



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Aberdeen City Division

Local Policing Plan Quarters 3 & 4
2014/15

May 2015



Once again, I am proud to provide the committee with an account of Aberdeen City Division's performance against our Aberdeen City Local Policing Plan 2014-2017.

My team are performing consistently well on all fronts, despite difficult financial challenges. I consistently see a 'can-do' enthusiastic attitude from a professional workforce of officers and police staff, continually delivering across our City in some of the best examples of partnership working in the country.

This has helped us to remain 'in budget' for 2014/15 while providing a quality service for communities, which cannot always be reflected in statistics.

For instance, our local Police Scotland Young Volunteers scheme (PSYV), set up in partnership with Youthlink Scotland and Young Scot, is going from strength to strength in the Northfield area of the City, with high hopes for a new group coming to Torry.

We are not alone in the local public sector in facing challenges around recruitment of staff, partly due to the high cost of living in the City. We are collaborating innovatively to address this with projects including affordable accommodation schemes.

We always look to improve and build on our successes, while listening and giving feedback. I look forward to engaging with a small sub-group of the committee on how we can further enhance this report to ensure appropriate scrutiny on the policing service we provide to our local communities.

Adrian Watson
Chief Superintendent
Divisional Commander



Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour					
		Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Victims	% Change
1	Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	298	325	27 fewer	-8.3%
<p>We have improved performance, with serious violent crime reduced by over 8%, when compared to the same period last year.</p> <p>Where violent crime has occurred, our response is based on three principle strands; victim, location and offender. We explore each of these aspects to ensure we are providing the best possible support to those who report such crimes, whilst examining the location and offenders to ensure there are no emerging patterns or recurrent issues. The year to date figures for recorded crime continues to decline and our detection rate for violent crime continues to increase.</p> <p>The Division has strengthened recognition of the link between alcohol and violence by re-aligning line management and reporting structures under one Inspector. Staff involved in these business areas conduct joint briefings on a daily business to assess what has happened, what this means and what action is needed. This also strengthens our links throughout the Community Policing Teams to deal with violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Our Violence Reduction Officer ensures recidivist offenders are targeted robustly from initial appearance in court and are monitored to ensure any bail conditions and curfews are being adhered to. There have been a number of recent successful applications for ASBO's under Anti-social Behaviour Legislation and this work is ongoing.</p> <p>As a continuing preventative measure, violent offenders with specific curfew or bail conditions, particularly where this relates to the City Centre, are monitored in the run up to the deployment of Officers on the Weekend Policing Plan (WPP). This now includes proactive visits to other individuals who are not subject to conditions but are seen as posing a potential risk to safety of the public in the city centre.</p>					



A weekly planning meeting, with all internal partners, takes place to discuss the previous and also forthcoming WPP. This intelligence led meeting provides an analysis of the outcomes from the previous deployment and shapes activity for the following deployment, taking cognisance of local events and emerging trends. In addition, a monthly meeting takes place with external partners.

The staffing structure of the Violence Reduction Unit and associated shift pattern is changing to provide an enhanced capability to the Division's response to violent crime and the WPP.

The new Police Scotland Campaign Against Violence national Standard Operating Procedure has been published and is being actively promoted in policing Aberdeen.

In response to a number of recent instances of violence where a single blow has been struck, we are embarking on a campaign of awareness raising with the theme of "One Punch" and the implications and repercussions of this. We are in the initial planning stages of partnership work, including the Maxillofacial unit within the NHS regarding this.

The Purple Flag award, mentioned in the previous report, given for the highest standards around safety in the City Centre has been awarded again, in recognition of strong partnership working both locally and nationally.

2	Murder	1	1	same number	0.0%
3	Attempted Murder	14	21	7 fewer	-33.3%
4	Culpable Homicide (common law)	0	0	None	-
5	Culpable Homicide (other)	4	3	1 more	33.3%
6	Serious Assault detection rate	84.3%	82.9%		1.4%
7	Serious Assault	146	123	23 more	18.7%

The number of Serious Assaults has increased over this reporting period. One of the main drivers behind this is increased ethical recording, in line with victim interest and our Force values. Previously, a Serious Assault was recorded only where a Doctor indicated likelihood of permanent disfigurement. Many victims are being dealt with by nursing or Paramedic staff only and their opinion with regard to permanent disfigurement is now also considered. The Serious Assault detection rate has not been adversely affected by this however and actually shows an increase of 1.4%.

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Produced by Police Scotland Analysis & Performance Unit on 21st April 2015.

