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Performance against Local Policing Plan 2023-26



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe



North East Division Aberdeen City

April - September 2025

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Introduction by the Divisional Commander



I am delighted to present the latest Communities, Housing & Public Protection Committee report on behalf of North East Division. This report details performance in Aberdeen City aligned to the agreed priorities at local and national level for the period 1 April to 30 September 2025.

Policing is demanding and recent months have seen my Officers dealing with numerous challenging situations ranging from the apprehension of violent criminals to providing lifesaving first aid. This Committee can be assured that Aberdeen is served by committed Officers who work relentlessly every day to keep people safe.

Our commitment to protecting vulnerable people from risk of harm, remains resolute, and I am pleased to report that our performance in relation to the detection of crime perpetrated against women and girls remains strong. However, we all have an obligation to drive down a rise in this crime type and within North East Division, we are proud to be a key partner leading work committed to changing a societal culture where women and girls can feel safe from gender-based violence.

I have commented upon this previously, but the threat of online fraud remains prevalent as criminals move online to perpetrate crimes. Those new to the 'online world' are most at risk. Joint working protocols with the banking industry and media campaigns aim to alert people to the ever-growing risks and current trends. Similarly, with many gains having been made as we tackle crime, nationally, we have also seen criminals choosing to target retail premises. Here, within North East Division, we are excited to work alongside the Retail Task force, taking the opportunity to welcome them into our area, providing resource, expertise and support to help us combat this crime type, in turn, supporting our retailers. Planning is ongoing to provide retailers and members of the licencing trade with the tools to create safe environments for staff and customers, ahead of the increased footfalls we see during the festive periods.

There is no doubt that the blight of drugs continues to affect communities across Aberdeen City. However we remain committed to tackling it, evidenced in part through the increase in Drug Supply charges. Importantly, we also continue to work hard alongside partners to strengthen our communities using our award-winning Operation Protector model, supporting those with addiction to repel exploitation by Organised Crime Groups. Continued strong detection rates are a key indicator of our proactive approach and demonstrates the work of Officers in developing and acting on the intelligence they build, whilst also carrying out pro-active patrols and searches.

Our work within schools remains ongoing, providing young people with advice, guidance and information in relation to consequences, to divert them from a range of criminality including antisocial behaviour and the carrying of knives. Our work alongside partners to better understand issues within city schools has seen effective reporting and joint working to support young people and teachers. This ensures effective joint working to intervene and support young people away from any escalation in offending and the reduction in those using knives/offensive weapons indicates effectiveness in our approach.

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In this reporting period, across Scotland, an increase in Anti-Illegal Migration protest activity has seen significant resource deployed. People have the right to peaceful and legitimate protest, and it is our role to facilitate this whilst ensuring that the communities impacted, can feel safe. We know that some who attend have engaged in criminal behaviour however, our robust approach has seen almost all of those perpetrating in hate crime, brought to justice.

I am also extremely proud to highlight our performance in this reporting period which saw the Tall Ships 2025 race visit Aberdeen. As we know, the city has been celebrated by our citizens, those involved and the Sail Training International with all agreeing upon our tremendous success as a host city. Significantly for me, our robust and meticulously planned approach to keeping our communities safe allowed continued delivery of service across Aberdeen and no arrests attributed to the event. A huge well done to all of those involved, locally and nationally, even more so as we then delivered the operation covering the visit of the President of the United States of America to Aberdeenshire. It was essential that we continued to provide an effective service to Aberdeen and Police Scotland's ability to flex its resource nationally, allowed us to do that.

I wish to pay tribute to my teams, to the national teams supporting North East Division, and to our volunteers for their commitment. Finally, I wish to reiterate my thanks to all our partners and elected members for the support we receive. The level of joint-working within Aberdeen is excellent and contributes significantly to our ability to Keep People Safe.

Kate Stephen

Divisional Commander

North East Division



Plan on a Page Aberdeen City

Our vision | Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Aberdeen
 Our purpose | Improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Aberdeen
 Our values | Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Human Rights

PUBLIC HEALTH



Executive Summary



Protecting Vulnerable People

We remain a key partner within the Aberdeen Violence Against Woman and Girls (VAWG) Partnership.

