

# Public Document Pack



To: Councillor Stewart, the Depute Provost, Convener; Councillor Lesley Dunbar, Vice Convener; ; ; and Councillors Allard, Duncan, Greig, Houghton, MacGregor, Townson and Wheeler.

Town House,  
ABERDEEN 3 March 2021

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

The Members of the **PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE** are requested to meet in **Virtual - Remote Meeting on TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 2021 at 10.00 am.**

FRASER BELL  
CHIEF OFFICER - GOVERNANCE

### **B U S I N E S S**

#### **NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS**

- 1 There is no urgent business at this time

#### **DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS**

- 2 There is no exempt business at this time

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 3 Members are requested to intimate any declarations of interest (Pages 5 - 6)

#### **DEPUTATIONS**

- 4 Deputations - none expected until after the final agenda is published

## **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 5 Minute of Previous Meeting of 2 December 2020 (Pages 7 - 12)

## **COMMITTEE PLANNER**

- 6 Committee Planner (Pages 13 - 16)

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

- 7 No notices of motion have been received

## **REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL, COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

- 8 Referrals from Council, Committees or Sub Committees

## **POLICE AND FIRE RESCUE SERVICE**

- 9 Police Scotland Performance Report : April - September 2020 - POL/21/058  
(Pages 17 - 42)

- 10 Police Scotland Thematic Report - Violence towards Police staff - POL/21/059  
(Pages 43 - 50)

- 11 Police Scotland - Verbal Update : Current Lockdown

- 12 Police Scotland - Letter regarding North East Division Senior Management Changes (Pages 51 - 52)

- 13 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Verbal Update : Current Lockdown

## **PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

- 14 Protective Services - Verbal Update : Current Lockdown

- 15 Date of Next Meeting - 28 April 2021 at 10.00am

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Derek Jamieson, tel 01224 523057 or email [derjamieson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:derjamieson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)



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## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

You must consider at the earliest stage possible whether you have an interest to declare in relation to any matter which is to be considered. You should consider whether reports for meetings raise any issue of declaration of interest. Your declaration of interest must be made under the standing item on the agenda, however if you do identify the need for a declaration of interest only when a particular matter is being discussed then you must declare the interest as soon as you realise it is necessary. The following wording may be helpful for you in making your declaration.

I declare an interest in item (x) for the following reasons .....

*For example, I know the applicant / I am a member of the Board of X / I am employed by...* and I will therefore withdraw from the meeting room during any discussion and voting on that item.

### **OR**

I have considered whether I require to declare an interest in item (x) for the following reasons ..... however, having applied the objective test, I consider that my interest is so remote / insignificant that it does not require me to remove myself from consideration of the item.

### **OR**

I declare an interest in item (x) for the following reasons ..... however I consider that a specific exclusion applies as my interest is as a member of xxxx, which is

- (a) a devolved public body as defined in Schedule 3 to the Act;
- (b) a public body established by enactment or in pursuance of statutory powers or by the authority of statute or a statutory scheme;
- (c) a body with whom there is in force an agreement which has been made in pursuance of Section 19 of the Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990 by Scottish Enterprise or Highlands and Islands Enterprise for the discharge by that body of any of the functions of Scottish Enterprise or, as the case may be, Highlands and Islands Enterprise; or
- (d) a body being a company:-
  - i. established wholly or mainly for the purpose of providing services to the Councillor's local authority; and
  - ii. which has entered into a contractual arrangement with that local authority for the supply of goods and/or services to that local authority.

### **OR**

I declare an interest in item (x) for the following reasons.....and although the body is covered by a specific exclusion, the matter before the Committee is one that is quasi-judicial / regulatory in nature where the body I am a member of:

- is applying for a licence, a consent or an approval
- is making an objection or representation
- has a material interest concerning a licence consent or approval
- is the subject of a statutory order of a regulatory nature made or proposed to be made by the local authority.... and I will therefore withdraw from the meeting room during any discussion and voting on that item.

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

2 December 2020

ABERDEEN, 2 December 2020. Minute of Meeting of the PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Stewart, Convener; Councillor Lesley Dunbar, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Allard, Duncan, Greig, Houghton, MacGregor (as substitute for Councillor Al-Samarai), Townson and Wheeler.

**The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found here [here](#), whilst the recording of the meeting can be found [here](#). Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Convener welcomed all to the meeting and extended Christmas Wishes and a hope for a happy, peaceful and enjoyable family time to all. The Convener intimated that hope was in sight with the pandemic vaccine.

The Convener expressed appreciation to the Chief Officer – Governance, the Committee Clerk, fellow Councillors and Councillor Lesley Dunbar for her support as Vice Convener.

Members heard that as the Public Protection Committee continued to look out for the safety of everybody in the City, it was appropriate to remind citizens and all to observe the advertised public safety measures during the pandemic.

The Chief Officer – Governance provided a brief summary of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and Standing Orders in respect of conduct at meetings.

### **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

- 1 There was no Exempt Business.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 2 There were no declarations.

### **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 7 OCTOBER 2020**

- 3 The Committee had before it the draft Minute of its previous meeting.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

2 December 2020

Members were advised of an omission from the minute following presentation of Article 13, whereby Councillor Duncan was substituted by Councillor Graham which had been captured electronically but not represented within the minute.

**The Committee resolved :-**

- (i) to note the omission of Councillor Graham substituting for Councillor Duncan following presentation of Article 13 and that this would be recorded as an amendment to the Minute; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the minute as a correct record.

**COMMITTEE PLANNER**

4 The Committee had before it the Planner.

Members heard of the intended reporting and that consultation would take place with Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and all relevant Council services to further plan reporting intentions.

A topic for a future thematic report by Police Scotland was suggested which would be discussed.

**The Committee resolved :-**

- (i) to note the Planner; and
- (ii) to note the suggested future Police Scotland Thematic Report.

**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PPC AND THE SPA**

5 The Committee had before it the letter sent from the Convener to the Scottish Police Authority following the decision taken by the Committee at the meeting on 7 October 2020 and the response to that letter received from the Authority.

**The Committee resolved :-**

to note the communications.

**POLICE SCOTLAND - THEMATIC REPORT - CONTACT ASSESSMENT MODEL (CAM) - POL/20/223**

6 The Committee had before it the report from the Local Commander, North East Division, Police Scotland which provided information in relation to the Contact Assessment Model (CAM).



## **PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

2 December 2020

The Committee heard from Chief Inspector Mike Whitford who made reference to the recording shared with the members prior to the meeting and provided an overview of the report.

Members heard of the innovative use of technology and nationally and locally based resources to maximise efficiency and better manage use of front line resources to enhance service delivery and further promote public safety.

**The report recommended :-**

that the Committee discuss, comment on and endorse the report.

**The Committee resolved :-**

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to congratulate Police Scotland on the introduction of new processes and use of technology during the challenges of the pandemic.

### **POLICE SCOTLAND - PRESENTATION ON DRUGS & VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

7 The Committee received a combined presentation from the Chief Officer – Early Intervention and Community Engagement in his role as Chair of the Criminal Justice Group of Community Planning Aberdeen, and from Detective Chief Inspector McPhail, CID and Intelligence, North East Division.

Members heard of the activities undertaken to manage and reduce instances of 'Cuckooing', which in Policing terms is described as taking over a person's home by intimidation or other means, including the use of violence, by an Organised Crime Group (OCG) for the purposes of utilising the premises in the course of criminality. The term 'cuckooing' is taken from the Cuckoo bird who invades the nests of other birds and utilises it for its own purposes.

