

OFFICIAL



Angus Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee  
Quarter 3 ending 31 December 2023

OFFICIAL

# Contents

Introduction and Overview of Local Policing Priorities

Police Scotland's strategic objectives

Angus Local Policing Plan 2023-2026

Quarter 3 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 – Enable and support effective engagement and communication with the public
- Local Priority/Activity - Seek out shared learning and training opportunities with partners

Quarter 3 Thematic Spotlight

- Local Priority/Activity – Support the changing nature of Communities – Make our roads safer

## **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 October until 31 December 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

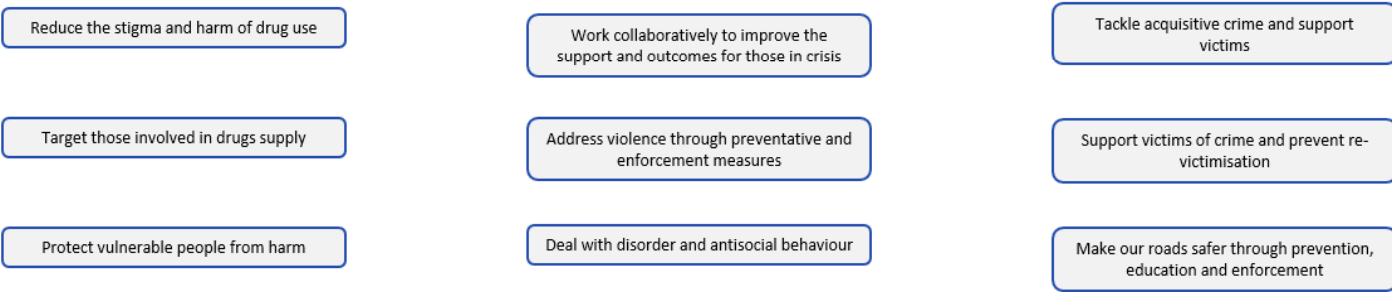
**Our Vision** Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland  
**Our Purpose** Improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland  
**Our Values** Fairness Integrity Respect Human Rights

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Local Policing Priorities



### Local Policing Objectives



PERSON CENTRED APPROACH

PARTNERSHIPS

### Police Scotland Strategic Outcomes



## PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

**OFFICIAL**

Quarter 2 - Performance on a Page - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31 December 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.
<b>ASB and Disorder</b>										
Overall Grp 4	449	536	589	-16.2%	-23.7%	28.5%	32.3%	40.6%	-3.8%	-12.0%
ASB Incidents	3882	4162	4949	-6.7%	-21.6%	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Violence</b>										
Robbery	17	13	19	30.8%	-12.4%	82.4%	84.6%	72.2%	-2.3%	10.2%
Serious Assault	39	44	41	-11.4%	-5.8%	71.8%	79.5%	82.1%	-7.8%	-10.3%
Common Assault (excluding Emergency Workers)	681	751	774	-9.3%	-12.1%	73.6%	73.4%	72.3%	0.2%	1.2%
<b>Public Protection</b>										
Overall Group 2	225	307	260	-26.7%	-13.6%	52.4%	58.3%	60.2%	-5.9%	-7.8%
Rape	25	58	41	-56.9%	-39.0%	50.0%	39.7%	41.4%	10.3%	8.6%
Domestic Abuse	30	39	-	-23.1%	-	70.0%	82.1%	-	-12.1%	-
<b>Road Safety</b>										
Speeding offences	299	431	66	-30.6%	355.8%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Drink / Drug Driving	107	63	95	69.8%	12.4%	99.1%	106.3%	96.6%	-7.3%	9.7%
<b>Acquisitive Crime</b>										
HBs	139	126	129	10.3%	8.1%	37.4%	42.1%	32.0%	-4.7%	5.4%
Dwelling HBs	146	161	128	-9.3%	13.7%	48.6%	41.6%	43.3%	7.0%	5.3%
Motor Vehicle Crime	258	196	130	31.6%	97.9%	16.7%	24.5%	26.5%	-7.8%	-9.9%
Fraud	393	314	243	25.2%	61.5%	53.9%	65.6%	68.8%	-11.7%	-14.8%
Shoplifting	139	126	129	10.3%	8.1%	37.4%	42.1%	32.0%	-4.7%	5.4%

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 – Design services jointly to tackle complex public safety and wellbeing challenges

### County Lines / Cuckooing

The approach by D Division in relation to supporting those affected by Organised Crime Groups through various forms of exploitation is very much intelligence led. Within D Division there has been significant work conducted around County Line groups, where exploitation can have devastating effects.

A County lines operation is when a crime group from elsewhere expands their drug network into Scottish cities and towns. These groups bring serious criminal behaviour with them such as violence, exploitation and abuse. The group tends to target the vulnerable and or young adults, who enjoy the camaraderie of being part of a group or are exploited through their need for controlled substances or other vulnerabilities.

This leads to individuals from other areas moving into the locality, supplying large amounts of controlled drugs and utilising one telephone line to manage this. There have been a number of positive enforcements into this kind of behaviour.

Meanwhile, there are continual welfare checks conducted on persons where intelligence has been received that they may be targeted by such groups, through cuckooing or threats of violence. Those targeted by such groups are signposted to partner agencies for assistance and support to try and divert them away from these crime groups.

Work is continually ongoing to develop intelligence and target those involved in such criminality.