Our Strategy and Action Plan provides that, "Violence Against Women and Girls is recognised as both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality by the United Nations, World Health Organisation and Scottish Government. Aberdeen's Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership supports this definition and adopts the Scottish Government vision of a: *"Strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse, as well as the attitudes that perpetuate it"*". We use Violence Against Women & Girls to refer to a range of actions that harm, or cause suffering and indignity to women and children. These include but are not limited to rape, attempted rape, domestic abuse, stalking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, 'honour' killings and physical, sexual and psychological violence including coercive control and financial abuse. By adopting a gendered definition, the Partnership does not deny or minimise the use of violence against men or within same sex relationships. The gendered analysis is a reflection that women and girls are disproportionately affected by particular forms of violence that they experience because they are women and girls which has its roots in gender inequality. Whilst particular forms of violence, including domestic abuse, are disproportionately experienced by women, men also experience domestic abuse and are entitled to support in the same way that women are. Police Scotland and the Aberdeen VAWG Partnership condemns all forms of violence and abuse and also recognises the critical role men play in challenging violence and inequality".

Tackling Domestic Abuse continues to be a key focus for Police Scotland as we embark upon our 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in November and December 2025. This will include both enforcement activity dealing robustly with those who perpetrate Domestic Abuse with awareness raising and encouraging those who have been impacted by such abuse to have confidence in reporting matters to the Police. Our work in the prevention space continues through strong multi-agency partnerships used to target the behaviour of offenders and safeguard victims and their families through the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS); Multi-Agency Tasking & Coordinating (MATAC) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) forums; all of which are areas of growth.

Police Scotland are a key partner in the delivery of the Bairns' Hoose in Aberdeen which offers holistic and child centred support to those who have been victims of or witness to abuse, and to children under the age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused harm. We are delighted that the Bairns' Hoose in the city has now opened. It is delivering the first phase where children are interviewed by specialist Officers and social workers who have undergone extensive training in trauma informed practice using the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM), with Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRD's) as the mechanism where we make proportionate and justifiable decisions in the best interests of children.

Tackling hate crime remains a priority and we understand the profound impact it can have on both victims and the wider community. This is demonstrated through our robust approach to investigating and detecting reported crime and the collaborative approach taken with partners to educate, prevent crime and reassure communities.

We recognise the community harms caused by those with mental health or substance misuse issues. The prevalence of these harms in society inevitably results in vulnerable individuals coming into contact with the Police. We maintain strong partnerships across Aberdeen, taking a person-centred and trauma informed approach, aiming to create a pathway where individuals can receive appropriate and timely care by the most relevant professional.

Serious Organised Crime

North East Division continues to produce high levels of performance across the 4D strategy (Disrupt, Detect, Deter, Divert) to tackle Serious Organised Crime (SOC) in this most recent reporting period. Utilising the '4D' method, we continue to ensure those vulnerable to becoming susceptible to drugs and the associated harm are provided with support, engagement and directed to the relevant partners under our Deter and Divert strands. Under the Disrupt and Detect strands we aim to ensure, via disruptive tactics, and all investigative capabilities that those within our area and those travelling to this area for the purpose of dealing controlled drugs are met with as hostile an environment as possible

Drug supply detections continue to increase on the previous year, by over 20%, and the 5 Year Average, by over 55%. This demonstrates our focused effort to disrupt the facilitators and heads of Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) and County Lines who profit most from the supply of controlled drugs.

Detections and investigation into large scale cannabis cultivation also increased significantly against the previous year and 5 Year Average. These cultivations are set up and utilised by SOC groups and the disruption and dismantling of them ensure disruption of cashflow and the supply of controlled drugs by these groups. In this reporting period, controlled drugs with a value of over £3,000,000 have been recovered.

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder

Our performance in terms of antisocial behaviour (ASB) is comparable to that of the previous year and a significant reduction across the 5 Year Average. Positively, we have seen a substantial reduction in antisocial offences such as urinating which on its own is a low-level crime, but the associated antisocial behaviour that comes with it impacts on our communities feeling safe in the city centre. We recognise that ASB is multi-faceted and often associated with other criminality. Continued work with our partners is key to tackling the issues upstream by looking at wider societal issues and causation factors. This is why our Local Policing Plan is supported by a clear strategy that prioritises this approach.

Operation Galaxite is an ongoing operation to reduce ASB predominantly in the City Centre and is led by our Community Action Team. Enforcement, engagement and diversion strategies are well versed and continue to develop through our partnerships.

Operation Armour is a yearly operation which is run across Aberdeen City to tackle ASB in response to the increasingly challenging use of e-bikes affecting all our communities. The operation was a success, and more details are provided in the main section of this report.