**The Committee resolved :-**

to compliment and endorse the presentation given.

### **SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - ABERDEEN CITY LOCAL FIRE PLAN 2020 - SFR/20/225**

8 The Committee had before it the report from the Local Senior Officer (LSO), Scottish Fire and Service (SFRS) which presented the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2020.

Members heard of the legal requirement that SFRS must submit the Local Fire and Rescue Plan to the Council for approval, under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and that if the Council approved the plan, SFRS must publish it.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

2 December 2020

Members were reminded that the Council may monitor and provide feedback to SFRS on how SFRS carried out its functions within the Council's area.

**The report recommended :-**

that the Committee consider and approve the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2020.

**The Committee resolved :-**

to approve the recommendation.

**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT - SFR/20/229**

**9** The Committee had before it the report from the Local Senior Officer (LSO), Scottish Fire and Service (SFRS) which presented the SFRS Aberdeen City Performance for Quarters 1 and 2 of 2020/21.

Members heard that since the pandemic, SFRS had required to review and adapt processes and operations to continue successful delivery of their priorities and objectives.

Consideration of adapted process had seen the Legislative Fire Safety Officers in Aberdeen identify that they might be able to carry out a successful audit of a Care Home (or other premise) using Video Messaging applications. This was arranged with a local Care Home and carried out successfully. The Care Inspectorate were informed prior to the audit and asked if they could also join the Video Call to establish if this approach could be used by them. This was a success and the work was identified as best practice by SFRS Prevention and Protection Directorate and was now being adopted as a national approach during the pandemic and beyond as a tool to carry out audits in remote rural locations locally and nationally.

**The report recommended :-**

that the Committee consider and note the performance data provided in Appendix A in relation to the SFRS 2020/21 Performance Report.

**The Committee resolved :-**

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to acknowledge and commend SFRS for the innovative adaption of process and use of technology during the pandemic period.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

2 December 2020

**FINAL PROGRESS REPORT ON JOINT INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION IN ABERDEEN CITY - OPE/20/224**

**10** The Committee had before it the report from the Chief Officer – Integrated Children’s and Family Services.

The report presented the outcome of the Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in need of Care and Protection in Aberdeen City which was presented to Committee in October 2019 and Committee had asked that an update report be brought back on delivery of the Inspections improvement plan.

Members heard that the report had been delayed due to cessation of inspection activity by the Care Inspectorate during the pandemic.

**The report recommended :-**

that the Committee note the report submitted to the Care Inspectorate detailing progress made by the partnership since October 2019 on the identified areas of improvement highlighted in their inspection report dated September 2019.

**The Committee resolved :-**

- (i) to approve the recommendation; and
- (ii) to note and commend innovative ways of working during the challenges of the pandemic and to instruct the Chief Social Work Officer to share the Committee’s appreciation to all relevant staff.

**RESILIENCE ANNUAL REPORT - COM/20/226**

**11** The Committee had before it the report from the Chief Officer – Governance which provided assurance on the Council’s resilience arrangements in fulfilment of its duties as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Members heard from the Assurance Manager who provided an overview of the year’s activities which had seen a strength in partnership working evident during local incidents and during the pandemic. The latter of which had presented additional assurance around Business Continuity Planning.

Members were advised that further Winter Planning Arrangements were in hand and that further details would be shared with Members and citizens once completed.

Members enquired of arrangements around EU Exit arrangements and following verbal assurances that this had not been forgotten and was ongoing, requested that an update be presented to them.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

2 December 2020

**The report recommended :-**

that the Committee note the progress made in developing the Council's organisational resilience arrangements during 2020.

**The Committee resolved :-**

- (i) to approve the recommendation;
- (ii) to note and commend the resilience provided during the pandemic through strengthened partnership working; and
- (iii) to request the Chief Officer – Governance to provide an update to Members on the EU Exit preparedness.

**UNITED KINGDOM ACCREDITATION SERVICE (UKAS) - OPE20/230**

**12** The Committee had before it the report from the Chief Officer – Operations and Protective Services which presented an update on the status of UKAS accreditation and the progress of recommendations of assessment of the Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory (ASSL).

The Convener advised members that the ASSL had become part of the international Food Authenticity Network and was now included in the Network's list of organisations having a general proficiency in food authenticity testing across a range of scientific techniques and food commodities and sought Members acknowledgement and congratulations.

Members heard an overview of the report from the Public Analyst who highlighted the journey to accreditation and explained some of the challenges to he continued success of the ASSL, which included retention and recruitment of staff.

**The report recommended :-**

that the Committee –

- (a) note the work being undertaken to implement and develop the recommendations of the 2020 UKAS re-assessment report, following a remote assessment carried out between 28 February and 19 March 2020; and
- (b) endorse the continuation of accreditation as a license to operate

**The Committee resolved :-**

- (i) to approve the recommendations;
- (ii) to acknowledge and congratulate the Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory (ASSL) on its inclusion in the international Food Authenticity Network; and
- (iii) to note the challenges to the retention and recruitment of staff.

- **COUNCILLOR JENNIFER STEWART, CONVENER**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	<b>PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE BUSINESS PLANNER</b> The Business Planner details the reports which have been instructed by the Committee as well as reports which the Functions expect to be submitting for the calendar year.								
2	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Chief Officer</b>	<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<b>Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T</b>	<b>Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred</b>
3	<b>2 0 2 1</b>								
4	<b>09 March 2021</b>								
5	Police Scotland - Performance Reports	Regular reporting of Performance Reports		George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.6		from intended meeting on 01.07.2020
6	Police Scotland - Thematic Report on Complaints	At Committee on 26.02.2020, during presentation of the Performamnce report. a request was made for a future Thematic Reports on Complaints. On 27.10.2020 at Committee, this was expanded to consider the Chief Constable's pledge to reduce violence against Police Officers which is now within the seperate Assaults Thematic	Complaints will be reported on 28.04.2021 in line with Police Scotland reporting timelines.	George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7	T	The Complaints Thematic will be reported on 28.04.2021.
7	Police Scotland - Thematic Report on Violence towards Police Staff	On 27.10.2020 at Committee, the Committee suggested a thematic to consider the Chief Constable's pledge to reduce violence against Police Officers. Originally intended to be reported with Complaints, this is now a sperate thematic encompassing Assaults.		George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7		
8	SFRS - Thematic Report	No suggested theme has been presented at this time.	Members are invited to prsent suggestio	Bruce Farquharson	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.1	R	No theme has been suggested by Members for this meeting and SFRS will present a verbal update on SFRS activity during this current pandemic lockdown.
9	Appropriate Adults	On 07.10.2020, PPC requested a further update on the topic be presented on 09.03.2021	Due to the operational response to the pandemic during Operation Snowdrop by the ACHSCP and NHS Grampian in partnership, together with staff abstractions, this report will be delayed until PPC on 28.04.2021	Carol Simmers	ACHSCP	ACHSCP		T	Due to the operational response to the pandemic during Operation Snowdrop by the ACHSCP and NHS Grampian in partnership, together with staff abstractions, this report will be delayed until PPC on 23.04.2021

