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**Police Scotland – D Division – Angus LPA**

## **ALCOHOL RELATED VIOLENCE IN ANGUS**

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## Introduction

There is a well understood link between excessive alcohol consumption and violent crime. Examples include higher levels of violence in and around licensed premises, and alcohol related domestic violence committed within the home. An extensive body of academic research exists to demonstrate the link between alcohol and violence. This work attempts to explain the nature, extent and consequences of this relationship in terms of a wide range of contributory factors. In the national Scottish context, considerations have often centred around the behavioural effects of alcohol intoxication on the individual, the prevailing cultural attitudes within Scottish society, and the characteristics of licensed premises themselves.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

Traditionally, strategies to respond to alcohol related violence can be classified into a number of distinct yet overlapping strands. These include –

- Overt tactics such as high profile patrols and visits to licensed premises within town centres.
- The robust enforcement of existing licensing laws by police and licensing authorities.
- A multi-agency approach to both the support of victims and the management of offenders.

Research suggests that interventions within these strands are more effective when they are both focussed on identified targets and sustained over a period of time.<sup>4 5</sup>

This profile will discuss and analyse current levels of alcohol related violence in Angus – crimes where Police have identified that alcohol consumption by the offender or by the victim has contributed directly to the offence. The profile analyses the recently completed reporting period between April 2017 and March 2018 and compares this against historical trends. Each of the Angus localities is examined in greater detail, concentrating on alcohol related violence linked to the night time economies of the seven main towns.

## Methodology

This profile utilises crime statistics taken from published Police Scotland figures, together with information from the local crime recording system - UniFi. Alcohol related violent crime is considered to be those crimes on UniFi which carry an aggravator marker for alcohol – either in relation to the offender or the victim of the crime (or both).

## Alcohol, Violence & Health

While not directly linked to the focus of this report – alcohol related violent crime – partners need to consider the wider health implications of excessive alcohol consumption. While most people enjoy alcohol within moderate and safe limits, the adverse health implications of alcohol misuse are evident at both national and local levels – including the impact of alcohol related violence. In particular, so called ‘binge drinking’ leads to the levels of intoxication typically associated with violence, injury and hospitalisation – particularly amongst younger drinkers.<sup>6</sup> Previous local analysis has shown that alcohol related presentations at Accident & Emergency or Minor Injury Units increase significantly at weekends. Again, those attending tend to be younger males under the age of 40 – a similar demographic to those typically involved in alcohol related violence. The Angus Alcohol & Drugs Partnership has recently commissioned and published a comprehensive report examining – amongst other concerns – the health implications of excessive alcohol consumption.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Aggression involving alcohol: Relationship to drinking patterns and social context” Wells & Graham 2003

<sup>2</sup> “Drinking in Scotland: Qualitative insights into influences, attitudes and behaviours” NHS Scotland 2008

<sup>3</sup> “Characteristics of violent bars and bar patrons” Quigley, Leonard & Collins 2003

<sup>4</sup> “A randomized controlled trial of different Policing strategies at hot spots of violent crime” Taylor *et al* 2011

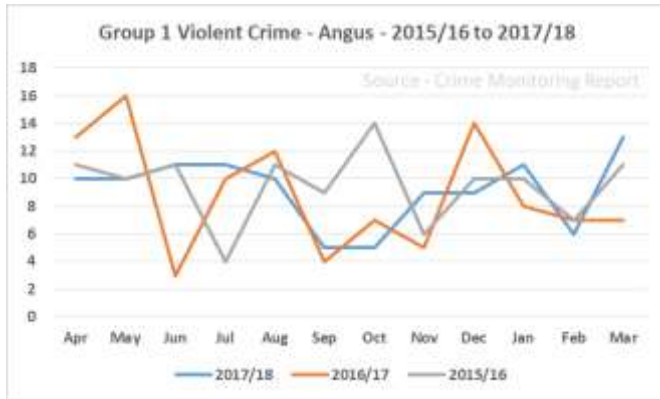
<sup>5</sup> “Alcohol and licensed premises: Best Practise in Policing” Doherty & Roche 2003

<sup>6</sup> “Alcohol, Young Persons and Violence” Paul Williams – Australian Institute of Criminology Research 2001

<sup>7</sup> “The Public Health & Social Impact of Alcohol Availability in Angus” Angus Alcohol & Drugs Partnership 2018

## Violent Crime in Angus

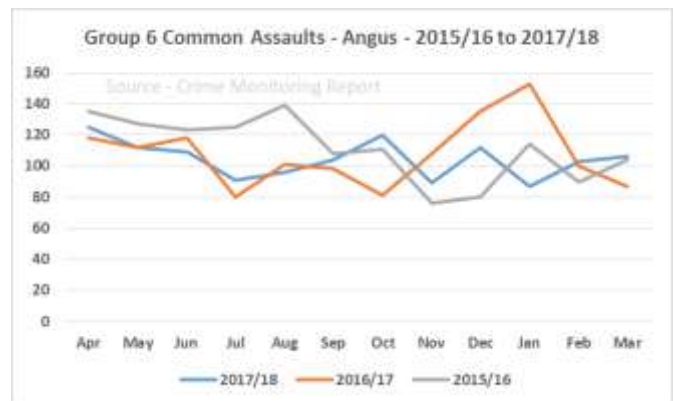
### Group 1 Crime Levels & Trends



Group 1 violent crime includes the most serious offences such as murder, robbery and serious assault. The graph opposite shows the month on month splits for such crimes in recent years. Total recorded Group 1 crime during 2017/18 (110 incidents) is in line with 2016/17 (106) and 2015/16 (114). Serious violent crime remains relatively rare in Angus with approximately two offences recorded per week on average. Of the 110 offences recorded during 2017/18 period, 40% (44 crimes) carried an alcohol aggravator marker.