In addition, the Community Action Team ran a joint operation with our Roads Policing Division and Home Office Immigration Enforcement partners to tackle unlawful employment and the use of unregistered, high powered delivery bikes operating in the City. As a result, a number of modified bikes were seized and offences identified and reported appropriately. This is part of our ongoing work to keep communities safe and ensure road users operate legally and responsibly, reducing ASB.

Unfortunately, our recorded crime in terms of Group 1 crimes have seen an increase this last quarter with regards to Serious Violence incidents of Attempted Murder and Robbery. However, despite the

increase of incidents, we remain comparable in terms of detection rates and continue to support the victims of these incidents which are often traumatic.

We are committed to reducing serious violence and protecting people from harm. Underpinned by governance through our Violence Prevention Board and delivered by our Community Policing Teams, Community Investigation Unit and specialist resources, our robust enforcement and multi-agency strategies are being applied and continue to deliver on our objectives.

We understand that violence of any nature is important to our communities and Common Assaults although less serious, can occur more frequently and be damaging to a sense of safety in the city. For that reason, our approach to Common Assault investigation has been robust and is comparable to last year and the 5 Year Average.

The Community Safety Partnership remains key in the fight against violence and has helped lead our multi-agency approach against city centre violence and ASB helping to inform, direct and draw in support against the issues affecting those living, working or socialising in the city centre.

Road Safety and Road Crime

We continue to collaborate with our partners across Aberdeen and North East Division, dedicated to road safety and reducing road casualties. With our focus throughout the year aligned with the 'Fatal Five' Campaign, we continue to target key offences identified as contributory factors associated with fatal and serious injury collisions.

Our Community Policing Teams and colleagues from Roads Policing and the Camera Safety unit have maintained a visible presence on the road network across the city supported by delivery of targeted campaigns and initiatives throughout the year.

Acquisitive Crime

Overall crimes of dishonesty have shown an increase over quarter 1 and 2 on the previous year with increases observed in certain Motor vehicle offences, Shoplifting and Fraud. There has been a decrease in Housebreakings except non-Domestic Housebreakings with 5 more recorded and investigated against the previous year. There have been notable improvements in other areas of Group 3 crime over the reporting period. Motor vehicle crime specifically Theft of and from a Motor vehicle have seen notable reductions of over 20% and 30% respectively.

The formation and implementation of the Retail Crime Task force within Police Scotland is a dedicated response to the rising threat of theft, abuse, and violence faced by retailers. Officially launched in April 2025, the taskforce is backed by a £3 million commitment from the Scottish Government to empower us to protect retailers and their employees across the country. The 4P's approach will be the strategy implemented - Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

We continue to work with partners across a broad spectrum of initiatives, programmes, engagements and strategies to protect the residents of Aberdeen from becoming victim of acquisitive crime.

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism

We aim to reduce the risk of terrorism so people can go about their lives freely and with confidence by focusing on the local delivery of the CONTEST strategy using four key objectives: PROTECT, PREPARE, PURSUE and PREVENT. Partners in Aberdeen continue to contribute to the local CONTEST delivery plan and significant work continues to take place to ensure the area is protected against the threat of terrorism.

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Following the recent terrorist attack at a Synagogue in Manchester, we continue to work with and provide reassurance patrols to religious communities from all denominations, to ensure they are safe.

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Protecting Vulnerable People



Objective: Work with statutory and third sector partners to reduce violence against women and girls

North East Division continues to support the Aberdeen City Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWG), delivering and supporting key activities in furtherance of the Partnership's delivery plan.

We note an increase in recorded domestic abuse and hope the increase in reporting indicates increased incidence in victims coming forward. The practical application of the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2018 is allowing for additional offences to be recorded aligned to courses of conduct and controlling behaviour, with our detection rate remaining positive.

Police Scotland continue to lead on the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process on behalf of all partners, ensuring those victims at high risk of harm and any children are subject of robust multi-agency safety planning, with their needs at the heart of everything we do. Work is ongoing to ensure the meetings and steering groups have sufficient agency representation which ensures victims are fully represented and their voice is heard and understood within that forum.

Supported by partners, we also continue to proactively target high risk domestic abuse perpetrators through our Multi-Agency Tasking & Coordinating (MATAC) process. The key aims of MATAC include the identification of individuals who present the greatest risk, proactive enforcement/active targeting of offenders, and the sharing of information for intelligence development, prevention, or enforcement as appropriate.

