



Angus Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee  
Quarter 4 ending 31 March 2025

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## **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 01.01.25 until 31.03.2025.

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?

## Police Scotland's strategic objectives



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

| Strategic Police Priorities  |  |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Crime and Security   | Confidence   | Sustainability                    | Partnerships             | People                           | Evidence |
| Priorities for Policing  |  |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
| Protecting Vulnerable People   |  | Tackling Crime in the Digital Age | Working with Communities | Support for Operational policing |          |
| Outcomes   | Objectives   |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
| Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep people safe in the physical and digital world</li><li>• Design services jointly to tackle complex public safety and wellbeing challenges</li><li>• Support policing through proactive prevention</li></ul>  |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
| The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand our communities and deliver the right mix of services to meet their needs</li><li>• Support our communities through a blend of local and national expertise</li><li>• Support the changing nature of communities</li></ul>  |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
| The public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Embed the ethical and privacy considerations that are integral to policing and protection into every aspect of the service</li><li>• Protect the public and promote wellbeing across Scotland by providing services that are relevant, accessible and effective</li><li>• Work with local groups and public, third and private sector organisations to support our communities</li></ul> |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
| Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prioritise wellbeing and keep our people safe, well equipped and protected</li><li>• Support our people to be confident leaders, innovative, active contributors and influencers</li><li>• Support our people to identify with and demonstrate Police Scotland values and have a strong sense of belonging</li></ul>   |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
| Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use innovative approaches to accelerate our capacity and capability for effective service delivery</li><li>• Commit to making a positive impact through outstanding environmental sustainability</li><li>• Support operational policing through the appropriate digital tools and delivery of best value</li></ul>   |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
| Performance and Implementation   |  |                                   |                          |                                  |          |
| Evidence based policing  |  |                                   |                          |                                  |          |



## 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

Drug harm and Drug supply

Violence

Antisocial behaviour

Acquisitive Crime

Road Safety

Public Protection

#### Local Policing Objectives

Reduce the stigma and harm of drug use

Target those involved in drugs supply

Protect vulnerable people from harm

Work collaboratively to improve the support and outcomes for those in crisis

Address violence through preventative and enforcement measures

Deal with disorder and antisocial behaviour

Tackle acquisitive crime and support victims

Support victims of crime and prevent re-victimisation

Make our roads safer through prevention, education and enforcement

#### Police Scotland Strategic Outcomes

Threats to public safety and wellbeing are resolved by a proactive and responsive police service

The needs of local communities are addressed through effective service delivery

The public, communities and partners are engaged, involved and have confidence in policing

Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public

Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges

### PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

Quarter 3 - Performance on a Page - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31 March 2025

|   | 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                                   | 594             | 588  | 717.4  | 1.02      | -17.2         | 37.4            | 32.5 | 37.9   | 4.9            | -0.5          |
| ASB Incidents                                   | 5180            | 5055 | 6012.8 | +2.5      | -13.9         | -               | -    | -      | -              | -             |
| <b>Violence</b>                                 |                 |      |        |           |               |                 |      |        |                |               |
| Robbery   | 40              | 22   | 25     | 81.82     | 60            | 72.5            | 86.4 | 76     | -13.9          | -3.5          |
| Serious Assault                                 | 47              | 58   | 53.2   | -18.97    | -11.7         | 89.4            | 74.1 | 81.6   | 15.2           | 7.8           |
| Common Assault (excluding<br>Emergency Workers) | 816             | 850  | 962.2  | -4.0      | -15.2         | 77              | 73.9 | 72.7   | 3.1            | 4.2           |
| <b>Public Protection</b>                        |                 |      |        |           |               |                 |      |        |                |               |
| Overall Group 2                                 | 366             | 300  | 342    | 22        | 7             | 68.6            | 62.3 | 58.5   | 6.2            | 10            |
| Rape  | 55              | 38   | 46.8   | 44.74     | 17.5          | 58.2            | 60.5 | 50.9   | -2.3           | 7.3           |
| Domestic Abuse                                  | 51              | 41   | 51.6   | 24.39     | -5.2          | 64.7            | 80.5 | 77     | -15.8          | -12.2         |
| <b>Road Safety</b>                              |                 |      |        |           |               |                 |      |        |                |               |
| Speeding offences                               | 115             | 124  | 814    | -7.26     | -85.9         | 100             | 100  | 100    | 0              | 0             |
| Drink / Drug Driving                            | 188             | 163  | 168.4  | 15.34     | 11.6          | 98.9            | 100  | 96.8   | -1.1           | 2.1           |
| <b>Wildlife Crime</b>                           |                 |      |        |           |               |                 |      |        |                |               |
|   | 9               | 8    | 13.2   | 12.5      | -31.8         | 33.3            | 37.5 | 40.9   | -4.2           | -7.6          |
| <b>Acquisitive Crime</b>                        |                 |      |        |           |               |                 |      |        |                |               |
| HBs   | 167             | 181  | 175.2  | -7.73     | -4.7          | 40.1            | 40.3 | 35.2   | -0.2           | 5             |
| Dwelling HBs                                    | 64              | 84   | 73.4   | -23.81    | -12.8         | 35.9            | 36.9 | 29.7   | -1.0           | 6.2           |
| Motor Vehicle Crime                             | 220             | 209  | 187.2  | 5.26      | 17.5          | 44.5            | 45.5 | 43.7   | -0.9           | 0.8           |
| Fraud   | 278             | 306  | 223.8  | -9.15     | 24.2          | 23              | 18   | 21.9   | 5              | 1.1           |
| Shoplifting                                     | 768             | 552  | 367    | 39.13     | 109.3         | 69.3            | 54.7 | 62.9   | 14.6           | 6.4           |

