

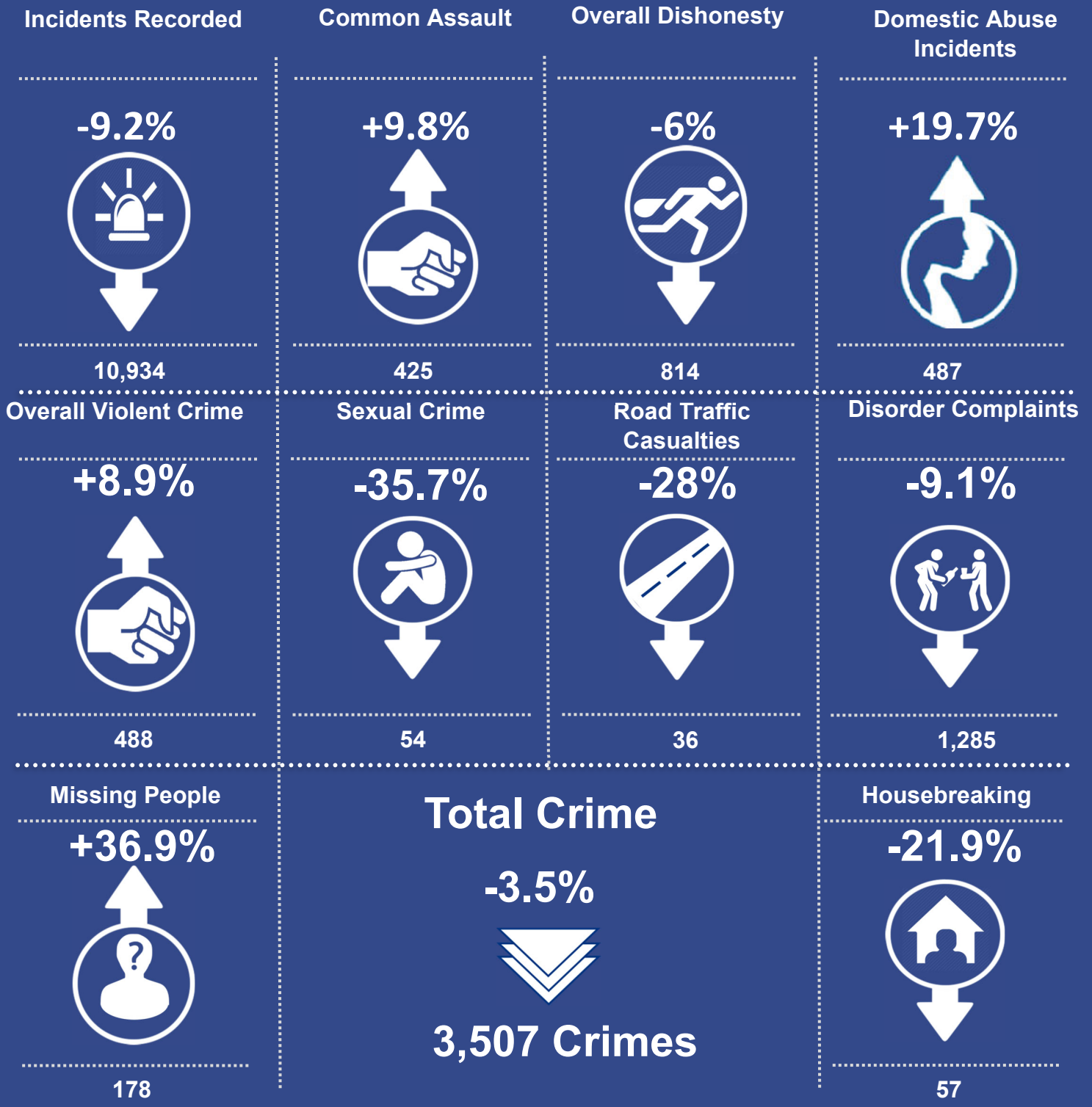


POLICE
SCOTLAND
POILEAS ALBA

Inverclyde Performance Summary Report

Reporting Period: 01/04/2024 - 31/10/2024

Unless otherwise stated, all data provided is for the period 1 April - 31 October 2024, and all comparisons are made with the same period in 2023/24. All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of 27 November 2024.