Case Study

Using the MATAC principles, the Domestic Abuse Task Force recently secured the conviction of a male who was identified as a high priority offender through ingrained assessment and review structures. He was subject to a proactive investigation and through engagement with identified former partners, numerous serious domestic abuse and sexual offences were discovered, leading to him being found guilty at Aberdeen High Court and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

The demand in relation to the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) continues to rise as awareness raising efforts by Police and partners continues. This scheme offers anyone with concerns; whether for their own safety or the safety of another; regarding an individual's history of Domestic Abuse to make an application for relevant information to be disclosed. Each case is assessed individually and where appropriate disclosures are made to pro-actively mitigate the risk an individual poses, allowing people to make their own informed decisions around whether to remain in a relationship.

Enforcement activity against perpetrators of Domestic Abuse is a priority for which we have strong local governance, and we set high standards around the case management of these investigations, ensuring scrutiny at all levels, including the Senior Leadership Team on a daily basis. We will also engage in a

media campaign reinforcing our zero-tolerance stance on this issue. We focus heavily on victim safety planning and routinely implement Perpetrator Management Plans to ensure that each and every opportunity is taken to disrupt Domestic Abuse perpetrators who pose a high risk of harm.

Information sharing with our partners is a key function within Police Scotland. We continually ensure our processes are fit for purpose, ensuring that people are safeguarded through the sharing of information with key partners in the public and third sector.

Objective: Drive the development of multi-agency agendas to minimise harm and support / signpost those we identify as vulnerable towards partners

A key priority of Police Scotland is in ensuring we help victims to access the support they need from the agency best equipped to deliver that. Where there is the potential that an adult is deemed to be at risk of harm, the Adult Inter Agency Referral process will ensure that an assessment of risk is undertaken on a multi-agency basis to ensure the correct support can then be provided based on individual need.

Working in collaboration with partners, our knowledge and response to Adult Support & Protection matters continues to develop and improve. We continue to support the Aberdeen Adult Protection Committee (APC) and its varying sub-groups, effectively delivering positive outcomes through multi-agency improvement activity.

Our commitment to our work in relation to Learning Reviews remains a key focus in the North East with a Detective Chief Inspector leading on this workstream, supported by Detective Inspectors from within the Public Protection department. This crucial work ensures that learning from cases is extracted on a multi-agency basis and helps to inform our improvement plans for the future.

We continue to drive and support positive change through our chairing and representation at the Grampian Wide Adult Protection Group with specialist Officers, through effective collaboration, devising multi-agency information sharing guidance and a financial harm strategy.

We utilise our data to help us to identify those at risk of harm through monitoring repeat calls, intelligence and concern report submissions. Our Concern Hub staff carry out escalation reviews for such individuals ensuring their needs are highlighted appropriately to partners. Our staff are ever vigilant for signs of persons being coercively controlled; financially exploited or exploited in the digital world, even if a call does not initially relate to that. Our strong relationships with partners and excellent information sharing processes ensure that emerging concerns are recognised and disseminated appropriately. Frontline Officers are trained to provide immediate safeguarding advice tailored to the individual's needs.

We are working alongside key partners in Education and Rape Crisis to raise awareness of Peer-on-Peer sexual offending between children under 18 years old. Joint inputs will be provided to Dyce Academy as a pilot location in the coming months with the focus being on children taking responsibility for their own actions, recognising and challenging unacceptable behaviours and knowing what to do and who to turn to should they experience abuse. We will look to roll this out further across the city after the pilot review.

Aberdeen is home to a number of asylum seekers and refugees, where a number of individuals and families are placed within hotel and residential accommodation. A well-developed partnership is in place to support the integration of individuals housed in the area, taking a holistic approach to both individual and community need. The support of local communities has been fundamental to this, working with the Police, Mears and other statutory partners.

We know that Hate Crime continues to impact individuals and communities, particularly those most vulnerable in society. It is positive to see a decrease in reported Hate Crime across the reporting period, but we understand that communities continue to view it as a concern.

We work with a range of partners to ensure Hate Crime is well understood and that victims feel empowered to report it, either directly or via third-party reporting centres, with the confidence that perpetrators will be robustly dealt with. Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officers regularly attend community groups and events to engage with and listen to individuals from minority communities.

Across the reporting period, we have seen a rise nationally in anti-immigration protests and Aberdeen has not been immune to this trend, sometimes seeing protests occurring on a weekly basis. We understand and promote the fundamental right to peaceful protest; however, Hate Crime is not legitimate protest, and we will swiftly and robustly deal with those committing these offences. Specially trained Hate Crime Advisors are deployed to such protests to provide commanders with guidance around potential criminality.

