has been carried out with any equipment needing replaced being actioned.

YOUR POLICE SURVEY

We continue to recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of our communities. It is vital, especially as we recover from the effects of Covid-19 that we listen, understand and respond to the views of the people who live here. We are promoting participation of this <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2021-2022/>