Inverclyde Performance Summary Report

Reporting Period: 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2024

SECTION	PAGE NUMBER
Introduction	2
Executive Summary	3
Demand Analysis	4
Antisocial Behaviour, Violence & Disorder	5
Protecting Vulnerable People	6
Acquisitive Crime	7
Cyber and Digital Crime	7
Road Safety and Road Crime	8
Public Confidence - Complaints & Allegations	9
Local Priority Policing Outcomes - Case Studies	10
Forthcoming Initiatives	10

Introduction

I am pleased to present this report to the Police Fire and Rescue Committee for its information and consideration. Please note that all data included in this report are management information and not official statistics. All data are sourced from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of date of publication. Unless stated otherwise, numerical comparisons are against the comparable period in the preceding reporting year.

Chief Superintendent Rhona Fraser
 Local Policing Commander
 Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division

INVERCLYDE POLICING PRIORITIES 2023 - 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Violent crime in Inverclyde increased by 8.9% to 488 crimes, with common assaults up 9.8% and serious violence rising by two crimes, to a total of 63. The detection rate remained strong at 70.1%. Weapons offences fell by seven percent, supported by initiatives like "No Knives, Better Lives". Disorder complaints dropped by 9.1%, vandalism by 20.3%, and wilful fireraising by 68%. Inverclyde recorded 93 hate crimes, with race being the most targeted characteristic.

Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Sexual crimes in Inverclyde decreased by 35.7% to 54 offences, with 57% being non-contact and/or cyber-enabled. The detection rate rose to 77.8%, exceeding last year's 63.1% and the national average of 58.3%. Missing person reports increased by 36.9%, totalling 178, due in part to improved recording practices. Around a third involved care-experienced young people, with all individuals safely traced. Domestic abuse incidents rose by 19.7% to 487, with MATAAC and MARAC continuing to support victims. Five confirmed and five suspected drug-related deaths occurred in the reporting period, with ongoing efforts to tackle drug harm through partnership working, education and enforcement.

Acquisitive and Cyber/Digital Crime

Recorded crimes of dishonesty in Inverclyde fell by 6% to 814, contrary to a 0.9% national rise. The detection rate rose to 51.2%, surpassing both last year's local rate and the national average. Housebreaking crimes dropped by 21.2%, with a 22.8% reduction in dwelling house incidents. Fraud crimes fell by nearly 25%, though it remains a key threat due to continually evolving tactics. Shoplifting rose by 21.7%, with a small number of repeat offenders responsible for a significant portion of crimes. Proactive measures, including local engagement and national collaboration, continue to be developed to address dishonesty and cyber-enabled crimes.

Road Safety and Road Crime

Inverclyde recorded 36 road traffic casualties, a 28% decrease from 2023, with no fatalities and fewer serious and slight injuries. Road traffic offences dropped by 0.9%, compared to a 7.2% national rise. Local officers have supported several national safety campaigns, including National Speeding and Young Drivers Fatal 5 Campaigns. The West Safety Camera Unit continues to aid local efforts, focusing on high-risk areas to improve road safety through strategic camera deployments and community engagement.

POLICE SCOTLAND'S POLICING PRIORITIES 2023 - 2026

Protecting vulnerable people

Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division continues to support a multi-agency approach to reduce drug deaths, to engage with Scottish Government and stakeholders to influence approaches to supporting individuals with complex mental health needs, and to work in partnership to develop local effective and efficient pathways to support vulnerable people.

Tackling crime in the digital age

Police in Inverclyde continue to benefit from the support of specialised Police Scotland units such as the Cybercrime Unit and the Economic Crime and Financial Investigation Unit, amongst others. There are continued efforts to ensure our Officers have the training, resources and equipment needed to tackle the threat arising from cyber related criminality and technological advancement.