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8	Robbery detection rate	75.5%	60.7%		14.8%
9	Robbery	94	112	18 fewer	-16.1%

Compared to the same period last year there has been a significant drop in the number of Robberies with 18 fewer crimes recorded, while the detection rates remain very healthy with an improvement over the same period last year of 14.8%.

This reduction in recorded crime is very welcome and can be assimilated to a number of factors, not least remaining focussed on the positive work that has previously been implemented and proven to be effective. This includes the robust scrutiny applied daily by Supervisors and the Command Team to each and every crime of this nature. The intrusive reviews carried out by supervisors ensure all investigative opportunities are being maximised and preventative measures are being implemented.

Our ever evolving Action Plan is utilised to capture action taken and is regularly scrutinised to ensure that good practice, not only locally, but Nationally is captured for current and future use.

Analysis assists with the identification of any hot spots, specific times of the day / week / month or year or particular events that may impact on the occurrence of crimes. This scrutiny allows for the planning and dedication of either local, National or specialist resource which can then be strategically deployed and focussed in a particular area, thus making best use of Officers time. Analysis often shows a crossover of specific crime types within certain areas of the City which again allows for the improved deployment and focussing of resource.

We continue to work closely with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service to ensure that if offenders are released on bail that they are subject to special conditions that curtail their movements, allowing us to monitor their whereabouts in line with the restrictions imposed.

Having a Detective Inspector dedicated to the prevention and enforcement of all Robbery related crimes ensures the appropriate scrutiny and review of all crimes and data. This single point of contact enhances the building of both internal and external partnerships which are necessary to effectively target the offenders who commit this type of crime.



Where offenders are wanted in relation to a robbery or other serious violent crimes they are actively pursued and apprehended, thus reducing the potential of them committing further crimes.

Best use is made of the Campaign Against Violence (CAV) days of action where additional resource supplements and supports Divisional staff by carrying out specific tasks.

The Crime Reduction Officers continue to support Divisional resource by carrying out preventative work and recently arranged visits to all Bookmaker premises highlighting areas of potential vulnerability and providing security advice where necessary.

There remains a correlation between alcohol and the commission of serious and violent crimes with a significant number of victims being under the influence of alcohol or some other substance. As part of the Operation Oak Strategy, the Weekend Policing Patrols are briefed to respond to anyone they see who may be vulnerable and appropriate preventative action taken to ensure that persons reach their destination safely.

As part of our ongoing preventative strategy into acquisitive crime we have regular liaison and contact with the Second Hand dealers within the City where we conduct checks looking for the proceeds of crime. This is an area that we are looking to develop further and have dedicated Officers to carry out these checks.

10	Common assault detection rate	76.4%	71.1%		5.3%
11	Common assault	3,421	3,519	98 fewer	-2.8%

There are almost 100 fewer crimes of Common Assault than the same period last year - a reduction of almost 3% and the detection rate has increased to 5.3%.

In an effort to maintain and improve this good work, Common Assaults are being mapped to improve targeting of areas and offenders.

12	Stop and searches conducted	6,064	8,954		-32.3%
13	Number of positive stop and searches conducted.	1,538	1,800		-14.6%

The stop and search tactic has been subject of a great deal of attention during this reporting period. This has not affected our operational officers, who have continued to apply the practice in a consistent, fair and intelligence led manner. This is reflected in a similar number of stop searches across Quarters 1 & 2 and Quarters 3 & 4.



The overall number of stop searches undertaken has continued to fall, while the percentage of those which are positive has increased to 25%.

The Aberdeen City Division Command team have proactively engaged with elected members to address any concerns regarding the practice and we continue to be open to dialogue on the topic.

14	Number of complaints regarding disorder	10,605	11,650	1045 fewer	-9.0%
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The continued decline in complaints of disorder is particularly welcomed. This type of annoyance and antisocial behaviour can have lasting consequences for any member of the community but particularly the elderly or vulnerable. Community Policing Teams regularly undertake proactive initiatives throughout the City to support the day to day activities of Officers, partners and communities to ensure there are less victims.

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour (continued)

		Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Victims	% Change
15	Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	3,070	2,696		13.9%
16	Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	2,321	2,133		8.8%

Since April 2014, statistical information regarding Domestic Abuse has been drawn from the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD), which hosts all Police concern reports, including those submitted about domestic abuse. Alongside confidence in reporting, strong governance around the accuracy and number of concern reports submitted has contributed to the increase in incidents recorded.

Historically, incidents were counted through a Command and Control application, which did not highlight the number of complainers or allegations made. Counter complaints are now being captured more accurately and cross checking by the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) ensures that two iVPD reports are submitted in this scenario.

Aberdeen Division continues to work with partners to pilot the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland.