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Directorate	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
2									
10	28 April 2021								
11	Police Scotland - Thematic Report	Complaints from Marcxh 2021		George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7		
12	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Six Monthly Performance Report	To present the most recent 6 monthly Performance Report		Bruce Farquharson	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.6		
13	Building Standards Activity Report	At its meeting on 10 October 2019, the Committee agreed to six monthly assurance reporting		Gordon Spence	Place	Governance	4.1		
14	Corporate Parenting Action Plan	On 04.12.2019, the Committee resolved to (iii)to instruct the Chief Officer Integrated Children and Family Services to bring Aberdeen City's refreshed Corporate Parenting Action plan to the Public Protection Committee in April 2021	for 28 April 2021	Graeme Simpson	Integrated Children's and Family Services	Operations	1.2		
15	Aberdeen Violence Against Women (AVAW) Strategy Update	At Committee on 07.10.2020, during presentation of the AVAW Strategy, it was requested that future reports and updates be presented, as approved by the Aberdeen City Executive Group for Public Protection.		Derek McGowan	Early Interventions and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.2		
16	Assurance Report - Child Poverty	To provide assurance to Committee on Child Povberty measures		Derek McGowan	Early Interventions and Community Empowerment	Customer	1.5		
17	Protective Services :	To provide an update on Protective Services operations during the pandemic period		Andrew Mottrison	Operations	Operations	3.1		
18	Asurance Report : Inspection of justice social work services	To provide assurance follwoing the recent Care inspectorate review		Claire Duncan	ACHSCP	ACHSCP	1.4		
19	Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report	To provide assurance to Committee on the work of the Adult Protection Committee		Sandra Macleod	ACHSCP	ACHSCP	1.1, 1.2		
20	23 June 2021								

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2	Report Title	Minute Reference/Committee Decision or Purpose of Report	Update	Report Author	Chief Officer	Directorate	Terms of Reference	Delayed or Recommended for removal or transfer, enter either D, R, or T	Explanation if delayed, removed or transferred
21	Police Scotland - Thematic Report	It is suggested that this theme be - Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy/Offshore Deaths		George Macdonald	Police Scotland	Police Scotland	5.7		
22	SFRS - Thematic Report	As suggested by Members on 9 March 2021		Bruce Farquharson	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.7		
23	Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report	To present the Chief Social Work Officer annual report.		Graeme Simpson	Integrated Children's and Family Services	Operations	1.6		
24	Child Protection Committee Annual Report	To present the Child Protection Committee annual report.		Graeme Simpson	Integrated Children's and Family Services	Operations	1.1, 1.2		
25									
26	<b>27 October 2021</b>								
27	Police Scotland - Police Scotland - Thematic Report								
28	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Six Monthly Performance Report	To present the most recent 6 monthly Performance Report		Bruce Farquharson	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.6		
29	Scottish Government update on new Building Regulations	At its meeting on 10 October 2019, the Committee agreed to receiving a future update in Autumn 2021	for Autumn 2021	Gordon Spence	Place	Governance	4.1		
30									
31	<b>07 December 2021</b>								
32	Police Scotland - Thematic Report								
33	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service : Thematic Report - topic tbc	Tthe Committee has agreed that SFRS would present the Thematic Reports where possible.	alternative meetings for Perf then Thematic	Bruce Farquharson	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	5.6		
34	Building Standards Activity Report	At its meeting on 10 October 2019, the Committee agreed to six monthly assurance reporting	for December 2021	Gordon Spence	Place	Governance	4.1		
35	Annual Committee Effectiveness Report								
36	Resilience Annual Report	As per ToR's; 2.1 monitor compliance with the Council's duties relating to resilience and local emergencies; this includes reviewing staffing arrangements and systems for incident management;2.3 receive assurance that services are maintaining and reviewing Business Continuity Plans in accordance with the priorities allocated to them; and2.5 monitor the Council's response to the National CONTEST strategy and associated plans relating to Counter Terrorism.	Last reported on 02.12.2020	Fraser Bell	Governance	Governance	2.1, 2.3, 2.5		
37	<b>2022</b>								

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## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Public Protection
<b>DATE</b>	9 March 2021
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Police Scotland Performance Report April - September 2020
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	POL/21/058
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Chief Superintendent George Macdonald, North East Division, Police Scotland (Appendix A)
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	5.6

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Police Scotland Performance Report – April – September 2020 for Committee scrutiny.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee discuss, comment on and endorse the report.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The report, attached as **Appendix A** provides a detailed account of Police Performance in Aberdeen City in support of agreed priorities, both local and national for April – September 2020.
- 3.2 Much of the content of the report reflects on the collaborative methods which Police Scotland now deploy across the City. The report demonstrates how communities can benefit when Community Planning Partners work within both the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.

3.3 The report covers a wide range of police activity including corporate governance; detection rates; response times; and audit methodology. The report provides year on year comparisons to allow the Committee to evaluate trends in performance.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### 6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
<b>Financial</b>	N/A		
<b>Legal</b>	N/A		
<b>Employee</b>	N/A		
<b>Customer</b>	N/A		
<b>Environment</b>	N/A		
<b>Technology</b>	N/A		
<b>Reputational</b>	N/A		

#### 7. OUTCOMES

<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Prosperous People</b>	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to make

	people more resilient and protect them from harm; where every child, irrespective of their circumstances, is supported to grow, develop and reach their full potential; and where all people in Aberdeen are entitled to live within our community in a manner in which they feel safe and protected from harm, supported when necessary and fully included in the life of the city.
<b>Prosperous Place</b>	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to support individuals and communities to live in healthy, sustainable ways; and the development of sustainable communities with strong and resilient communities.

<b>Design Principles of Target Operating Model</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Governance</b>	The Council has an oversight role of the North East Division of Police Scotland in terms of its performance and delivery of the Local Police Plan.
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	The Council and Police Scotland are Community Planning Aberdeen partners with a shared commitment to deliver the LOIP.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Equality &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>	<i>Not required</i>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<i>Not required</i>
<b>Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty</b>	<i>Not applicable</i>

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

## 10. APPENDICES (if applicable)

**11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

Chief Superintendent George Macdonald  
North East Division  
Police Scotland



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
Keeping people safe

## **Public Protection Committee**

**North East Division**  
**Aberdeen City**

**April - September 2020**



## Contents

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- Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism
- Miscellaneous



## **Introduction**

I am delighted to present the latest Public Protection Committee Report on behalf of Police Scotland, North-East Division providing a detailed account of Police Performance in the City of Aberdeen in support of agreed local and national priorities, between 1 April and 30 September 2020.

This report is set in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic and the significant challenges this has presented to our communities in all aspects of personal and professional life. The implications of the Coronavirus pandemic on crime and Policing are yet to be fully understood however during this reporting period there has been an impact on crime rates which may be attributed in part to the societal landscape created by the national response to the pandemic.

The almost complete removal of the late-night evening economy during the pandemic has contributed to a marked reduction in overall crimes of violence, particularly in the city centre as demand in respect of violent crime moved from the public towards the private space.

A significant reduction in Acquisitive Crime is also notable over this reporting period with the exception of crimes of Fraud, specifically non-contact and online Frauds. These crime types have continued to increase in Aberdeen City, in keeping with the trend throughout the country. This is attributed in part to the increased online presence created by the lockdown measures implemented in tackling Coronavirus. Significant Police operations are ongoing locally and nationally to raise awareness and prevent such crimes and these are dependant, like all our activities, on strong partnerships within the City of Aberdeen in pursuit of improving the lives of the communities we serve.

The Police have had a pivotal role to play in the response to Coronavirus during this period, supporting communities to stay safe and implementing regulatory measures introduced to support this aim. We have at all times sought to work with communities, our response based on the 4 E's approach, specifically to engage, explain, encourage and as a last resort, enforce compliance with the legislation.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all members of our community, businesses and partner organisations who have supported Officers in the collective effort to keep our communities safe from the effects of the virus and in the execution of our more traditional role. I would also like to pay tribute to our Local Policing Teams including Police Staff, Special Constables and Police Scotland Youth Volunteers for their tireless efforts in a time of such significant adversity.