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 – Address violence through preventative and enforcement measures

Tackling violent crime is part of Police Scotland's focus in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our communities. Through a range of prevention and enforcement activities, Angus continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit. Where violent crime does occur, there is a high detection rate with offenders quickly being brought to justice. The following section of this report provides a detailed breakdown of the levels of violent crime recorded and investigated within the Angus local authority area during Q4 across a range of crime types.

### Murder

There has been one murder during this reporting period. This incident occurred in Arbroath and was contained within a domestic setting. This crime is detected with a perpetrator apprehended and put to court quickly with no wider threat to the public.

This incident remains under enquiry being led by dedicated Detective Officers, under the guidance of the SIO and Crown Office.

### Attempted Murder

There have been no attempt murders recorded during this reporting period.

### Serious Assault

The majority of violent crimes are committed by persons under the influence of substances. Similarly, a high percentage of these offences occur where the victim and accused are known to each other. This provides barriers to witness engagement which can be challenging as victims often do not engage with Police.

Serious assault and violent crime are overseen by CID who will have a footprint on the crime. CID are supervised by Senior Investigating Officers who ensures undetected crimes of this nature are subject to regular scrutiny / review to ensure all investigative opportunities are identified and progressed in a timeous manner.

There have been 8 Serious Assaults recorded during Q4 in Angus which is down by 4 from the 12 serious assaults reported in Q3 of 2024 and down by 10 from Q2. Of the 8 recorded, 8 are detected with a 100% detection rate.

From analysis there is a large geographical spread of these offences. The majority occurred in Forfar, then Montrose, then Brechin. Only 2 of the 8 offences involved the use of weapons.

In Year 2024 the total serious assaults are 48 with 42 detected and a 87.5% detection rate

In year 2023 there were 55 serious assaults, 42 detected with a 76.36% detection rate.

### Robbery

Crimes of Robbery, Assault and Robbery, and assaults with intent to Rob are recorded within this section. These crimes include any threat of violence or inference of any kind sufficient for incidents to be recorded.

These crimes are predominately investigated by Detective Officers supervised by a Detective Inspector. Crimes of this nature are a Divisional priority, and a robbery toolkit has been developed to ensure consistency of investigative practice and provision of support to victims.

Within Q4, 13 robberies were reported which is up from 9 in the previous reporting period. It is also higher than the 7 reported during the same period last year. Of these 13 robberies 10 have been detected providing an 76.92% detection rate.

Of the remaining undetected crimes, they all have outstanding lines of enquiry, and named suspects therefore it is hoped that the detection rate will improve.

Geographically 9 crimes have been committed in Arbroath and 2 in Kirriemuir with 1 in Brechin and Montrose.

It is noted that the numbers of reported Robberies within Angus are higher than previous years, however so are detection rates. This is due to, all robberies being reviewed by a Detective Officer at the outset. Any undetected Robberies are currently under review by a Detective Sergeant to ensure that no investigative opportunities have been overlooked prior to final completion.

### Common Assault

There were 816 common assaults reported during the 2024/25 performance year. This demonstrates yet again a further significant reduction in occurrence rates when compared to previous years. As the five-year average is 962.2 crimes, demonstrating a strong positive trend in reducing crime type.

The detection rate for the performance year was 77%, which is a 3.1% increase when compared to LYTD figures and a 4.2 % increase against the five year average.

