



ANGUS COUNCIL

Angus Council Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Report by Chief Superintendent Paul Anderson
(Quarter ending 30th September 2017)



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BACKGROUND TO THIS REPORT

As from April 2013, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 has required Police Scotland to produce and publish a Local Policing Plan (LPP) for each local authority area. The LPP clearly sets out the policing priorities for Angus

Performance in relation to the identified policing priorities is monitored and reviewed internally on a weekly basis. Quarterly reports are produced to allow scrutiny Angus Council Community Safety Committee. This report covers the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017.

Data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Board Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

All crimes recorded by Police Scotland have to meet the principals set out by the Scottish Crime Recording Standards. Following initial registration, an incident will be recorded as a crime in all cases, if the circumstances amount to a crime defined by Scots Law or an offence under Statute and there is no credible evidence to the contrary.

This report will make reference to crime groupings. Groups 1-4 refer to an amalgamation of four crime groups.

Group 1 – Violent Crime

Group 2 – Sexual Crimes

Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty

Group 4 - Fire- Raising, Vandalism, Malicious Mischief etc.

Putting Victims At The Heart of What We Do

Domestic violence still accounts for a large proportion of the overall number of violent incidents reported in Angus. The overall number of domestic incidents is showing a slight increase of 0.7% which equates to a rise of 3 incidents compared to the same period last year.

Overall levels of Domestic Abuse are still high and have more than doubled in Angus in the last five years. However, there is some information to support that upward trend has levelled off, this will be closely monitored. A stable platform will allow for effective prevention.

Police Scotland is working in partnership with Angus Violence Against Women Partnership and other agencies to deliver a variety of supportive and preventative programmes.

Previously training was delivered in relation to the Safe and Together Model. A multi-agency steering group has been set up to deliver and embed the lessons learned from the training across Angus. The chair of the group is Niki McNamnee who is the lead officer for Protecting People Angus.

The number of reported group 2 crimes has increased by 50.9 %. The rise in this area of work continues to be challenge but it remains positive that victims still feel able to come forward and ask for support to deal with significant incidents in their lives.

Local and detective officers remain committed to this agenda and work in partnership with the respective Adult and Child Protection Committees.

It is worthy of note that although there are a number of Detective Officers based centrally in Dundee there are Public Protection Unit, Offender Management Unit and Domestic Abuse Task Force Detective Officers all based in Angus.

The number of detective officers currently based in Angus exceeds legacy arrangements. This availability supported by centrally based officers in Dundee ensures Angus Local Policing area is a good position.

People feeling safe in their homes in Angus continues to be vitally important to Police Scotland.

The last scrutiny report highlighted a considerable increase in rural dishonesties effecting the community of Angus. I am pleased to say that considerable media, prevention activity and targeted work resulted in the arrest of 12 offenders. Reports of this crime have returned to a more expected level.

Your support in advising our communities to remain vigilant and security conscious is still needed

Overall crimes of dishonesty for the period in Angus has increased mostly driven by a rise in shoplifting and the previous increase in Theft by Housebreaking to barns and outhouses in our rural community

Reports of dwelling houses being broken into remains relatively low at a total of 40 incidents for the year to date.

Reports of housebreaking to non-dwellings (e.g.sheds) has reduced from the previous year to 35 incidents year to date.

Reports of housebreaking to other premises (rural) has increased to 48 incidents.

Focussed work in relation to prolific shoplifters resulted in total of four males from Arbroath, Brechin, Forfar and Carnoustie being arrested for a number of offences. Some of these males were remanded in custody.

A shop watch scheme utilising a social media platform has been trialled in Carnoustie. This has already been successful in preventing issues and identifying those responsible.

Tackling Crime and ASB

There has been a slight increase in violent crime in Angus with the majority incidents occurring indoors.

The overall number of group 1, serious violent crime shows a reduction of 1.7% from 58 incidents previously to 57 incidents for this quarter.

There has been a 3.0 % decrease in Serious Assaults from 33 incidents to 32. There has been slight increase in petty assaults from 637 incidents to 627. An increase of 10 incidents and 1.6 %

It is notable that within this small increase in overall assaults there has been increase in assaults on emergency workers the majority being police officers.

Focused activity on robberies and those responsible for perpetrating such crimes has been successful with the overall level remaining low at 14 reported incidents.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime Groups remains a key focus for Police Scotland.

Local officers are supported by divisional and national resources and target groups operating in the Angus area. Such groups take every opportunity to gain profit from criminal activities ranging from dealing controlled drugs and crimes of dishonesty.

Tackling the supply of drugs in our community remains a key focus. An intelligence lead approach has seen the detections for those being concerned in the supply increase to 25 incidents compared to 24 for the previous year. A rise of 4.2%.