Working with communities

The Division continues to support this Police Scotland priority and to develop strategic partnerships to find synergy in policy making and shared resources. Police in Inverclyde recognise the importance of engaging with communities to understand their needs, and strive to support innovation in local partnership settings.

Support for operational policing

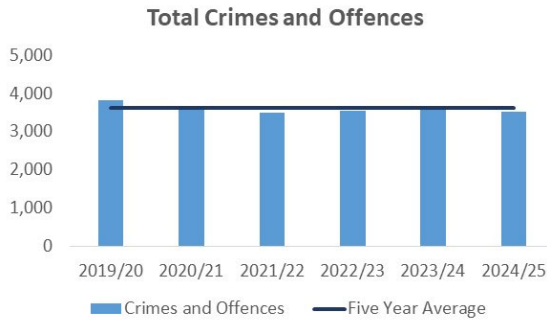
Inverclyde Police continue to link in closely with Police Scotland's Corporate Services who enable and support operational resources to deliver against the strategic priorities and their outcomes. As part of the Digitally-Enabled Policing Programme, migration to new national Core Operational Systems has led to increased efficiency and deployability of local Police Officers, allowing them to more effectively serve Inverclyde's communities.

DEMAND ANALYSIS

PYTD - PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE

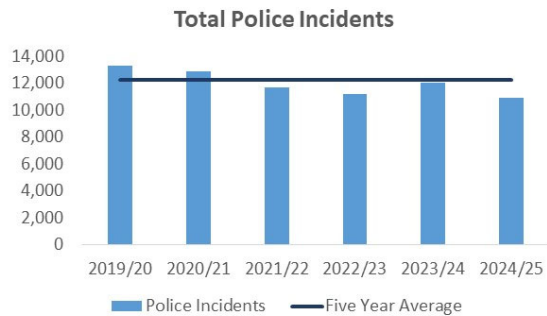
CYTD - CURRENT YEAR TO DATE

CRIME	PYTD	CYTD	INCIDENTS	PYTD	CYTD
Total Crimes & Offences	3,633	3,507	Total number of incidents	12,041	10,934



Crime and Offences

Year on year, crimes and offences in Inverclyde have fallen by 3.5%, to a total of 3,507. Conversely, recorded crimes and offences have increased by 2.4% at a national level. In Inverclyde, the overall decrease in recorded crime has arisen from a drop across several crime categories, including crimes of dishonesty (e.g. fraud and theft by housebreaking), sexual crimes (e.g. sexual assault, indecent communications), crimes of damage and reckless behaviour (e.g. vandalism and wilful fireraising), crimes against society (e.g. weapons carriage offences, drug possession and supply), and road traffic offences (e.g. speeding, drink and drug driving). The overall detection rate for crimes and offences in Inverclyde is 72.2%, an increase on the previous year's position of 64.2%; the detection rate also remains above the current national position of 66.2%.



Police Incidents

Police incidents recorded this year have dropped by 9.2%, totalling 10,934. One contributory factor in this decrease is a reduction of nearly 37% in silent or abandoned 999 calls, suggesting that technical solutions addressing accidental emergency dials from certain smartphones are working. Despite the decrease in the total number of incidents, there are indications of growing demand in relation to certain issues, including a rise in recorded domestic incidents/domestic bail checks, child protection incidents, missing person incidents and drug/substance misuse incidents. We continue to work closely with partner agencies to ensure the implementation of the most appropriate and proportionate Police response to identified issues.

VIOLENCE, ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND DISORDER



Violence

Overall violent crime has risen by 8.9% compared to the same period in 2023/24, with a total of 488 recorded crimes. 63 crimes of serious violence have been recorded - a rise of two crimes on the previous year; while common assaults have increased by 9.8% to a total of 425.

The detection rate for violent crimes in Inverclyde in the reporting period was 70.1%, remaining above the previous year's rate of 66.5% and the national rate of 69.8%. Nearly half of all violent crimes in Inverclyde occur in private spaces like homes and flats, posing unique challenges for law enforcement due to limited investigative opportunities (e.g., lack of witnesses or CCTV). Despite these difficulties, especially in cases of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, officers are trained to identify alternative investigative methods.