### Sexual Crime

The level of recorded sexual crime in Angus in Q4 is higher in comparison than the same period in 2023/2024 and continues to be higher than the 5 year average. The level of recorded crime for Rape has also increased when compared with 2023/2024 and remains above the 5 year average. This increase in the level of recorded crime continues the upward trend that we have seen in previous years.

Having scrutinised the data further, it does appear that a high proportion of our victims in Angus are under the age of 16, with females more likely to be the victim and males the perpetrators. Sexual Assaults, Rape and Indecent Communications are the most prevalent crime types within this group. CYTD there have been 167 group 2 crimes with victims under the age of 16, with a detection rate of 66%, 27 of these reported



cases specifically related to indecent images of children, which see's enforcement from specialist teams, the nature of these crimes leads to a higher detection rate which currently sits at 89%.

It is clear the amount of focused prevention and intervention work with young people in Angus, is having a positive impact and despite the high numbers of victims, we are encouraged that there appears to be more confidence in this age group to report crimes. We will continue to work with the Violence Against Women and Girls network to focus on education, promoting positive behaviour, role modelling and a culture where behaviour is challenged.

As in previous reporting periods, a number of offences have occurred significantly out with the reporting period and as such are classified as "non-recent" (where the offence was committed more than twelve months before the crime was reported to Police).

In a number of these cases, multiple crime reports are raised in respect of one report from one victim detailing multiple incidents over a period of time.

All rape investigations continue to be conducted by specially trained Sexual Offence Liaison Officers (SOLOs) and are directed by a Senior Investigating Officer (SIO). Any offences involving child victims are investigated by specially trained Child Protection Investigators and for any child reporting serious sexual offending they will be supported to provide their evidence under the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) and will be seen in our Angus Bairns Hoose hub at Bellevue House, Arbroath.

Rape and sexual crime are complex, and investigations are often protracted and take longer to bring to a conclusion. Serious sexual crimes are subject to regular reviews to ensure that all available lines of enquiry are identified and progressed, and we continue to engage with local partners to ensure victims are referred for support and perpetrators who are deemed to pose significant risk are targeted to minimise risk to others.

### Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse remains a priority for the Division and all domestic incidents in Angus are subject of review, both by management and the Divisional Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU). Priority is given to the arrest of any outstanding perpetrators, who are routinely traced and arrested within 24/48 hours of a crime being reported and we continue to work closely with partner agencies to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place for victims.

MARAC operates in Angus and meets fortnightly to consider referrals for high risk victims of domestic abuse. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is victim focussed and provides a partnership forum for sharing information and taking actions that will reduce future harm to high risk victims of domestic abuse and their children. The purpose of the MARAC is to:

- Share information across agencies
- Identify the level of risk presented by the perpetrator

- Produce multi-agency action plans to reduce the risk to victims and their children

Partners represented at MARAC in Angus include Police Scotland, Community Justic Social Work, Children and Families social work, Health, Housing and Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

The Domestic Abuse figures for Q4 in Angus represent DASA only offences - The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 came into force on 1st April 2019. It allows the full circumstances of an abusive relationship to be reported under a single offence, provided there is a course of conduct (two or more offences committed with a unity of purpose.) A number of DASA offences reported during the Q4 period remain under active investigation by local officers and colleagues from specialist units, including the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit and the national Domestic Abuse Task Force.

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

We continue to prevent and deter instances of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), building and developing close working practices with Scottish Fire and Rescue services (SFRS) local authority Anti-Social Behaviour team, Housing providers and trading standards along with others who have a shared interest in reducing the impact of ASB in our communities.

Angus Partnerships, Interventions and Preventions Team continue to attend housing association meetings to focus on identification and targeting of emerging issues. Discussing recurring ASB issues and ensuring proportionate action is taken from a multi-agency perspective.

There were 5180 recorded ASB incidents during the 2024/25 performance year, a slight increase from 5055 recorded last year to date. That said this was still a significant reduction from the five year average of 6012.8 (reduction of 13.9 %)

The following information offers wider detail of what work is being carried out by local policing and across Angus to prevent ASB.

Within the Forfar and Kirriemuir area the local Community Policing Team identified a group of youths who have been involved in anti-social behaviour, breaking into vacant premises, stealing from within and also responsible for a number of significant fires in the Forfar and Angus area. Collaboration with SFRS and education provided early intervention opportunities, as a result these individuals were referred to SFRS for their Fire Academy programme and referred to a third sector agency for engagement.