### Common Assault Crime Levels & Trends

Levels of recorded minor assaults have also reduced slightly year on year with 1254 crimes recorded between April 2017 and March 2018 compared to 1291 in 2016/17 and 1332 in 2015/16. This still represents a significant volume of crime – approximately 24 assaults per week. Of assaults recorded in 2017/18, 29% (378 crimes) carry an alcohol marker and are therefore assessed as being linked to excessive alcohol consumption.



### INNKEEPER Incidents

Not every incident at licensed premises results in recorded violent – or other – crime. Very often police will be called to disturbances or other incidents at licensed premises where excessive alcohol consumption has contributed to unacceptable or anti-social – but not always criminal – behaviour by patrons. These incidents are recorded on the Police Scotland ‘INNKEEPER’ system. This database is a useful tool in assessing how licensees are upholding licensing laws and fulfilling their obligations under these regulations. The table below lists all the licensed premises in Angus with seven or more incidents recorded between April 2017 and March 2018.

INNKEEPER INCIDENTS – APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018				
PREMISES	ADDRESS	TOWN	POSTCODE	NUMBER
DeVitos	11 Millgate	ARBROATH	DD111NN	32
Royal Hotel / Club	33 Castle Street	FORFAR	DD83AE	18
Busby's	30-36 George Street	MONTROSE	DD108EW	17
Northern Hotel	2 Clerk Street	BRECHIN	DD96AE	14
Old Masons Arms	135 East High Street	FORFAR	DD82EQ	13
Anchor Bar	16 West Port	ARBROATH	DD111RE	12
Star Hotel	7 New Wynd	MONTROSE	DD108RB	8
Coast Bar	2-4 Gravesend	ARBROATH	DD111HT	7
Central Bar	1-3 Brothock Bridge	ARBROATH	DD111NF	7

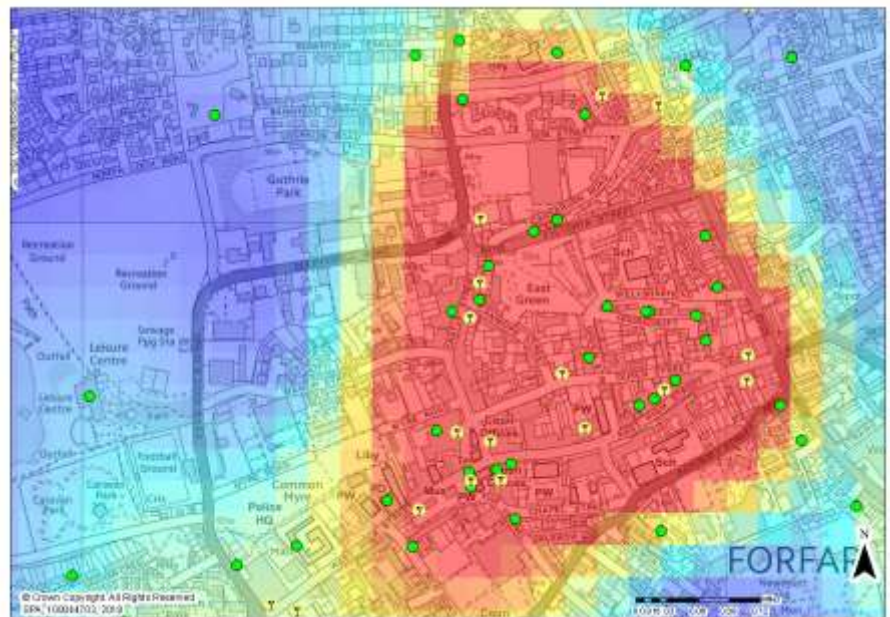
Alcohol & Violent Crime – Forfar / Kirriemuir Locality

Forfar & District

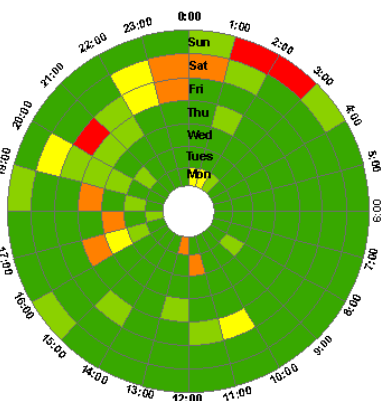


Analysis shows that between April 2017 and March 2018, 259 crimes of violence (Group 1 and Group 6 assaults) were recorded within the Forfar & District Multi Member Ward (MMW). Unsurprisingly, as the map opposite shows, crimes were concentrated within the town of Forfar itself. These are represented by dots on the map (●). Further analysis of Forfar crimes shows a main 'hotspot' area within the centre of the town, shown on the map below and corresponding to the area within the square.

Of the 259 violent crimes in the Forfar MMW, further analysis shows that over a third (97 crimes) take place within 100m of licensed premises. While some licensed premises within Forfar lie outside of the town centre hotspot, the detailed map opposite suggests that the identified main hotspot area includes many licensed premises (🍷) and crimes committed close to them. Crimes committed within this main hotspot area often carry an alcohol aggravator marker.

