

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

30 January 2012

Report by Chief Constable Report No: PB 8/2012

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL POLICING UPDATE

Abstract: This report provides members with an overview of operational matters of interest since the last meeting of the Board.
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1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Board note the terms of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This report provides members with an overview of operational policing activities for the period 1 September 2011 to 30 November 2011.

3. OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

3.1 Proceeds of Crime

3.1.1 The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) allows cash over £1,000 to be seized when it is suspected to be the proceeds of or intended for use in crime. Any cash that is later confiscated by the court is put into the Cashback for Communities fund and is used to support our local community projects.

3.1.2 Since 1 September 2011, Tayside Police have had 20 cash seizures with the total value of £142,798. There have been no new restraints in this period.

3.1.3 Scottish Government have agreed to continue to fund the Financial Investigations through until 2014.

3.1.4 Cashback in the Communities was launched in 2008 and has funded a number of activities, events and initiatives in the Tayside area in a bid to get young people off the streets and contributing positively to their local community. The following are examples of how Cashback for Communities have supported projects in the area. All of the projects are free to attend.

3.1.5 Volunteer Centre Angus – This is an award winning Volunteer Centre aimed to help people to volunteer and help organisations to recruit volunteers. Volunteers make a valuable contribution to people and communities in Angus.

3.1.6 Glow Youth Group – This is a weekly youth group for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) young people in Perth where they are encouraged to come along, have a cup of tea, meet new people, chat with friends, talk to the youth workers. The project is open to age groups 13 – 25 year olds.

- 3.1.7 Scott Street Friday Night Drop In – This is a weekly drop in for young people in the Perth area. It is based in Scott Street, in Perth and is aimed at 12 - 18 year olds. Activities include Acoustic sessions most weeks, with Xbox and movie nights in between.
- 3.1.8 Winter Programme of Diversity – This is an action packed programme of diversity workshops, based at the Attic in Brechin. It includes, Young fire fighters course, cooking skills, health drop ins, competitions - pool, table tennis, Wii Dance, PS3 and Football.
- 3.1.9 Showcase the Streets - Dance classes in street dance and hip hop which are run from the studios in Abroath, Montrose and Kirriemuir or from the school halls.
- 3.1.10 Other Activities supported by the Cashback for Communities are held at the Factory Skatepark, Dundee and these include:
- 3.1.11 Mixed martial arts - This club is aimed at beginners. It is designed to boost fitness levels, develop confidence and self-esteem as well as getting to grips with martial arts for young people aged 10 – 14 years old.
- 3.1.12 Street Dance – This is a dance workshop aimed at teaching young people, from the age of 10 – 14 years old, different types of dance and techniques i.e. Break-dance, Street Popping, Modern Dance, and also includes fitness structured routines. At the end of the programme the young people show off their routines to family and friends.
- 3.1.13 Graffiti Workshops - This 6 week course introduces young people aged 10 – 14 years old the culture of street art. Finished work will then be on show for all to see at the Skatepark arena.
- 3.1.14 Homework Clubs – These are open to 10 – 12 year olds and run 3 days a week during school term time. The first part of the homework club provides some supervision with homework followed by physical activity in the Skatepark or youth area.

3.2 **Notable Drugs Seizures**

- 3.2.1 Tayside Police remain committed to tackling serious and organised crime and the effects that it causes in our communities. This can be demonstrated in the following examples of high value drug seizures where over £130,000 of illegal drugs have been seized since the last Police Board.
- 3.2.2 On 6 October 2011, over 29 Cannabis plants, with an estimated street value of over £14,700 was recovered from a flat in Perth. A 34 year old male was arrested.
- 3.2.3 On 14 October 2011, 1 kg of Mephedrone, with an estimated street value of £10,000, over 130g of Heroin, Class A drug, with an estimated value of over £13,700 was recovered following a vehicle being stopped on Edinburgh Road, Perth. A 23 year old, 22 year old and 19 year old male were arrested.
- 3.2.4 On 14 October 2011, approximately 2 Kg of Methlymethcathinone (mephedrone), with an estimated value of £30,000 and 344g of Cocaine with an estimated street value of over £17,000 was recovered following two vehicles being stopped by officers

in Perth. Over £25,000 of cash was also recovered and seized. A 40 year old female, a 42 year old and 28 year old male were arrested.