High visibility patrols have been carried out regularly in areas where these youths are known to frequent, regular patrols of vacant buildings have discovered insecurities and owners / council have been contacted to have the buildings resecured. Reports have been submitted to the Youth Justice Assessor. Home visits and early intervention visits have been carried out by Police to youths responsible, providing explanation of criminal justice system and repercussions of youth offending to the youth and their family. The CPT has liaised with also PPU to ensure that all partners are working together.

High visibility and plain clothes patrols have been regularly conducted in areas which have been highlighted to the CPT where ASB has been reported, such as at Kinnordy and Forfar Loch. These patrols have looked to deter and disrupt repeat behaviour or youths continuing to congregate to drink alcohol in these areas. This action has been well received by partners and by members of the public alike.

An individual was regularly engaging in anti-social behaviour, repeatedly attending at a community group within a church and at several local businesses, his presentation and refusal to leave premises when requested to do so led to staff feeling threatened. The male was arrested charged and bail conditions were sought to prevent repetition and provide reassurance to the Community. Local Police continued to carry out high visibility patrols in this area of Forfar where the male was again arrested, charged and remanded.

Concerns were raised by residents in the Borrowfield area of Montrose concerning anti-social behaviour and the illegal use of motorcycles and e-scooters. As a result of activity by local Police one male has been charged with 8 road traffic offences relating to their use of a motorcycle. High visibility patrols within the area have continued and a joint Road Policing initiative with plain clothes officers focusing on the Borrowfield area are planned to be carried out over the summer period. CPT have also attended the Borrowfield pop up flat community engagement event on two occasions, along with housing to discuss ongoing issues within the area. CPT have also attended the Borrowfield residents meeting held at Borrowfield Primary School along with housing, members of the Borrowfield community, education and anti-social behaviour staff to discuss concerns.

Community Policing teams continue to carry out significant work within schools delivering inputs to children such as:

- Pitchin In Programme at Montrose Academy and Andover Primary School, Brechin which works to reduce youth offending behaviour and promote individual and community wellbeing, both in relation to football and more widely. It utilises a collaborative approach to prevention, diversion and education based upon building decision making skills and resilience.
- Drugs input to Andover Primary School.
- Online safety/cyber bullying input P6 and hate crime presentation to P7 class at Lochside Primary School.
- One Punch one life talks to P7 Maisondieu Primary School, Brechin.
- P5-7 Assembly Maisondieu Primary School discussing violence toward each other.
- Hate Crime talk at St Margarets Primary School.

### **Partner Intelligence Portal**

The Partners Intelligence Portal is a secure and confidential electronic system, developed by the Police Service to enable partner agencies to share important information they receive whilst working. The portal provides capable partners with the means to securely and discreetly submit key information, whilst maintaining safeguards which protect the source of the information.

Partner Portal Training continues to be delivered, this is a system which allows partners to record any form of intelligence and is being positively received and widely used already.

Angus Preventions Team continue to attend anti-social behaviour meetings to focus on identification and targeting of emerging issues. They have supported a number of proactive patrols working alongside our community teams to tackle and deter anti-social behaviour within identified 'hot spots', including specific housing visits to identified addresses and ASB letter drops.

Angus currently have no live ASBO's, however there has been a recent application for consideration of one in the Arbroath area.

Community and Partnerships Teams have been engaging with local residents during coffee with a cop and local resilience partnership events. These help to foster trusting relationships in order to identify issues in these communities, build intelligence and offer solutions or identify partners to assist. We continue to provide a multi-agency response to ASB, alongside SFRS, ASBT, Housing and Trading Standards, with a shared interest in reducing the impact these instances can have on local communities.

#### Planet Youth

Partnership work continues with the preventions team attending a Planet Youth multi-agency project day at Angus College, contributing to ideas for the next stage of the process. The preventions team works closely with Angus Council youth workers, and secured Police Partnerships funding for diversionary work within Angus.

The funding has been used to extend and sustain diversionary activity within the Forfar and Kirriemuir area, supporting around 70 young people every week. Our planet youth data tells us that young people who are involved in positive activities out with school are much less likely to vape, use alcohol or cannabis. The provision also supports young people to further progress in to volunteering, supporting their leadership and development and increasing their skills for life, learning and work.

#### Licensing (ANGUS)

Between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, the licensing team have processed 420 licence applications for the Angus area This included applications for occasional licenses to allow premises to have additional outdoor areas as well as grants and renewals for taxi operators/drivers. This also included renewals and grants to House of Multiple Occupancy and Short Term Lets.

13 recorded ASB incidents were at or in the immediate vicinity of licensed premises. There were 5 inspections carried out throughout Angus, with no single premises identified as problematic during this period.

