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## **Road Policing Spotlight report for the information of Inverclyde Council Fire and Police Scrutiny Board**

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### **Background**

In 2018, a National review of Road Policing Division was carried out to ensure it was working as effectively and efficiently as possible. This included a review of the structure, deployment bases and the shift pattern worked by Road Policing officers.

The K Divisional Road Policing Unit was the smallest unit in Scotland having 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants and 13 Constables.

The officers worked a shift pattern made up of early and late shifts, with all night shift incidents being dealt with from the Glasgow Road Policing patrol base. Taking into account routine abstractions for annual leave, training, sickness etc, this would leave the unit on many occasions unable to deploy a double crewed vehicle on either early or late shifts and they routinely operated with up to a 75% abstraction rate resulting in Officer Safety concerns and increasing resourcing challenges.

During this review it was identified that K division could be provided with better coverage if they deployed from the Glasgow RP patrol base and this was implemented in October 2018. Due to more officers being available for deployment there is far greater resilience allowing the following minimum resources to deploy to K division daily:

0700 – 1500 hours – 1 dedicated double crew  
0900 – 1800 hours (Mon-Fri) – 1 dedicated double crew  
1400 – 0000 hours – 1 dedicated double crew

A positive outcome of this review and one of the key issues the review was commissioned to address is an increase in nightshift resources across the whole of Scotland, including the West Command Area. This primarily has enhanced Officer safety by having improved resources to deal with criminal use of the road network, Road Traffic Offences, Road Traffic Collisions and bolstered our pursuit capability across all divisions.

### **Engagement**

Road Policing have continued to work closely with K Divisional Senior Management Team. The Road Policing Inspector for K Division, Inspector Willie Graham, or a nominated deputy, will attend the SMT meetings weekly. In addition to this they will also attend all Tasking and Delivery meetings and Divisional Road Safety Governance meetings within K Division.

RP work closely with the Local Area Commanders and have supported a number of local initiatives and community concerns. All requests for additional RP resources have been met and in some occasions exceeded. An example of this being a recent 'Human Trafficking Multi Agency Road Check' in Inverclyde where RP were asked to provide 2

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Constables to assist local officers. RP were able to provide 1 Sergeant and 6 Constables to support this operation which proved to be a very successful event with 37 vehicles checked, 16 offences detected, 10 vehicles prohibited, and a male arrested on warrant.

A similar operation was carried out in September 2019 which also yielded positive results.

Vulnerable Road users (pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motorists whose behaviour places them at risk) continue to be a priority for RP officers. Vulnerable road users accounted for 43 (29%) of the 146 deaths on Scotland's roads in 2017. To engage with cyclists, RP have been working in partnership with 2 predominant cycling groups within the division.

'The Bothy' in Inverclyde is a charitable organisation working with those who wish to walk or cycle more as part of their daily life. RP have worked closely with Bothy staff and supported a number of community events, engaging with cyclists and pedestrians and providing safety advice.

Following the success of the events in Inverclyde, similar events have taken place at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park in Lochwinnoch (KB Sub division) where RP officers have carried out a 'Close Pass' operation and also attended the 'Classic Car Show' in October 2019, engaging with motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

### **Campaigns**

As part of the Road Safety & Road Crime Strategy, Road Policing produce a Campaign Calendar covering a 12 month period (April-March). During this period there are a number of national campaigns and a selection of local campaigns.

During the current calendar, RP Glasgow have been involved in all campaigns and ensured K division continue to be included. Some examples being –

#### **April 2019**

A week long 'Speed, Seat Belt and Mobile Phone' campaign resulted in 38 Fixed Penalties being issued within K division for the above offences.

During this month RP officers also attended the 'Kilmacolm & Quarriers Village Festival of Cycling' delivering safety advice to cyclists and carried out a 'Close Pass' demonstration.

#### **May 2019**

A local 'Motorway Safety Campaign' focussed on the M8 motorway, including the area within K division (junctions 25-31). From this week long initiative the following offences were detected -

Speed – 46 offences  
Seat Belt – 15 offences  
Mobile Phone – 10 offences  
Careless Driving – 8 offences  
Driving Licence – 7 offences  
Insurance – 8 offences

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Vehicles Seized – 15

### **June 2019**

During this month officers were involved in the 'Vulnerable Road Users' campaign focussing on cyclists and pedestrians. During this campaign RP officers carried out a number of 'Close Pass' operations including a campaign day within K division.

Also in June, RP officers delivered presentations on Road Traffic legislation to a group of asylum seekers in Inverclyde. The presentations were delivered to 45 persons and received positive feedback.

### **June/July 2019**

From 24<sup>th</sup> June through to 7<sup>th</sup> July RP officers were engaged in the force 'Summer Drink Drive' campaign, performing a number of road checks in K division. Figures show an overall decrease in the number of drink drivers, indicating less drivers are taking the risk.