Weapons Offences

106 offensive/bladed weapons offences were recorded in the current reporting period, a decrease of seven percent on the previous year. Community Policing Officers and the Partnerships and Preventions Team have worked across Inverclyde schools to deliver programs like "No Knives, Better Lives" and have also engaged with local community groups to address specific antisocial behaviour concerns.

Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Complaints regarding disorder in Inverclyde decreased by 9.1%, with a total of 1,285 incidents reported. Tackling disorder and antisocial behaviour remains a key focus of the Inverclyde Partnership Hub, a police-led multi-agency initiative that collaborates with statutory and third-sector organisations. Crimes involving damage and reckless behaviour also fell by 23.8% compared to the previous year, with reports of vandalism falling by 20.3%. Wilful fireraising crimes fell significantly with 16 crimes compared to 50 in the same period last year (-68%).

Hate Crime

During the reporting period, 93 hate crimes were recorded in Inverclyde. In addition to the impact of new legislation, changes in methodology and counting rules arising from the introduction of new recording systems make comparisons with previous years challenging. Race was the most commonly targeted protected characteristic in Inverclyde hate crimes, featuring in approximately a third of cases.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Sexual Crime

A total of 54 sexual crimes were recorded in Inverclyde during the reporting period, a decrease of 35.7% on the same period in 2023/24. Ten crimes in the reporting period involved non-recent reporting. The majority (approximately 57%) of sexual offences in Inverclyde were non-contact offences, including cyber-enabled crimes such as indecent communications, possession of indecent images of children, and threats to disclose intimate images. The detection rate for sexual crimes was 77.8%, compared to 63.1% in the previous year and the national rate of 58.3%.

Missing People

Inverclyde Police take all missing person reports seriously, using a rigorous threat assessment to determine potential risks to the individual or others. During the reporting period, 87 individuals collectively featured in a total of 178 missing person reports. Compared to the same period in 2023, total missing person reports increased by 36.9%. A significant contributory factor for this increase is the National Missing Persons Unit's implementation of national business rules relating to how these incidents are recorded and when forms must be raised, which have helped establish an accurate reflection of the number of missing people and the resulting demand of these incidents on frontline officers. All individuals were traced, with the average missing period lasting 14 hours. Around a third of all missing people in the reporting period were care-experienced young people.

Domestic Abuse

Tackling domestic abuse remains a top priority for the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division. Although domestic abuse is widely considered under-reported, the police are committed to providing a professional, sensitive, and consistent response to victims. Caution should be exercised in comparing the number of domestic abuse which involved crimes being recorded, and the detection rate, due to a change in methodology and counting rules in the current reporting year arising from the introduction of new recording systems. With these caveats in mind, recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Inverclyde increased by 19.7% over the previous year, reaching a total of 487 incidents. 240 of these incidents (49%) resulted in a crime being recorded. (MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination) and MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) continue to play critical roles in protecting victims, offering tailored support, and ensuring accountability among all stakeholders involved.

Drug-Related Deaths

Five confirmed and five suspected drug-related deaths occurred in Inverclyde during the reporting period, with toxicology results still awaited in relation to the latter. A range of substances are suspected of having contributed to these deaths, with cocaine and bromazolam commonly featuring. We continue to collaborate with various partners to combat drug-related harm, including delivering educational programs in schools and taking proactive measures to address drug supply and distribution within the community.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME



Converse to a rise of 0.9% at a national level, recorded crimes of dishonesty in Inverclyde decreased by six percent on the previous year, with a total of 814 recorded crimes. The detection rate for crimes of dishonesty was 51.2%, remaining above the rate for Inverclyde in the same period in 2023/24 (42.6%) as well as the current national rate (34.6%).

A total of 57 housebreaking crimes (including attempts) were recorded, a decrease of 21.2% on the previous year. Although dwelling houses continue to be the most commonly targeted property type in these crimes, 13 fewer dwelling housebreaking crimes were recorded - a reduction of 22.8% on the previous year.