Thankfully, there are no County Lines gangs identified as operating within Angus at present.

### Organised Crime

Another aspect of Organised Crime that has affected Angus over a period of time is from the Western Balkans. This involves the identifying of large, empty or disused premises, to enable the set-up of large cannabis cultivations.

There have been public safety concerns identified, in that electricity is illegally taken from the mains supply in the street and fed into the premises to power these operations. These set ups are illegal and fall far short of what would be expected in terms of health and safety legislation.

## OFFICIAL

Intelligence is continually being developed to identify such premises to allow enforcement to be conducted.

Work is ongoing to develop a proactive media approach to raise the awareness of communities around this activity in order to support Police Scotland to proactively target these operations, identify and arrest offenders.

Some examples of local policing activity delivered during Q3 in respect of these issues are provided below -

On 18/10/2023 a Drug Search Warrant linked to Operation Outbound was executed. This led to the seizure of approximately 500 cannabis plants within two neighbouring properties with an estimated value of £375,000. One male was arrested and charged with the production of controlled drugs. He was subsequently remanded to HMP Perth awaiting trial.

On 02/11/2023 the Tayside Division Child Protection Investigation Unit launched an investigation in respect of the fact a 14 year old child had been supplied with Ketamine. A Drug Search Warrant was executed in Arbroath with Cocaine and Herbal Cannabis recovered, along with other paraphernalia consistent with drugs being supplied from that address. The matter remains under investigation, with a central focus being the well-being of the child and securing criminal prosecutions on completion of the forensic examination of the seized material.

On 24/11/2023 a Drug and Firearms Search Warrant was executed at an address in Arbroath. Numerous items were seized including an airsoft rifle, a CO2 powered revolver, a knuckleduster, 211 grams of cannabis edibles, 16 grams of cocaine and £7000. One male was arrested, cautioned and charged with possession with intent to supply and released on an undertaking to appear. Enquiries remain ongoing in relation to the recovered CO2 powered revolver.

### Operation Crixus

Operation CRIXUS is the Police Scotland investigation into Human Trafficking offences involving a Bulgarian Organised Crime Group (OCG).

The modus operandi of the principle members of OP CRIXUS in the UK continues to be:

To recruit vulnerable people from poverty stricken rural villages in Bulgaria and bring them to the Arbroath area, where they are subject to labour exploitation in factories and farms. The exploitation extends to sex work and forced begging.

Control over victims is robust with direct physical threats, assaults, starvation carried out and threats to victim's family members made.



## OFFICIAL

The Police response to Op Crixus is managed by the National Human Trafficking Unit (NHTU) based in Gartcosh.

A monthly sub group has been set up for NHTU to brief local policing teams and develop actions to assist the national team respond to this group and their activity.

In Q3, the following activity was delivered, which demonstrates a practical example of some of the work being carried out to tackle perpetrators and support those at risk of harm.

During November, 2023 a female reported that she had been trafficked to the UK to work as a prostitute. A complex investigation ensued led by NHTU but supported by Angus local policing and CID officers. The outcome of this work has resulted in the female being safeguarded and enforcement carried out with those who would seek to exploit her and others in a similar position.

A day of enforcement took place in late December, 2023 which involved warrants being executed at several addresses in Arbroath. A multi-agency meeting was held before this day of action and support was provided by Angus Council which was greatly appreciated. This support included the standing up of a reception centre to triage any victims of trafficking found on the day.

Representatives from Housing, Children and Family Social Services, Health, Education, Vibrant Communities and the Red Cross all participated.

This day of action was a success with several addresses entered and persons traced and arrested in connection with Police investigations.

### Drug Harm

Local officers continue to form part of the Angus ADP and work in partnership with services, communities and people with lived experience to understand our local communities and how best to support them. The ADP influence change in policy, systems and institutions and work to reduce misinformation and stigma around alcohol and other drugs.

The Drug Trend Monitoring Meeting has progressed discussions in respect of the inclusion of alcohol, given its prevalence in hospital admissions and poly substance use. Agreement has been reached to rename the group 'the Substance Trend Monitoring Group' to strengthen and extend the nature of local activity. A range of partners are committed to the delivery of interventions and education seeking to deliver an approach which is influenced by both health and policing perspectives.

## OFFICIAL

We continue to monitor drug trend alerts from RADAR and ensure pharmacies are engaging with substances users to be mindful of what they are sourcing. Our Preventions officers have been engaging with A & E professionals and the NHS Navigator Service to ensure as wide a capture of current drug trends as possible.

Preventions officers remain committed to daily Non-Fatal Overdose meetings (NFOD) sharing relevant information regarding those most at risk due to their use of illicit substances. Over the reporting period, there were 73 discussions at the 3 NFOD groups across Tayside (Dundee – 41, Perth – 15, Angus – 18). Each case was discussed and a multi-agency response instigated to ensure a holistic approach for interventions and positive engagements to reduce the harm to these individuals.

### Naloxone

The Police carriage of Naloxone is now firmly established with all officers across Angus carrying Naloxone as a matter of routine whilst on patrol. Since the inception of the scheme until the end of Q3, Naloxone has been administered 89 times across Tayside, with 17 of those incidents occurring within Angus.

Naloxone is a first aid tool for use in emergencies and has undoubtedly contributed to saving the lives of those suffering medical emergencies due to overdose.