- 3.2.5 On 1 November 2011, 33 Cannabis Plants, with an estimated street value of £15,840 was recovered from an address in Rait by Perth. A 43 year old female and 42 year old male were arrested.
- 3.2.6 On 1 November 2011, 25 Cannabis Plants, with an estimated street value of £12,600 was recovered from an address in Perth. A 40 and 38 year old man were arrested.
- 3.2.7 On 3 November 2011, over 18,000 Diazepam were recovered from an address in Forfar. This seizure of drugs had an illicit street value of over £18,000.

3.3 Drugs Enforcement

3.3.1 This section provides the Board Members with examples of Operations the Force has run to tackle drug related offences.

3.3.2 Operation Matterhorn

3.3.3 Operation Matterhorn was a Tayside Police covert operation over a period of weeks to target those involved in the supply of controlled drugs within the Lochee, Charleston and surrounding areas of Dundee.

3.3.4 Since April 2011, the supply and abuse of Heroin accompanied by the associated acquisitive crime levels within the Lochee, Charleston and surrounding areas of Dundee have been of increasing concern to Tayside Police.

3.3.5 The occurrence of Heroin use, violent and acquisitive crimes were disproportionately high in this area. The supply of Heroin within this area was extremely prevalent. Conventional policing and enforcement methods had, to date, not been as affective as desired. For this reason, it was decided to explore other, more covert options and Operation Matterhorn was set up to tackle this issue.

3.3.6 During the enforcement stage of this operation, 16 people were arrested and a further 4 reported for warrant with 20 charges of being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs being libelled and 6 for possession. Twelve properties were searched during the enforcement stage. Investigations are continuing and it is likely that further charges will be preferred against other individuals.

3.3.7 Partnership working included all arrested persons being offered referral services; SWD became involved in respect of 8 Child Concern reports being submitted; Trading Standards assisted with the recovery of counterfeit goods and Scottish Hydro assisted with an electricity meter bypass. Details of enforcement were passed to the Community Intelligence Co-ordinator who has shared this information with the Anti Social Behaviour Teams in the respective housing associations.

3.3.8 Community officers have been deployed in areas where enforcement has taken place and the public response so far has been very positive.

3.3.9 Operation Matterhorn has received excellent coverage in local newspapers and television with further media releases planned.

3.3.10 A presentation will be available to the Board later in the year if they desire it.

3.3.11 Operation Albus - Dundee Railway Station Operation

3.3.12 This Operation was developed with the partnership of the British Transport Police and focussed on providing a high visible Police presence at the station in order to assist in creating a reassurance to the general public. The Operation was run over the course of 2 days on the 14 and 15 October 2011.

3.3.13 As part of the Operation there was also a presence of the Drugs Passive Dogs and the use of the mobile metal detector to detect those involved in the carrying of controlled drugs and offensive weapons. The staffing included plain clothes officers, 3 dog handlers and their dogs, Community Engagement Team Officers, Special Constables and British Transport Police Officers.

3.3.14 As a result from the Operation, there were 53 positive indications by the passive dogs which resulted in 11 drugs cases and 42 recorded Pro-Active searches. On speaking to those who were not in possession of controlled substances, about 80% admitted abusing drugs and supported the initial indication by the dogs. There were no complaints received by the general public or those indicated by the passive dogs. The interaction by the officers was highly professional at all times and resulted in positive feedback from the public.

3.4 Community Engagement

3.4.1 Social Media

3.4.2 Tayside Police continue to look at ways they can improve visibility and reach out to the Communities. At the start of 2011, Tayside Police Commenced a 3 month trial of Community Officer's use of Twitter and the MyPolice website in South Section in Western Division. The pilot project provided significant learning for Tayside Police in the development of social media in its use for policing.

