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APPENDIX



Angus Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee
Quarter 2 ending 30 September 2023

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Contents

Introduction and Overview of Local Policing Priorities

Police Scotland's strategic objectives

Angus Local Policing Plan 2023-2026

Quarter 2 Performance on a Page

- Local Priority/Activity – Address violence through preventative and enforcement measures
- Local Priority/Activity – Deal with disorder and antisocial behaviour
- Local Priority/Activity – Tackle acquisitive crime and support victims
- Local Priority/Activity – Make our roads safer
- Local Priority/Activity – Enable and support effective engagement and communication with the public
- National Priority – Use innovative approaches to accelerate capacity and capability for effective service delivery
- National Priority – Prioritise wellbeing and keep our people safe, well equipped and protected

Quarter 2 Thematic Spotlight

- Local Priority/Activity – Address violence through preventative and enforcement measures

Introduction and Overview of Local Policing Priorities

As from April 2013, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 has required Divisional Commanders to produce and publish a Local Policing Plan (LPP) for each local authority area. The Angus LPP 2023-2026 clearly sets out the policing objectives for Angus and will report to the Angus Scrutiny and Audit Committee. Quarterly Performance Reports are produced to allow scrutiny by Angus Scrutiny and Audit Committee. This report covers the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023.

In line with the Angus LPP, the Quarterly Performance Report provides a more holistic overview of progress across the service to meet our strategic outcomes. This approach provides a wider and more detailed picture of traditional policing performance measures, supplemented with additional insight and narrative to the many different aspects of policing and corporate support functions.

The measures are longer term focussed rather than reflecting the ongoing performance of the day-to-day operational challenges we face and aim to provide evidence of the effectiveness and impact of our services as a whole.

We have introduced a number of key performance measures and insights questions in support of our local police plan to focus attention on impact and outcomes. For example:

- How effective are the diversionary activities provided?
- How effective are the processes in place to prevent acquisitive crime?
- How well are we engaging with the public?
- What progress has been made in terms of collaboration and what percentage of the divisional estate is co-located with partners?

To enable a more detailed examination by the Committee of specific local priorities and strategic outcomes, a 'Spotlight' focus will be provided on one of the priority areas on a quarterly basis. The Spotlight focus will rotate each quarter in line with the expected updates outlined in the Angus LPP.

Police Scotland's strategic objectives



Our Vision | Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland
Our Purpose | The purpose of policing is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland
Our Values | Fairness | Integrity | Respect | Human Rights





Plan On a Page - Angus Local Policing Plan 2023-2026

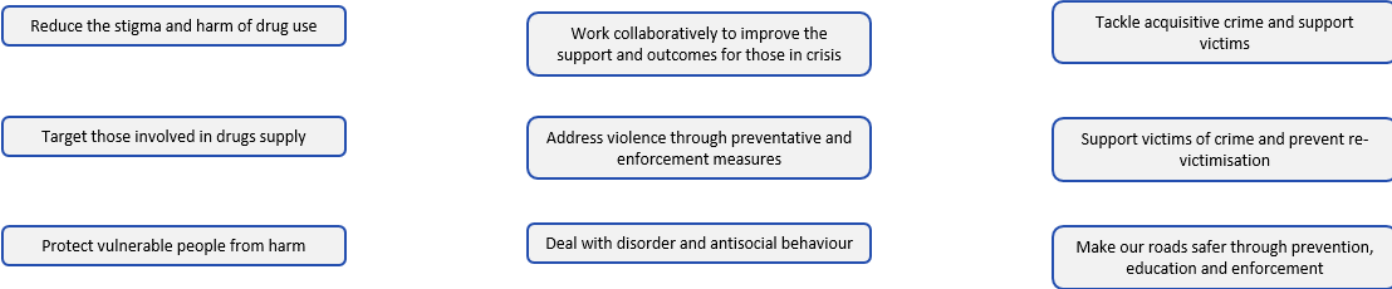
Our Vision Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland
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PUBLIC HEALTH

Local Policing Priorities



Local Policing Objectives



PERSON CENTRED APPROACH

PARTNERSHIPS

Police Scotland Strategic Outcomes



PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

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Quarter 2 - Performance on a Page - 1st April 2023 to 30 September 2023