### Financial Seizures

In terms of proactive POCA enquiries the following results were achieved by D Division during Q3 (It should be noted that the figures pertain to D Division as a whole). Many of these seizures come about from proactive enforcement.

Civil Cash Seizure Referrals - £13,159

Civil Cash Seizures - £10,031

Assets for Restraint - £55,955

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

The approach to violent crime in the Angus local authority area continues to be delivered via a blend of preventative and enforcement activity. Angus remains a safe place to live and when violent crime does occur there is a high detection rate with offenders quickly brought to justice. The following paragraphs will review performance figures up to the end of Q3 across a range of crime types.

### Murder / Attempted Murder

There have been no Murders and 3 Attempted Murders in Angus during the current performance year. There has been 1 Attempted Murder within Q3. All Attempted Murders have been detected and reported to COPFS.

### Serious Assault

There have been 11 Serious Assaults recorded within Q3, with 39 reported in respect of the full performance year. This is a reduction of 5 crimes (11.4%) in comparison to LYTD figures. The detection rate for Serious Assault was 71.8% at the end of Q3, however at the time of writing this report had improved to 78.6%, a 2.1% increase in comparison to LYTD figures. There remain a number of ongoing complex investigations, which provide continuing opportunities to detect further offences.

The common themes in respect of these crimes remain the presence of alcohol and / or drugs on the part of victims and perpetrators. Often perpetrators and victims are known to each other in advance of the commission of the crime and it remains the case that where weapons are a factor more serious injuries often occur.

The following provides a practical example of our approach to Serious Assault investigations.

In Arbroath a local male sustained broken bones to his face following a Serious Assault. Uniform and CID officers engaged with local business owners, licensed premises and local residents gathering key information which led to the identification of the perpetrator. A male was quickly arrested and reported to COPFS. Police Scotland issued positive social media messaging confirming the crime had been detected to enhance public confidence and to thank local community members for their support.

In October, 2023 a male was assaulted outside a licensed premises in Arbroath. The assailant used a weapon, striking the victim to the head causing a laceration which required medical treatment. Officers attended quickly and a male and female were quickly traced and arrested. Both appeared from custody and an exclusion order was sought to prevent further offending.

## OFFICIAL

In October, 2023 a male was arrested having assaulted two others within the Brechin area. The perpetrator used a weapon, however no significant injury was sustained. The male was arrested and appeared from custody on a number of violence related charges.

### Robbery

There have been 4 Robberies recorded within Q3, with 17 reported in respect of the full performance year. This is an increase of 4 crimes in comparison to LYTD figures, however remains below the 5 year statistical average (19 crimes). The detection rate is 82.4% which is a reduction of 2.3% in comparison to LYTD figures. Currently, there remain a number of live investigations where positive lines of enquiry are being pursued.

The common causal factors identified described in respect of Serious Assaults remain true in connection with crimes of Robbery.

An example of a Robbery which we responded to during Q3 is provided.

In November, 2023 a female was robbed in the Forfar area. The person responsible was a male who was known to the victim. The perpetrator was arrested and appeared from custody on this and a number of other domestic related offences. Appropriate safeguarding was put in place and the property stolen was fully recovered.

### Common Assault

There have been 681 Common Assault's recorded CYTD, which is a reduction of 70 crimes in comparison to LYTD figures (-9.3%). These crimes are generally investigated by Response and Community Policing officers, with support and guidance from colleagues in CID if required.

Detection rates were 73.6% at the end of Q3, however are currently 74.3%, demonstrating a 1.1% increase in comparison to LYTD figures.

We continue to see increased levels of violence towards Emergency Workers, with 95 crimes recorded at the end of Q3, demonstrating an increase of 27 crimes (39.7%) in comparison to LYTD figures.

Investigations

Reactive CID take ownership of Serious Assault and Robbery investigations in most cases unless there is an early detection negating requirement for protracted investigation and their involvement.

The Detective Inspector responsible for the CID in the Local Policing Area will ensure undetected crimes of this nature are subject to regular scrutiny / review to ensure all investigative opportunities are identified and progressed in a timeous manner.

In an attempt to prevent crimes of this nature occurring, Police Scotland target known violent offenders. This involves executing apprehension warrants timeously relating to violent offences and proactively conducting bail curfew checks where appropriate.

## Local Priority/Activity – Deal with disorder and antisocial behaviour

Police Scotland recognises the importance of working with partners to reduce the risk of vulnerability to individuals and the wider communities.

We continue to prevent and deter instances of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), building and developing close working practices with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), the local authority Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Housing Department and Trading Standards, along with a range of others who have a shared interest in reducing the impact of ASB.

There have been 3,882 recorded ASB incidents this year which demonstrates a reduction of 280 incidents (-6.7%) in comparison to LYTD figures. These are supported by similar reductions in those crimes which are often associated with ASB such as Vandalism, where 396 crimes have been recorded in this performance year, in comparison to 456 LYTD (-13.3%).

### Operation Moonbeam

During Q3 we delivered Operation Moonbeam which is the Police Scotland response to Fireworks Night. Our approach included a number of visits to retail premises. Local retailers were fully supportive of these visits and it was found that in general fewer retailers had decided to stock fireworks, in a response to higher profile instances of disorder reported across the country the previous year. In addition, Preventions Officers supported a number of multi-agency activities and interventions, including safety advice letter drops, schools inputs on the dangers of the irresponsible and criminal use of fireworks, shop inputs around sales and community group engagements.