3.4.3 The Force has significantly developed its use of Social Media since then. The Force now has its own corporate Facebook page, Road Policing Facebook page and over 20 individual officers from various departments having Twitter accounts.

3.4.4 Twitter is now being used by the Force to:

- Invite the public to public meetings
- Report matters discussed at public consultation meetings
- Report community engagement activity (ie school visits)
- Request information about local crimes
- Provide safety reminders about the weather and road conditions

3.4.5 The Force has used Facebook pages during events such the demolition of the Multi-storey blocks in Dundee and a specific page for issues involving the A9. The Force have used social media platforms such as You Tube to broadcast information to the public, e.g. Festive Drink-Drug Driving Campaign. This can be found at youtube.com/taysidepolice.

3.4.6 The Force's use in Social Media has been well received by the public and has proved an important tool in engaging with the public, appealing for information in relation to crimes and vulnerable missing persons.

3.4.7 Other Activity

- 3.4.8 Western Division ran a 'Doors Open Day' at Perth Headquarters. This had an excellent attendance and all places fully booked with over 130 visitors.
- 3.4.9 Perth Officers have undertaken street briefings to provide reassurance regarding the recent drug related violent crime in the city. These received widespread media attention.
- 3.4.10 Eastern Division are engaging with the Strathmore Dementia Partnership to provide crime prevention services to identified dementia sufferers in the area. This will provide further opportunities for development and is seen as a pilot for activity in other sections.
- 3.4.11 A rural security and road safety event was held at the Haughs of Kinnaird on Saturday 26 November 2011. This event was organised by Special Constable Richard Martin, who regularly supports Montrose officers. The event was aimed at promoting engagement with the rural community, raising awareness and impacting on safety on rural roads as well as preventing crime.
- 3.4.12 Engagement has been undertaken with the local press in relation to preventative measures that can be taken in relation to Theft by Housebreaking. This is a precursor to Operation Afterdark awareness raising.
- 3.4.13 Community Officers continue throughout the divisions to hold Local Surgeries which are designed to engage with the local communities and deal with local concerns. The Force has utilised their social media forums to advertise these events.

3.5 **Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 3.5.1 Tayside Police has continued to work together and support the three local councils, NHS and voluntary organisations in running initiatives designed to reduce anti-social behaviour. All three geographical divisions implemented their local plans to tackle vandalism and anti-social behaviour throughout the October School holidays and throughout the Halloween and Bonfire Night periods through Operation Dry Up and local initiatives.
- 3.5.2 In Western Division, Operation Moon which set up to tackle these issues. This was a high-profile operation for Halloween and Guy Fawkes led by Special Constables.
- 3.5.3 In Central Division, Community Officers worked closely with the Tayside Fire and Rescue Services in addressing issues of fire-raising in the Lochee area.
- 3.5.4 Western Division ran 'Be Safe for Autumn' operation which co-ordinated a variety of tactics including Dry Up, High Profile Patrol and Licensing Checks.
- 3.5.5 Total Dry Up, an operation co-ordinated by the Eastern Division Community Safety Unit, has continued to be run in the Arbroath area, engaging with young people who misuse alcohol and providing advice and information about alcohol consumption and binge drinking, to promote healthier lifestyle choices and provide information regarding local diversion.
- 3.5.6 The Joint Services Team, comprising of Eastern Division Community Safety Unit and Angus Council Community Safety Team work closely in utilising any statutory

provision that assists in reducing anti-social behaviour. These include the use of Closure Orders and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders. This has resulted in two tenants in Forfar being evicted from their local authority housing having breached the conditions of their tenancy following the conviction of dealing controlled substances from their home address.