	Recorded Crimes			Change		Detection Rates			% point Change	
	CYTD	LYTD	5yr Av	From LYTD	From 5 yr Av.	CYTD	LYTD	5yr AV	From LYTD	From 5 Yr Av.
ASB and Disorder										
Overall Grp 4	308	386	424	-20.2%	-27.3%	29.9%	31.9%	41.3%	-2%	-11.4%
ASB Incidents	2700	2970	3604	-9.1%	-25.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Violence										
Robbery	13	5	14	160%	-4.4%	92.3%	80%	66.2%	12.3%	26.1%
Serious Assault	27	33	29	-18.2%	-6.9%	77.8%	78.8%	86.2%	-1%	-8.4%
Common Assault (excluding Emergency Workers)	498	547	543	-9%	-8.3%	70.7%	69.5%	70.4%	1.2%	0.3%
Public Protection										
Overall Group 2	140	214	182	-34.6%	-23.2%	55.7%	53.3%	55.7%	2.4%	0%
Rape	16	43	29	-62.8%	-44.1%	56.3%	25.6%	32.2%	30.7%	24.1%
Domestic Abuse	289	356	401	-18.8%	-27.9%	66.4%	63.8%	66.7%	0.6%	-0.3%
Road Safety										
Speeding offences	177	274	489	-35.4%	-63.8%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Drink / Drug Driving	77	48	68	60.4%	13.6%	94.8%	108.3%	95.6%	-13.5%	-0.8%
Acquisitive Crime										
HBs	114	104	88	9.6%	29.5%	36.8%	42.3%	31.6%	-5.5%	5.3%
Dwelling HBs	59	39	36	51.3%	62.1%	44.1%	33.3%	28%	10.7%	16%
Motor Vehicle Crime	103	118	87	-12.7%	18.1%	50.5%	36.4%	39.9%	14%	10.6%
Fraud	169	140	91	20.7%	86.5%	14.8%	24.9%	24.9%	-10.2%	-10.2%
Shoplifting	249	185	156	34.6%	59.2%	54.2%	69.2%	68.5%	-15%	-14.3%

Overall Group 2' **All Sexual Crimes** including Rape & Attempts, Indecent & Sexual Assaults, Prostitution Offences and 'Other' Group 2 Crimes.

Overall Group 4' **All Fireraising, Vandalism, Reckless Conduct** and 'Other' Group 4 Crimes.

Local Priority/Activity – Deal with disorder and antisocial behaviour

We continue to try and prevent and deter instances of Anti-social behaviour and disorder by close working with ASB teams. Housing, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Trading Standards. Community Policing teams and Preventions Officers have regular contact with partners to explore all options to reduce the impact of this behaviour within communities.

Angus PIP have a close relationship with the Angus ASBT – and pro-actively share relevant information in an effort to intervene and prevent further issues at addresses through which joint visits are often undertaken.

Preventions officers have also completed joint visits over this period with colleagues from SFRS, to give fire and crime prevention advice – where crimes have involved a fire risk. These visits are always well received, and SFRS fit letter box jammers and smoke detectors free of charge.

Further to this ASB incidents often occur within the public spaces and to tackle these both Community Policing Teams and Response Officers work closely with Community Wardens to have visibility within communities both by foot patrols and Officers within marked vehicles.

Officers are regularly tasked to patrol areas that have night time economy business both to prevent and deter any ASB and to provide support to night time workers. Within Angus we continue to be supported by the Police Scotland Licensing Department who assist with licensed premises within the Policing area.

Between 1st July 2023 and 30th September 2023, the licensing team have processed 422 licence applications for the Angus area. This included applications for occasional licenses to allow premises to have additional outdoor areas, renewals for taxi operators and drivers, renewals and grants of House In Multiple Occupancy and applications for grants of Short Terms lets in the lead up to the legislation commencement date of 1st October 2023.

44 recorded ASB incidents were at or in the immediate vicinity of licensed premises. There were 66 inspections carried out throughout Angus, with no single premises identified as problematic during this period.

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The licensing team have been promoting the 'by-stander' and 'It'll Cost You' training and campaign and, were assisted by Police Scotland Youth Volunteers carrying out public engagement within our communities and Premise Licence Holders. The Licensing Team are continuing efforts to deliver training to licenced premises in respect of keeping people safe in particular during the night time economy.

- 287 crimes of vandalism have been recorded CYTD, which is a 14.3% reduction on LYTD.
- 12 crimes of Fire-raising have been recorded CYTD, which is a 57.1% reduction on LYTD.
- Overall Group 4 incidents recorded reduced by 20.2 % compared to LYTD.
- 2,700 ASB incidents have been recorded CYTD, which is a 9.1% reduction on LYTD

Local Priority/Activity – Tackle acquisitive crime and support victims

The cost of living crisis continues to drive increases in Acquisitive Crime both locally and nationally. We continue to work hard in the preventative space, understanding that reducing the numbers of victims of crime and limiting the harm that these crimes cause is of vital importance. The following paragraphs will focus on key Acquisitive Crime types which impacted Angus local authority area during Q2.

Housebreakings to Dwelling Houses

There were 32 Housebreaking to Dwelling Houses crimes recorded during Q2. This is an increase of 5 crimes when compared to the 27 committed during Q1. Overall there have been a total of 59 Housebreaking to Dwelling Houses crimes recorded CYTD which is an increase from the 39 recorded LYTD.

A high number of these crimes continue to be committed in the Arbroath area, with just over half of all Housebreakings to Dwelling Houses within Angus being committed within Arbroath. The remainder are geographically diverse and spread right across the Angus area.

There has been significant activity delivered in the Arbroath area by both local uniform and CID officers, supported by members of the Divisional Acquisitive Crime Team. This activity has delivered a number of positive detections which have curtailed the commission of crime series within the area. This activity is evidenced by the fact that detection rates for this crime type have improved by 10.8% in comparison to LYTD figures.