### Planet Youth

Scotland has been struggling with similar challenges to Iceland with young people engaging in significant levels of risky behaviours, and increasing levels of mental health concerns.

Iceland has successfully seen a downward trajectory of these issues over recent years. It is hoped that we can also achieve this by adapting the Icelandic model to fit the Scottish context. Change is a long term commitment, and it is hoped that this would be felt for generations to come.

In 2023 the Scottish government announced a £1.5 million investment in Planet Youth over two years.

## OFFICIAL

Six local authority areas have been selected as part of the initial pilot. Forfar and Kirriemuir are included in those selected areas. Angus PIP have been involved in initial coalition groups, looking at the survey results for this area and forward planning. This is a long term project, with no 'quick fix' approach. Further meetings are due to be held in January, 2024.

### Partner Portal Training

The Partner Portal has been recently introduced to allow a range of partners to directly input intelligence relating to ASB for the attention and action of Police Scotland. This provides an additional tool to share that important community information that is required to tackle ASB head on and best respond to the concerns of local residents. During Q3, we delivered a number of training inputs which included inputs to the Angus ASB Team, Hillcrest Futures, Angus Housing and Hillcrest Housing. These inputs were well received and wider training opportunities will be delivered through the remainder of the performance year.

### Licensing

During Q3, our Licensing Team processed 477 licence applications for the Angus area. This included applications for occasional licenses to allow premises to have additional outdoor areas, renewals and grants for taxi operators and drivers.

37 recorded ASB incidents were at or in the immediate vicinity of licensed premises.

There were 61 inspections carried out throughout Angus, with no single premises identified as problematic during this period.

The licensing team have been promoting the 'By-stander' and 'It'll Cost You' training campaign and were assisted by Police Scotland Youth Volunteers carrying out public engagement within our communities and to 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.

The Licensing Team have visited all Second Hand Dealers in Angus in relation to property / mobile phones and carried out compliance checks. Some of these premises were unlicensed. We have worked closely with these premises owners and all are now licenced. We have advised them in relation to the records they require to keep, which will assist in the detection of crime should stolen property be identified.

Preventions Team

Angus Preventions Team continue to attend weekly housing association meetings to focus on the identification and targeting of emerging issues. They have supported a number of proactive patrols, working alongside Community Policing Teams in order to tackle and deter anti-social behaviour at locations which have suffered higher levels of ASB through-out Q3, including specific housing visits to identified addresses and ASB letter drops.

Angus currently have no live ASBO's.



## Local Priority/Activity – Tackle acquisitive crime and support victims

Levels of Acquisitive Crime continue to be impacted by the cost of living crisis, with increases in occurrence rates across a range of Acquisitive Crimes seen nationally. Our tactical approach to Acquisitive Crimes continues to be directed by the work of the Divisional Acquisitive Crime Group, which meets monthly and is chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector, Reactive CID. This groups brings together representatives from across local and national Divisions who are working within Tayside, including representatives of our Roads Policing Unit, Specialist Crime Division and Operational Support Units.

The groups are supported by the inclusion of a Community Crime analyst, who brings a detailed analytical document for discussion in order to ensure that resources are best targeted towards repeat offenders, areas where crime levels are higher and those crime types which are causing most community concern.

The Divisional Acquisitive Crime Team continue to take responsibility for investigating crimes series under the line management of CID. This provides enhanced investigative ability and targeted resources, which are routinely deployed in the Angus area.

The Acquisitive Crime Team meet every morning with colleagues from neighbouring Divisions. This results in links to cross border crime series being identified quickly, maximising intelligence / evidential opportunities and delivering cohesive regional crime investigations.

### Theft by Housebreaking

There have been 146 Housebreakings (HBs) to Dwellings in Angus during CYTD, which is a reduction from the 161 recorded LYTD (-9.3%). Detection rates are 48.6% which is an increase of 7% in comparison to LYTD figures. However, this remains significantly higher than the 5 year average (128 crimes).

HBs to Commercial premises have however seen an increase during the same reporting period, with 139 crimes recorded CYTD, in comparison to 126 LYTD. .

The figures provided for Housebreaking includes all attempted housebreaking and instances of housebreaking with intent to steal (i.e. where the security of the property has been overcome but no property stolen).

A positive example of our approach to HB investigations is provided.

## OFFICIAL

During Q3 a male from Arbroath engaged in a series of HB crimes across the local authority area, being responsible for 5 separate crimes. The investigation was led by the Acquisitive Crime Team, who secured the support of local community members who supplied a range of CCTV evidence. The male was identified, arrested and charged with all the offences. The male was found to be struggling with substance abuse issues and although held accountable for his actions, was also sign-posted to appropriate support services.

### Motor Vehicle Crime

In keeping with national trends, we have seen increased levels of motor vehicle crime across Angus through-out the performance year. There have been 259 crimes involving motor vehicles reported, with these statistics covering theft and attempted theft of vehicles, thefts from vehicles as well as break-ins and attempted break-ins. Approximately 25% of these crimes were recorded in Arbroath with a similar number in Forfar, the remaining crimes were evenly spread across the counties.

Detection rates in respect of these crimes are similarly challenged with the CYTD being 16.7%. However, during Q3 48.8% of all motor vehicle crimes were detected demonstrating improved performance in this area.