The licensing team have been promoting the 'by-stander' project and continue to reach out to partner's offering training.

The licensing team have also carried out enforcement action on Short Term Lets and Houses of Multiple Occupancy within this period.

We have carried out Joint Inspections of both Civic and Alcohol premises with LSOs.

#### Supply of Drugs

There have been 3 drug supply crimes recorded this Quarter which is a decrease from 8 recorded in the last quarter.

Of these 3 recorded crimes all have been detected.

One proactive enquiry with links to serious and organised crime saw officers execute a search warrant in Carnoustie and recover large quantities of Cocaine. One female was arrested for this offence.

Another incident saw Angus Community teams conduct an intelligence led warrant at an address in Arbroath where over £5000 worth of cannabis recovered with one person arrested and charged.

The use and sale of drugs within Angus has a profound impact on our communities and it cannot be underestimated how this proactive work can go a long way to relieving pressure on people and identifying vulnerable people who require support.

### Wildlife Crime

Over the reporting period there were 5 wildlife crimes recorded, which related to fishing offences and the setting of snares. Since the recording of these there has been no reported re-occurrence, however community officer continue to engage with locals and will pro-actively address any behaviours that are a threat to local wildlife.

Police Scotland continues to work with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit on several annual national Operations, such as.

- Operation Easter – which relates to the theft of wild bird eggs. Police Scotland undertakes targeted proactive work relating to known nominals as well as nesting site visits.
- Operation Owl – an overarching operation to tackle raptor persecution. Extra attention to vulnerable or well known nesting sites across Scotland.
- Operation seabird – which relates to cetacean disturbance, often caused by tour boats, jet skis, paddleboarders etc. Proactive engagement with tour operators, the public, and days of action. Social media work undertaken too.
- Operation Thunder – this relates to the trade in endangered species, such as ivory, rhino horn, tiger claws etc. Regular engagement and targeted approaches to antique dealers and auction houses. Regular engagement and joint working with UK border force.
- Operation Galileo – this operation focuses on hare coursing, which is a widespread issue across Scotland. Collating data and visiting hot spots to ensure police presence acts as reassurance and a deterrent simultaneously.

Police Scotland has also been implementing two new pieces of wildlife crime legislation. The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 was introduced primarily to tackle fox hunting and hare/deer coursing. Police Scotland have reported several cases to COPFS under this legislation and have secured the first conviction in our Northern Division. The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 has introduced several key sections relating to wildlife crime, some of these are;

- The licensing of grouse shooting – This means that you need a licence from NatureScot to commercially shoot grouse in Scotland. A breach of licensing conditions, such as committing certain wildlife crimes, could result in loss of license and the income stream that accompanies it. This is seen as a big deterrent for the minority in the grouse shooting industry who illegally target wildlife.

- The banning of snaring in Scotland.
- New regulations around the use of traps in Scotland.
- Providing the SSPCA (already a reporting agency) with enhanced powers of search and seizure to assist with wildlife crime incidents.

Police Scotland continues to deliver our two national training courses. A two day introduction to wildlife crime course and a five day investigators course. These are both well subscribed and garner a lot of interest from officers across Scotland.

Police Scotland hosted the 2025 Scottish Wildlife Crime Conference at the Scottish Police College Tulliallan in March. This was the first Scottish conference in over ten years and was very well attended.

Police Scotland continue to attend community events across Scotland to engage with the public and promote an awareness of wildlife crime and suspicious behaviour.

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

### Housebreakings to Dwelling Houses

The figure 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). This analysis considers break-ins and attempts to dwellings only – it therefore excludes sheds and other out-buildings.

There were 22 housebreaking to dwelling house crimes recorded in Angus during Q4. This is an increase of crimes when compared to the 13 committed during Q3. It is also up by 7 from the same reporting period in 2024.

Forfar area has the largest numbers of recorded residential housebreakings in Q4 with 8 recorded and there are 5 recorded in Brechin. There is an even spread across other Angus areas.

Whilst it is noted that reported Housebreakings to dwellings is slightly up on last year it should also be noted at this time that detection rates are at 40.91% compared to 26.67% from Q4 last year. A check of current undetected crimes shows there are a number which remain under investigation, it is anticipated that this detection rate will rise.

There has been significant discussion about improving detection rates across all housebreakings with a review system having been implemented of all undetected crimes. Local CID supervisors conduct a review on all undetected housebreaking, providing investigative guidance and support. Any issues identified or opportunities overlooked are promptly rectified or raised ensuring learning is taken and shared.