Motor Vehicle Crime

There were 45 Motor Vehicle crimes recorded in Q2, which is a reduction from the 58 crimes recorded during Q1. This continues a trend of reducing numbers of Motor Vehicles crimes being committed, which has been sustained over the past 3 performance quarters. Overall this delivers a reduction of 12.7% in terms of recorded Motor Vehicle crimes when compared to LYTD figures. It should be noted that although this trend is welcome recording rates remain significantly higher than the 5 year average and a sustained focus on prevention and detection is still required.

Motor vehicle crime is spread consistently across the local authority area, with only the Monifieth area seeing higher numbers of crimes than would have been expected during Q2. A significant number of these crimes were detected to offenders based in Dundee who had committed multiple crimes across the Tayside area in sporadic, but concentrated bouts of offending.

The current detection rate in respect of Motor Vehicle crime is 50.5%, which is a 14% increase when compared to LYTD and a 10.6% increase compared to the 5 year average.

Fraud

The number of reported Fraud's remains consistently high, although in line with increases in this crime type seen right across the country. This crime type continues to be driven by the commission of cyber-enabled crimes often committed by perpetrators outwith the UK.

During Q2 82 crimes of Fraud were reported, in comparison to 87 crimes during the course of Q1. Overall, there has been an increase of 20.7% in respect of recorded Frauds this year when compared to LYTD figures.

Members of our Partnership, Interventions and Preventions Team continue to contact each and every victim of Fraud within the Angus local authority area at the time a crime is committed, seeking to prevent any further loses, assist to restore funds if possible and provide advice and guidance in terms of online safety and security.

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Over this period we have attended numerous FAST (Financial Abuse Support Team) meetings with Trading Standards and Angus Council Adult Protection partners, safeguarding victims and putting in measures to prevent any repeat crimes. This has included joint visits, and supporting Trading Standards with fitting call blockers and ring doorbells.

More broadly, colleagues from our Partnership, Interventions and Preventions Team held a number bike marking events with Angus Community Policing teams, seeking to reduce acquisitive crime linked to Bike Thefts, whilst engaging with local communities and offering wider crime prevention advice and guidance. Two of these were joint events with SFRS who provided the premises and also gave out fire prevention advice. These events were very well received and were great community engagement sessions, with feedback being positive and an appetite for these to be held annually across the local authority area.

Local Priority/Activity – Make our roads safer

There has been 4 fatalities and 13 serious injury collisions in Angus CYTD. This compares to 0 fatalities and 21 serious injury collisions LYTD.

High visibility road safety enforcement continues to be routine business for the Road Policing Unit with a continued focus on the Fatal 5, which is the greatest impact on casualty reduction and addresses community concerns.

Rider Refinement North was carried out throughout the reporting period. This evaluated very well amongst both participants and instructors. It has been recommended that it remains a core aspect of road safety engagement with motorcyclists. As a direct result of this it has been rolled out across the East of Scotland.

The feedback found the course enhanced rider confidence around critical skills. Furthermore, the focus on skills such as forward observation, cornering, and road positioning rather than solely emphasising risk and overt safety messages, was the most effective method of positively impacting road safety according to academic research.

A quote from the evaluation:-

“RRN adopts an innovative and informed approach to rider engagement, rider awareness, and skills building.”

During Q2 some notable activities by local Officers include:

- Attention given to Arbroath road Forfar regarding speeding vehicles
- Attention given by local CPT to areas in Letham, Friockheim, Arbirlot and Letham Grange
- Speed enforcement carried out by the Carnoustie CPT at Barry Road Carnoustie, Newbigging, Kellas and Monikie
-

Local Priority/Activity – Enable and support effective engagement and communication with the public

In the Q1 Scrutiny Report we laid out a range of strategic tools which Police Scotland use to engage and communicate with the public. These included the Your Police and User Experience Surveys. These surveys seek to engage in two distinct ways, with the Your Police survey focussed on the perception of people within local communities of their local Police service, in circumstances where they may never have actually had to contact the Police or engage with the service. The User Experience Survey seeks specific feedback from those who have recently accessed and used the service and therefore have a first-hand view of the service provided and how they were treated.

This quarter we will seek to lay out some of the local responses received and provide an overview of how we shall respond to the issues raised in coming months.

It is important to place the responses in context and it is therefore encouraging that the vast majority of respondents to the Your Police survey from the Angus Local Authority area intimated they felt safe within their local communities and believed their local officers were friendly and approachable. The clear messages received were that the public value officers who show understanding, compassion and listen to individuals' needs. The values and behaviours demonstrated in these positive interactions were seen to be core drivers of public confidence alongside visibility, accessibility, presence and community engagement.

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As a result, we are committed to ensuring that every officer interaction is as positive as possible, whether that be our response to a call for service, through engagement at public events, processions or protests, or in the context of delivering proactive patrols. It is a challenging time for policing and hard choices are being taken to deliver effective policing within the revenue budget available to us. However, our local priority remains being present in local communities, visible in our approach and accessible to our communities.