Police Scotland continue to work with partners sharing preventative advice through social media. Police Scotland also targets those involved in acquisitive crime by executing apprehension warrants timeously and proactively conducting bail curfew checks where appropriate. We will also develop intelligence to crave and execute search warrants to recover stolen property.

During Q3, a known criminal based in the Edinburgh area was arrested and charged in connection with four instances of Housebreaking and car theft throughout the east of Scotland, including crimes committed Angus.

### Preventions

In the run up to the Festive period, Operation After Dark was delivered locally by Community and Preventions officers, supported by members of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers.

PSYV and community teams visited residential areas delivering After Dark literature which identifies areas where security could be breached at a property, with cards left to encourage occupiers to take action in order to prevent them becoming the victim of crime. These patrols included deployments in Carnoustie, Monifieth, Arbroath and Forfar. Aside from engaging with local community members, patrols were also completed at those retail outlets where higher levels of acquisitive crime have been seen.

## **OFFICIAL**

Festive Safety crime prevention stalls were set up across various retail premises in Angus, engaging with staff and members of the public. The stalls focused on personal safety with purse bells and personal alarms being issued to a number of community members.

The Preventions Team continue to support victims of high value Thefts and HBs by carrying out a site visit and offering suitable crime prevention advice. Officers are working alongside colleagues, internally and externally to look at preventative measures and ways to safeguard vulnerable persons and target repeat offenders.

Planning is underway for our National Rural Crime Unit to come to Angus and do a national event, they are scoping a location at present.

## 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. We continue to review the outcomes from this survey activity, flexing and altering our approach in response to the articulated needs of local communities.

Throughout Q3, the Community Policing Teams across Angus have been visible, active and engaged within their local Communities.

All the Community Teams have been within our schools providing inputs and guidance to all years. During November, the Montrose and Brechin Community Teams carried out "Safe Angus" within Montrose Academy and Brechin High School. This was carried out along with partners from SFRS, NHS, Tayside Drug and Alcohol, Trading Standards, RHET (Countryside Safety) Ambulance and Coastguard. This was very positively received and delivered across the S1 year group.

There were inputs to Forfar Academy pupils by the Forfar Community Policing Team on Knife Crime and the associated dangers.

Across all areas the Community Teams provided inputs on internet safety. This is a particularly important area of messaging supporting young people to keep themselves safe online and demonstrate appropriate, respectful and ethical behaviours within a social media setting.

Work was delivered in Brechin, where Officers delivered the "Pitchin in" programme which is a football based, educational series of inputs delivered to youths by Police officers. This area of work looks to reduce harmful behaviour and promote individual and community wellbeing. This is achieved through football, however also more widely through a collaborative approach to prevention, diversion and education based upon building decision-making skills and resilience.

Within Murroes Primary School, the Carnoustie and Monifieth Community Policing Team delivered a "We are Police Officers" event. This was a hugely successful educational input where a mock Housebreaking at the school was filmed beforehand and a 'crime scene' set up at the school. The children watched the video at the start of the day and were then given opportunities to investigate the crime by being led through various tasks by the officers.

## OFFICIAL

This included viewing the crime scene, evidence collecting, taking statements, interviewing the 'suspect' and putting a report together. The school staff and children found the event hugely beneficial for their learning and the officers received a huge amount of positive feedback.

Throughout the reporting period a number of Community engagement events were organised and carried out. These included 'Coffee with a Cop', high profile patrols carried out in the Borrowfield area of Montrose and 'After Dark' patrols. High visibility foot patrols were delivered over a number of weeks in the River Street / East Mill Road area of Brechin, to the support the residents that have been so badly affected by Storm Babet. These patrols will continue through-out Q4. Police Scotland officers have also fully supported locally delivered 'Flooding Events' in Brechin engaging with those affected and seeking to reassure displaced residents in respect of the activity we continue to deliver.

During December we carried out our Festive Policing Plan. This was kicked off in early December where the Community Policing teams visited all the licensed premises in Angus providing packs to all premises that contained guidance and safety messaging around the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption, drug misuse, suicide prevention and "Keep Safe" messaging. Policing Teams also carried out regular high visibility foot patrols in busy town centres carrying out regular supportive visits to licensed premises, off-sales, bookmakers and retail premises.

Partnership work is a key area of work for our Community Policing teams. We continue to look for solutions to longer term issues that have an impact on our communities. Examples of some cases within the reporting period are provided.

Forfar Community Policing Team arranged home visits with 3 victims of theft/ fraud/ scams. Two victims were being targeted by individuals who had befriended them before stealing and using bank cards. An individual was arrested and bail conditions put in place to prevent future contact. Additional reassurance visits identified vulnerabilities and referrals were completed to partners to ensure ongoing supports in place.

Another victim was identified by the bank as being a victim of a high value scam. Reassurance visits were completed with additional crime prevention advice provided to the victim and their family. A Financial Abuse Support Team meeting was arranged and attended by a Community Officer, allowing the positive sharing of information which allowed key partners to provide additional support and services.

## OFFICIAL

Community Officers were involved in multi-agency meetings in relation to a male who was engaged in persistent antisocial behaviour, in breach of his non-harassment order. Enforcement action was carried out robustly enforcing legislation, with neighbours supported by a range of services. Following court appearances, the male responsible has received further engagement and support to mitigate the driving factors behind the behaviour, addressing entrenched anti-social tendencies.