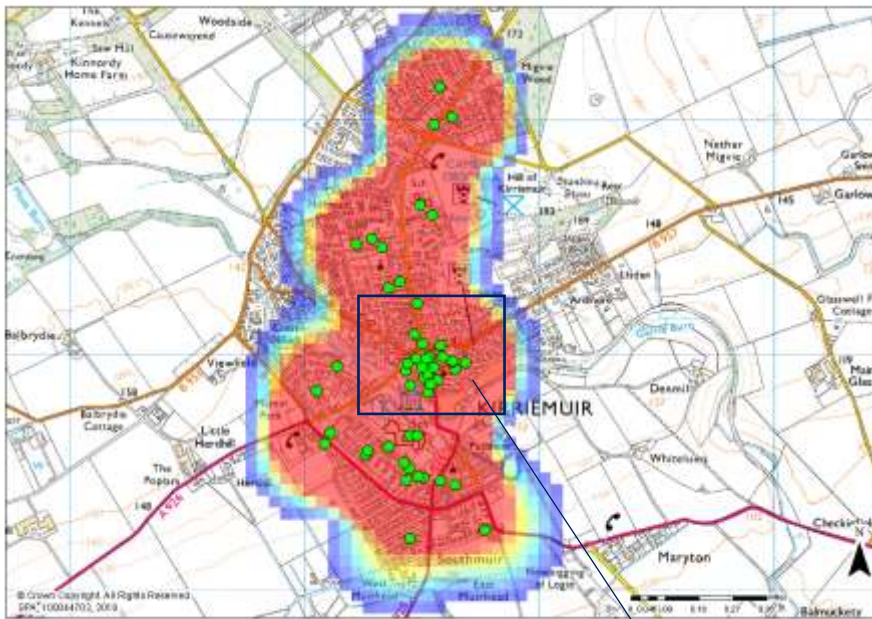


**Forfar & District Violent Crime Within 100m of Licensed Premises**



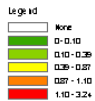
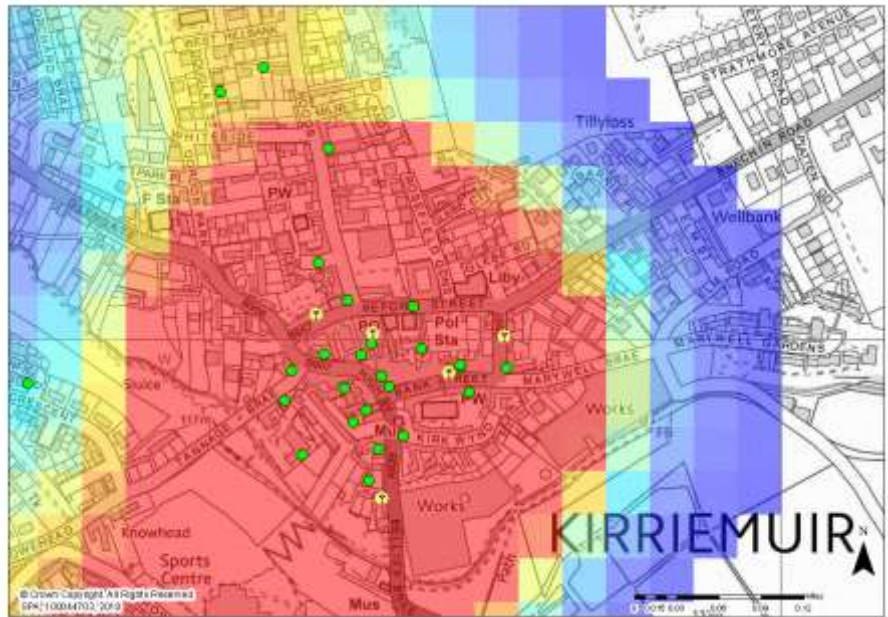
An examination of when violence committed close to licensed premises takes place is illustrated in the data clock opposite. It shows that crimes are most likely to occur in the late evening and early morning during the weekend – particularly between 2200 and 0100 on a Friday in Saturday and 2200 to 0300 on a Saturday into Sunday. This suggest a link between violence, alcohol consumption and the night time economy and is consistent with the academic research cited in the introduction to this profile, and confirms previous local analysis undertaken around alcohol related crime.

**Kirriemuir & Dean**

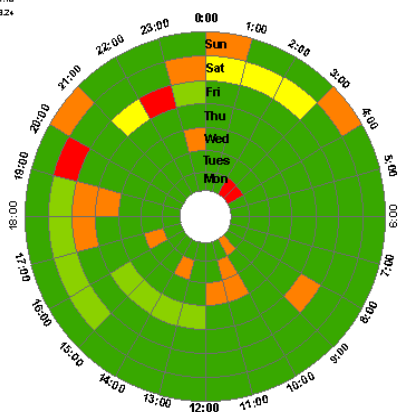


Levels of violent crime recorded within the Kirriemuir & Dean Multi Member Ward (MMW) are significantly less than in neighbouring Forfar & District. There were 91 Group 1 crimes and Group 6 assaults recorded between April 2017 and March 2018. Kirriemuir & Dean is a large ward, although most crimes (as indicated by the dots on the map opposite) are committed within the town itself. Furthermore, Kirriemuir crimes are concentrated within a town centre hotspot shown opposite and below.

Over 40% of all violent crimes recorded within the Kirriemuir & Dean ward take place within 100m of a licensed premises. This includes many of the crimes within the identified town centre hotspot where many of the town's bars and hotels are located. These are shown on the map opposite. These findings are consistent with the suggested link between alcohol, violence and the night time economy – many town centre crimes carry an alcohol aggravator marker.



**Kirriemuir & Dean Violent Crime Within 100m of Licensed Premises**



While the volumes of violent crime within Kirriemuir & Dean are not as high as in some other areas of Angus, the data clock opposite still confirms the link between alcohol and violence. In particular, within Kirriemuir, violent crime is much more likely between 2200 and 0300 on a Friday into Saturday and between 2300 and 0100 on a Saturday into Sunday. This is broadly in line with previous analysis undertaken for Kirriemuir and supports current focus on town centres within local Policing plans.