Although fraud continues to be identified as a key threat in Inverclyde due to ever-evolving methods used by fraudsters. However, recorded crimes have fallen by nearly a quarter on last year's figures, with a total of 90 crimes reported. A wide range of fraud crimes have been observed in the recent period, including conveyancing scams, bank vishing schemes, doorstep crime and fraudulently obtaining monies via use of ATM cash-trapping devices.

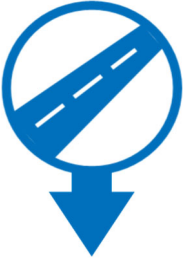
Theft by shoplifting crimes constituted more than half of the overall total number of crimes of dishonesty, with recorded shoplifting crimes rising by 21.7% on the previous year to a total of 426. A relatively small number of prolific repeat offenders have contributed to this rise, with nine individuals charged in relation to nearly a third of the total number of recorded shoplifting crimes. Although a wide range of goods were stolen in shoplifting crimes, alcoholic beverages continue to be targeted most commonly in these crimes.

CYBER & DIGITAL CRIME

Cyber-enabled crime remains a significant concern for the communities of Inverclyde. Half of all crimes flagged with relevant cyber-crime tags fall under crimes of dishonesty, primarily fraud. Miscellaneous offences, including general telecommunications crimes, make up the next largest category of recorded cyber-enabled incidents. While sexual extortion (often carried out via social media platforms) and sexual offences, such as indecent communications and the disclosure of intimate images, represent a smaller proportion of these crimes, they are acknowledged as key threats to Inverclyde's communities.

We actively raise awareness of online fraud through extensive local partnerships and collaborate nationally with the Cyber Scotland Partnership and the financial industry. We also work with national organisations such as CEOP, Childline, Barnardo's, the UK Safer Internet Centre, the Lucy Faithfull Foundation Scotland, and the Internet Watch Foundation to promote prevention and awareness of online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Road Traffic Casualties		2023/24	2024/25
	Number of persons killed on our roads	0	0
	Number of persons seriously injured	12	11
	Number of persons slightly injured	38	25
	Number of children seriously injured	0	1

Road Traffic Data from 01/04/2024 to 31/10/2024

Total Road Traffic Offences



During the reporting period, Inverclyde recorded 36 road traffic casualties, marking a 28% reduction compared to the same period in 2023 (n=50). Notably, there were no road fatalities, and serious injuries decreased by one, while slight injuries dropped by 13.

A total of 575 road traffic offences were recorded in Inverclyde during the period, reflecting a 0.9% decrease compared to the same timeframe in 2023/24. This contrasts with a national increase of 7.2% in road traffic offences.

Police in Inverclyde received support from Police Scotland's Road Policing Unit (RPU) as part of various road safety and crime prevention campaigns. Initiatives included the National Speed Campaign and Young Drivers Fatal 5 Campaign in September, as well as the Pedestrian Safety and Get Ready for Winter Campaigns in October.

The West Safety Camera Unit (SCU) of Safety Cameras Scotland continues to assist Inverclyde Police across the local authority area. Camera deployment is guided by a detailed assessment of collision volume, severity, and causation. Officers will maintain close coordination with the RPU, partners, and the community to enhance road safety efforts.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE: COMPLAINTS & USER SATISFACTION

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE POLICE

From 01/04/2024 -

TOTAL COMPLAINT CASES RECEIVED			TOTAL NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED			Allegation Category and Type			YTD	PYTD	% change
YTD	LYTD	% Change	YTD	LYTD	% Change						
40	58	-31.0%	87	82	6.1%	On Duty - TOTAL	76	53	43.4%		
						Assault	9	4	125.0%		
						Corrupt Practice	1	0	x		
						Discriminatory Behaviour	1	1	0.0%		
						Excessive Force	12	2	500.0%		
						Incivility	10	12	-16.7%		
						Irregularity in Procedure	36	26	38.5%		
						Neglect of Duty	0	2	-100.0%		
						Oppressive Conduct/Harassment	2	1	100.0%		
						Other - Criminal	0	2	-100.0%		
						Other - Non Criminal	1	1	0.0%		
						Traffic Irregularity/Offence	1	2	-50.0%		
						Unlawful/Unnecessary Arrest or Detention	3	0	x		
						Quality Of Service - TOTAL	11	29	-62.1%		
						Policy/Procedure	5	6	-16.7%		
						Service Delivery	3	7	-57.1%		
						Service Outcome	3	16	-81.3%		
						Grand Total	87	82	6.1%		