The Area Commander is committed to reviewing our approach to Community Council meeting attendance, understanding these are valued by community members and elected representatives, who are anxious to engage with local officers in respect of matters which are important to the fabric and safety of local communities. We will seek to increase attendance, supported by the provision of appropriate reports on activity delivered in local areas. The Area Commander will be seeking to engage with elected members on this issue in coming weeks.

Further areas which were consistently raised, relate to the need for officers to provide good quality updates and information to those who have reported a crime or asked for assistance. Survey responses highlight the fact that the majority of people who contact the Police in Angus are satisfied with the level of investigation and work completed to resolve their complaint, however some feel the consistency of communication in respect of the outcomes of Police activity could be improved. It is of fundamental importance that the work undertaken on behalf of community members is fed back, in order to instil confidence and provide reassurance. This will be a key area of focus in coming months, with our approach to both individual engagement with victims of crime and broader public reassurance messaging being considered and improved.

In response to specific questions regards areas where community members felt less safe, there were some consistent responses provided in respect of Hospitalfield, Arbroath and High Street, Forfar particularly after dark. In response, Local Community Sergeants, in conjunction with their Locality Inspectors, have been tasked to develop plans for these specific areas in order to enhance our approach to tackling ASB and seeking to improve the sense of safety of those who live, work in or visit these areas.

Lastly, respondents highlighted the importance of those calling the Police receiving an appropriate response. This related to receiving a slower response than callers would like in respect of non-emergency matters, decisions around non-attendance and in some cases frustration regards the 101 system. This feedback has been shared with our

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Contact, Command and Control Division who are to review the Contact Assessment Model in cognisance of increasing pressures on local policing divisions.

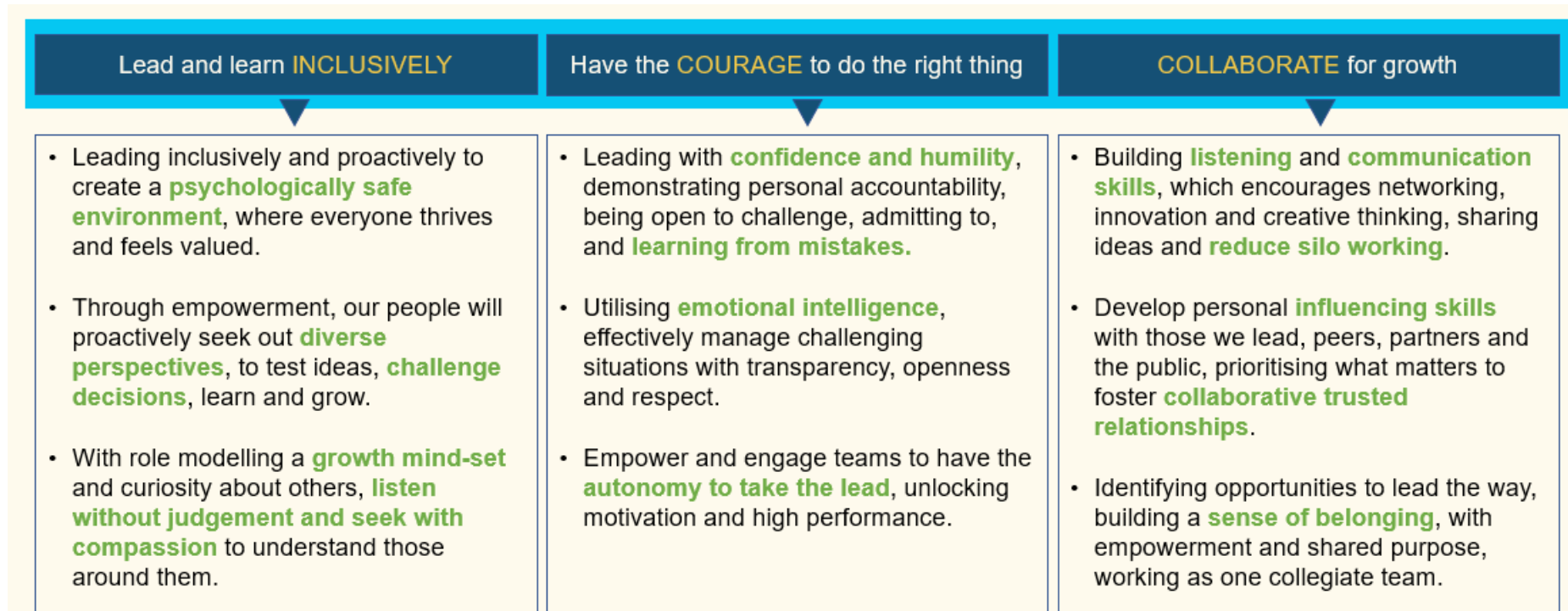
The strategic direction of policing is driven by research, insight and engagement to enable the service to build a robust understanding of the drivers of trust and confidence, and what is needed to enable positive experiences with people who contact us for help. Locally, understanding more about trust and confidence enables the service to respond to community needs more effectively. This service is important when considering strategic choices in the future, our tactical approach now and our current approach to operational engagement.

We will seek to update the Committee on emerging trends driven by our diverse approach to Community Engagement in future quarters and continue to update on those emerging themes which are important to local communities in terms of their interaction and engagement with their local Police service.