Regards

George Macdonald  
Chief Superintendent



## Staffing

	Authorised Establishment	September 2020	Difference
Police Officers <sup>1</sup>	1114.0 FTE	1045.12 FTE	-68.88 FTE
	September 2019	September 2020	Difference
Police Staff <sup>1</sup>	119.37 FTE	119.18 FTE	-0.19 FTE

<sup>1</sup> North East Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray and Aberdeen City) Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

The authorised establishment of North East Division remains unchanged at **1114.0 FTE**. During the reporting period we were below our establishment of Police Officers by **68.88 FTE** across the Division and dipped just under our Police Staff establishment by the smallest of margins.

An effective balance between those leaving the organisation and those joining is maintained through established governance processes. We have two groups of newly recruited Officers who will be joining the Division in the coming months following their initial training at the Scottish Police College.

In Aberdeen City we currently have **70** Probationary Officers based at various operational stations throughout the area.

Our Community Policing Teams are supported by **23** Special Constables working alongside their full time colleagues across the City. As ever these officers continue to show tremendous dedication and commitment to their role, and even more so during the challenging times of the pandemic.





## Complaints About the Police

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	%Change 2020 v 2019
Overall Satisfaction of How Police Dealt With Your incident <sup>2</sup>	N/A	75.0%	87.0%		-12.0%
Complaints Received About The Police	N/A	165	130	+35	+26.9%
Number of Complaints Per 10,000 Police Incidents	N/A	42.1	33.2	+8.9	+26.8%
On Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	187	153	+34	+22.2%
Off Duty Allegations Raised	N/A	0	1	-1	-
Quality of Service Allegations	N/A	26	14	+8	+57.1%
<b>Total Allegations</b>	N/A	<b>213</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>+45</b>	<b>+26.8%</b>

<sup>2</sup> North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray)

Levels of overall satisfaction remain high at **75%** and while down on the previous year, are in line with the national average. It is acknowledged that the service, like many others, has faced significant challenges associated with the Coronavirus pandemic. With dynamic and evolving laws, regulations and guidance throughout the reporting period, we have had to make swift, and at times difficult, decisions around Officer deployment and attendance in our efforts to keep both the public and our Officers safe. As we continue to adapt and learn how to provide the best service in challenging circumstances, a continual process of self-assessment and sharing good practice continues to be at the forefront of our commitment to service delivery

While it is encouraging to note that no off duty allegations were raised, there has been a 26.9% increase in the number of complaints about the Police received during this reporting period. With any rise in complaint numbers there is also a rise in the number of allegations, particularly so in light of recommendations from the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner (PIRC) which aim to ensure that each aspect of a complaint is recorded separately. Ultimately this can result in one complaint generating several allegations.

A number of complaints stem from a lack of understanding of Police powers and procedures particularly during this challenging time. These allegations are categorised as 'Quality of Service' allegations which have increased by **8** in total, or **57.1%**. Our Front Line Resolution process, which affords the complainer an opportunity to ask questions and receive an explanation regarding actions taken by Police, remains the primary means by which complaints are resolved in the North East.

Where complaints are not resolved in this way our Service Delivery Unit ensure a robust investigation is undertaken, in partnership with the national Professional Standards Department where appropriate. This model ensures consistent and timeous investigations which are important components in any complaint handling process. Of the 165 complaints about the



Police received, 14% required action by our Service Delivery Unit, with only 10% of allegations contained within these complaints upheld.

Through 'User Experience Surveys' and a robust governance process, we ensure that learning points and areas for improvement are identified, shared and acted upon to improve our overall service to the public.

### Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Common Assault - Recorded	1,524.2	1,259	1,420	-265.2	-17.4%
Common Assault - Detection Rate	70.5%	83.1%	66.6%		+12.6%
Robbery - Recorded	50.0	58	41	+8.0	+16.0%
Robbery - Detection Rate	85.2%	89.7%	90.2%		+4.5%
Vandalism - Recorded	1,006.0	847	811	-159.0	-15.8%
Vandalism - Detection Rate	25.5%	33.3%	25.5%		+7.8%
Fire Raising - Recorded	57.8	83	44	+25.2	+43.6%
Reports of Street Drinking	68.4	15	53	-53.4	-78.1%
Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct	123.6	25	107	-98.6	-79.8%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct	46.2	52	53	+5.8	+12.6%
Racially Aggravated Harassment / Conduct - Detection Rate	88.3%	88.5%	83.0%		+0.2%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 2019
Group 1 Crimes - Recorded <sup>3</sup>	N/A	224	250	-26	-10.4%
Group 1 Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	88.8%	71.6%		+17.2%
Serious Assault - Recorded <sup>4</sup>	N/A	54	80	-26	-32.5%
Serious Assault - Detection Rate	N/A	103.7%	91.3%		+12.4%
Hate Crime - Recorded	N/A	175	124	+51	+41.1%
Hate Crime - Detection Rate	N/A	62.3%	76.6%		-14.3%

<sup>3</sup> Crimes of Violence include Murder, Attempted Murder, Culpable Homicide, Cruelty, Neglect and Un-natural Treatment of Children and Adults, Abduction, Robbery, Assault with intent to Rob, Serious Assault, and Threats and extortion and Coercive or Controlling Behaviour.

<sup>4</sup> April 2016 - implementation of broader definition of what constitutes a Serious Assault, 5 year comparison is therefore not possible at this point.

Group 1 Crime is a term used to encapsulate all forms of serious non-sexual Violent Crime and incorporates a range of diverse offences.



The overall figures for Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour are unsurprisingly framed by the Coronavirus pandemic where call demand and crime reporting reduced as restrictions on movement saw people locked down in the early stages of the reporting period.

The lack of a meaningful night time economy and associated licensing restrictions also influenced crime trends in the City Centre in particular and saw a demand shift from public to private space violence. Naturally this also affected reported Street Drinking and Disorderly Conduct.

Following 'lockdown' we saw a return to more familiar levels of criminality closely resembling business as usual however we are aware that this period will undoubtedly impact on 'binary' comparison with last year's figures and will influence future reporting for some time to come.

Looking at the figures in more depth there are welcome reductions in Common Assault, down over **17%** against the 5 Year Average, with a strong detection rate of **83.1%**.

Respecting the challenges in comparison with last year's figure, Serious Assaults are nevertheless down by over **32%** with detection rates remaining exceptionally high at **103.7%** (taking into account detections from the previous reporting period).

Recognising the impact that these crimes have on victims we continue to ensure that those intent on committing acts of violence are held accountable for their actions.

Recorded Robbery has shown a limited increase against the 5 Year Average where we saw a brief spike in offending in private space settings in the early part of the reporting period. Detection rates remain high, approaching **90%**.

Throughout the implementation of Scottish Government COVID restrictions we have remained fully engaged across the City and with the City Centre partnership in particular to better understand the implications for the hospitality sector and to provide advice, guidance and support.

Activity at licensed premises has of course been curtailed as a result of COVID restrictions however we remain aware of the wider impacts harmful levels of alcohol consumption can have in terms of Anti-Social Behaviour and Violence with indications that alcohol consumption has increased during the pandemic. We continue to work with various agencies to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, provide support to the most vulnerable and promote a responsible drinking culture.

We are very aware that local communities continue to experience quality of life issues and working together with partners our teams across Aberdeen have designed bespoke initiatives ensuring there is an appropriate balance of enforcement, education and diversion. Community Policing Inspectors are empowered to take ownership of problems within their own areas and have modified the response to the current climate.