- 3.5.7 Community Officers in Arbroath are working with Tayside Council on Alcohol in the Timmergreens area of Arbroath in carrying out mediation between a local shop and the young people who frequent the area. This has assisted in a greater understanding by all parties and has reduced the level of complaints received by police relating to young people causing annoyance.
- 3.5.8 Local officers continue to work closely with many local partners, including Tayside Council on Alcohol (in relation to the Friday Night Project and Total Dry Up activity). Close support is also giving to the Arbroath Street Pastors who assist with providing support to vulnerable people during the night time economy.
- 3.5.9 The Force has seen a significant decrease in the number of malicious damage/vandalism's reported. There have been a total of 2910 reported for the period 1 April 2011 to 30 November 2011 compared to 3753 the previous year. This is a reduction of nearly 23% and 843 less victims.
- 3.5.10 The Force has also seen a 29% reduction in the number of fire-raising with 109 reported this year compared to 153 the previous year, for this performance period.

3.6 Community Task Force

3.6.1 The Community Task Force is continuing to make a significant impact on anti-social behaviour issues. This can be shown by the results from their recent deployment in Central Division for the period 15 July 2011 and 5 November 2011.

- 1- Fixed Penalty Notice submitted for urinating in public offence.
- 2 - females arrested for Prostitution offences
- 7 - females warned for loitering in the area of Arbroath Road
- 7 - males arrested for offences relating to prostitution
- 27- youth valiant forms submitted
- 152 – pro-active searches carried out
- 25 litres of lager, 5 litres of cider and 5 litres of vodka seized from youths
- 196 hours of high visibility patrols undertaken by the team

3.6.2 During this deployment the team recovered approximately £5560 worth of Class A drugs, approximately £15,230 of Class B and over £2600 of Class C drugs and 7 separate cash seizures totalling £5,849 (1 of which is being dealt with under the POCA seizure).

3.6.3 A further 144 pro-active drug searches on persons and over 20 premises searched was also carried out in this period. Thirty-two reports were submitted to the Procurator Fiscal Services for drug related offences.

3.7 Domestic Violence

3.7.1 Tayside Police continue to work in partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies through MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing) to ensure those at the most risk of serious harm receive a co-ordinated risk management plan managed

by a victims advocate. The MARAC system has been in place in Western Division since September 2010 and Central Division since May 2011.

- 3.7.2 In Eastern Division risk assessment meetings are presently taking place with partners leading up to the introduction of MARAC in February 2012.
- 3.7.3 Operation Linchpin 4 was launched on 25 November 2011. This operation deals with tackling domestic abuse and focuses on offenders. The Operation will run until 31 January 2012.
- 3.7.4 Results for the Operation, for the period 25 November 2011 and 31 December 2011 are as follows:
- 3.7.5 The number of reported domestic incidents for this period was 566. The detection rate for crimes/offences relating to Domestic Abuse is currently 73%. The number of repeat victims in this period was 185 and repeat offenders was 174. This is where we will focus most attention.

3.8 Serious Violent Crime

- 3.8.1 Although there has been a significant increase in the number of murders and attempted murders for this performance period, 1 April 2011 to 30 November 2011, compared to last year, the number of serious assaults and robberies has once again seen a decline.
- 3.8.2 The number of serious assaults recorded this period was 151 compared to 176 for the same period last year, which is a reduction of 25 victims (decrease of 14%).
- 3.8.3 The number of robberies reported this period was 79 which is a reduction of 11 (decrease of 12%) victims for the same period last year.
- 3.8.4 Tayside Police continue to carry out operations such as Centre Safe and Homesafe to tackle serious and violent crime in city centre areas. These operations have had a positive effect on the number of pro-active searches carried out and the recovery of offensive weapons and controlled substances.
- 3.8.5 In addition, School Liason Officers have been delivering structured messages regarding violence reduction and drugs misuse throughout schools in Central Division.
- 3.8.6 A 'Violent Crime Reduction Workshop' is due to be run within the Force to identify ways to further assist in tackling and reducing violent crime in particular knife crime.
- 3.8.7 Section 49 of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 provides that it is an offence to have a bladed or sharply pointed article in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse. This does not however apply to a folding pocket knife with a cutting edge that does not exceed 3 inches. It is for the individual to prove they have reasonable excuse or lawful authority. This would include if the knife was for use at work, for religious reasons or as part of a national costume.
- 3.8.8 The number of proactive Police searches of people in the street or public places has increased an incredible 580% from 449 in 2010 to 3051 in the period April to December 2011. This has resulted in 60 people being found in possession of a knife and many more in possession of drugs.