National Priority – Use innovative approaches to accelerate capacity and capability for effective service delivery

Your Leadership Matters Core Programme (YLM) is a virtual first programme designed to enhance leadership behaviours, through a blend of summits on MS Teams virtual platform, combined with guest speakers and elements of digital learning, to equip our leaders with the support, capability and skills needed to lead, in a manner that is aligned to our Competency and Values Framework, and to the three leadership behaviours that have been defined as part of the programme.

1. Lead and Learn Inclusively
2. Have the Courage to do the Right Thing
3. Collaborate for Growth



Police Scotland has evolved as an organisation both internally and in response to the current external challenges that we face in policing the communities of Scotland. Our ambition for our people, and their professional experience have also grown, as a reflection of how society has changed over almost a decade.

Leading and learning inclusively is the consistent thread that runs through everything that we do. Building inclusive teams with diverse perspectives to proactively strengthen decisions and solutions. Learning with a restless curiosity, prioritising development, and continuous improvement. Being deliberately appreciative about our people, public and partners and the work we do together.

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We must continue to display moral courage in decision making to do the right thing for our teams, partners, and the public. Leading with confidence but with the vulnerability and humility to admit to and learn from mistakes. Role modelling personal accountability and setting clear boundaries of authority so that our people can do the same.

In our efforts to collaborate for growth we must build trust with our people, public and partners as one collegiate team. Constructively challenge with honest, open feedback to improve performance and decisions. Support each other with compassion so that we all remain healthy, resilient, and well.

To do this, it is vital that we equip our leaders with the support, capability and skills they need to be able to lead, in a manner that is aligned to Police Scotland's Competency and Values Framework, and to the three leadership behaviours that have been defined as part of the Your Leadership Matters program (YLM)

National Priority – Prioritise wellbeing and keep our people safe, well equipped and protected

Officer Safety Training

Following extensive review, Operational Safety and First Aid Recertification Training have been fully reviewed and updated.

The course was developed as part of the Your Safety Matters initiative and follows the Chief Constable's Assault Pledge to give officers and staff the tools and training needed to stay safe. Officer Safety Training has been extended to a two day annual course designed for all officers from the rank of Constable to Inspector and certain members of police staff.

It is delivered at venues across the country by staff from the newly created National OST Unit.

The new two day course includes refresher training of Operational Safety theory and techniques including:

Practical first aid inputs introducing the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs); Compression bandages; Inputs on situational awareness and de-escalation alongside the introduction of new operational safety techniques.

Mobile Working

Police Scotland commenced a program of introducing new mobile devices in 2019, designed to provide officers with access to a range of Police databases and additional communication functionality, limiting officer's time behind desks and maximising visibility within local communities.

This technological advance ensures officers have instant access to detailed information, including warning markers to help keep them safe, through smart devices which incorporate radio communication, mobile telephony and online access.

Recently, some 12,400 new devices with enhanced functionality have been rolled out across the country, with a focus on prioritising those engaged in front line policing.

Senior Leadership Engagement

During August and September 2023, Tayside's Senior Leadership Team hosted 14 staff engagement sessions with staff across the division. This was an opportunity to bring officers and staff together to hear about key activities ongoing both divisionally and nationally and to enable staff to pose questions and engage directly with members of the leadership team.

The events were well attended with a significant commitment and enthusiasm evident from all staff. The learning and ideas generated from these sessions are being developed into an Action Plan to drive forward in a way which best supports the public and our people. These sessions will be repeated at 6-monthly intervals.

Quarter 2 Thematic Spotlight

Local Priority/Activity – Address violence through preventative and enforcement measures

Introduction

Tackling violent crime is part of Police Scotland's main focus in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our communities. This report will provide a detailed breakdown of the levels of violent crime recorded and investigated within the Angus local authority area during the current performance year, whilst exploring the current trends and perpetuating factors which are central to the commission of these crimes.

The report will demonstrate the strategic and tactical approach adopted by Police Scotland in respect of crime prevention, investigation and enforcement activity, highlighting the broad range of resources which are deployed daily to protect our diverse communities and deliver a sense of public safety.

It is crucial to remember that in comparison to national averages, Angus remains one of the safest local authority areas to live, work in or visit, however that fact does not allow for any complacency, as the impact of serious violence is significant, continues to cause harm and can undermine our communities sense of safety.

Crime Categorisation and Investigative Response

Crimes of violence are categorised into Murder, Attempted Murder, Serious Assault, Robbery and Common Assault.

In terms of the investigation of those more serious and complex investigations, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse we have a number of specialist teams, all of which are led by Senior Investigating Officers. These teams come under the management of Tayside Division Criminal Investigation Department and our Public Protection Units. They are the Reactive CID, Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) and Child Protection Investigation Unit (CPIU).

Tayside Division is also fully supported by national units, which are geographically based within the Tayside geographic footprint and have a vital part to play in tackling violence in our local communities. These teams are managed by our Specialist Crime Division (SCD);

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Major Investigation Team (MIT) – The North MIT lead the investigation of murder inquiries and large scale and complex criminal investigations. A unit is based in Dundee.