This is a central theme of the approach employed in Locality projects in Northfield, Mastrick and Torry where we have adapted our partnership working to make real differences in communities experiencing the most acute challenges to deliver positive outcomes.



This approach has contributed to a notable reduction in Vandalism, nearing **16%**, in comparison with the 5 Year Average. Detection rates have also increased by almost **8%** this reporting period using the same comparison.

While statistically there has been a significant rise in Wilful Fire-raising during the reporting period, a significant number of these crimes (33 in total) can be attributed to one male who was arrested in July following a series of fires in communal bins in the Torry area. Judicial proceedings are ongoing in relation to this matter. Police within the City of Aberdeen have longstanding and well-developed links with Scottish Fire and Rescue and these agencies act together pursuing every opportunity to prevent, and where necessary investigate, incidents of Wilful Fire-raising.

With respect to the increase in recorded Hate Crime there are no particular geographic or other trends other than Police Officers and Staff representing over a fifth of victims (22.0%). These incidents, which have tended to be isolated and low-level, reached their peak during July 2020 but are steadily returning to levels comparable with previous years.

There has been a focus on delivering regular reassurance messages to our minority and faith groups and the Division has also participated in national campaigns. Furthermore, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to support individuals and groups suffering from actual or perceived intolerance and criminality. This heightened awareness and confidence may be a factor in the increase as this has been seen elsewhere in the country.

Hate Crime against Police Officers and Staff generally forms part of a broader set of circumstances where persons have encountered the Police. The figure of 22%, while unacceptable, may well indicate a decreasing tolerance amongst Officers and Staff to being subjected to this kind of behaviour and also increased confidence to report it. This may be due in part to the support being offered to them by North East Division.



## Acquisitive Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Crimes of Dishonesty - Recorded	3,254.0	2,401	2,663	-853.0	-26.2%
Crimes of Dishonesty - Detection Rate	42.7%	45.5%	43.6%		+2.8%
Housebreakings - Recorded	352.0	243	198	-109	-31.0%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Recorded <sup>5</sup>	427.8	192	271	-235.8	-55.1%
Motor Vehicle Crime - Detection Rate	24.0%	37.5%	26.6%		+13.5%
Theft of Motor Vehicle - Recorded	155.2	70	99	-85.2	-54.9%
Common Theft - Recorded	780.8	511	628	-269.8	-34.6%
Common Theft - Detection Rate	28.1%	33.3%	27.2%		+5.2%
Theft by Shoplifting - Recorded	1,071.4	778	1,049	-293.4	-27.4%
Theft by Shoplifting - Detection Rate	70.4%	72.1%	66.5%		+1.7%

<sup>5</sup> Theft from secure motor vehicle; Theft from insecure motor vehicle; Theft of a motor vehicle; Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) - Detection Rates	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019- Sept 2019	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av.
Overall	23.1%	39.9%	26.3%	+16.8%
Dwelling House	29.0%	48.4%	36.1%	+19.4%
Non-Dwelling (e.g. Sheds)	16.0%	24.1%	21.3%	+8.1%
Other Premises (e.g. Commercial)	29.4%	49.2%	15.0%	+19.8%

Although this period sees a slight **increase** in reported Housebreakings they still remain **31% less** when compared to the 5 Year Average. This increase has related mainly to garden sheds and an increased closure of commercial and/or licensed premises due to the COVID pandemic. Proactivity in tackling this type of crime continues and the detection rate has **risen** by **nearly 20%** to **almost 50%** in respect of domestic dwellings and commercial premises. We will continue to employ the same approach of utilising intelligence and information to focus on the correct locations and offenders to minimise the disruption and trauma that this crime type can cause.

Recorded Acquisitive Crime has **reduced** by **26.2%** against the 5 Year Average due to the ongoing prevention work in our communities but undoubtedly also as a direct result of the closures of shops and commercial premises due to the COVID pandemic. A number of local and Divisional initiatives based on the needs of local communities have been carried out and



the detection rate of **45.5%** improves on both 2019's figure and the 5 Year Average. This provides an indication of the effectiveness of our robust and proactive policing plans which create a hostile environment for those intent on committing Crimes of Dishonesty within Aberdeen City.

As well as the significant reduction in the number of Thefts by Housebreaking, there are notable reductions in Thefts of Motor Vehicles and Common Thefts with both being significantly **lower** than the 5 Year Average by **54.9%** and **34.6%** respectively. These figures give a clear indication that the correct approach is being utilised to prevent and respond to these crime types.

During this reporting period we have continued to see a rise in reported Fraud, particularly in relation to non-contact and online crime types and possibly correlating to increased online activity during the pandemic. Analysis shows a continued increase in the use of technology to exploit and socially engineer money from people. Various Police Scotland operations are planned and work has been ongoing locally and nationally to raise awareness and prevent crime. This is delivered through partnership engagement in supporting the ageing population whom analysis highlights are more likely to be the victim of such crimes. It is supported by a consistent Media Strategy locally and nationally to maintain awareness and support victims.

Furthermore, the 'Banking Protocol' initiative ensures that banking institutions have a close link to local policing should they identify a potential victim of Fraud in their branches and in addition to this, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has launched its cross-government campaign offering actionable advice for people to protect passwords, accounts and devices.



## Road Safety and Road Crime

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 2019
People Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	11	27	-16	-59.3%
Children Killed/Seriously Injured	N/A	1	3	-2	-
People Killed	N/A	0	0	-	-
Children Killed <sup>6</sup>	N/A	0	0	-	-
Advice/Education Given to Motorists <sup>7</sup>	N/A	6,126	9,975	-3,849	-38.6%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Mobile Phone Offences	234.4	47	84	-187.4	-79.9%
Speeding Offences	1133.0	538	761	-595	-52.5%
Drink/ Drug Driving Offences	148.4	176	122	+27.6	+18.6%
Dangerous Driving	48.8	76	52	+27.2	+55.7%
Disqualified Driving	48.8	43	38	-5.8	-11.9%
Detected Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	4,114.2	2,808	3,109	-1306.2	-31.7%
Parking Fixed Penalties Issued <sup>8</sup>	530.8	105	415	-425.8	-80.2%

<sup>6</sup> Child is under 16 years of age.

<sup>7</sup> North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray) figures by Road Policing Officers.

<sup>8</sup> North East Division (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray).

While the number people killed and seriously injured on City roads has decreased there stills remains a significant amount of work required to improve Road Safety.

Our commitment to the North East Scotland Strategic Road Casualty Group remains unwavering and is driven locally through Operation CEDaR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce). We continue to identify and target routes with significant collision histories, appropriately balancing enforcement and education in order to improve road safety and driver behaviour.

Our activity continues to be aligned to the Priority Focus Areas contained in the Scottish Government's National Road Safety Framework.

The 'Rider Refinement' training scheme, designed to improve motorcycle riding standards, was unfortunately postponed this year as a result of the COVID pandemic restrictions. However, plans are in place for this initiative to return once the restrictions are reduced. The initiative





remains part funded by Transport Scotland's Road Safety Framework Fund and supported by the local authorities. Despite this postponement, Road Casualty Reduction operations ran during the summer months, with a number of dedicated weekends of action focusing on key problem areas or routes commonly used by motorcycle users.

The increase in the number of drink/drug drivers can be directly related to the increased use of roadside drug screening tests, the reduction in traffic volumes allowing the 'right people being stopped at the right time'.