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17	Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	59.9%	59.9%		0.0%
18	Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	81.4%	70.6%		10.8%
The increased detection rate for domestic abuse reflects the high levels of scrutiny and investigation for each investigation. Area Inspectors and Chief Inspectors routinely monitor domestic crimes, while the DAIU provide support.					
19	Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	188	117		60.7%
20	Ensure 95% of domestic abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24hrs).	99.7%	-		-
The support provided to victims of Domestic Abuse was increased during 2014/15, to include safe and well checks. This is undertaken during the first 24-hours after an incident is reported and a perpetrator appears in Court. At 99.7% Aberdeen City Division has the highest returns in Scotland.					
21	Hate Crime and offences detection rate	80.1%	80.1%		0.0%
Reported Hate Crime in Aberdeen remains relatively low and the progressive downward trend experienced in recent years continues. All Hate Crime reports are subject to robust scrutiny and management processes to ensure that offenders are identified, wherever possible. This contributes significantly to the high detection reflected in this report.					

Additional Identified Local Priorities					
		Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Victims	% Change
22	Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	226	257		-12.1%
As has been the case historically, the Division has no significant home grown drug dealers. The issue for the City is those visiting from Merseyside, West Midlands and London primarily. They are tackled by operational officers from Community Policing Teams, Proactive units and the Serious and Organised Crime Group (SOCG) Unit, who can call on the specialist assistance provided by the Specialist Crime Division.					

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The SOCG unit team focuses firmly on two strands of the Serious and Organised Crime in Scotland Strategy, namely:

to Disrupt the activities of serious organised crime groups, including by clawing back the proceeds of their crimes;

to Detect crime by boosting capacity and improving co-ordination to give serious organised criminals no place to hide.

Disrupt and Detect is not limited to drug dealing and SOCG officers may take a long term approach to crime groups, not necessarily producing volume drug supply charges, like their Proactive colleagues. For a significant portion of this reporting period, the team, assisted by colleagues from the Proactive Unit, were focussed on a SOCG whose aim was acquisitive crime. This accounts for a drop in volume drug supply charges when compared against the same period last year.

That said, 126 individuals assessed to be a mixture of principle and significant members of organised crime groups have been arrested. The Division also deprived criminals of in excess of 2.5 million pounds through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA).

23	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	21.5%	19.8%		1.7%
24	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	927	1,181	254 fewer	-21.5%

A 21.5% reduction in the number of housebreakings has occurred when compared to the same period last year, representing 254 fewer victims, whilst an improvement in detection rates has seen over 21% of these crimes being detected.

All reported housebreakings are reviewed on a daily basis by Sergeants from the Division's Proactive Team. The purpose of these reviews being to ensure all forensic and investigative opportunities are exhausted.

We liaise regularly with our forensic science colleagues, to ensure that where relevant, we 'fast track' the examination of forensic evidence recovered at a crime scene. This allows us the best opportunity of quickly identifying the people responsible for the crime, thus providing the opportunity to prevent them from committing further crimes.



Representatives of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service are very supportive of our efforts to reduce repeat offending by our most prolific criminals, which has resulted in a large number of these individuals being either remanded in custody, or made the subject of curfew Bail conditions, which generally prevent the subject from being out with their home address during a specified timeframe.

These curfews are of great assistance to us in respect of reducing crime and we robustly monitor compliance. Anyone found to be breaching their specific conditions are reported to the Courts, in order that the conditions can be reviewed.

Regular analysis allows us to identify areas of the city most affected by housebreaking and other acquisitive crime and we use the data produced to inform our staff of where they need to concentrate their patrols.

A number of the recorded housebreakings relate to garden sheds and we now provide the owners with a simple to fit shed alarm as part of our overall response to such incidents. We have adopted this approach in an effort to prevent the owners becoming repeat victims and also in the hope that it encourages others in the community to consider the security of their own homes and outbuildings.

25	Theft by shoplifting detection rate	74.0%	74.4%		-0.4%
<p>Detections of shopliftings within the City Centre of Aberdeen have increased by over 15%. Under the Operation Oak strategy the City Centre Community Policing formed the 'Oak Unit' in the later part of 2014. These dedicated Officers were given the remit to increase visibility in the city centre and work directly with retailers to increase their knowledge base of known offenders, encourage proactive security intervention and give crime prevention advice to day time visitors to the area. Following its success and welcome feedback the unit is now running on a permanent basis.</p>					
26	Theft by shoplifting	1,976	1,774	202 more	11.4%
27	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	25.8%	26.0%		-0.2%
28	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	2,401	2,449	48 fewer	-2.0%
29	Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	288	299		-3.7%