A Housebreaking tool kit has been developed and is regularly refreshed and shared with Officers as MO's, technology and investigative techniques develop.

All of the above work is reflected in the rise in detection rates.

#### Housebreakings to Non Dwellings

There were 5 Housebreaking to non-dwelling properties recorded in Angus during Q4. This is a slight rise of 1 from Q3 and a decrease of 4 compared Q4 of last year.

The detection rate is currently 44% and is anticipated to rise as investigations continue.

The detection rate for this period last year is 44.44%

#### Housebreakings Other

There are 21 Housebreakings to other premises recorded in Angus during Q4. This is less than 25 recorded in Q3 and less than the 23 recorded in Q4 of last year.

Detection rates are currently 47.6% which is similar to the 40% rate in Q3 and slightly down from 56.5% which was recorded in Q4 of last year. These detection rates are anticipated to rise as there are a number of current investigations continuing.

#### Motor Vehicle Crime

There were 31 motor vehicle crimes recorded in Q4, which is down from the 51 crimes recorded during Q3 and considerably down from the 68 recorded in Q2. There is also a reduction of 25 compared to Q4 of last year.

There does continue to be a trend of persons travelling from other areas to commit acquisitive crime in Angus and other rural communities. Like Housebreaking motor vehicle crime features quite heavily amongst these crime series. With that being said a considerable amount of work is carried out in relation to this crime type and with some notable offenders being apprehended during previous reporting periods comes the positive impact on the crimes committed.

Motor vehicle crime is spread consistently across the local authority area, with the higher numbers of crimes recorded in Arbroath, Forfar and Brechin. Q4 shows a detection rate of 48.3%

A review of crimes show that a large proportion of crimes are still under investigation or connected to crime "sprees" where a small number of individuals are responsible for all crimes. This provides more lines of enquiries that could link crimes but are more time consuming to investigate than some other crime types.

A number of investigations remain open.

#### Support Victims

Our Partnerships team continue to support victims of high value thefts and house breakings by carrying out a site visit and offering suitable crime prevention advice. The Partnerships, Interventions and Preventions team sit on national groups, looking at national trends, and carry out local linked preventative work. Officers are working alongside colleagues, internally and externally, including VSS to look at preventative measures and ways to safeguard vulnerable persons and target repeat offenders.

Retailers Against Crime intel database now being utilised by local intelligence officers which is improving intel around shoplifting offences. Police Scotland recognises the national increase in shoplifting offences and has responded by setting up a Retail Taskforce. This team aims to provide additional resources to local areas for a short, intensified period of time, to strength the collective protection against retail crime, mitigate against the impact of retail crime and stop acquisitive crime by bringing perpetrators to justice. We have recently made bids for this team to come and work with us across Angus, enabling us to make a notable impact locally.

The preventions team sit on multi agency financial harm meetings, ensuring wrap around preventions advice for vulnerable repeat victims of scams, and financial harm. They also monitor trends and emerging issues, and co-ordinate prevention messaging and pro-activity required. Angus Preventions team have worked closely with Angus Trading Standards on Operation Cece, disrupting the sale of illicit tobacco in the local Angus area.

#### Notable incidents

In March 2025 a Theft HB Occurred in Piperdam where 2 high value cars were stolen totalling over 100 thousand pounds. Uniformed Officers and CID quickly linked the thefts to potential suspects in Edinburgh known for similar targeted thefts. As such quick collaborative work was carried out between Angus CID and Edinburgh CID resulting in both vehicles being recovered in Queensferry a short time after the crime. There remains positive lines of enquiry and links to further crimes in Edinburgh. This would not have been possible without the good work of officers both locally and out with Division.

Between the 25<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 3 motor vehicles have been stolen in Arbroath. Extensive investigative work has been carried out across all 3 crimes and a male has been identified as responsible for all three. By dealing with him accordingly through the criminal justice system this will positively impact the victims and residents of Angus.



Over the reporting period the Partnership's Team have continued to focus on the progression of joint visits to vulnerable members of the community, working with statutory and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners to provide follow up contact and re-assurance crime prevention advice, with examples including victims of online frauds, dishonesties, robberies, sextortion and violence.

#### Preventions Visits

Over the Q4 period a number of support contacts have been progressed

- 7 Follow up contact with victims of extortion with suitable advice, re-assurance provided and escalation to FAST where appropriate.
- 11 FAST meetings attended.
- Distress Brief intervention follow ups with referrals progressed. 21 referrals submitted.
- 3 welfare visits with 1 safety visit completed.
- Hate crime follow up with re-assurance visits where appropriate.
- Follow up visits to substance users with appropriate signposting to 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services.