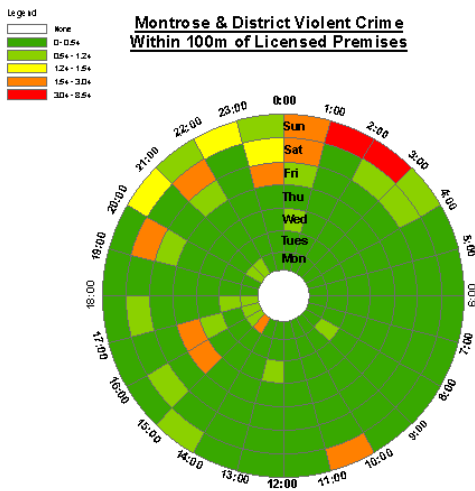
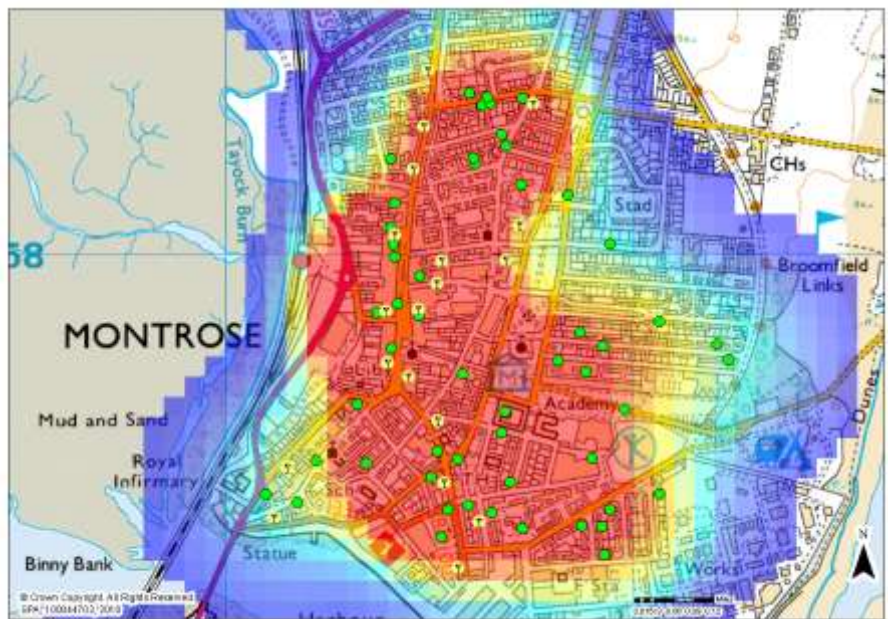
Alcohol & Violent Crime – Montrose / Brechin Locality

Montrose & District



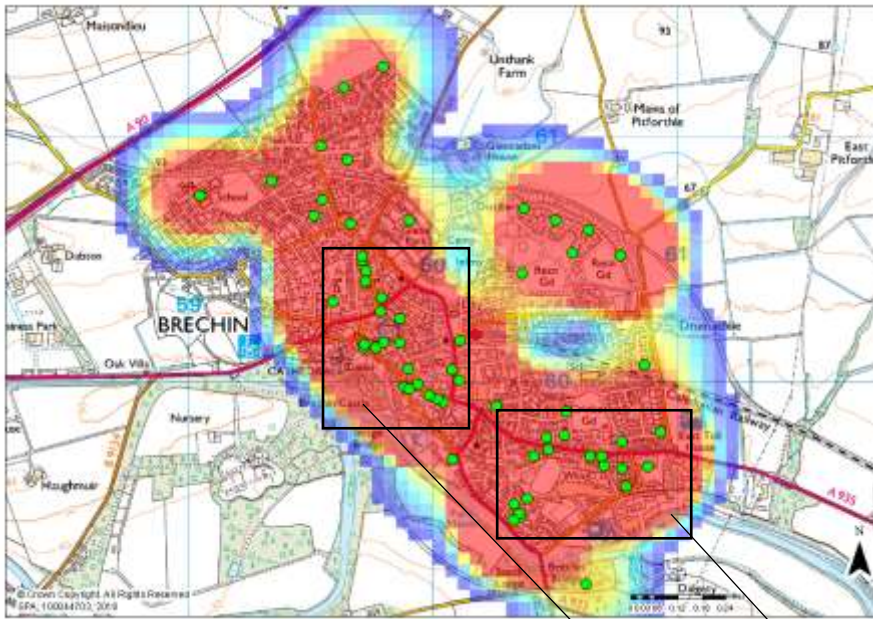
Analysis shows that between April 2017 and March 2018, 208 crimes of violence (Group 1 and Group 6 assaults) were recorded within the Montrose & District Multi Member Ward (MMW). Unsurprisingly, as the map opposite shows, crimes were concentrated within the town of Montrose itself. These are represented by dots on the map (●). Further analysis of Montrose crimes shows a main 'hotspot' area in the town centre, shown on the map below and corresponding to the area within the square.

Of the 208 violent crimes in the Montrose MMW, further analysis shows that over a third (72 crimes) take place within 100m of licensed premises. While some licensed premises within Montrose lie outside the town centre hotspot, the detailed map opposite suggests that this identified main hotspot area includes many licensed premises (🍷) and crimes committed close to them. Crimes committed within this main hotspot area often carry an alcohol aggravator marker.



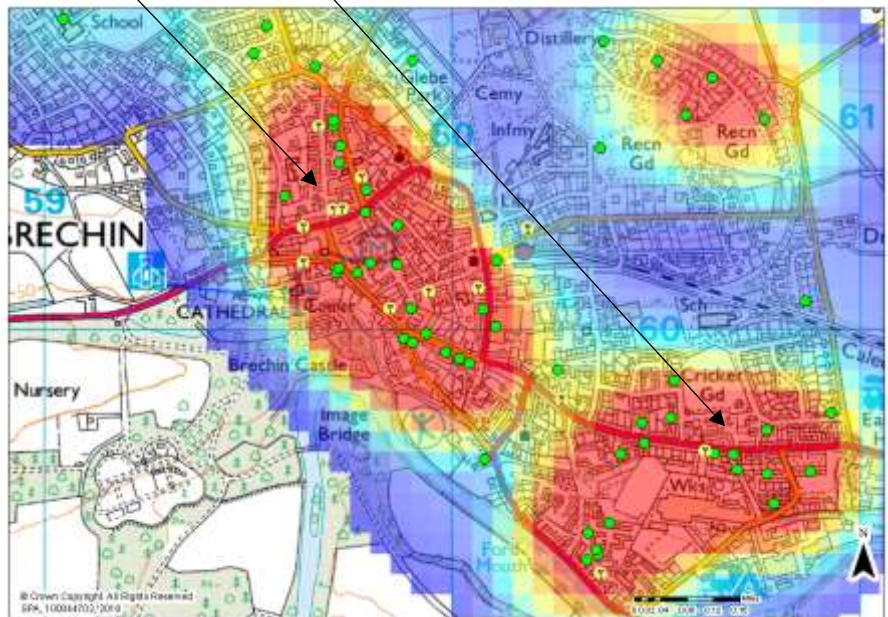
An examination of when violence committed close to licensed premises takes place is illustrated in the data clock opposite. It shows that crimes are most likely to occur in the late evening and early morning during the weekend – particularly between 2300 and 0100 on a Friday in Saturday and 2200 to 0300 on a Saturday into Sunday. This suggest a link between violence, alcohol consumption and the night time economy and is consistent with the academic research cited in the introduction to this profile, and confirms previous local analysis undertaken around alcohol related crime.

