

**Report To:** Education & Communities  
Committee

**Date:** 30 October 2012

**Report By:** Head of Safer & Inclusive  
Communities

**Report No:**  
EDUCOM/38/12/DH

**Contact Officer:** Drew Hall

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**Subject:** Prison Watch Scotland (HMP Greenock)

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the introduction of Prison Watch Scotland at HMP Greenock

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Prison Watch was formally introduced at HMP Greenock. Prison Watch is a crime preventative initiative similar to Neighbourhood Watch in the community but deals with the area in and around the Prison.
- 2.2 Prison Watch provides the opportunity for members of the public to report any suspicious or criminal activity in and around HMP Greenock using a dedicated telephone number at HMP Greenock.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee note the current progress of Prison Watch at HMP Greenock

John Arthur  
Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Prison Watch was introduced in February 2011 at HMP Edinburgh and is a crime preventative initiative similar to Neighbourhood Watch in the community but deals with the area in and around the Prison. Prison Watch provides the opportunity for members of the public to report any suspicious or criminal activity using a 24 hours dedicated hotline number based at HMP Greenock (01475 787420) which allows for prompt action to be taken and a subsequent police response if required. Members of the public who report any suspicious or criminal activity can choose to report anonymously.
- 4.2 At HMP Edinburgh there was a particular problem with illegal items being introduced into the Prison by means of over the perimeter wall, in property and at visits. In the first 6 months of its introduction, the Prison had received over 25 calls including information about persons acting suspiciously, items being thrown over perimeter fence, intelligence regarding the supply of drugs into the Prison and a named prisoner harassing a female in the community. Items thrown over the wall have subsequently reduced by 76%.
- 4.3 At HMP Greenock, analysis carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 highlighted a number of unauthorised or illicit items and substances seized by HMP Greenock from being thrown over the perimeter wall amounting to a street value of approximately £3630.50/£4327.00 and a Prison Value of approximately £26,242.00/£49,950.00. Items included Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin, Valium Tablets and mobile telephones.
- 4.4 A direct marketing campaign was launched within a 150 metre zone around Greenock Prison and literature distributed to 574 residential properties and 12 commercial properties. Coverage of the scheme was also noted in *The Greenock Telegraph* and *Your Radio* (both 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012) and will also be included in literature from River Clyde Homes and Oak Tree Housing Association.

## 5.0 DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE

- 5.1 Leaflets were distributed by Community Wardens to the 574 residential properties and 12 commercial properties. Intelligence was received during this time of items being hidden in open land near to HMP Greenock.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

None

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Equalities

None

6.4 Depopulation

None

## 7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Representatives from HMP Greenock and Inverclyde Council Safer & Inclusive Communities met with the Cowdenknowes Residents Association at their meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012.