### Local Priority / Activity – Protect vulnerable people from harm

Our divisional missing persons co-ordinator has oversight of this workstream, covering each local policing area in Tayside.

In the reporting period there have been 35 missing people from the Angus area this includes 1 person traced Deceased. This does account for repeat episodes, and we do have two individuals who are frequently reported missing. The top repeat location with 3 reports is Rossie School, Montrose. There is ongoing work with the Montrose CPT and the Misper co-ordinator to try and reduce the risk at this location.

The most frequent age range within reporting period is 10–19-year-olds with 17 Episodes making up 48.57% of reported episodes. The second most recorded age groups are 20-29- and 30–39-year-olds which are both equally 14.29%. Adults are the top recorded Person type with 18 episodes at 51.43% and second being Child at 10 Episodes with 28.57%.

The Missing Person charity implementation project concluded with some recommendations and on the back of this there will be a multi-agency Missing person Protocol Group created. The group is to meet for the first time on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 to progress next steps to meet the needs for Angus (Adult) Missing persons.

#### SUICIDE PREVENTION

Angus Partnerships team work closely with the Angus Suicide Prevention team and are heavily involved in shaping local prevention work. Bereavement packs are well received and reviewed regularly to ensure up to date content. Our Partnerships team have been key partners in the delivery of The Beacon, Angus Community Wellbeing Centre project board. This project has gone live on 1<sup>st</sup> April with telephone and online services, and in person is due to open towards the end of May 2025. Police will have a pathway to refer vulnerable persons in for support.

Angus DBI services are now embedded in this facility, referrals remain steady into DBI from Angus – there is an expectation this may reduce as persons make use of the local in person support.

#### KEEP SAFE UPDATE

The Keep Safe initiative was a partnership developed by Police Scotland with a community led charity, I Am Me Scotland in 2016. It was designed to provide vulnerable people within our communities a safe place to go when they felt scared, vulnerable or required assistance.

There were approximately 900 Keep Safe premises across Scotland. There were SPOCS in local policing divisions who provided training and had responsibility to sign up premises whilst engaging with staff and carrying out annual checks at the premises.

Our Policing Together division carried out a full, thorough and robust review of the initiative with a Short Life Working Group of all relevant internal partners and in consultation with I Am Me Scotland both parties decided to exit the initiative. All literature and branding will be removed.

The wellbeing of the disabled community, and other vulnerable groups, remains a priority. It is important that we are delivering a service which meets their needs, while making the most effective use of officer resources, and we will be engaging with key partners and stakeholders to explore further opportunities for community-based provision. There is not expected to be any significant impact on communities due to the exit as there is evidence of limited use of Keep Safe premises.

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

Our Angus Partnerships team work closely with our equality and diversity SPOCs in order to look at ways in which we can capture hard to reach and seldom heard communities. We have visited the new Buddhist Temple in Kirriemuir and hope to build on this initial engagement to build a good relationship with this community. We have also had regular engagement with Angus Pride, and the Deaf Hub, with further engagement events planned to ensure these harder to reach communities have the confidence and means to reach the police if required.

Community Policing Teams are engaging with all communities across Angus in a number of innovative ways to encourage open conversations and ensure we are meeting the needs of these communities. They attend community councils, local community groups and take part in Coffee with a cop, and prevention stalls in easy to access locations.

We continue to monitor the community's response to the service they receive here in Angus and encourage continued use of our Your Police Surveys which allow us to measure the user experience in local policing. It is imperative we deliver a high standard of policing, in support of our local communities, identifying barriers to engagement and always improving standards.

Result from March 2025 provided that out of approx. 339 engagements, 89.5% of the local community in Angus felt safe, 39.69% had confidence in the local police service, 76.64% had respect for the local police, and 33.33% felt that local officers were doing a good job in the area, 67% are friendly and approachable with 35.76% of the public feeling that officers listen to local concerns.

I acknowledge there is room for improvement here and we will continue to seek out opportunities for meaningful engagement with our local communities in Angus. We will work hard to improve public trust and confidence through our actions while providing a high standard of service.

#### ESTATES UPDATE

The refurbishment of Carnoustie Police office has now been completed following the essential upgrading, along with improvements to modernise the station, ensuring it is a more efficient and welcoming space for both officers and the local community. Investing in our estate supports our 2030 vision, enabling modern policing, supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and the communities we serve and reduce long term operating costs.