In the reporting period April to September 2024, a total of 87 allegations were received in Inverclyde. 76 of these related to 'on duty' allegations, with nearly half of on duty allegations pertaining to irregularity in procedure. A further 11 allegations were received relating to quality of service.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

From 01/04/2024 - 31/10/2024

83.7% of respondents to the 'Your Police' survey reported that they felt safe in their local area, compared to the national figure of 85.4%. 44.1% of respondents reported that their concern about crime had increased in the last 12 months, lower than the national proportion of 48%.

43.8% agreed, or strongly agreed that they had confidence in the Police in their local area, with 41.6% of respondents giving this response at the national level. 28.9% of Inverclyde respondents expressed the opinion that the police were doing a good job in the local area (nationally, 34.1% of respondents responded this way).

Key concerns raised by the community include drug-related issues such as substance abuse and drug dealing, and local serious and organised crime activity. Antisocial behaviour (ASB) also remains a significant concern, particularly incidents involving e-bikes, e-scooters, and youth disorder. Road safety issues, including antisocial driving, speeding, illegal vehicles, and the use of mobile phones while driving, were frequently highlighted.

LOCAL POLICING PRIORITY OUTCOMES – CASE STUDIES

Fireworks Safety Education

In October, officers in Inverclyde collaborated with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to deliver joint fireworks safety sessions to young people in schools. This included a session for S1 pupils at St Stephen's High School. The inputs focused on the heightened risk of accidents and injuries to young people associated with fireworks and bonfires. These sessions were well received, with positive feedback highlighting their relevance and effectiveness in raising awareness among pupils.

Fraud Awareness Outreach

The Preventions Team provided a fraud and scams awareness session to the Gateway Group at Old Gourrock and Ashton Parish Church. Attendees were given essential information and practical advice on preventing a variety of scams, including telephone 'vishing' scams, email and SMS 'phishing' scams, social media fraud, and doorstep crime. The session was designed to empower community members with the knowledge needed to recognize and avoid common fraud tactics.

Home and Vehicle Security Engagement

As part of the 'After Dark' campaign, which addresses the increased risk of theft during darker evenings, Preventions & Interventions Officers engaged with members of the public at the Oak Mall Shopping Centre. Officers distributed guidance booklets offering practical advice on enhancing home and vehicle security. The engagement aimed to raise awareness and encourage proactive measures to reduce the opportunities for theft during the winter months.

FORTHCOMING INITIATIVES

Road Safety Initiatives

Police in Inverclyde will collaborate with colleagues from the Operational Support Division's Road Policing Unit to deliver several road safety campaigns during the first quarter of 2025. These include the National Seat Belt Campaign in January, the Commercial Vehicles Campaign, running from late January into early February, and in March, the Pedestrians and Older Drivers Campaign and the National Speeding Campaign. These initiatives aim to enhance road safety in Inverclyde by positively influencing driver and pedestrian behavior and raising awareness of key safety issues.

Freshers Week

The Preventions Team are attending Freshers events at the Finnart Campus and Waterfront Campus on 29 and 30 January, in order to build positive relationships with students, share personal safety information and enhance community safety throughout this period.

Sextortion Inputs

With support from Education Services in Inverclyde, the Preventions Team will be continuing, and will soon conclude sexual extortion inputs to S5/6 pupils in all Inverclyde High Schools. These inputs have been well received and have raised awareness amongst a particularly 'at risk' demographic for crimes of this type.