Public Protection					
		Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Victims	% Change
30	Number of Group 2 - Crimes of Indecency	497	407	90 more	22.1%
31	Group 2 crimes detection rate	76.3%	66.1%		10.2%
<p>Despite the significant increase in the reporting of Group 2 crimes, Aberdeen City Division has improved performance with the detection rate rising by over 10% to 76.3%.</p> <p>There is no one specific reason for the rise in reported crimes, however increased confidence in the Police must be a factor. Media campaigns on Rape like 'We can stop it' heightened public awareness and provided an explanation of what constitutes rape whilst national media coverage of high profile sexual abuse enquiries will also have had an impact on reporting.</p> <p>There is robust management of all Group 2 investigations, which are subject to review locally by a Detective Inspector as well as the area Chief Inspector to ensure detection opportunities are maximised.</p>					
32	Rape detection rate	70.1%	63.3%		6.8%
<p>The reporting of rapes was almost identical to that of last year, however the detection rate rose nearly 7% to 70.1%. Given all undetected cases and those subsequently recorded as 'no crime' are reviewed by the National Rape Review Team, and a number of detected cases are also subject to review, there are no obvious concerns in respect of investigative quality.</p> <p>The welfare for all victims of sexual crime is paramount and Sexual Offences Liaison Officers are deployed to ensure their well-being is to the fore. As in previous years there remains low reporting in respect of male victims although there was a slight increase on last year. We continue to work with partners to encourage male victims to come forward and this will also form part of a forthcoming media campaign.</p>					

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics				
	Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Victims	% Change
People Killed	5	4	1 more	25.0%
People Seriously injured	79	102	23 fewer	-22.5%
People Slightly Injured	221	284	63 fewer	-22.2%
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	1	1 fewer	- 100.0%
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	6	9	3 fewer	-33.3%
<p>We continue to explore opportunities to ensure road users and pedestrians remain safe within the roads and streets of Aberdeen. While there was an increase of one fatality during the period compared to the same period last year, there was significant reductions in those injured. There is no room for complacency and Aberdeen City Division's dedicated Roads Policing Unit supports the Community Policing Teams to deliver Operation Whitebeam, our local safer roads strategy. This operation and the considerable partnerships which have been formed and maintained over many years has contributed towards these reductions, meaning there are less casualties on our roads We will continue our pro-active work to ensure this trend continues.</p>				

Road Safety & Road Crime					
		Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	Victims	% Change
33	Dangerous driving	100	100		0.0%
34	Speeding	2,358	1,760		34.0%
35	Disqualified driving	80	95		-15.8%
36	Driving Licence	481	732		-34.3%
37	Insurance	760	958		-20.7%
38	Seat Belts	672	1,046		-35.8%
39	Mobile Phone	945	916		3.2%
<p>Under the auspices of Operation Whitebeam, Community Policing and Road Policing officers continue to focus on road safety/road crime in Aberdeen City and the targeting of Priority Routes and those identified by the community as causing concern. Joint initiatives undertaken by Divisional and Road Policing officers throughout the City have contributed to the reduction in casualty statistics.</p> <p>During 2014/15, Road Policing Officers in Aberdeen stopped and engaged with 10,885 drivers throughout the City. We targeted our Priority Routes of A96, A93, A944, A956, A90 and Beach Esplanade, as analysis shows all have had a high instance of injury collisions, through high visibility patrolling along with the use of unmarked cars.</p> <p>Officers in Aberdeen Division also participated in national Road Safety campaigns throughout the year including Operation Zenith, targeting motorcycle use and Drink/Drug Driving. Through engagement with partners and the community we will continue to deploy resources where they are most needed.</p>					



Public Confidence					
		Apr 2014 - Mar 2015			
		Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
40	Complaints received about the Police	234		29.7	
		On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations
41	Total Allegations Recorded	367	7	71	445
<p>Complaints against the Police are down overall. In Aberdeen this has resulted in a reduction in excess of 20% compared to the same period last year. A dedicated member of the Divisions Senior Management Team, the Chief Inspector Support, provides a robust scrutiny of all complaints to ensure any individual or organisational learning is captured, documented and shared. This ensures enhanced customer satisfaction and allows a fair and reasonable assessment of Officer conduct and behaviour.</p> <p>Where appropriate, Officers are provided with additional support and guidance through Early Intervention Management Plans to reduce the risk of further complaints.</p> <p>Police Scotland has established a Front Line Resolution Unit in the North, East and West of the country where staff can deal with the most minor complaints quickly, efficiently and in a consistent manner.</p>					