As part of our engagement around the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, the Local Area Commander, Preventions Officers and Local Community Officers attended a number of partner events, including the closing vigil at Gayfield. These events facilitated a number of positive engagements with members of the community.

Although the above is simply a snapshot of a broad range of ongoing activity, it is hoped it demonstrates the breadth and quality of our local community engagement which is based around delivering tailored solutions, to those issues which communities tell us are impacting them most.

## Local Priority/Activity: Seek out shared learning and training opportunities with partners

The following section of the report, provides information in respect of a number of different strands of activity, delivered through-out Q3, demonstrating Police Scotland's commitment to shared learning, training and most importantly the collaborative delivery of positive outcomes for local communities. The topics focused on for this quarterly report are CONTEST, Storm Babet and Distress Brief Intervention training.

### CONTEST

CONTEST is the UK Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy. It was first developed by the Home Office in early 2003. The aim of the strategy is "to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence."

CONTEST is split into four work streams that are known within the counter terrorism community as the 'four P's': *Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare*.

- **Pursue:** the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks.
- **Prevent:** work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism or extremism.
- **Protect:** improving our protective security to stop a terrorist attack.
- **Prepare:** working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover from it as quickly as possible.

At present the national threat level is currently at SUBSTANTIAL this means it is deemed an attack is likely.

During Q3, the CT Governance Group met with representatives from all Tayside Division Police Scotland strands of CONTEST and Counter Terrorism Intelligence/Investigations, Counter Terrorism Security Advisors, Prevent Delivery Unit and Counter Terrorism Planning Unit. This continues to encourage the sharing of information and collaborative working between Division and Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Units.

The Multi-Agency CONTEST Board also met, with representation from Police Scotland, Local Authorities, SFRS, Scottish Government, SPS, Forth Port, SAS and Education. NHS and Local Authority provided an update about the current situation with the Resilience

## OFFICIAL

Partnership. Counter Terrorism Security Advisors provided updates as well as Prevent Delivery Unit who provided Performance Figures to the CONTEST group.

Due to positive feedback from the Security Minded Communications Event 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, it was requested at the CONTEST Board to have a further one. This will be held on 24/01/2024.

Planning was instigated and completed in advance of a 'Rise to Critical / Move to Exceptional Response' input which will be held at Baluniefield, Dundee on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. The input will be fully supported by CONTEST Board members and Local Resilience Partnership Working Group.

Our Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer continues to make monthly contact with MP's within Tayside in order to provide reassurance and capture any concerns.

Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer's continue to assist with the provision of school inputs across Angus in respect of 'ACT Now'.

### Storm Babet

In October, 2023 Angus was significantly impacted by the severe weather event Storm Babet. A collective response was mounted across the partnership, managed under the auspices of the Local Resilience Partnership. This weather event tested all our services and resulted in significant impacts for local communities, a number of which are still evident even today.

In the aftermath of such an event, it is always important to collectively reflect on our planning, preparation and delivery to ensure that any learning outcomes are identified and used to strengthen future practices, policies, procedures and resourcing. As a result, during December, 2023 a detailed partnership review was completed, supported by all partners who had been central to the emergency response and after-care provided for those effected.

### Distress Brief Intervention

Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) is an innovative approach to helping people in distress and is supported by a range of agencies across Angus Local Authority area.

A number of Police Scotland officers were trained during 2023 by colleagues from Penumbra. Those officers, with the continued support of Penumbra staff, have gone on to cascade training across all our frontline Response and Community Teams.



## OFFICIAL

A brief intervention is a short, structured conversation, with the aim of initiating a positive change in a health topic area. They are often provided by those in frontline roles who may not be specialists in the area. They have been used in Scotland before, most recently to prevent and manage falls in the community and also to reduce the harm from alcohol.

The DBI process is designed for adults with emotional pain for which they sought, or were referred for help and which does not require further emergency service response. Therefore, DBI is suitable for adults encountering emergency services with a wide range of distress presentations.

The delivery of DBI training in Angus is a clear demonstration of Police Scotland seeking out shared learning and training opportunities to bring the skills, experience and expertise of critical partners into the policing environment. The training itself was delivered throughout Q3 and that has continued into early 2024, with over 80% of officers in Angus now trained and scheduled training in place for the remainder in coming months.

The training provides officers with detailed information in respect of the drivers for distress, the wide range of ways in which it presents during contacts with emergency workers, the impacts it can have and crucially provides an additional pathway for those experiencing distress. Once trained, Police officers attending calls to someone in distress, now have the skills to carry out the Level 1 DBI process.

A Level 1 intervention involves conducting a simple caring and compassionate response at the point of initial distress presentation. It involves a straightforward conversation and assessment with a person in distress or suspected to be in distress. This is grounded in empathy, excellent communication skills and underpinned by compassion. Following the conversation and assessment, officers have the option to refer an eligible person to receive further support the following day. The further support is the DBI Level 2 response.

In terms of Level 2, trained Level 2 DBI practitioners based in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector (Penumbra) contact the person in distress to engage them and offer further support. Level 2 practitioners are available 7 days a week and provide compassionate person-centred support for a period of up to 14 days.