Focusing on mobile phone use and distractions within the vehicle, local Road Policing Officers joined Community Policing Team colleagues in a week long initiative to raise awareness of the issue. The increasing use of hands free technology and reduction in traffic volume as a result of COVID restrictions may account for the decrease in recorded offences.

Improving the safety of cyclists on the roads, Operation 'Close Pass' was carried out in the North East through a number of days of action. Working with Road Safety partners, Officers equipped with cycle-cams stopped a number of drivers who had passed cyclists without affording them sufficient space. Drivers were shown the footage from the rider's perspective to show the dangers of their driving. Due to the increased number of cyclists as a result of COVID restrictions and the introduction of the 'Spaces for People' initiative, the operation gained positive local media coverage.



## Protecting People at Risk of Harm

Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Group 2 Crimes - Recorded <sup>9</sup>	350.0	296	294	-54.0	-15.4%
Group 2 Crimes - Detection Rate	61.7%	62.2%	54.8%		+0.5%
Rape - Recorded	48.4	51	44	+2.6	+5.4%
Rape - Detection Rate	63.2%	68.6%	50.0%		+5.4%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 2019
Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported	N/A	1,348	1,214	+134	+11.0%
Domestic Abuse Crimes - Detection Rate	N/A	78.3%	63.6%		+14.7%

<sup>9</sup> Group 2 Crimes of Indecency include Rape, Assault with intent to Rape, Indecent Assault, Sexual Assault, Prostitution related crime and others with an indecent element.

This period of reporting has undoubtedly been impacted by the COVID pandemic and this picture is replicated across Scotland. Overall demand reduced significantly in many aspects of the policing priority 'Protecting people at Risk of Harm' at the outset of the lockdown and has continued aligned to restrictions set in relation to the pandemic.

Notwithstanding this reduction in demand, based on evidence from previous pandemics and other countries in the more advance phases of the pandemic response, the partnerships focussed on the promotion of national and local preventative messaging from the outset due to the risk of abuse occurring behind closed doors in family situations, or online. It was recognised at an early stage that this type of abuse may not be reported until victims feel safe to report it and this may not happen for weeks or months to come. This was monitored closely along with national trends and information.

Consequently, although the lockdown and associated restrictions had a material effect on the levels of Rape and serious sexual offending being reported initially, Group 2 crimes are closer to the previous year's figures in Aberdeen City and the number of reported Domestic Abuse incidents is greater, by **11.0%**. Recorded Rape has increased slightly compared to the same period in 2019 with a smaller increase in comparison to the 5 Year Average.

Detection rates in relation to Group 2 crime (and in particular Rape) are strong. They remain above the national average and are indicative of robust governance and investigative processes and the commitment of Officers to support victims and successful investigations.

Throughout the lockdown and periods of restrictions, we continued to work with partners to ensure high risk victims are provided additional support and protection while proactively targeting the highest tariff offenders, whether that be through Local Officers, the Public



Protection Unit or the Domestic Abuse Task Force, a national resource with a base in Aberdeen.

We have continued to focus on and support the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS), the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process (aiming to reduce future harm to the most vulnerable victims and their families), and the management and scrutiny of perpetrators provided by the Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) process, where the objective is to protect people at risk of harm by targeting higher risk perpetrators.

Media campaigns and initiatives have been crucial during this period with regards preventative messaging and also ensuring victims are aware of the support and assistance available to them. In conjunction with partners, a media awareness raising campaign was launched to promote safety messaging in relation to sexual offending to coincide with the relaxing of lockdown restrictions, in respect of the hospitality sector.

The Scottish Government Domestic Abuse campaign, in conjunction with Police Scotland and Safer Scotland, was well supported in North East Division social media channels and built upon by Violence Against Women Partnerships (VAWPs) to ensure victims are aware that support is available locally and nationally despite COVID restrictions. The local messages have been translated into the 10 most requested languages in the North East and sent out through community channels to ensure the messages were as wide-reaching as possible. This included articles published in local community newsletters and distributed to locality areas, aiming to reach those who may not have internet access. With local radio supporting the campaign, this preventative multi-faceted public messaging was continued to ensure focus remained on helping the most vulnerable in our communities.

As previously highlighted, the use of technology in crimes is ever increasing. Personal images sent without consent or abusive messages over the internet or social media have become the focus of collaborative preventative messaging under the 'Eyes and Ears Open' campaign which includes messages about 'cyber safety', asking members of the public to report any related suspicions. This strategy has been well supported in the North East Division social media channels and continued collaborative work will take place throughout the coming year, aimed at every age group.



## Serious Organised Crime

	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 5 Year Av
Proceeds of Crime Act Seizures <sup>10</sup>	£131,154.18	£66,929.28	£185,433.87	-£64,224.90	-48.97%
Drug Possession Offences	833.8	805	860	-28.8	-3.5%
Drug Supply Offences	115.6	134	137	+18.4	+15.9%
Indicator	5 Year Average	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2019 - Sept 2019	Difference	% Change 2020 v 2019
Drug Deaths	N/A	23	14	+9	+64.3%

<sup>10</sup> A Division (Aberdeenshire, Moray & City) reported seizures (reported figures only, this may mean that the money might finally be returned to the defender, forfeit at court or seized and remitted to Crown office Procurator Fiscal Service).

Over this period the Cuckooing Initiative has extended across all areas of Aberdeen City and this collaborative approach continues to monitor and support those identified as vulnerable and in need of referral to additional support services. As the initiative grows across all areas of the City it continues to develop effectively to provide a holistic approach to those who require assistance to break the cycle of exploitation from Organised Crime Groups (OCG's).

As highlighted in the table, the number of individuals reported for being involved in drug possession offences has **decreased by 3.5%** which is indicative of the prevention work ongoing across the City and with partners in Health and Social Care. Drug supply cases have increased against the 5 Year Average but are slightly reduced on 2019's figure. The positive partnership working and intervention work in these areas will continue to develop and gain momentum going forward.

With respect to the reduction in Proceeds of Crime Act seizures, there was a slight correlation with the reduction in drug supply against 2019's figures. Furthermore, the lockdown restrictions had an effect on our proactivity during this period but also on the tactics employed by OCG's, including their movement of finance.

Key to the success for all operational activity, linked to the sale and supply of controlled drugs, is creating trust in the community in order that members of the public have the confidence to report suspicious activity. This information is a key asset in driving our intelligence led approach, thereby enabling us to target individuals and groups across the area.

Over this period, with due consideration and risk assessment due to the inherent challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, a significant number of Drug Search Warrants were executed throughout Aberdeen City, resulting in the seizure of a range of controlled drugs including significant quantities of Diamorphine (Heroin), Cocaine and Cannabis.

While there have been positive enforcement results in these areas we recognise that there are local people linked to these OCG's who are in need of support and partnership intervention.



OCG's from England continue to pose a significant threat in terms of 'County Lines' activity and remain prevalent in Aberdeen City.

During this reporting period there have been a number of vulnerable young people from England found within the City, apparently involved in 'County Lines' activity. On occasion these individuals have been Missing Persons exploited by OCG's and cross-border partnership work is ongoing to establish support mechanisms and preventative strategies relating to this distinct type of exploitation.

North East Division and all partners are acutely aware that the activities of OCG's do not solely relate to the supply of controlled drugs. These activities can take a number of forms such as Human Trafficking, Counterfeit Goods and elements of Cybercrime and over the reporting period we have continued to link in with partners in Immigration, Trading Standards and National Cybercrime to identify and tackle these issues and their impact locally.