3.8.9 When intelligence is received that a person carries a knife this always results in a search. As a result of all this activity crime involving a knife is reducing. There has been 147 recorded knife crimes between April and November 2011 compared to the same period last year when there was 178 recorded crimes, a reduction of 17% or 31 less crimes.

3.9 Roads Policing

3.9.1 Throughout this reporting period Tayside Police has continued to demonstrate its commitment to Road Safety. The Force has participated in all three National Campaigns run under the auspices of ACPOS Road Policing Business Area National Campaigns Working Group in support of Scotland's Road Policing Framework. The framework has five specific objectives and each campaign aims to provide a focus on a particular objective, with the overarching objective being to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured on Scottish roads.

3.9.2 The Force has used some innovative engagement methods to support these Campaigns. For example, a "You Tube" clip was produced which has received some positive feedback from members of the public. This can be found at youtube.com/taysidepolice.

3.9.3 Operation Mermaid is a UK wide multi-agency operation aimed primarily at the illegal use of commercial vehicles and the Force continues to provide support. The operations are conducted nationally on identified days throughout the year. Additionally support has been provided to British Transport Police in respect of a national day of action focussing on metal theft.

3.9.4 Partnership working with external agencies has continued throughout this reporting period. Work has continued with the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) with a number of local joint operations taking place and these are aimed at improving road safety for all road users through education and enforcement activity. Operation Bandit is an example of the type of multi-agency work which takes place throughout the Force area. It utilises Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to identify vehicles which are being used illegally in terms of licensing and insurance etc. Operations of this nature provide the opportunity for focussed activity in support of normal Road Policing business and augment the campaigns and operations which take place on a national basis. Additionally, the Force has carried out joint operations with partners from HM Revenues and Customs in respect of second hand car dealers to ensure compliance with various aspects of legislative requirements.

3.9.5 Operation "Around the Corner" is an initiative within Perth and Kinross and Angus respectively to address irresponsible motorcycling during the summer months. This operation ended on 25 September 2011. Dedicated patrols focus on the roads traditionally recognized as being of interest to the motorcyclist and every opportunity is taken to provide education and enforcement. This operation resulted in over 160 motorcyclists being stopped and engaged with during this campaign, 9 persons reported for speeding offences and a number of persons warned and advised by Road Policing Officers.

3.9.6 Motorcycle fatalities have increased during this reporting period. There have been 2 fatalities involving motorcycles compared to none for the same period last year (1 September to 3 January 2012).

