



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD

Aberdeen City Division

January 2015



It is with pleasure that I bring to the table the latest Aberdeen City Division Scrutiny Board Report, which provides a detailed account of our performance in support of both local and national priorities, up to the end of September 2014.

You will see from the figures that we continue to move in the right direction. This has not been achieved by the Police in isolation but by the continued support of our partners and communities across Aberdeen. It is also of note that this 'business as usual' has been achieved while providing resources to several large events, including the Commonwealth Games, Ryder Cup and Referendum vote.

We are committed to dealing with those issues which really matter to people and will deliver the policing service our communities tell us they want for Aberdeen.

These priorities are set out in the Local Policing Plan and incorporate:

- Antisocial Behaviour;
- Housebreaking;
- National Security;
- Protecting People;
- Safer Roads;
- Serious and Organised Crime and
- Violent Crime:

As a Division, we continue to make significant progress despite the current financial challenges. We value our staff and remain committed to working meaningfully with our many partners and communities across the City.

In terms of partnership work, we continue to go from strength to strength with the Community Safety Hub at Frederick Street now nationally recognised as a model of good practice and more importantly as one that helps make this great City that bit safer.

Our achievements at the inaugural National Policing Awards are worthy of mention. The introduction of body worn cameras across Community Policing Teams in Aberdeen and the wider North East won the 'Change and Innovation' award. I am all the more proud as this was financially supported by the then Fairer Scotland Board in Aberdeen. Moreover, the City Centre 'Oak' Strategy, which tackles violent crime and anti-social behaviour, was runner up in the 'Tackling Crime' category. There were several other strategies and initiatives from across the city that were short-listed and this ought to provide us all with reassurance that as a city we are not content to sit back but always look to improve.

Of course, one crime is one too many and there are still many challenges to be found in a large City. However, by continuing to work so positively together I feel we can be justly proud of the progress we have made in making Aberdeen one of the safest of its kind in the country.



Adrian Watson
Chief Superintendent
Divisional Commander

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour					
		Apr 2014 - Sep 2014	Apr 2013 – Sep 2013	Victims	% Change
1	Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	134	150	16 fewer	-10.7%
<p>Aberdeen City Division has maintained and improved performance, with serious violent crime reduced by over 10%, when compared to the same period last year. This follows a very successful year of crime reduction in Aberdeen during 2013/14, when overall crime fell by more than 4%.</p> <p>The division continues to drive the City Centre 'Oak' Strategy which works to target a reduction in violent crime, alcohol related disorder and improve personal safety and wellbeing through coordinated partnerships and high profile policing. Perpetrators are targeted and managed via intelligence led methods to ensure Aberdeen continues to be a safe, welcoming and prosperous city for all who reside, work or visit. The success can be seen in the reduction in victims detailed above.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Division continues to embrace innovation with a view to keeping people safe and enhancing the service provided to our communities. One such development has been the introduction of Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras which, among a number of benefits, provide unequivocal evidence in respect of capturing situations and actions Officers are met with. Their introduction has seen a significant reduction in Officer abstraction time at court allowing increased engagement within our communities and the proactive targeting of offenders.</p> <p>Recidivist Violent Offenders who commit offences within a domestic setting continue to be targeted and managed through the Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating process (MATAC). The process focuses on the priority targeting of serious domestic abuse perpetrators, by whatever means, to secure their incarceration thus safeguarding the victim and reducing the risk of serious and violent crime.</p> <p>Victims of repeat Violent Domestic Offenders are managed through Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) where information is shared between agencies such as Police, Health, Child Protection, Social Work, Housing and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors. The main focus of the MARAC is managing the risk to the victim and other family members and managing the behaviour of the perpetrator. By identifying high risk victims and implementing suitable safety plans, the risk of exposure to violence and serious harm is significantly reduced.</p> <p>The significant success of the MATAC and MARAC process are reflected in sections 15 to 20 of this report.</p>					

It has been well documented that Aberdeen was the first Scottish city to be recognised in meeting the highest of standards around safety in the City Centre via a national 'Purple Flag' award. This is recognition of strong partnership working both locally and nationally. The award is expected to be reaccredited in January 2015.

2	Murder	1	1	same number	0.0%
3	Attempted Murder	9	9	Same number	0.0%
4	Culpable Homicide (common law)	0	0	None	-
5	Culpable Homicide (other)	2	1	1 more	100.0%
6	Serious Assault detection rate	89.7%	77.1%		12.6%
7	Serious Assault	58	70	12 fewer	-17.1%

The number of Serious Assaults recorded continues to reduce while there has been a notable increase in detection rates.

