



Keeping People Safe in Inverclyde

Our Purpose:- To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

Violence & Antisocial Behaviour



Upward trend in serious and minor violence

YTD (April to January 2020) Group 1 Crimes of violence have increased by 24 crimes to a total of 137. The 5 year average for Group 1 crimes is 106.8. The detection rate for Group 1 crimes is 72.7%, compared to a Divisional position of 70.1%.

Since April 2019, 2,923 crimes have been identified via police proactivity, up 5.6% on the previous year. This includes weapons carrying and drug offences.

There have been 587 recorded common assaults, up 5.8% (32 crimes) on the previous year. The 5 year average for common assaults is 541.4. 18% of assaults targeted emergency workers. These crimes are most commonly perpetrated against police officers.



Fire raisings increased by 26 crimes on the previous year to 56. The detection rate is 25%. Vandalism and Malicious Mischief increased by 8 crimes to 523. Detections also increased to 22.4%, above the 5yr mean of 13%.

Acquisitive Crime



Shoplifting has increased 13.6% to a total of 410 crimes. This is 49 more crimes and 37% above the 5 yr mean.



Housebreaking crimes (inc attempts) - have decreased by 1.4% (2 fewer crimes). The majority of HBs targeted dwelling houses.

Motor vehicle crime increased by 23% on the previous year; heightened by increases in opening lockfast vehicles (+17 crimes) and theft from a motor vehicle (+23 crimes). Theft of a motor vehicle decreased by 19.3% in the reporting period.



There were seven bogus caller crimes in Inverclyde. Two crimes involved suspects pertaining to be from the Water Board to carry to steal from within. Business types used by bogus workmen include buldiers, roofers and gardeners. On several occasions work was paid for and not carried out. Bogus workmen are known to contact complainers through rated tradespeople websites.

Inverclyde

Local Policing Plan (2017 – 2020)

Reporting Period: 1st April to 31st January 2020

Public Protection

Reported sexual crimes have decreased by 9.6% on the previous year, to a total of 119 crimes. This is slightly above the 5 yr mean of 115.6.

The detection rate for sexual crimes is 45.5%, up 3% on the previous year.



Rape and attempted rape are also declining – down from 29 to 26 crimes (-10.3%)

The detection rate for rape has increased from 28.6% to 41.7%.

22% of the sexual crimes recorded in the reporting period were against young people under the age of 16 years at the time of the offence. This is a 12% decrease on the previous year.

52% of sexual crimes were non-recent. 18 of these non-recent crimes relate to ongoing investigations into institutional abuse which form part of a national enquiry.



Since 1st April 2019 to 31st January 2020 there have been 105 Missing Person reports in Inverclyde, of which just under 30% involved individuals residing within Young Persons Units within the area. The vast majority of missing person incidents involving children in care involved a limited number of repeat absconders. Young Person Units featured in the top five locations for persons to be reported missing from Inverclyde (Neil Street Childrens Centre and The View Childrens Carehome). Persons aged between 10-19 years were involved in nearly 63% of all missing person reports.

810 domestic abuse incidents have been recorded, up 15.7% on the previous year. Increasing conversion rates from domestic incidents to crimes continues with a rate of 45.8%.

There were 41 complaints about police during the reporting period. This is 22.5 complaints per 10,000 police incidents.

Major Crime & Terrorism



Targeting serious organised crime continues to be a priority for the division. Drug related criminality is a significant driver for SOC. YTD there was an increase of 15.5% on drug related crimes. This includes an increase on proactive possession of drugs charges which have increased by 16.1% to 650 crimes.

There have been 53 drug supply charges raised YTD, one more than the previous year. Nine crimes were raised relating to production/manufacture of drugs, four more than the previous year.

YTD there have been 26 drug related deaths (awaiting toxicology results). Etizolam continues to feature in the majority of the confirmed drug deaths. All confirmed deaths involved polydrug use



128 crimes have been designated as 'cyber-crimes' via application of the relevant cyber-crime marker, in 2019/20. Reported offences included online credit and debit card fraud and menacing and offensive communication offences using various social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook.

Road Safety & Road Crime



There has been one road fatality recorded in the period covered. This represents one more road death than the previous year. Meanwhile, serious road injuries have increased by seven to a total of 24, while slight injuries also increased – up to 73 (13 more than last year).

Overall, offences relating to vehicles are down on the previous year: Speeding (-28.8%), seat belt offences (-3.1%), dangerous driving (-40%), Insurance (-27.5%), driving licence offences (-25%) and use of mobile phones (-26.9%). Drink/drug driving offences were up by six crimes on the previous year.