Brechin & Edzell



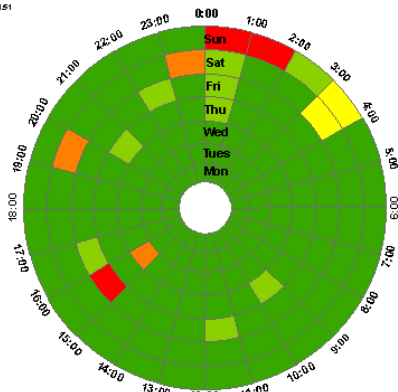
Levels of Group 1 crimes and Group 6 assaults recorded within the Brechin & Edzell Multi Member Ward (MMW) are approximately half of those of Montrose. There were 106 crimes recorded during 2017/18. Of these, the map opposite shows how most come from within the town of Brechin itself. Further analysis of these crimes show two main town centre hotspots (illustrated opposite and below), and including significant numbers of crimes with an alcohol aggravator.

Of the 106 violent crimes in the Brechin MMW, further analysis shows that almost a third (32 crimes) take place within 100m of licensed premises. As shown in the map opposite, most of these lie within the primary hotspot area containing most of Brechin bars, pubs and clubs. The secondary hotspot (while also containing licensed premises) is a more residential area. Many of the violent crimes recorded here are of a domestic nature.



Legend  
None  
0-0.51  
0.51-1.01  
1.01-1.51  
1.51-2.01  
2.01-3.51

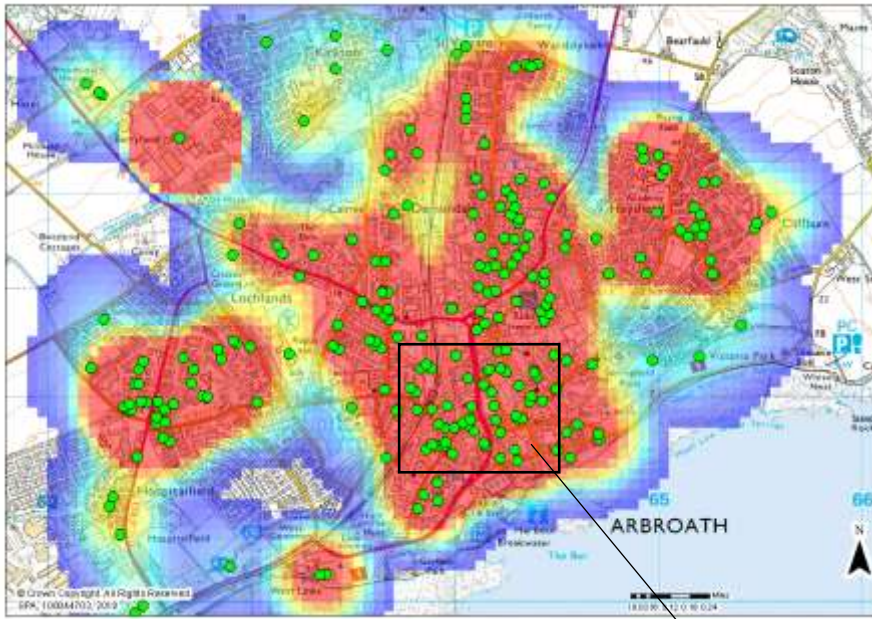
**Brechin & Edzell Violent Crime Within 100m of Licensed Premises**



The data clock opposite illustrates a clear and significant increase in violent offending within Brechin at the weekend. In particular, Saturday nights from around 2300 to 0200 is the main period of concern. Given this is a relatively short time frame – at least compared to some other towns – it should be possible for local teams to focus interventions around the key hotspot areas at these times.

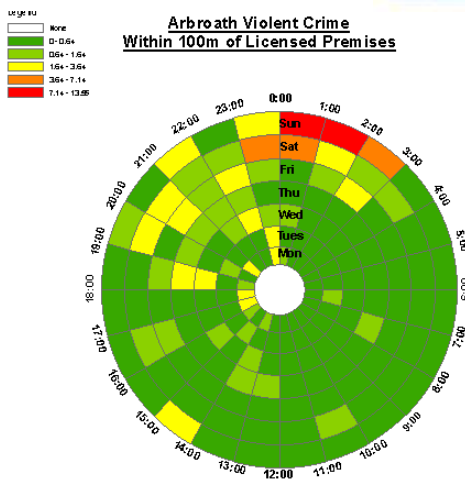
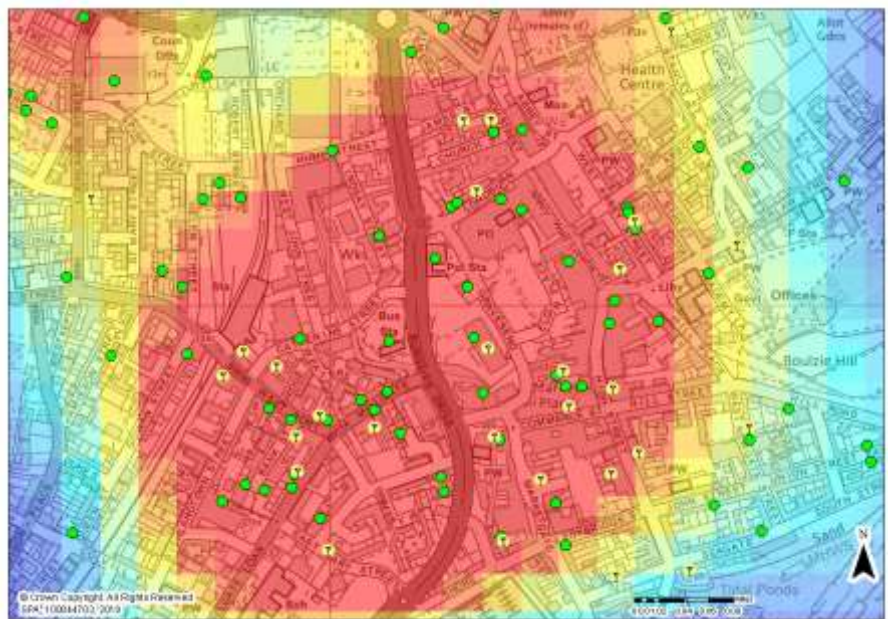
Alcohol & Violent Crime – Arbroath Locality