National Domestic Abuse Task Force (NDATF) – Investigate serious and complex instances of domestic abuse. A unit is based in Forfar.

National Child Abuse Investigation Unit (NCAIU) – Investigate serious and complex crimes committed against children. A unit is based in Dundee.

Every morning senior managers meet to discuss each incident of note and assign each case to the appropriate department to review and investigate.

Statistical Analysis and Crime Management

Tayside Division Community Analysts produce a monthly 'Violent Crime Report' which allows senior officers to analyse reported crimes of violence in Angus and react to emerging trends, deploying both local and national resources on an 'intelligence led' basis to prevent crimes of violence from taking place. This detailed approach to Tasking is governed via monthly Tasking and Coordinating Group meetings which are chaired by the Divisional Commander and attended by the full Senior Leadership Team.

Our 'crime management' department ensures that each crime is properly recorded and that a robust professional investigation is delivered. Line managers across local policing, CID and PPU routinely assess crimes under investigation to ensure that these investigations are being progressed at pace and that vital safeguarding for victims is in place.

Through this combination of strong governance, statistical analysis and careful tasking we can focus our resources effectively to maximise detection rates, limit repeat offending and prioritise crime prevention activity.

Performance Data by Crime Type

Murder

There have been no murders reported CYTD.

Attempted Murder

There have been two Attempted Murders CYTD which are unconnected ongoing child protection investigations. Both crime investigations have been led by the Child Protection Investigation Unit. One crime has been detected and the second investigation remains ongoing, supported local authority and NHS partners.

Robbery

There have been 13 crimes of Robbery reported CYTD, which is an increase of 8 crimes in comparison to LYTD figures. Despite this increase, it should be noted that this remains lower than the 5 year average. Positively we have only seen 3 crimes reported during Q2, demonstrating a significant reduction from the 10 recorded during Q1. The detection rate in respect of the crime of Robbery is currently 92.3%, which is 12.3% higher than LYTD figures, demonstrating that those who commit Robberies in Angus will be identified, traced and arrested.

Arbroath has suffered the highest number of crimes (6 crimes) with the remainder evenly spread across Brechin (3 crimes), Montrose (2 crimes) and Forfar (2 crimes). Analysis confirms that the offenders are almost exclusively males, aged between 26 and 45 years of age.

Significantly, in respect of 11 of the crimes recorded the presence of drugs and / or alcohol is recorded as factor in respect of either the perpetrator, victim or both. In 5 crimes, the victim and perpetrator were known to each other prior to the commission of the crime, with 3 crimes being linked to Domestic violence.

Serious Assault

There have been 27 crimes of Serious Assault recorded CYTD, which is a decrease of 6 crimes in comparison to LYTD. In Q2, there were 13 crimes recorded, in comparison to 10 crimes during Q1. The current detection rate is 77.8% which compares to a detection rate of 78.8% LYTD. There remain a number of complex investigations under enquiry where promising and active lines of enquiry are being pursued.

The majority of crimes of Serious Assault have been committed in Arbroath, Montrose and Forfar (21 crimes), with 5 crimes linked to licensed premises. The remainder are evenly spread across Kirriemuir, Edzell, Carnoustie and Monifieth.

In keeping with Robbery statistics, the presence of drugs and / or alcohol is recorded as a significant factor in 60% of the crimes recorded, with the majority of crimes committed by male perpetrators aged between 19 years and 46 years of age.

The use of weapons is a factor in respect of 6 of the recorded crimes.

Common Assault

There have been 498 crimes of Common Assault recorded CYTD, in comparison to 547 crimes LYTD, demonstrating a 9% reduction in occurrence rates. The current detection rate is 70.7%, which is a slight increase from 69.5% LYTD.

The highest number of Common Assaults were recorded in Arbroath (151 crimes), accounting for nearly a third of the total figure, with the second highest figures recorded in Montrose (92 crimes). The remaining crimes were evenly distributed across Forfar, Brechin, Kirriemuir, Carnoustie and Monifieth.

In respect of Common Assaults drugs and / or alcohol are recorded as significant factors in respect of 26% of the recorded crimes, with two thirds of perpetrators being male and one third being female.

In respect of this crime type, 30% of all offences are linked to Domestic Violence. Our approach to Domestic Violence will be explored later, as it requires a specific focus within the context of this report.

Common Assault – Emergency Workers

Unfortunately Assaults perpetrated against Emergency Workers have seen a significant increase during the reporting period. There have been 78 crimes committed CYTD, in comparison to 45 crimes LYTD. The majority of crimes occurred within the Arbroath and Montrose areas, with drugs and alcohol being a significant factor in a high number of crimes.

This is a national trend, which has been identified by Police Scotland, who take the safety of officers and staff extremely seriously. The national strategy is delivered via the 'Your Safety Matters' campaign which is led directly by members of the Force Executive.

Crime Prevention

The above information provides some key information in terms of how investigations are structured and delivered, whilst outlining current performance in the local authority area. The robust investigation of crimes and the detection of offenders is critical in maintaining public confidence, providing community reassurance, reducing risk, supporting victims and delivering a sense of justice.