#### **Body Worn Video**

The national rollout of Body Worn Video (BWV) is one of the Chief Constables Commitment's. It is also a key change project to improve Policing in Scotland.

Police Scotland has agreed a national contract to implement BWV for officers and staff across Scotland over the next three years.

BWV can help to de-escalate incidents, improve public trust in policing and reduce complaints, support officer and staff safety, and bring wider benefits to the criminal justice system.

The Body Worn Video (BWV) project continues to make good progress as it moves towards a Spring 2025 go live date. The roll out of BWV is not just about the cameras officers will wear. Behind the cameras is the network infrastructure, hardware and software updates, integrations with existing systems and equipment installations to make the use of BWV possible.

In addition, work continues to progress the Standard Operating Procedure, guidance and training to support the effective use of BWV by officers.

Project Management, Estates, Business Change, Stakeholder Engagement, Digital Division, Legal and Corporate Communications are just some of the teams across the Service who are working behind the scenes to ensure everything is in place for a successful roll out.

It is this critical infrastructure and preparation that will ensure the audio and video evidence captured by BWV can be uploaded, managed and processed, saved and sent on to COPFS.

The initial stages of the roll out across Tayside (D Division) has commenced with positive feedback being received from the public, COPFS and the officers themselves. All be it a time consuming process in these early stages while offices adapt to the functionalities, we are already seeing the benefits in court and in dealing with complaints against the police, leading to much quicker and reliable resolutions.

## Local Priority/Activity – Make our roads safer.

During the period under review the following initiatives were prioritised:

- Vulnerable Road Users – Pedestrians and Older Drivers
- National Seatbelt Campaign
- Commercial Vehicles Campaign
- National Speeding Campaign

Angus LPA has suffered 3 fatalities for the period under review, 2 of which were sadly due to medical episodes.

Angus LPA have had 8 persons seriously injured due to road traffic collisions over Q4.

Road safety enforcement continues to be carried out as part of routine business by the Road Policing unit (RPU). Focused patrol work will be complemented using available technology and databases, intelligence target packages and specific tasking resulting from local Tasking and Coordinating processes to tackle criminality.

Local policing and RPU officers have been able to target driver behaviour which we believe will have the greatest impact on casualty reduction and address community concerns. Enforcement activity has concentrated on the Fatal 5 which are Dangerous/Careless driving, drink/drug driving, speeding, seatbelts and mobile phones, all in line with National and Local objectives and initiatives.

Based on strategic assessment, several priority locations have been identified in Angus which were subject to focused operational activity, including A90, A92 and A94.

The New Driver Scheme (NDS) has been successfully delivered in both the education and employment sectors across Tayside. The NDS is a hard-hitting presentation to raise awareness of road safety issues. The joint presentation, delivered by Police Scotland and SFRS provides a stark reminder of the individual responsibilities that the driver has, both for themselves and other road users.

Road Policing Officers assisted by Divisional Staff have carried out several Days of Action with DVSA on the A90 near Forfar where both commercial and agricultural vehicles have been stopped and checked with various offences dealt with.

Rider Refinement North commences in May and looks to educate motorcyclists in enhanced road safety.

There has been a sharpened focus in this key area of concern and work will continue to be driven forward in efforts to address this problem and provide a longer-term strategy.

Locally Community Policing teams have continued to deliver road safety messaging throughout the Angus area. A Junior Road Safety Officers input was delivered at Andover, Stracathro and Edzell Primary School where pupils learned about road traffic and road safety. They also assisted with carrying out speed checks, identified parking offences surrounding their school grounds and officers to spoke to members of the public to advise them of the offences.

A Roads Policing Day was carried out by CPT officers in Montrose whereby one mini moto seized and various road traffic offences reported and a no insurance charge resulting in the vehicle being seized. A Speeding initiative was carried out in at Ferryden A92 after concerns raised regarding speeding where one female charged with speeding offence.

Forfar/ Kirriemuir CPT have continued to take a proactive approach to road safety, during this quarter a number of motorbikes and cars have been seized. Offenders have been reported for no insurance, careless driving and failing to stop for Police. This action has resulted in vehicles being taken off the road, preventing them being further driven in an antisocial and or dangerous manner. Following complaints from members of the public, additional high visibility patrols have been carried out resulting in off-road bikes have been seized in both Kirriemuir and Forfar.

High visibility patrols have been carried out in areas near to rural and town primary schools to address complaints raised at Community Council meetings regarding speeding and parking issues in the vicinity of schools, focused patrols and speed checks have also been carried out in areas where concerns have been raised in relation to speeding.