Organisational Improvement – Basic Driving Assessment – In the past, new recruits would be required to wait a number of months before they could drive police vehicles. A change in policy means that those who now join Police Scotland, and hold a Category B Drivers Licence, will be given the opportunity to undergo a Basic Driving Assessment during their initial training at Tulliallan. The assessment is carried out by Police Driving Instructors, and providing the officer is deemed competent, they will be able to drive police vehicles from the day they are deployed operationally. Locally this will permit probationary officers to arrive in Inverclyde fully operational which enhances our capacity to deploy officers more widely.

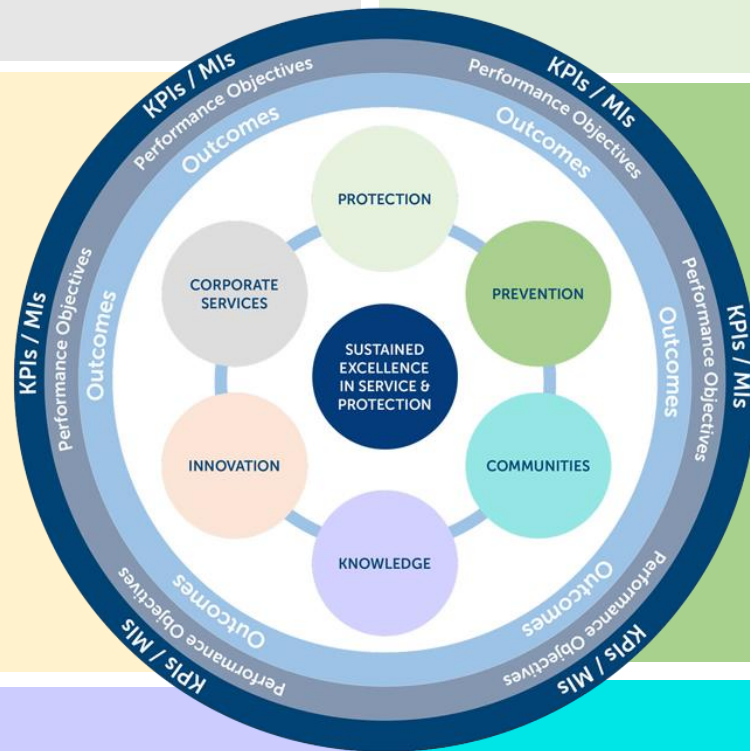
Wellbeing Matters – Police Scotland is committed to encouraging officers and staff to be mindful and look after their own mental health and wellbeing. The Wellbeing program recognised the challenges faced by all staff on a daily basis and identified the need for quiet space away from the constant daily demands. A Wellbeing ‘Quiet Room’ within Greenock Police office was created to provide officers and staff to take time out and decompress after stressful or traumatic incidents or to simply unwind after a stressful day. The room can also be used for employees to fulfil physical, spiritual and religious needs. Located away from the busy operational areas of Greenock Police Office, the room has been modernised to contain relaxed lighting and comfortable seating so that officers and staff feel peaceful and comfortable. ‘K’ Division have ‘Wellbeing Champions’ across the Division have been able to provide officers and staff a point of contact and to assist in signposting them to appropriate services for Psychological, Physical, Financial and social support. As we move into 2020 the resource challenges will continue with Brexit and COP26 already anticipated.

Multi Agency Partnership Working - Police were contacted regarding an intoxicated male in Port Glasgow. A quick thinking Inverclyde Council CCTV operator identified the suspect who was seen in possession of two weapons and chasing another male before trying to hide within a vehicle. The CCTV operator was able to provide real time updates on the suspect’s whereabouts and directed officers to his location and alerted them about the weapons. A Taser trained officer was deployed contained the suspect within his vehicle until he could be safely extracted and arrested. The suspect appeared at court the following day and was remanded in custody. This is another great example of Local authority CCTV operators being vigilant and alert to on-going incidents, directing officers to a violent offender, maximising safety to the public while minimising risk to officers and the public.

Notable Arrest – February 2020 – Officers on proactive patrols in Greenock Town centre observed two males, one of whom matched the description issued of a male involved in a violent robbery within a shop a few days previous. He was stopped and arrested on suspicion of Robbery. Due to the circumstances, the second male was searched under misuse of drugs legislation whereby he was found to be in possession of a knuckle duster fighting knife and also arrested. On reviewing the Robbery footage, officers were able to positively identify both males as being involved in the Robbery and were both charged and held in custody to appear at court whereby they were remanded pending trial.