Support options provided by the DBI Practitioners will be matched to the needs of the person in distress, but will involve empathic needs-focused assessment, development of a distress management plan, problem solving and self-management skills, signposting and information about specialist services, local connections and support options.

The 14-day period of support is appropriate for people in distress, who do not require further specialist mental health assessment or support, but may benefit from immediate engagement with community services.

## OFFICIAL

The input of Penumbra, in terms of their commitment to the provision of high quality training for officers, consistent engagement with members of our Preventions and Interventions Team and dedication to delivering positive outcomes for local people have been crucial in supporting our progress. Although in the early stages, I can confirm officers in Angus are now routinely completing Level 1 interventions and have, to date, submitted 37 referrals (during December, 23 and January, 24) for individuals in need of Level 2 support.

The following are practical examples of DBI at work in Angus –

An individual contacted the Police and disclosed that they were currently going through court proceedings. They advised the Police that this was creating great stress, anxiety and financial worry. The individual disclosed they are currently facing substantial debts, leading to them feeling very depressed. They have rarely left the home for a number of weeks.

The individual gave permission for a referral to be submitted, and engaged well. They have received specific support regards their debts, housing advice and accessed mental health supports. At the end of the 14 day intervention period they were signposted on for other longer term support options.

An individual had long standing issues with their next door neighbour, which had led to high number of calls to the Police over a prolonged period of time. A number of incidents led to criminal offences being detected and reports submitted to COPFS, however overall the incidents have impacted upon the individual's mental health. They advised Response officers that they are struggling with their mental health, are frequently in tears and struggling with the impact it has had on their life. The individual disclosed they were being treated for anxiety.

The individual gave permission for a referral, and were very appreciative of this option. Since then they have engaged well, and utilised several services offered by Penumbra. They now feel more empowered to remain in control when volatile situations arise, are confident in using coping mechanisms and now attend group sessions which offer longer term support. The individual sent in a note of thanks to the Police and Penumbra for the referral, as their quality of life has improved.

## Quarter 3 Thematic Spotlight

### Local Priority/Activity – Support the changing nature of Communities – Make our roads safer

#### **Thematic Spotlight**

#### **Road Safety**

##### Introduction

Police Scotland work in partnership to influence driver and road user behaviour, reduce road casualties and detect and deter all types of criminality on our roads.

This report will provide details fatal and serious collisions recorded across the Division during the current performance year, whilst exploring current trends and the initiatives employed to reduce fatal and serious collisions.

In addition the report will demonstrate the strategic and tactical approach adopted in relation to prevention, investigation and enforcement activity across the Tayside area.

Road Policing is a National Division, (East, West and North) with geographical bases across Scotland to support local divisions with road safety. Within Tayside (D Division) there are two Road Policing units based in Dundee and Perth.

##### Performance Data

There have been 13 fatal road traffic collisions in the Division year to date. This is 4 more fatal collisions in comparison to LYTD figures. However, there has been a 30% reduction in serious injury collisions during the same time a reduction from 133 to 93.

To focus on Angus, there have been 7 fatal road collisions YTD, which is an increase from 2 LYTD. In Angus there have been 32 serious injury collisions YTD, which is an increase from the 28 recorded LYTD.

There have been 2,182 fatal 5 offences detected year to date, with 7,354 vehicles stopped across Tayside, with those contacts resulting in a range of approaches from the provision of advice and guidance, issuing fixed penalty notices or the libelling of criminal charges.

Priority Routes and Initiatives.

Analysts produce monthly road data (based on fatal and serious collision data for the last 5 years), identifying vulnerable road users and enabling senior officers to react to emerging trends, deploying resources on an “intelligence led” basis to prevent fatal and serious collisions. This detailed approach to tasking is governed via monthly Local Delivery Boards, which are chaired by the Regional Commanders.

Priority locations are identified through analysis for each geographical area. In Tayside these roads are:-

A9, A90, A923, A92, A94, A930

Through analysis the fatal and serious causation factors on these roads have been identified as:-

*Drink/Drug driving*

*Speeding*

*Using a hand held mobile phone whilst driving*

*Not wearing a seatbelt*

*Careless Driving*

These are commonly referred to as the fatal five.

Prevention Activity

The Road Policing Unit work in partnership with Local Policing Divisions and key partners to target the critical collision causation factors through the National Campaign Calendar. In addition, Police Scotland Tayside Road Policing Unit carries out directed activity to safeguard vulnerable road users, through local initiatives such as :-

Operation Close Pass

Operation Close Pass is deployed within Tayside Division to tackle the close passing of cyclists. Plain clothes officers on pedal cycles advise colleagues when they have been passed too closely by drivers, who are stopped and shown how closely they passed and how much space they should give.

## OFFICIAL

### Rider Refinement North

Police Scotland and road safety partners hold training courses for motorcyclists to help them ride responsibly and reduce the number of collisions. It is a one day course led by a police motorcyclist and accompanied by an observer from the Institute of Advanced Motorists, the course will look at key risk factors and provide riders with the knowledge and skills to be safer.

### Driver Engagement North

An innovative road safety initiative for older drivers and their families which uses an interactive driving simulator to assess and highlight a participant's reactions, hazard awareness and any potential vulnerabilities.

### New Driver Intervention

The New Driver Early Intervention Scheme is aimed at encouraging safe driving practices amongst new and learner drivers. The scheme targets drivers aged between 17 -25 years of age who are statistically more likely to be involved in a collision.