Arbroath East & Arbroath West



Analysis shows that between April 2017 and March 2018, 477 crimes of violence (Group 1 and Group 6 assaults) were recorded within the two Arbroath Multi Member Wards (MMW). Unsurprisingly, as the map opposite shows, crimes were concentrated within the town of Arbroath itself. These are represented by dots on the map (●). Further analysis of Arbroath crimes shows a main 'hotspot' area in the town centre, shown on the map below and corresponding to the area within the square.

Of the 477 violent crimes in the two Arbroath MMW, analysis shows that over a quarter (133 crimes) take place within 100m of licensed premises. This is a lower proportion than some other areas in Angus. Most licensed premises lie within the identified town centre hotspot opposite (📍) with many crimes committed close to them. Crimes committed within this main hotspot area often carry an alcohol aggravator marker.

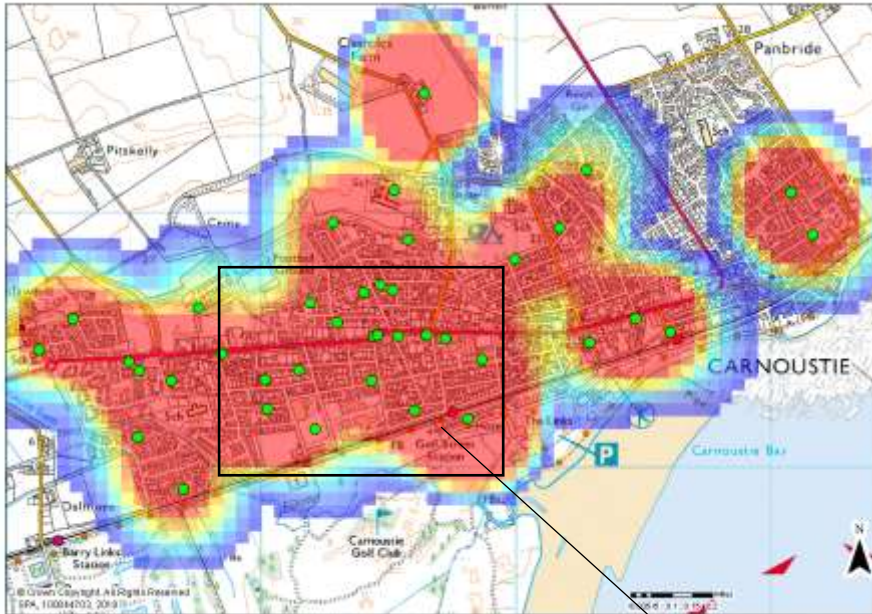


An examination of when violence committed close to licensed premises takes place is illustrated in the data clock opposite. It shows that crimes are most likely to occur in the late evening and early morning during the weekend – particularly between 2300 and 0300 on a Saturday into Sunday. This confirms the suggested link between violence, alcohol consumption and the night time economy and is consistent with the academic research cited in the introduction to this profile, and confirms previous local analysis undertaken around alcohol related crime.



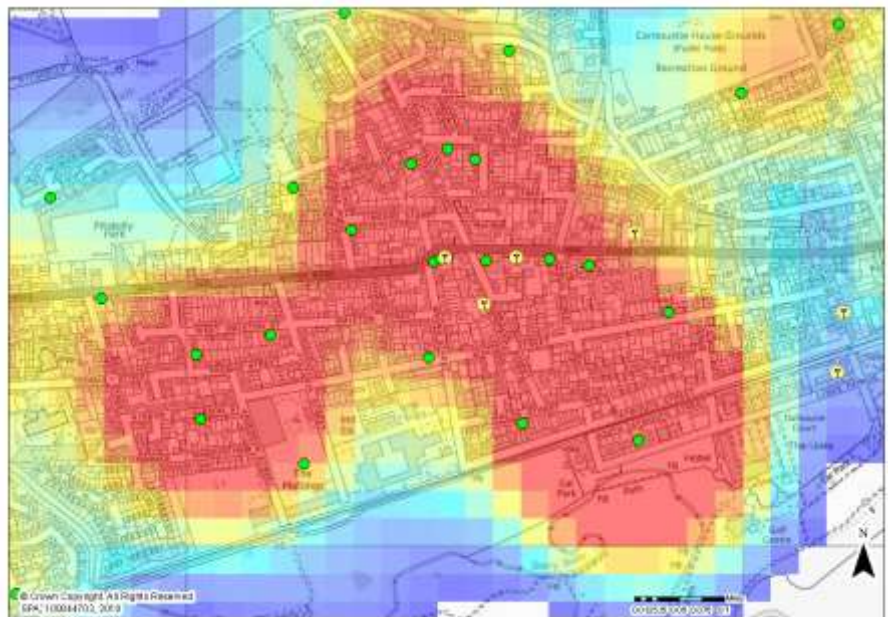
Alcohol & Violent Crime – Carnoustie / Monifieth