- 3.9.7 Tayside Police actively took part in the National Festive Drink Driving Campaign which commenced on Monday 5 December 2011 and continued to Tuesday 3 January 2012.
- 3.9.8 As a result from the campaign, a total number of 43 people were arrested for drink and drug driving, 3 vehicles seized by virtue of a warrant and a further 2 vehicles have been forfeited during the 4 week campaign.
- 3.9.9 These offences are broken down as follows:
- 20 offences were detected as a result of Officers' observations
 - 17 offences were detected as a result of phonecalls etc from the public
 - 6 offences were detected as a result of Road Traffic Collisions.
- 3.9.10 Of these offences 5 drivers refused to provide a sample of breath for a breath specimen and 2 drivers were reported for being unfit to drive through drugs.
- 3.9.11 The highest reading recorded in Tayside during the 4 week Campaign was 136 microgrammes. This reading is almost 4 times the legal limit of 35 microgrammes.
- 3.9.12 This year's Campaign coincided with an extension to the provisions of the Vehicle Forfeiture Scheme. This Scheme was introduced during the 2009 Festive Campaign and provides an opportunity for the court to seize and ultimately forfeit the vehicles used by drink and drug drivers who meet certain criteria. With the extended provisions the following categories of drivers are now included:
- Those with a "live conviction" i.e. within the previous 5 years, or a pending case for either drink or drugs who then commits a further like offence,
 - First time offenders who are found to be three times the legal limit and above i.e. 105 microgrammes.
 - First time offenders who refuse any part of the station procedure.
- 3.9.13 Whilst the main focus of the Festive Campaign is drink/drug driving offences, Tayside Police continue to target other offences which impact on road safety, namely speeding/inappropriate speed, distraction type behaviour including the illegal use of mobile phones etc. and failure to wear seat belts.
- 3.9.14 For the first time the returns in respect of these offences was gathered electronically. This proved to be significantly more efficient than previous systems and ensured that accurate returns were obtained quickly. The results in terms of this aspect of the Campaign were as follows;
- Seat belt offences - 248 (includes passengers and children) compared to 132 last year
 - Speeding offences - 577 compared to 400 last year (Tayside Safety Camera Partnership recorded 824 during the campaign however last year figures are not available).
 - Mobile Phone Offences – 168 compared to 122 last year.
- 3.9.15 Whilst these returns are a significant increase on last year it is suggested that the extreme weather experienced last year is a contributory factor.

3.10 Road Safety Education

- 3.10.1 Road Safety Officers within Tayside Police deliver education to all sectors of the communities they work in. This is based on an all-inclusive service ranging from pre-birth messages delivered to future parents to those “older” road users whose pedestrian and driving skills gained by their experience may be moderated by the inevitable effects of the ageing process.
- 3.10.2 Road Safety Education can and does include work with external partners with Road Safety Officers usually undertaking the primary role of organiser and main contact. Partners include; the constituent Local Authorities, NHS Tayside, Tayside Fire & Rescue etc.
- 3.10.3 The second phase of the National Early Years Road Safety resource “Go Safe With Ziggy” is ready for distribution direct from Learning Scotland and the website www.gosafewithziggy.com is now available in English, Gaelic and Scots.
- 3.10.4 Safe Drive Stay Alive 2011
- 3.10.5 Tayside Police are once again supported the above event which is organised by Tayside Fire and Rescue.
- 3.10.6 Events took place in all geographical divisions and were supported primarily by Road Safety Officers as comperes and Road Policing Officers who took to the stage to deliver personal testimony in respect of the effect fatal road collisions has on them.
- 3.10.7 Support from Divisional Command to release Community, RPU and Special Constables to provide assistance at these events was very much appreciated.
- 3.10.8 In support of the ACPOS Festive Safety Campaign, Road Safety Officers have distributed ice scrapers and foil blankets to Road Policing Units and external partners.
- 3.10.9 The Road Safety Co-ordinator has prepared a pertinent article for the Evening Telegraph and participated in filming for You Tube.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial issues as a result of this report.

5. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1.1 There are no staffing issues as a result of this report. However below highlights major enquiries which have impacted on resources throughout the last financial year.
- 5.1.2 The significant increase in the number of murders and attempted murders in Tayside has been resource intense.
- 5.1.3 The number of road fatalities in this period been resource intense.

5.1.4 The impact on business as usual during post Major Incidents can be considerable. Consideration is required in relation to reallocation of resources often across divisions out with the scope of an incident to assist in maintaining performance in the area affected.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

6.1 There are no sustainable development issues as a result of this report.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Clerk and Treasurer have been consulted regarding the terms of this report.

8. SUMMARY

8.1 This report is intended to update members with performance information and highlights some key operational issues.

9. COMPLIANCE

9.1 Is the proposal;

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| (a) Human Rights Act 1998 compliant? | YES |
| (b) Equality & Diversity compliant? | YES |

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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.