These aspects of our work occur as part of our reaction to the commission of a crime, whilst the next section of the report will focus on prevention.

A detailed approach is taken to prioritising our resources to ensure that our activity is targeted in a way which identifies those who present the greatest risks and have the propensity to cause the most harm. Although not exhaustive, some of the key components of that approach will be outlined here.

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

MAPPA provides a robust set of governance arrangements centred on the development of multi-agency risk assessments and action plans designed to mitigate the risks posed by the most dangerous offenders within local communities.

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Category 3 MAPPA offenders are those individuals subject to court order and under the management of Local Authority Criminal Justice Social Workers, who are assessed to pose a High or Very High risk of harm.

Offenders who fit this criteria are subject to frequent Risk Management Meetings, where a collective understanding of the risks posed, those most likely to be at risk and those steps which are required to be taken to mitigate risk are discussed and agreed.

The Angus Area Commander is responsible for ensuring that all necessary proactive policing activity is delivered in support of MAPPA risk management plans, working closely with local authority leads to prevent re-offending. MAPPA meetings are attended by all agencies who have an active role in the offender's supervision and management from across the partnership.

A very small number of offenders fit the MAPPA Category 3 threshold, which is reserved for those critical few which pose the greatest risks.

Bail orders and apprehension warrants

When an investigation has reached the point where Police Scotland have sufficiency of evidence to charge a person there are three disposal options for Police;

- 1) The accused person is charged with the crime and a report detailing the circumstances is submitted to the Procurator Fiscal service for their consideration. This is generally for minor matters where there is no wider concerns.
- 2) Release the accused on a 'bail undertaking' after they agree to attend a future court hearing.
- 3) Keep the accused person in custody to appear at court the next day. In these cases Police will send a report to the Procurator Fiscal detailing the circumstances and provide an evidence based view on whether the accused person should be released on bail or 'remanded' to prison for trial.

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Conditions of bail are designed to reduce the risk of reoffending and Police will make use of specific conditions such to reduce risk of reoffending.

Police Scotland have a role to ensure that any bail conditions are enforced and should a violent offender breach his bail conditions or any other court order he will be proactively arrested and returned to court.

By the same rational if a person accused of a violent crime fails to attend a court hearing the Sheriff will consider issuing a warrant for that person's arrest. The enforcement of these warrants is another priority for Police Scotland.

Prison Release Visits

Police Scotland liaise closely with the Scottish Prison Service, sharing critical information in order to maximise opportunities to support violent offenders from returning to the commission of crime on release from the prison system. In Angus, those deemed to pose a risk of returning to violent offending receive a pro-active visit from local officers on release, sign-posting to appropriate support services, either within the local authority (Housing, SWD etc) or across the 3rd sector.

Public Support and Reassurance

Locally, Senior Investigating Officers and the Area Commander deliver well developed external communication strategies, to ensure communities understand the nature of Police activity in their local area and are reassured rather than concerned by those more high profile investigations.

The support of members of our local communities is crucial in the fight against violent crime and a focus on our services being visible and accessible is crucial.

Police Scotland routinely seek the support of members of our local communities through a range of engagement tools, ranging from use of the main stream media, printed press and social media, seeking to engage with as broad a range of community members as possible.

We will continue to ensure that the harm caused by serious violent crime is mitigated and local communities reassured through the provision of well timed, accurate and accessible information.

Violence Against Women & Girls

Police Scotland's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls is now published. Police Scotland engaged extensively with survivors, stakeholders, partners and the public to develop this strategy which sets out a vision for Scotland where women and girls live free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and harassment.

Police Scotland's approach to tackling domestic abuse is recognised as an exemplar world-wide, as is the perpetrator focused approach to prevention epitomised in the ground-breaking *That Guy* campaign which ran for the second year in November 2022 which urged men to be part of the solution, by promoting that having a quiet word with a friend at the right time could stop sexual offending before it starts. The campaign will run again in 2023, and although progress is being made, there continues to be more work to do to support culture change and the rights of women and girls to feel safe.

Police Scotland's strategy sets out 4 Strategic Outcomes to deliver change, these are;

1. To supporting women and girls
2. To prevent harm and secure justice
3. To create safe spaces
4. To uphold trust and confidence

The following paragraphs will lay out our local approach to delivering on our national strategic intent.

Domestic Abuse Investigations

A critical component of the local delivery of our national strategic objectives relates to the quality and speed of our investigations. Police Scotland see each report as a crucial opportunity to safeguard women and girls who have been subject to violence. This involves ensuring that each investigation is victim-centred, sympathetic to the needs of the individual's circumstances, holistic in the sense of exploring the full range of offences which may have been committed and cognisant of the impact those offences may have had on other family members. We understand the courage it takes to report domestic abuse offences and seek to ensure we are accessible, responsive and robust.

Police Scotland maximise all investigative opportunities including the in depth analysis of offender behaviour, understanding that perpetrators have often been abusive within the context of a range of previous and current relationships.