Between April and June we saw an increase in the number of drug related deaths across the City, as communities adapted to the first lockdown and the restrictions imposed. We responded along with partners by increasing the sharing of information from frontline staff, and finding new and innovative ways to increase harm reduction efforts towards those most at risk. In June, after months of planning, Aberdeen City Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) funded an Officer to undertake an Assertive Outreach Co-ordinator role, to support a multi-agency team directed towards reducing fatalities, strengthening our already strong commitment to this priority.



## **Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism**

Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism remains a Policing Priority for North East Division. Acts of Terror across the UK have demonstrated the significant impact and harm that can be caused in our communities. This as we have seen is not always carried out by organised groups, but often by vulnerable people who have been exploited, radicalised or who have aligned their views with an ideology to harm others. We will continue to work together to keep individuals and our City safe

The nationally assessed threat to the UK from Terrorism is **SUBSTANTIAL** (an attack is likely). This threat level incorporates the 'Threat of Ireland Related Terrorism' previously assessed separately.

North East Division continues to play a key role in protecting communities within Aberdeen City. Our innovative approach, developed locally with partners, have seen notable success over the past year in preventing exploitation of vulnerable people in our communities.

Our strong local partnerships have been further developed under the North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board and Prevent Delivery Group which includes the NHS, Emergency Services, Military, Scottish Government, local authorities, local businesses, transport agencies and ports. With strength coming from this diversity, the group effectively plays a part in the delivery of the key principles of the national CONTEST model.

### **Key Principles**

The key principles are **Prevent, Pursue, Protect** and **Prepare**, which all aim to reduce the risk from Terrorism locally and throughout the UK.

**Prevent.** The way we identify vulnerable in our communities has developed. Understanding that our communities are 'Eyes and Ears', we have equipped front line workers, across a broad range of partners, with the tools and skills that they need, to identify when vulnerable people are being exploited or identify that who are at risk of exploitation.

Our aim thereafter, has been to give easy access to expertise through a reporting process that ensures concerns can be reported and responded to quickly.

Aware of the changing political landscape, we are working within our communities across our City to identify those who seek to use societal factors such as the COVID pandemic or Brexit as an excuse to commit or incite harm.

Nationally recognised intervention methods for individuals are enhanced further by additional local multi-agency support measures, all in place to divert those vulnerable to exploitation from harmful activity.

**Pursue.** Highly skilled Officers are equipped to investigate those committing crime whether online or within our communities. Understanding that those perpetrating crime do so both nationally and internationally, our Division is well supported by national Police Scotland resources. This priority strand also includes pursuing those who encourage or incite harmful activity.



**Protect.** The Protect principle ensures that Police, our communities, businesses and partners take measures to protect us all from any potential threat of Terrorism. Under this principle, Police provide a visible presence to protect all of our communities, our businesses, public places and events.

Our multiagency approach to deliver the national Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) program uses the expertise from multiple partners and businesses to deliver training that will help businesses or organisation to take action to protect themselves.

The joint approach ensures that we can meet needs specific to a varied target audience including major industries, the energy sector and North East ports, while delivering this training in a unified and structured way across Aberdeen City.

Community Policing is at the core of North East Division and Local Contest Liaison Officer (LCLO) training is provided to nominated Officers within our Local Policing Teams across Aberdeen City. This ensures that an enhanced knowledge base and skill level is ever present to protect all of our communities. LCLOs maintain key contacts within the community and furnish them with relevant information and intelligence as well as assessing individuals who come to Police attention for specific radicalisation behaviours or ideologies.

Within the reporting period, they have made a significant contribution through their expertise and support to businesses, partners and key infrastructure sites. Strengthening bonds with our ports, our LCLOs and Community Policing Teams have been working alongside Border Policing Command colleagues to ensure that our industries and infrastructure remain protected from any threat as a result of Brexit tensions.

Our unique model that embeds CONTEST into our Community Policing Teams has been recognised nationally as good practice.

**Prepare.** Preparation for an attack is crucial to protect lives. Significant work under Prevent, Protect and Pursue acts to reduce the likelihood or impact of an attack but we must also prepare our people and places.

With a number of important infrastructure sites in and around Aberdeen City, linked to local and national industry, we continue on our program of multi-agency exercises. With exercises covering a range of scenarios and locations, including ports and the energy sector, we ensure all agencies remain prepared for an attack or disruption. Our multi-agency approach to exercises in Aberdeen also ensures learning, effective relationships and readiness.



## Miscellaneous

### Stop and Search

Indicator	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020	Apr 2020 - Sept 2020 (positive)
Consensual	0	N/A
Legislative	1,378	458
Number of Consensual Stop and Searches Refused	0	N/A





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## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Public Protection
<b>DATE</b>	9 March 2021
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Violence towards Police staff
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	POL/21/059
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Chief Inspector Rob Sturton, North East Division, Police Scotland
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	5.7

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Committee on the rise in Police Assaults and abusive behaviour towards Police Officers and Police Staff and the associated approach of Police Scotland and North East Division to protecting our people.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the Committee discuss, comment on, and endorse the report.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The unique job that Police Officers and Police Staff perform in society can be both challenging and rewarding. We recognise and understand that working in the Police service may result in exposure to abusive or violent behaviour which can impact on physical and mental wellbeing. The support and protection of Police Officers, Police Staff and Special Constables is of paramount importance.
- 3.2 Whilst overall violence has reduced across the country by **8.3%** this current fiscal year, violence directed towards Police Officers and Staff in Scotland has increased by **6.7%**. This picture is replicated in North East Division where overall violent crime has reduced by **15.6%** but there has been a **9.5%** increase in assaults on Police Officers and Staff.



- 3.3 In August 2020, the Chief Constable recognised and highlighted the unacceptable increase in assaults on Police Officers and Police Staff to the Scottish Police Authority. The figures returned showed an increase against the 5 year mean for the second consecutive year.
- 3.4 The Chief Constable has made it clear that aggressive or threatening behaviour including verbal abuse against Police Scotland personnel is 'simply not part of the job' and that no Police Officer or member of Police Staff should expect to be assaulted or abused in the course of their work.
- 3.5 This personal commitment is exemplified through the development of the Chief Constable's 'Your Safety Matters Assault Pledge' which has the aim of ensuring that all personnel.
- feel safe and supported while discharging their duties
  - are well prepared in terms of procedures, guidance and equipment
  - have confidence in reporting incidents in a timely manner
  - can seek additional support when required

#### Your Safety Matters (YSM)

- 3.6 'Your Safety Matters' is an initiative designed to co-ordinate a range of current work streams that crosscut the issue and include but are not limited to Officer Safety Training, Probationer Training, Personal Protective Equipment and Health and Safety.

- 3.7 To support the implementation, a 'YSM Diamond Group' led by DCC Fiona Taylor is undertaking an end-to-end strategic review of all safety matters impacting both Police Officers and Staff to ensure suitable protection, preparation and support.
- 3.8 The group also engages nationally with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) in relation to its recently announced review of Officer Safety.
- 3.9 Representation includes business area leads for the cross cutting themes along with Staff Associations, Trade Unions, Criminal Justice, Corporate Communications, Wellbeing, and corporate enablers for future work streams that may arise from the strategic review.
- 3.10 The Group also provides strategic oversight to a variety of research and analytical products linked to Officer and Staff safety aligned to the following key developments;

#### Performance Dashboards

- 3.11 A bespoke suite of performance data has been developed to provide insight and analysis in relation to violence against Officers and Staff. The Dashboards examine both Crime and Health & Safety data to provide granular level information on the key elements of specific incidents. The how, where, what and why questions enable a greater understanding to inform a preventative focus.