### Operation Tramline

A Road Policing initiative to combat careless driving through the use of an unmarked HGV cab, which provides an elevated seating position to ensure compliance with road traffic legislation tackling seatbelts, mobile phone use and careless driving.

### DVLA Days of Action

Road Policing officers work in partnership with DVSA to ensure vehicles and drivers are fit to travel on the road. The initiative focuses on vehicle defects, vehicle weight and drivers hours. It identifies operators who do not comply with regulation and compromise road safety.

All of the above initiatives are routinely delivered in the Angus local authority area. They are supported by a combination of strong governance, statistical analysis, local and national initiatives, partnership working and careful tasking. As a result we can focus our resources effectively to maximise visibility and affect driver behaviour to prevent serious and fatal road traffic collisions.

### Intelligence Led Activity

Road Policing officers in Tayside utilise intelligence to target travelling criminals on our road network. This maximises the opportunities to detect and deter a range of offences, including, drink and drug drivers, disqualified drivers, transportation of illegal drugs and to prevent harm caused by serious and organised crime and protect communities from Counter Terrorism.

Road Policing Officers work with local policing to carry out speed checks at schools and on fast roads in the local area. Officers link in with local authority partners re areas of concern and explore opportunities to complete percentile checks and deploy radar speed signs. Officers also work together to tackle local complaints linked to anti-social driving, through the use of construction and use legislation.

### Vehicle Pursuits

Road Policing officers are trained in pursuit tactics which can be deployed when a motor vehicle fails to stop for officers on a road. The definition of a pursuit is:-

“When a driver / rider indicated by their actions or continuance of their manner of driving / riding that:

- They have no intention of stopping for the police; and,
- The police driver believes that the driver of the subject vehicle is aware of the requirement to stop and decides to continue behind the subject vehicle with a view to either reporting its progress or stopping it.

Police Scotland are involved in over 600 pursuits per year. The strategic objective of any police pursuit is to secure a safe resolution, which will lead to the apprehension of offenders and prevention of crime.

Within the Police Control Room the Strategic Commander grants authority to pursue and the Road Policing Operational Commander formulates a tactical plan to bring the pursuit to a conclusion.

Road Traffic Collisions and Investigative Response

The nature and focus of a fatal collision investigation varies on a case-by-case basis. Regardless of the circumstances the overarching objective is to ensure the highest possible standard of investigation for each case. Road Policing allocate appropriate resources to investigate every fatal collision. These resources include:-

- Road Policing Senior Investigating Officer (RP SIO) – Lead investigator who develops the investigative strategy, is ultimately accountable for the conduct of the investigation and manages the investigation team.
- Police Forensic Collision Investigator. – Assisting the SIO with scene identification, securing, preserving and recording all physical material along with topography and survey to give context.
- Investigating officer – Required to support the SIO and involved in tasks such as, witness interviewing, paperwork and evidence management.
- Vehicle Examiner – Used at every fatal road traffic collision and is used to establish per-collision mechanical condition of the vehicle and establish if a vehicle –related factor caused or contributed to the collision.
- Family Liaison officer – The principle role of a FLO is that of an investigator (not deployed to every fatal collision only those with an investigative need). They manage the needs and expectations of the family, pass information to the family, facilitate viewing identification and release of the body, manage return of personal property and provide contact to external support agencies.

## OFFICIAL

There are a number of other key specialist roles which the Senior Investigating Officer must consider depending on the circumstances:-

- Disclosure and production officer
- Police Traffic Management Officer
- Loggist
- CCTV coordinator
- House to House coordinator
- Investigators from other disciplines (Police Search Advisor)
- Intelligence officer
- Analyst
- Interview advisor
- Disaster Victim Identification
- External specialists (DVSA, HSE)
- Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC)
- Transport Scotland operating companies (Amey/Bear/Scotland Transerv)
- Local Road Authority
- Office of rail regulation

A road death is one type of incident which is investigated by the Police on behalf of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service, with a view to establishing whether or not culpable negligence or criminal liability can be attributed to any person. A report of the investigation is made to the Procurator Fiscal detailing the circumstances into which the death occurs. The Procurator Fiscal Service will thereafter instruct officers re the prosecution or apprehension of offenders, relevant to the circumstances.

Following a fatal or serious collision, Road Policing officers will work in partnership with the roads authority to establish if there are any improvements or changes that could be made to the road in order to prevent future incidents.

Department of Transport figures from 2021 detail the costs associated with fatal, serious and slight road traffic collisions in Scotland. These costs encompass all aspects of the costs of casualties including both the human cost and the direct economic cost.

The Human cost covers an amount to reflect the pain, grief and suffering to the casualty, relatives and friends, and, for fatalities the intrinsic loss of enjoyment of life over and above the consumption of goods and services.



## OFFICIAL

The economic cost covers loss of output due to injury and medical costs. The costings also include damage to vehicles and property and the cost of police and insurance administration.

Fatal Collisions all roads - £2,309,788

Serious Collisions all roads – £273,510

Slight Collisions all roads – £27,985

The full breakdown of costs can be found on Transport Scotland website.

### Public Support and Reassurance

Road Policing deliver well developed external communication strategies, to ensure communities are aware of road policing activity in their local area. This is done through main stream media, printed press and social media in order to engage with as broad a range of community members as possible.