Alcohol continues to be a key factor in violence reported in the city. Over 70% of all accused and/or victims are recorded as being under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

Officers from the Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit work alongside colleagues within the Community Policing Teams and Licensing Officers to detect and deter incidents of violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Recidivist offenders are managed effectively through rigorous targeted enforcement and we provide a path towards a programme of interventions that focus on the individuals themselves and the factors that influence them to become violent.

A Violence Reduction Officer has recently taken up post within the Division with a clear mandate to target those offenders who present the highest risk to our communities. There has already been successful partnership working through our Community Safety Partnership Hub to maximise the opportunities provided through Anti-Social Behaviour legislation and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's). This work is ongoing and will introduce a firm management of the most prolific offenders.

Aberdeen City Division continues to effectively engage with partners through the Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) with the overarching aim of improving the health and well-being of our communities in relation to alcohol and drug abuse.

Whilst it is noted above that a significant proportion of violent incidents are caused or aggravated by the consumption of alcohol, the reduction in victim numbers in comparison to previous years is a welcome downturn and is testament to the focus being afforded to this area, supported by strong partnerships.

Whilst there are fewer victims of violent crime, it is encouraging that a higher percentage of those crimes which do occur are being detected when compared to the same period last year. This ensures more violent offenders are being presented at court where a variety of special measures can be requested in order to restrict their behaviour and allow partners to consider how risks can be reduced (ASBO's, Civil Exclusion Orders etc.).

8	Robbery detection rate	88.1%	64.1%		24.0%
9	Robbery	42	39	3 more	7.7%

Robbery levels have remained constant however detection rates have seen a significant improvement on the same period last year (24%).

Aberdeen City Division ensures that all reports concerning Robbery are reviewed by a Detective Sergeant within 24 hours and a Detective Inspector within 7 days of occurrence. Each incident is thoroughly investigated by Detective Officers to maximise all investigative opportunities and to ensure appropriate resources are deployed to proactively target offenders.

As previously alluded to within item 7, a higher detection rate dictates that violent offenders are being presented at court where a variety of special measures can be requested with a view to restricting their behaviour and ability to offend.

Significant resources have been deployed and a new Action Plan created to tackle this issue. A mixture of Detective Officers and high visibility mobile and foot patrols have been deployed in areas vulnerable to this type of crime.

In addition to increasing scrutiny on offenders, officers have targeted the City Centre where persons vulnerable as a result of intoxication have become victims.

The Violence Reduction Officer has transferred learning obtained dealing with individuals known for general street violence to tackle those involved in Robberies. All offenders who are subject to Bail Curfews are closely monitored for compliance and regular visits are undertaken.

Known violent offenders, wanted in respect of ongoing investigations or on warrant, are actively pursued and apprehended, limiting there opportunities to reoffend and allowing Multi-Agency Intervention.

Prevention activity has been undertaken which included officers within the Community Policing Team working closely with Universities and media to ensure appropriate advice was available and delivered to students during 'Fresher's Weeks'. Strong advice regarding the harms of excessive intakes of alcohol along with personal safety and crime prevention messages were delivered.

10	Petty (Common) assault detection rate	76.5%	72.0%		4.5%
11	Petty (common) assault	1,669	1,795	126 fewer	-7.0%
<p>There has been a significant reduction in assaults and 126 fewer victims of violence compared to the same period last year. This represents a 7% reduction.</p> <p>It is widely accepted that effectively addressing alcohol-related violence involves not only dealing with perpetrators and victims, but sharing information and intelligence in order to prevent it. This requires a coordinated partnership approach at both local and national levels incorporating a wide range of agencies including health, criminal justice, education, local authorities, the local alcohol related industry and voluntary organisations.</p> <p>We work with our partner agencies to actively engage with identified individuals with a view to preventing them from behaving violently or becoming victims of violence themselves. That said, the main aspect of our work involves taking robust enforcement action against those committing or enabling violence in any setting.</p> <p>A review of the night time economy tactical plan for weekend policing within Aberdeen City Centre has resulted in a more effective deployment plan which takes into account the changing landscape and popularity of licenced premises.</p> <p>The Licensing Toolkit has been updated to further support the work of our Licensing Officers who, along with representatives within the License Trade and others, maintain and improve locations vulnerable to repeat incidents of violence and disorder.</p> <p>The Campaign Against Violence (CAV) continues to provide Officers undertaking additional high visibility patrols throughout Aberdeen. A Campaign Day is any 'additional' operational deployment by non-front facing office based Police Officers with the focus of reducing violence and disorder. CAV is well adopted within the Division and is producing meaningful results along with an increased presence and reassurance within communities.</p>					
12	Stop and searches conducted	3,160	5,006		-36.9%
13	Number of positive stop and searches conducted.	779	1,010		-22.9%
<p>The proportion of stop searches resulting in the recovery of illicit items in Aberdeen has increased from 20% last year to 24.7% this year. This has been achieved through the Police Scotland commitment to training, practical guidance and intelligence-led briefing of officers who fully understand the purpose of the stop and search tactic and utilise their statutory powers and discretion appropriately.</p> <p>With crimes such as Serious Assault down approximately 17%, Antisocial Behaviour down 12% and Housebreakings down nearly 24% within Aberdeen compared against this time last year, there is a natural correlation with stop and search activity, which has also decreased appropriately during the same period. This ensures that stop and search is employed with an absolute focus on keeping people safe and in line with Police Scotland's</p>					