### **August 2019**

During this month RP officers took part in the 'Older Driver Awareness' campaign focusing on drivers age 65 or over. This campaign primarily focused on engagement with drivers, offering advice and support to the group.

A number of these campaign dates were held in K division.

### **September 2019**

From 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September saw Operation Drive Insured take place, targeting uninsured drivers. During this campaign 18 uninsured vehicles were seized and drivers reported or issued with fixed penalties.

A further cycling community event was also supported by RP on the 17<sup>th</sup> September at Castle Semple Regional Park. A 'Close Pass' operation supported a visit to the area by school groups.

### **October 2019**

On 17<sup>th</sup> October, as part of the 'Carriage of Dangerous Goods' campaign, a road check was carried out in the Port Glasgow area, which resulted in a number of vehicles being checked by RP officers, with no offences detected.

The above campaigns are a small part of the daily duties of Road Policing Officers within K division and demonstrate a continued commitment to improve road safety within the division.

### **New Driver Early Intervention Scheme**

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In addition to the above activity, RP officers have trained a number of local K division officers to deliver presentations to drivers who have recently passed their driving tests, as well as to a number of local school children, highlighting various road safety topics.

### Performance

Previous figures were released to the board which showed a decrease in the number of Road Traffic Offences reported within Inverclyde following the relocation of the Road Policing Unit. These figures show activity across the entire division including offences detected by Local Policing and RP activity is included.

Performance of RP across the entire West Command decreased during the months of January 2019 – March 2019. This is attributed to a High Court trial in Glasgow during which RP officers were involved in the transferring of the accused persons to and from court each day. On a daily basis, up to 8 RP officers would be utilised as well as officers from the National Motorcycle Unit. This trial featured regularly in National media.

Road Policing performance is recorded daily on a document used nationally by all RP bases. The activity is recorded as divisional only and not broken down into sub-divisional detail. As such, RP cannot detail the level of performance within Inverclyde, however we closely monitor performance across the division.

Following the concerns raised however, a 2 month analysis was recently carried out by RP over the months of July and August 2018 and 2019 to show a comparison of detections since the relocation of resources.

The table below shows this comparison as a snapshot.

CRIME	17/18	18/19	+/-
DANGEROUS DRIVING	1	5	+400%
CARELESS DRIVING	12	16	+33%
SEAT BELT	8	25	+212%
SPEEDING	129	191	+48%
MOBILE PHONE	21	14	-33%
DRINK/DRUG DRIVING	7	1	-85%

In addition to the patrols and work carried out by RP officers we have also benefited from the assistance of the National Motorcycle Unit carrying out patrols and enforcement on a number of occasions.

Staff from the Safety Camera Partnership will regularly attend the division and carry out mobile speed enforcement, as well as enforcement from their fixed camera sites.

A key objective of Road Policing is to reduce the number of those injured on our roads.

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During 2017/2018 Inverclyde were one of only two local authorities in Scotland who did not have a fatal road collision in their area. During 2018/2019 (YTD), Inverclyde have 1 reported road death, however there were other contributory factors in this collision.

At the time of writing this report, year to date figures compared to the previous year are as follows within K division –

### **ROAD DEATHS**

Renfrewshire -2  
Inverclyde +1 (previously highlighted above)

### **SERIOUSLY INJURED**

Renfrewshire -10  
Inverclyde +1

### **SLIGHT INJURIES**

Renfrewshire -55  
Inverclyde +9

### **Conclusion**

Road Policing are a national division of specialist resources strategically located across Scotland to support the Local Policing divisions. The officers receive training in a number of specialist functions, which can only be carried out by RP officers. Examples being –

- Lead investigators for all serious and fatal road traffic collisions (over 1,000 incidents per annum)
- Advanced driving, vehicle pursuits, ambulance escorts
- Security escort driving for protected persons
- Attending incidents on our 'fast road' network
- Escorts of abnormal loads
- Traffic management functions for events/operations/major roadworks

The above are an example of roles restricted to specialist Road Policing officers only which cannot routinely be carried out by divisional officers and it accepted these specialist functions can impact on our resourcing capabilities at times of peak demand. To ensure routine enforcement is still carried out, a number of Local Policing officers in K Division (as there are in all Divisions across Police Scotland) are now trained in the use of speed detection devices. This allows Local Policing officers to enforce speed complaints in their own areas and address other Road Safety community concerns with support from RP.

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Support to K Division Local Policing will remain a priority for RP and we will continue to monitor our current deployment model to ensure we maximise our resources to provide the best service possible.

Chief Superintendent Carle, Head of Road Policing will be available to present to the board at the next meeting on 21 November 2019.

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