Carnoustie & District



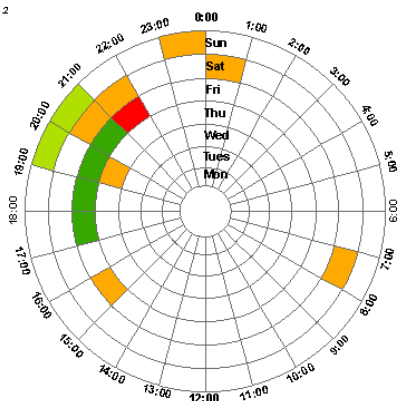
Analysis shows that between April 2017 and March 2018, 72 crimes of violence (Group 1 and Group 6 assaults) were recorded within the Carnoustie & District Multi Member Ward (MMW). Unsurprisingly, as the map opposite shows, crimes were concentrated within the town of Carnoustie itself. These are represented by dots on the map (●). Further analysis of Carnoustie crimes shows a main 'hotspot' area in the town centre, shown on the map below and corresponding to the area within the square.

Of the 72 violent crimes in the Carnoustie MMW, further analysis shows that only ten took place within 100m of licensed premises. While some licensed premises within Carnoustie lie outside the town centre hotspot, the detailed map opposite suggests that this identified main hotspot area includes a number of licensed premises (🍷) and crimes committed close to them. Crimes committed within this main hotspot area often carry an alcohol aggravator marker.



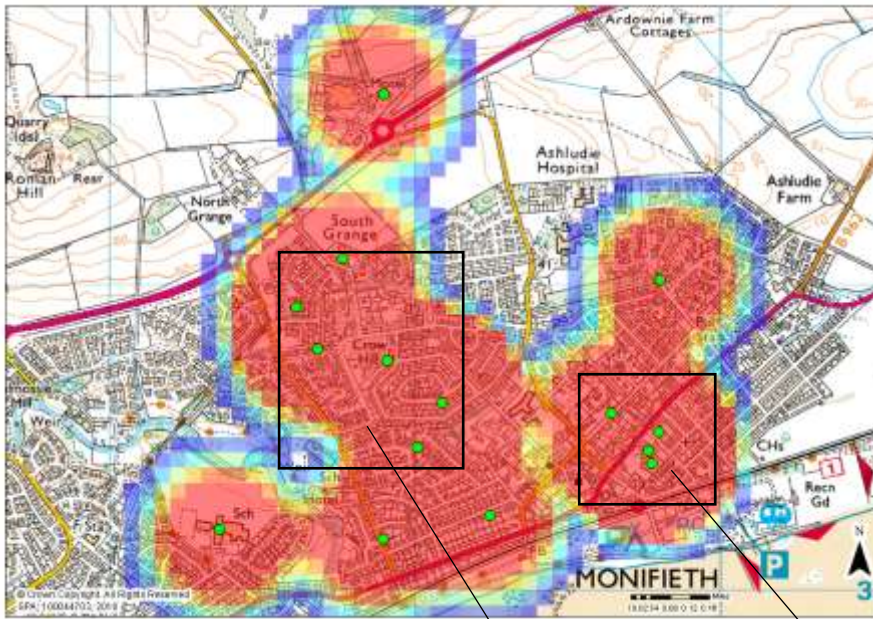
Legend  
 Note  
 0-0.2  
 0.2-0.5  
 0.5-1  
 1-1.2

**Carnoustie & District Violent Crime Within 100m of Licensed Premises**



An examination of when violence committed close to licensed premises takes place is illustrated in the data clock opposite. While numbers recorded within Carnoustie are smaller than for some other Angus towns, the data clock still suggests that violence is more likely at the weekends – particularly in the later evenings on both a Friday and Saturday

Monifieth & Sidlaw



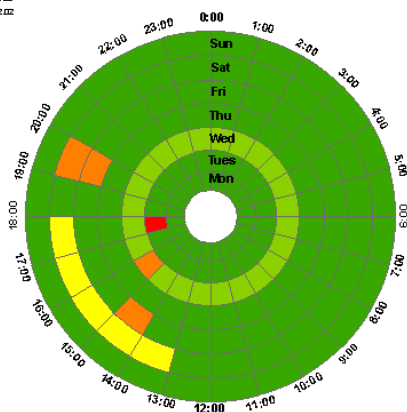
Analysis shows that between April 2017 and March 2018, 67 crimes of violence (Group 1 and Group 6 assaults) were recorded within the Monifieth & Sidlaw Multi Member Ward (MMW). Unsurprisingly, as the map opposite shows, crimes were concentrated within the town of Monifieth itself. These are represented by dots on the map (●). Further analysis of Carnoustie crimes shows main 'hotspot' areas in the town centre, shown on the map below and corresponding to the areas within the squares.

Of the 67 violent crimes in the Monifieth MMW, further analysis shows that only ten took place within 100m of licensed premises. While some licensed premises within Monifieth lie outside the town centre hotspot, the detailed map opposite suggests that this identified main hotspot area includes a number of licensed premises (🍷) and crimes committed close to them. Crimes committed within this main hotspot area often carry an alcohol aggravator marker.



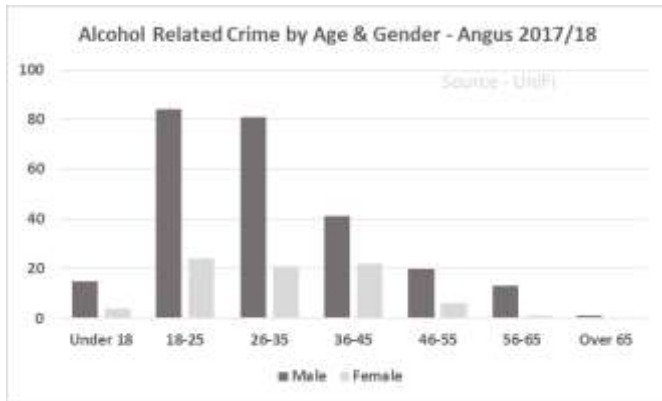
Legend  
 None  
 0 - 0.02  
 0.02 - 0.05  
 0.05 - 0.20  
 0.20 - 1.05  
 1.05 - 2.02

**Monifieth & Sidlaw Violent Crime Within 100m of Licensed Premises**



An examination of when violence committed close to licensed premises takes place is illustrated in the data clock opposite. While numbers recorded within Monifieth are smaller than for some other Angus towns, the data clock suggests there is not such a clear correlation between weekends, alcohol consumption and violent crime.