The proactive work in targeting those involved in the supply of drugs has impacted on the availability of some drugs and contributed to a reduction in reported drugs possession cases.

Much needs to be done with multi agency partners including health to address addiction.

Community Officers in Carnoustie have been delivering regular pop up cafes within the secondary school; supported by Barnardo's and Tayside Council on Alcohol. These have been well received and are geared towards substance misuse and its effects.

Planning is underway to deliver a Choices for Life programme in Monifieth High School, Seaview and Grange primaries. The programme will be based on the successful sessions in Kirriemuir last year.

The number of complaints of disorder has increased by 9.2 % over the reporting period. A total of 2718 incidents compared to 2488 for the similar period last year.

There continues to be a notable increase in reported Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) over the last quarter across Angus.

However there has been a welcome reduction in the number of vandalism and malicious mischief complaints. A total of 405 incidents compared to 418 for the previous period. A reduction of 3.1%.

Work with partners to produce and publish an updated Community Safety and ASB strategy is almost complete.

Stop search remains an important tool in assisting to deal with specific issues. During the last quarter 172 statutory stop searches were conducted with 78 being positive. This work is intelligence lead and returns a positive rate of 45%.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Angus Local Policing area receives considerable support from Divisionally and Nationally based Detective Officers. Public Protection Officers remain based at Bellevue in Arbroath.

Officers continue conduct welfare and reassurance checks with victims within a recognised safety plan. Preventative visits are also made with perpetrators to ensure bail conditions are being adhered to.

An officer continues to be dedicated to providing support to Looked After Children, the agencies and persons involved in the young person's care. This is a preventative approach that looks to minimise risk and prevent issues from escalating. This work received positive comments during inspections by the Care Inspectorate and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

As highlighted previously a multi-agency, process has been developed within the Community Safety Hub to protect vulnerable people that are not subject to Adult Protection, Child Protection or MAPPA measures. Recently, this activity highlighted a number of persons that have been at risk of financial harm. A referral and multi-agency response has ensured that appropriate support has been given to a number of vulnerable individuals.

Over the last quarter there was a slight increase in hate crime from 30 reported crimes to 34 crimes. The detection rate remains high around 83 %. Overall hate crime remains low in Angus with no specific pattern in offending.

Divisionally based partnership officers have been expanding the level of work with the Suicide Prevention Collaborative to increase the level of support offered to vulnerable persons. Signs for particular locations are also being purchased.

Increased awareness and familiarisation training has also been delivered by partnership officers and Health staff at Carseview to support the transition and presentation of vulnerable persons there.

Community Officers in Arbroath have been in discussion with the Youth Council and other partners about how communities and individuals can practically offer support in their respective communities

Police Scotland are involved in multi-agency work looking at drug deaths and identifying any cross cutting themes. Angus Local Policing Officers are involved in the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP). Chief Inspector McIntosh is a member of the ADP strategy group

Maintaining Public Safety

Angus officers continue to work with our colleagues in the Divisional Road Policing Unit (DRPU) and the Trunk Road Policing Group (TRPG) to tackle road safety and associated crime.

There has been a 100% increase in persons killed on the roads in Angus from four persons last year to eight persons who lost their lives this period.

For the first six months of the year four persons have died each quarter.

Persons seriously injured on our roads increased from 18 to 21.

Persons slightly injured on our roads has also significantly increased from 38 to 53, this was an increase of 39.5%.

Thankfully no children died on our roads but there was an increase of children serious injured from 1 to 3.

The overall picture makes difficult reading but local officers assisted by colleagues from Divisional Road Policing continue to be involved in speed and casualty reduction operations in our community. This is on our trunk roads, rural roads and within built up areas.

Areas targeted are identified from statistical accident information and from information provided by the local community. The increased activity is perhaps best illustrated in the increase in conditional offers issued for speeding; an increase of 28.5 %

With increased amounts of vehicles being stopped is welcome to see the considerable reduction in seat belt and mobile phone offences being detected. This change in behaviour will support casualty reduction.

In another positive move the average speed cameras on the A90 went live on the 31st October 2017. The overall reductions in speed and benefits associated with this technology will increase driver reaction time and again support casualty reductions.

Planning is well underway to deliver the annual SAFE DRIVE STAY ALIVE programme to schools.

Local authorities are responsible for preparing and delivering a programme of measures designed to promote road safety. In support of this Road Policing Sergeants attend Local Authority Traffic Coordination meetings and engage with road safety representatives from Angus. Actions and activity in support of this agenda is agreed.

Contact Details

Divisional Commander - Chief Superintendent Paul Anderson
D Division HQ
West Bell Street
Dundee

Area Commander - Chief Inspector David McIntosh
Angus Local Policing Area (LPA) HQ
West High Street
Forfar