Fearless Project – The prevalence of drugs and substance misuse within secondary schools has been highlighted locally and is supported by recent youth engagement survey conducted by CLD (Community Learning Development). To understand the scale of the issue, Police funded Fearless workshops have taken place across all secondary schools in Inverclyde. Fearless is an organisation which is web based, where anyone can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. Fearless is predominately aimed at young people aged 11-16 years and offers the ability to pass information about crime, 100% anonymously. The success of this campaign will be managed by Fearless who will providing statistical analysis of increased intelligence within the community and education environment. This will help provide a clearer picture of drugs within the education environment and assist Police and partners to take appropriate measures to safeguard our young people.

Herbert Protocol – The Herbert Protocol is an information gathering tool to assist officers locating a vulnerable person (including individuals living with Dementia, Alzheimer’s, learning difficulties or other cognitive disorders or illnesses) who has been reported missing, as quickly as possible. Where a vulnerable individual is identified, a form containing key personal information will be completed by a family member / friend / neighbour or carer, and a copy retained at the vulnerable persons address. This pre-populated data will expedite the collation of information and thereby allowing the investigation to commence at the earliest opportunity when a vulnerable person is reported missing. The Herbert Protocol goes live in Renfrewshire and Inverclyde on 11th March 2020. Locally, SPC Murdoch has been trained as a trainer for UNIPAR speed detection device and is currently delivering training to local officers to increase the number permitted to conduct road safety speed checks. This will have a positive impact in ensuring the roads in Inverclyde remain safe.



West Stewart Street – Anti-social Behavior – A multi-agency Action Plan has been devised to run until the end of March to tackle complaints of Anti-social behaviour and discourage groups from gathering at West Stewart and Kilblain Street, Greenock. It’s recognised that many of the people involved are vulnerable and are alcohol and / or drug dependent which contributes to many of the issues being experienced. The Action Plan combines a mixture of high visibility and plain clothed policing patrols in conjunction with Community Wardens. Crimestoppers material will be distributed to increase awareness of reporting crime anonymously and to encourage the community to provide information. A number of local support agencies will be encouraged to attend the area to engage and offer support where suitable. Officers will take robust approach to criminality where appropriate but equally, will signpost individuals who may benefit from support.

Financial Harm awareness – During January 2020, our Preventions and Interventions officer conducted a financial harm / scam awareness session in Greenock Town centre. This was a multi-agency awareness session with Police, Trading standards, Victim support and an RBS preventions officer. The aim was to raise awareness and offer advice to prevent against becoming a victim of a scam. As a result of the campaign **489** vehicles were stopped across the K division and from that 5 persons in Inverclyde were charged with offences relating to being unfit to drive through impairment.

Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation training – In January & February 2020, our Divisional Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer and colleagues delivered a Counter Terrorism Awareness input to staff and students at the West College Scotland, Waterfront Campus in Greenock. The key messages focused on increased public vigilance and reporting mechanisms for any terrorism concerns, reminding members of the public to be alert to potential risks but not to be alarmed.

Warrants– Arresting people wanted on warrant form part of Policing core duties. There are different types of warrant e.g. apprehension, means enquiry (outstanding fines) and Extract conviction warrants (return to Prison). Warrants are routinely issued by courts and require close management and robust risk assessments to be conducted to ensure enquiries are being conducted and that individuals wanted for the most serious crimes are being arrested timeously. Since January 2020 Officers in Inverclyde have executed over 90 warrants and will continue to target those individuals who actively try to avoid the justice system.

Crimestoppers Initiative – Inverclyde currently has the highest drug misuse prevalence rate in Scotland for both young men and young women (15-24) which is significantly higher than that of other areas in Scotland. To address this issue, Inverclyde Police are working with Crimestoppers to deliver a high profile local campaign to encourage co-operation from our communities to speak up whilst providing assurances of anonymity. The campaign narrative explains that Crimestoppers is independent of the Police. It is anticipated that calls to Crimestoppers will increase the flow of intelligence, particularly around the sale and supply of illicit drugs within our communities and overcome the ‘wall of silence’ which exists in some areas where people may fear retribution should they report matters to the police. This will shape future enforcement tactics, provide a clearer picture of drugs within the community and assist Police in targeting the right people, in the right place at the right time.

Theft – February 2020 – Police responded to information from the public regarding males stealing from AMP building, Dubbs Road in Port Glasgow. Officers attended and observed two males fleeing from the property. After a short chase one of the suspects was apprehended and found in possession of various tools and gloves used to steal material from the building. After diligent enquiries officers traced and apprehended the 2nd male whereby both have been reported for the offence and currently pending trial.