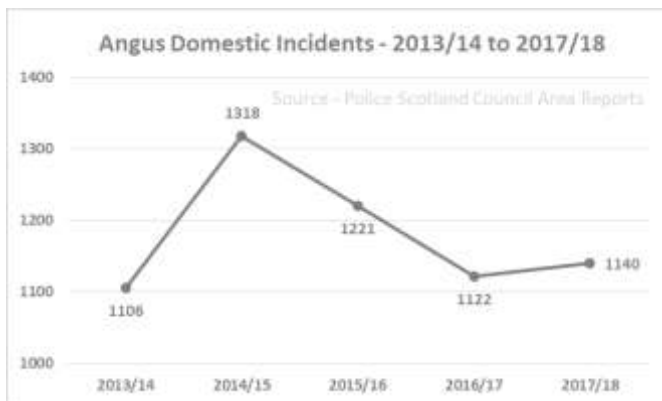
### Alcohol Related Violence – Age & Gender Analysis



The chart opposite breaks down alcohol related violent crime in Angus by the age and gender of offender. It illustrates how younger males aged under 35 are responsible for over half (54%) of all detected alcohol related violence. Alcohol related violence is less prevalent amongst females (23%) and older males. There are a small number of crimes where young people under the legal age for obtaining alcohol have been detected for committing violent while drunk.

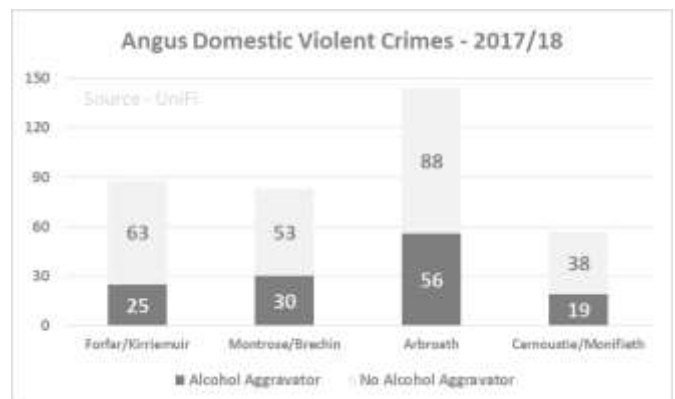
### Alcohol & Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse remains an unfortunate reality throughout Scotland – including Angus. It is an area of criminality that crosses social, economic and demographic boundaries. The understanding of a relationship between domestic related crime and alcohol is well established. Academic research acknowledges that alcohol does not **cause** domestic violence or other abuse - many more people use (or even misuse alcohol) within a domestic environment without a partner being at risk. However, there is evidence from a large body of studies to confirm that where domestic abuse exists, alcohol is likely to have been a contributory factor.



The graph opposite illustrates how the level of recorded domestic **incidents** in Angus peaked during 2014/15 before falling steadily in 2015/16 (7.4%) and 2016/17 (8.1%). This was followed by a small year-on-year increase of 1.6% in 2017/18. Not every reported incident results in a recorded crime – for Angus in 2017/18 it was 51.1% of incidents compared to 46.7% nationally. The influence of alcohol on the most recent domestic related **violent** crimes is examined below.

The chart opposite considers domestic related violence within Angus during 2017/18. Across the county, alcohol is identified as an aggravating factor in 35% of all recorded domestic violence. Breaking this down by locality, the proportion is found to be slightly higher within Arbroath (39%) and Montrose/Brechin (36%), but lower in Carnoustie / Monifieth (33%) and Forfar/Kirriemuir (28%). The Arbroath locality has significantly higher levels of recorded crimes.



## Alcohol Related Violence – Recommendations

### Enforcement

- As part of routine Police activity at licensed premises, the credentials of any door staff should be checked to ensure they have the correct registration and the training records of bar staff should be checked to ensure they have received the appropriate training.
- Appropriate bail conditions (licensed premises exclusions etc.) should be requested for any repeat violent offenders engaging in alcohol related violence and disorder.
- Locality Sergeants should undertake a review of all local warrants and prioritise those relating to offenders with a history of alcohol related violence and disorder.
- Locality Inspectors and Sergeants should consider requesting the support of national resources to support any planned operation focussed on alcohol related violence and licensed premises.

### Prevention

- Local officers should continue proactive patrols in and around town centres (as identified by the hotspot analysis in this report) during key times and days.
- To assist in the prevention of alcohol related violence and disorder, partner agencies such as community wardens and alcohol support workers should be deployed to assist Police activity.
- Dealing with the underlying issues of problematic drinking would reduce subsequent involvement in violent disorder. Consideration should be given to reviewing how partners identify offenders with alcohol problems and how they are directed towards treatment programs and other support.
- The 'Pubwatch' scheme is well known in Angus with some towns having more established networks than others. Every effort should be made to extend the numbers of licensed premises within each scheme – particularly licensed premises within identified town centre hotspots.

### Intelligence

- Police dealing with alcohol related violence and disorder should ensure that every effort is made during statement taking and interviews to ascertain which licensed premises have been visited by victims and offenders – particularly once they are already intoxicated.
- Existing fixed and re-deployable CCTV resources should be directed to the identified hotspot areas within Angus town centres to support operational activity. This will assist to 1) gather intelligence on licensed premises and the behaviour of patrons, 2) aid identification of problematic behaviours to allow early intervention and 3) assist investigation of subsequent crime and disorder.

### Communication

- Partners should consider reinforcing key messages around alcohol related safety and unacceptable behaviours by utilising traditional and social media to highlight issues and encourage responsible behaviour.