#### Premises Reports

- 3.12 Focused national research has centred on assaults on Officers and Staff that occur at Police premises establishing that **86%** of assaults on Staff and **13%** of all assaults on Officers occurred at Police premises, generally within Custody Centres. Valuable learning and recommendations have already been drawn from this report. Whilst Officers and Staff should be at their most safe and protected in these environments it is clear that vigilance and compliance to guidance and training is vital to mitigate risks.

#### Officer Safety Training (OST)

- 3.13 A new two day enhanced OST training programme is in train including updated techniques and an enhanced First Aid training syllabus. Increased emphasis is placed on verbal de-escalation techniques to provide greater protection to Officers and Staff when dealing with conflict. Scenarios will also be based in the custody environment to embrace learning from recent analysis.

#### YSM Champions Network

- 3.14 A network of 'Champions' has been established comprising representation from each Local Policing Division and Specialist Support functions to create a direct channel for feedback from Officers and Staff to the YSM Group. The Network will also facilitate the implementation of recommendations to the front line through local Champions forums to streamline and embed processes. This will also enable local feedback and the sharing of ideas, learning and best practice.

### Criminal Justice Court Feedback

- 3.15 Work is currently ongoing with the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal's Service (COPFS) to establish a process to provide Officers and Staff who have been the victims of assault with feedback on Court case outcomes. Currently there is no mechanism in existence in the vast majority of instances. Potential solutions are being explored jointly recognising the importance of understanding the outcome for those affected.
- 3.16 New individual impact subsections are to be included in Standard Prosecution Reports to COPFS. Whilst approval is yet to be ratified it is anticipated that this will be implemented without delay and will allow victims, including Police Officers and Police Staff to explain precisely how they felt at the time of the crime and the impact the episode had on them.

### Your Wellbeing Matters

- 3.17 The YSM secretariat continues to work closely with Wellbeing and Inclusion Teams recognising the close links between these areas. This includes the launch of the new **87% app**. The app, which will be accessed through Mobile Digital Devices, has been designed to provide useful information in an accessible yet private way. It aims to remove stigma, provide support and highlight the range of support that is available to Officers and Staff in relation to mental health.

### 3.18 Communications

The first tranche of national messaging promoting the Assault Pledge and reinforcing the unacceptable nature of violent or abusive behaviour to our people has been issued over the festive period. Internal messaging, posters and livery for vehicles promoting the key themes have been distributed. Examples are attached at Appendix A (or here).

### North East Division Local Approaches

- 3.19 North East Division has not been insulated against the national trend and has seen an increase in assaults against Police Officers and Staff in comparison with last year and against the five year mean.
- 3.20 The Division is fully committed to all aspects of the Chief Constable's Assault Pledge to better understand the challenges and maintain a preventative focus to ensure that our people feel safe and protected.
- 3.21 We are fully engaged with colleagues across the country with an identified Chief Inspector (with lead responsibility for violence) identified as North East Division's YSM Champion. This enables the opportunity to share organisational learning, experience and innovative approaches.
- 3.22 A YSM focus group involving a cross section of Officers and Staff has been established and links closely with the Divisional Wellbeing and Health and Safety groups seeking to gain a more holistic understanding of the challenges experienced by our people.

- 3.23 In addition, a local microsite is being developed where Officers and Staff can access the latest information and guidance. 'Lived experience' videos highlighting the personal impact on affected staff in differing roles and work giving an insight to a 'day in the life' are in train.
- 3.24 Work is also ongoing with internal partners in relation to improving safety in custody settings highlighted through existing governance processes.
- 3.25 North East Division are also linking with blue light responders to share experiences with a view to joint communications promoting the unacceptable nature of abusive behaviour towards emergency workers and to jointly advocate for change.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

**6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
<b>Financial</b>	N/A		
<b>Legal</b>	N/A		
<b>Employee</b>	N/A		
<b>Customer</b>	N/A		
<b>Environment</b>	N/A		
<b>Technology</b>	N/A		
<b>Reputational</b>	N/A		

**7. OUTCOMES**

<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>

<b>Prosperous People</b>	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to make people more resilient and protect them from harm; where every child, irrespective of their circumstances, is supported to grow, develop and reach their full potential; and where all people in Aberdeen are entitled to live within our community in a manner in which they feel safe and protected from harm, supported when necessary and fully included in the life of the city.
<b>Prosperous Place</b>	Police Scotland are key partners within Community Planning Aberdeen and help contribute to the shared vision for 2026 that ' <i>Aberdeen is a place where all people can prosper</i> ' and towards the achievement of the LOIP theme which aims to support individuals and communities to live in healthy, sustainable ways; and the development of sustainable communities with strong and resilient communities.

<b>Design Principles of Target Operating Model</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Governance</b>	The Council has an oversight role of the North East Division of Police Scotland in terms of its performance and delivery of the Local Police Plan.
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	The Council and Police Scotland are Community Planning Aberdeen partners with a shared commitment to deliver the LOIP.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Equality &amp; Human Rights Impact Assessment</b>	<i>Not required</i>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<i>Not required</i>
<b>Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty</b>	<i>Not applicable</i>



**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

**10. APPENDICES (if applicable)**

N/A

**11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

Chief Inspector Rob Sturton  
North East Division  
Police Scotland

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**OFFICIAL**

28 January 2021

Your Ref: N/A

Our Ref: N/A



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Dear Partner

## **NORTH EAST DIVISION - SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM CHANGES**

As the Divisional Commander for North East Division, I would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of recent changes to the Command Team, as well as Local Area Commanders and Crime Management responsibilities within the Division, which were completed on 25 January 2021.

**Superintendent Neil McDonald**, who was formerly Detective Chief Inspector for Public Protection in Aberdeen City will take over responsibility for **Operational Policing**.

**Detective Superintendent Alex Dowall** retains responsibility for **CID**, **Superintendent Richard Craig**, **Support and Services Development** and **Superintendent Murray Main**, **Partnerships and Events**.

The Command Team will continue to be based at the Divisional Headquarters, Queen Street, Aberdeen.

**Chief Inspector Jamie Harrison**, who was formerly an Inspector within The Professional Standards Department, will take up the role of Chief Inspector, **Local Area Commander, Aberdeen City North** on promotion.

**Chief Inspector David Paterson**, who was formerly responsible for Partnerships & Events will take up the role as Chief Inspector, **Local Area Commander, Aberdeen City, South**.

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**Temporary Chief Inspector Norman Stevenson** will remain in his role as **Local Area Commander for Moray** as will **Chief inspector Rob Sturton, Local Area Commander for North Aberdeenshire**.

**Chief Inspector Jackie Knight**, who was formerly a Detective Inspector within CID, will take up the role of **Local Area Commander, Aberdeenshire South** on promotion.

Within Crime Management, **Detective Chief Inspector Fionnuala McPhail** will retain oversight and line management for **Pro-active and Re-active CID** resources.

**Detective Chief Inspector Carron McKellar** who was previously a Detective Inspector in the Public Protection Unit will take over responsibility for all **Public Protection Partnership and investigation matters in Aberdeen City**.

**Detective Chief Inspector David Howieson**, who was previously Local Area Commander, Aberdeen City South will take over responsibility for all **Public Protection Partnership and investigation matters in Aberdeenshire and Moray**, in addition to all MAPPA business.

**Chief Inspector Ian McKinnon** has now responsibility for **Partnerships and Events** having been promoted from Inspector in Corporate Services Division

**Chief Inspector Stewart Drummond** will retain responsibility for **Support**.

I trust this is of assistance to you. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



George Macdonald  
Chief Superintendent

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