values.					
14	Number of complaints regarding disorder	5,655	6,456	801 fewer	-12.4%
<p>As previously detailed, Aberdeen has become the first city in Scotland to be awarded and retain 'Purple Flag' status. The award recognised the commitment from over 70 partner agencies who work together to create a safe and secure environment in Aberdeen.</p> <p>Community Safety Partnership Hub (The Hub) is an innovative collaborative approach involving Police Scotland, Aberdeen City Council's Community Safety Team, Housing, NHS Grampian, Social Work, Education, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, ASBIT, City Wardens, Community Safety Partnership Analysts and other third sector organisations. They are co-located with the joint aim of driving down incidents of crime and disorder.</p> <p>The Hub meets daily to discuss new and ongoing incidents across the city in an effort to identify emerging anti-social behaviour problems, which in turn allows services to target and allocate resources more effectively to tackle incidents before they escalate. Daily tasks are raised and allocated to the various partners, which range from information sharing, contacting Community Policing Teams for action, increasing City Warden Patrols and organising Joint visits and Case Conferences for vulnerable individuals.</p> <p>Since April last year, Aberdeen City Division has clearly benefitted from a number of extra Police Officers patrolling within our communities as part of the Campaign Against Violence (CAV) which not only tackles violence, but equally acts of antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>The impact of alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour can be felt throughout the city and we continue to effectively engage with partners through the Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) as detailed in item 7 of this report.</p> <p>The aforementioned collaborative work has contributed to a reduction of 12% for complaints of disorder and over 800 less victims of this type of incident, ensuring Aberdeen remains one of the safest cities in Scotland.</p>					

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour (continued)					
		Apr 2014 – Sep 2014	Apr 2013 – Sep 2013	Victims	% Change
15	Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	1,589	1,266		25.5%
16	Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	1,160	1,177		-1.4%

17	Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	58.8%	58.0%		0.8%
18	Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	83.8%	79.2%		4.6%
19	Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	101	73		38.4%
20	Ensure 95% of domestic abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24hrs)	99.7%	-		-

Domestic abuse is a high priority and covers a broad range of incidents, from serious crimes of violence, sexual offences, stalking and harassment and Breach of the Peace. Our focus is on keeping people safe and this begins by working to reduce violence in the home.

Almost 20% of operational Police time is spent dealing with Domestic Abuse issues. Officers focus on building excellence in investigative practice, enhancing support for victims, increased focus on perpetrators and effective partnership.

As a result, there has been a 25% upturn in reported domestic incidents. This is a sign of increased confidence in the way in which Officers and others coordinate and deal with domestic abuse. Experience has shown that Police Scotland can most significantly impact on reducing offending and increasing the safety of those vulnerable to Domestic Abuse when a coordinated approach is taken.

In addition to increased levels of support and protection for victims, we make full use of MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) to ensure appropriate referrals for victims and to ensure a holistic approach in maintaining their well-being. This includes visiting victims within 24 hours of perpetrators appearing in Court to check they remain 'safe and well'.

Specialist Officers from the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, assisted by colleagues in the Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit and members of the Community Policing Teams across Aberdeen, target persistent offenders through specific enforcement activities such as Operation Sandmat and the Campaign against Violence (CAV).

The Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating Group (MATAC) targets repeat Domestic Abuse perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm to victims. At meetings, effective decision making ensures resources are deployed to tackle individuals using any means available. Clear lines of communication, ownership and accountability ensure the victims and their children remain safe.

We are also delighted to be one of only two Scottish Police Divisions to pilot the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme. In essence, this scheme provides a way for people to ask the Police if someone has a history of domestic abuse, thus allowing the applicant to make informed choices about whether and/or how to continue in that relationship.