Domestic Abuse investigations are subject to daily review by the Local Area Commander, ensuring that investigations are progressed quickly, enforcement opportunities are maximised, offenders arrested quickly and all opportunities to prevent further offending are explored. This involves the use of both criminal and civil legislation, such as prohibitive bail conditions and non-harassment orders.

Every high risk victim and offender receive additional pro-active contacts to ensure safeguarding remains robust, women and their families are safe and to ensure perpetrators are adhering to the conditions of court orders.

Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC)

Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meetings were introduced nationally by Police Scotland in 2013, in accordance with Priority 4 of the Scottish Government Equally Safe strategy, which seeks to ensure perpetrators 'receive a robust and effective response'.

The aim of MATAC is to effectively tackle offending by perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm, in order to achieve positive outcomes for victims and their families through coordinated partnership work to identify and investigate domestic abuse perpetrators using relevant and legitimate police tactics.

MATAC meetings take place in Tayside Division held every four weeks.

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Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARAC is a local meeting where representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies meet to discuss individuals at high risk of serious harm or homicide as a result of domestic abuse. The meeting provides a safe environment for agencies to share relevant and proportionate information about current risk and develop a coordinated action plan.

The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim. However, the MARAC will also make links with other agencies to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator. Ensuring that the victim is supported throughout, and their needs represented at the MARAC is crucial to managing risk, improving and maintaining safety, and reducing repeat victimisation.

MARAC meetings are held as a matter of routine in Angus in support of those who are most vulnerable to abuse and violence.

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS)

The aim of DSDAS is to provide a way of sharing information about a partner's abusive past, with a potential victim. It gives people at risk of Domestic Abuse the information they need to allow them to make an informed decision whether to continue the relationship.

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland has two main triggers for disclosure, the Right to Ask and the Power to Tell.

Right to Ask - is open to anyone who has concerns about a new partner's abusive past or has concerns about another person's new partner. An example of this would be a parent concerned about their child's new partner.

Power to Tell - enables Police to make a public interest disclosure when we receive information or intelligence about a relationship/developing relationship which may otherwise leave a person at avoidable risk of harm from a violent partner.

Anyone can make a DSDAS application via the Police Scotland internet page.

Education of Young People

A number of areas of preventative and collaborative work has been undertaken within Angus schools. The Mentors in Violence Prevention program is a peer mentoring program whereby S5 and S6 pupils are trained on Gender Based violence subjects and domestic abuse and they thereafter take their training to S1 pupils.

On the 12th and 13th September, 2023 senior pupils at Websters Academy were trained by Preventions Officers and teaching staff. All schools in Angus are now trained, except Monifieth High however plans are in place to carry out work in Monifieth High soon.

Imagine a man was developed by Youthlink nationally to encourage young men to think about positive masculinity to reduce the instances of men's violence, gender based violence and violence against women. The product looked at mental health, alcohol and drugs and negative stereotypes. As a result of this, Preventions was involved in the development of a toolkit which has been distributed to all schools across Angus. Further work will be done in the schools and Dundee & Angus College to promote the use of this toolkit.

Violence perpetrated against children

'Keeping children safe' is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to thoroughly investigating all child protection concerns.

Any crimes of violence in which a child has been assaulted are managed by our Child Protection Investigation Unit (CPIU) who are co-located within Bellevue House, Arbroath with partners from Angus Social Work Department.

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) states that all staff who work with children and their families have a role to play.

Police Scotland have a statutory responsibility to engage with partners via the Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD) multi-agency process involving Social Work, NHS and education partners.

IRD Outcomes

The IRD is a platform to enable all relevant information to be shared and analysed to ensure that any Child Protection investigation is based on a reasoned, informed and considered plan.

When a child has disclosed that they have been the victim of violence the following actions will always be considered;

- The immediate safety of the child and what safety measures are required to keep the child safe.
- A Child Protection Investigation
- A Joint Investigative Interview (JII)
- Medical examination of the child involving a Consultant Paediatrician with a Forensic Medical Examiner.
- Multi Agency assessments

Once these actions have been concluded a debrief meeting will be arranged to update partners.

Quality Assurance

The IRD process and the subsequent investigations are carefully minuted and documented. The decision making process is routinely audited to evaluate;

- Adherence to the process
- Information sharing guidance
- Quality of the critical analysis & decision making
- Planning for the child

In Angus during 2023 the CPIU and Angus SWD have taken part in 228 IRDs and have interviewed over 120 children.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this thematic report has sought to provide a detailed overview of local service delivery in terms of violent crime in Angus. It has demonstrated the breadth of resource which is targeted towards this critical area of work, not only in respect of investigation and arrests, but also in terms of our commitment to partnership working and critical areas of prevention activity.

The report touches on the critical area of violence against women and girls, highlighting that almost one third of all violence perpetrated in Angus relates to Domestic Violence, demonstrating the importance of bringing a continued focus to our work in changing cultural attitudes towards violence and specifically violence directed towards women and girls.

It is important to remember that Angus is a safe place to stay, with crime levels remaining low in comparison to national averages, however the impact of violence continue to be felt across the local authority and we remain determined to reduce rates of offending, mitigate the harm caused and promote public confidence and sense of safety.