There are two pathways. The 'Right to ask' is when a person makes a direct application to Police (this could be the partner themselves or a concerned family member, neighbour etc.) and the 'Power to Tell' is when Police are in receipt of information which indicates a person is potentially at risk and a decision is made whether to disclose that information to the person at risk.

The scheme has already received 15 applications and will undoubtedly assist in reducing the risks to vulnerable victims and to restricting the opportunities for perpetrators to offend.

21	Hate Crime and offences detection rate	80.7%	74.3%		6.4%
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Hate crime refers to any offence motivated by racial, religious, sexual or other social prejudice. Increases in some crime types can sometimes be attributed to increased awareness, reporting and recording of such crimes.

Within the 2011 United Kingdom Census it was stated that 1 in 6 people resident within Aberdeen were born out with the UK.

Engagement continues through our Community Policing Teams and specialist Diversity Liaison Officers. We work closely with representatives from minority communities and there is work ongoing to increase third party reporting capacity across the city which will provide additional avenues for victims to raise their concerns and access support.

There are less Hate Crimes recorded in comparison to the same period last year and it is encouraging that a higher percentage of those crimes which do occur are being detected when compared against the same period. This ensures a high percentage of perpetrators are being presented at court which will in turn hopefully lead to changes in behaviour.

Additional Identified Local Priorities					
		Apr 2014 – Sep 2014	Apr 2013 – Sep 2013	Victims	% Change
22	Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	118	133		-11.3%
Aberdeen City Division continues to effectively engage with partners through the Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) with the overarching aim of improving the health and well-being of our communities in relation to alcohol and drug abuse.					
We continue to drive our 'Maple' Strategy which, through information sharing, collaborative					

working and proactive policing, we aim to reduce robberies and other crimes of violence and increase the number of people charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs. We use intelligence-led methods to proactively target those involved in these crime types.

With the use of illicit drugs in Scotland reportedly decreasing, it is perhaps consequential that detections for drugs related offences have fallen locally.

We continue to target Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in Aberdeen and have been successful in our efforts to dismantle those who target vulnerable individuals or locations. A dedicated team of Detective Officers focus on disrupting, detecting, deterring and further enhancing our capability to target individuals involved in Serious Organised Crime and Drugs (SOC&D) which persist in causing serious harm within our communities.

Officers within our Proactive and Community Policing Teams are assisted by other Specialist Officers from across the Division to carry out activity linked to our 'Maple' Strategy which identifies and implements good practice and develops new tactical options to enforce, prevent and change attitudes. Our activity works in tandem with NHS Grampian, Aberdeen City Council, Drugs Action and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

23	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	24.2%	17.5%		6.7%
24	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	463	607	144 fewer	-23.7%

Significant progress has been made within Aberdeen to tackle the number of housebreakings. A dedicated team of officers has been established and the issue has been identified as a local priority for Aberdeen City Division, managed through a dedicated Action Plan.

Analysis of crimes has revealed a large proportion relate to shed and outhouses being broken into. Crime Prevention measures have been increased and alarms have been provided to residents in areas where crimes are occurring.

We have recently launched a partnership initiative with SmartWater Technology Ltd. as part of the Force's commitment to tackling housebreaking. The project will see hundreds of residential properties in Torry and elsewhere issued with SmartWater home security packs to mark their personal possessions. Every participating household will be issued with a uniquely coded bottle of SmartWater solution, which is brushed on to their various valuables.

Once applied, the solution is almost impossible to remove and is only detectable under UV light. This technique allows officers to identify stolen goods by unveiling the unique code within the solution to provide an irrefutable forensic link back to the owner and link the criminal with the crime scene.



25	Theft by shoplifting detection rate	75.9%	71.3%		4.6%
26	Theft by shoplifting	953	878	75 more	8.5%
<p>The number of instances of Shoplifting has increased by over 8% which is in keeping with results elsewhere in the country.</p> <p>Just under half of the crimes recorded were in the City Centre of Aberdeen, where the detection rate was 79.5%. The rise is largely attributable to the AS6A and AS6C beats to the East end of the City Centre where retail premises are more concentrated (AS6A - includes Bon Accord Centre and St Nicholas Centre and AS6C - includes Aberdeen Market, Trinity Centre and Union Square). This is compared with the AS6B beat to the West end of the City Centre where shoplifting has decreased.</p> <p>In the City Centre, the 'Oak' Strategy focuses efforts on retail crime through coordinated partnerships and high profile proactive policing. An increased high visibility staffing complement has been dedicated over the festive period to deter all types of offending in the area. Officers engage with management, staff and security Officers within stores and shopping Malls, building upon strong existing relationships, improving intelligence gathering, assisting the early identification of crime trends and allowing the fluid dissemination of crime prevention advice.</p> <p>All perpetrators are subject to an intelligence debrief to establish outlets for stolen goods, so that action can be taken on demand.</p>					
27	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	26.2%	27.0%		-0.8%
28	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	1,234	1,314	80 fewer	-6.1%
<p>The number of reported Vandalisms has reduced. This is a direct result of targeting resources in affected local communities. However, detection rates have fallen slightly.</p>					
29	Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	204	203		0.5%
<p>With the potential escalation to Violence and/or antisocial behaviour that comes hand in hand with the consumption of alcohol, there has been increased focus and proactivity associated with enforcement of local byelaws to prevent people drinking in the streets.</p>					

Public Protection				
Local Target - Year End	Apr 2014 -	Apr 2013	Victims	% Change

		Sep 2014	– Sep 2013		
30	Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	206	198	8 more	4.0%
31	Group 2 crimes detection rate	79.6%	75.3%		4.3%
32	Rape detection rate	83.3%	96.8%		-13.5%

Crimes of an indecent nature are regarded as a mainstream priority for Police Scotland. Aberdeen City Division benefits from a dedicated team of Detective Officers who specialise in dealing with Rape.

They are supported by an established Family Protection Unit which has close links with partner agencies and those working within the third sector. Overall, numbers of reported crimes in this area has risen by nearly 4% on this time last year. This accounts for 8 more victims who have had the confidence and courage to report the matter to the Police.

Detection rates remain significant with investigations supported by a robust review process for all undetected crimes of Rape.

The care and well-being of victims of crime are at the forefront of each investigation, with Sexual Offence Liaison Officers deployed on every occasion and specific risk management plans introduced to provide the necessary support and advice.

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics				
	Apr 2014 - Sep 2014	Apr 2013 – Sep 2013	Victims	% Change
People Killed	4	3	1 more	33.3%
People Seriously injured	41	58	17 fewer	-29.3%
People Slightly Injured	106	153	47 fewer	-30.7%
(Context)				
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	1	1 fewer	-100.0%
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	5	4	1 more	25.0%
We have maintained falling numbers of injuries although there has been one more fatality compared with the same period last year.				

Efforts continue to address vulnerable road user groups including motorcyclists, young drivers and pedestrians through our 'Whitebeam' Strategy. It balances enforcement with real focus on personal responsibility and partnership working. The process encourages the sharing of information, ideas and good practice through interaction with Aberdeen Road Safety Strategy Group, Aberdeen Cycling Forum and specific motorcycle groups.

Site visits are undertaken after every fatal Road Traffic Collision (RTC) with the Roads Authority and/or Bear and Transport Scotland to inform future management of the RTC location.

Road Safety & Road Crime					
		Apr 2014 - Sep 2014	Apr 2013 - Sep 2013	Victims	% Change
33	Dangerous driving	59	51		15.7%
34	Speeding	1,361	1,128		20.7%
35	Disqualified driving	44	57		-22.8%
36	Driving Licence	302	276		9.4%
37	Insurance	455	477		-4.6%
38	Seat Belts	467	636		-26.6%
39	Mobile Phone	607	480		26.5%
<p>One of the main priorities identified through public consultation is 'Safer Roads'. Our Community Policing Teams, along with our dedicated Divisional Roads Policing Unit and others, have provided increased visibility, education and enforcement activities to target the main causations of road collisions namely speeding, drink driving, seatbelt and mobile phone related offences.</p> <p>This has increased the number of motorists dealt with regarding Road Traffic Offences (RTO's) which has in turn contributed towards the welcome reduction in road casualties within our communities.</p> <p>We have also worked hard to reduce the nuisance coming from antisocial drivers across the City.</p>					

Public Confidence					
		Apr 2014 - Sep 2014			
		Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
40	Complaints received about the Police	130		31.8	
		On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations
41	Total Allegations Recorded	200	3	20	223
<p>In instances when a complaint is made about the police, members of the public need to be reassured the enquiry will be thorough, impartial and any shortcomings identified and acted upon appropriately.</p> <p>A number of learning and intervention measures are now in place to reduce the risk of complaints being made about officers. The City wide use of Body Worn Video also assists in investigating complaints.</p> <p>Comparative data for 2013/14 is not available due to changes in recording mechanisms, however anecdotally indications suggest a decrease in complaints.</p>					