Reducing the harms associated with substance misuse remains a key priority across the Aberdeen area and this has been of increasing relevance with a nationwide drug alert being in place since the start of 2025. We remain part of a strong local partnership, allowing information to be shared between professionals in an effort to identify harms at an early stage. We are also active in forums across the North-East area and on a national basis, enabling wider trends to be considered and best practice to be shared.

Operational harm reduction activity is coordinated through an officer seconded to the Alcohol and Drug Partnership as the Assertive Outreach Coordinator, enabling multidisciplinary teams to proactively assist both individuals and communities at the greatest risk of harm and to provide harm reduction advice and support.

As detailed in the recently presented mental health thematic report, mental health calls continue to create demand on policing resources, and we aim to respond in a manner where those in crisis get the correct response from those best able to provide the required help and assistance, enabling a trauma informed approach and improved outcomes for vulnerable individuals.

National work is driven by Police Scotland's Mental Health Taskforce and, where there is no immediate risk, mechanisms are in place to refer individuals to the NHS Mental Health Hub at the point of first contact. Where risk is identified and a Police response is required, our aim is to provide Officers with a number of options to ensure that individuals in crisis are referred to the most appropriate agency as soon as possible.

Direct Police access to the NHS Flow Navigation Centre has been in place since December 2024 and allows Officers to have an early discussion with a clinician whilst at the scene of a mental health related call where an individual is in significant crisis. This facilitates early and informed decision making, accelerating access to care settings where required and preventing unnecessary travel to hospital where that is not an appropriate resolution. Officers have used this on 165 occasions during the reporting period, with streamlined decision-making leading to a significant reduction in Officer hours spent dealing with such incidents.

We continue to work closely with Penumbra 365 to assist those in mental health distress or crisis which does not require an immediate medical intervention or admission. Contact can be initiated from Officers at the scene of an incident via telephone or persons can be conveyed with their consent to Penumbra's premises in Aberdeen to receive support from a network of practitioners and outside agencies. 22

persons have been referred to this service during the reporting period; however a collaborative effort is currently being made to increase this.

We have also continued to increase the number of Officers trained to deliver Distress Brief Interventions, where Officers can refer individuals to Penumbra 365 for a 14-day supportive intervention for mental health distress where there is no immediate risk. The aim of this is to provide support prior to a more acute stage of mental health crisis, where the risk to the individual may be greater. 69 referrals were made during the reporting period.

Objective: Raise awareness of and prevent abuse of children and other vulnerable persons, ensuring a victim centred approach

Police in Aberdeen City remain committed to preventing the abuse and exploitation of children through the early identification of risk; robust safeguarding measures and strong partnership working. Officers trained to recognise indicators of harm such as neglect; online exploitation or physical harm act swiftly alongside partners to protect the child. A victim centred approach underpins all our contact with children and young people ensuring their voice; wellbeing and safety are central to decisions made at every stage.

The work of our child interview teams (SCIM) and our IRD process continues to deliver a high standard of service to children in Aberdeen ensuring they receive a trauma informed service aligned to their individual needs. Officers have an opportunity to build trust with children and their families and to make the process as comfortable as possible for them.

The Aberdeen City Bairns Hoose has been operational since August 2025 in which time there has been a tangible shift away from Joint Investigative Interviews (JII) being conducted in educational establishments to the Bairns Hoose, providing children with a choice of where to be interviewed, and more importantly a trauma informed environment to have their testimony captured. At the time of submission, over 60 JIIs have taken place within the Bairns Hoose, equating to approximately 70% of all JIIs in Aberdeen City. Prior to Bairns Hoose opening, approximately 70 % of all JIIs (April 2024 to March 2025) in Aberdeen City took place within educational establishments. Our SCIM team, who are now based in the Bairns Hoose, are working daily in collaboration with Speech and Language Therapy (NHS Grampian) and Children First, both also based in the Bairns Hoose. As part of a 'test of change' Speech and Language Therapy are supporting the planning of JIIs to ensure those children with additional needs/disabilities voices are heard. Feedback from children and their families continues to play a pivotal role in how the Bairns Hoose is developed. The following quotes were captured by Children First from children/families they are currently providing recovery support to.

Feedback from parent of children who have experienced both JII and recovery support at Bairns Hoose:

"It feels comfortable here, the kids love coming, they didn't want to leave at the end of their interview, they wanted to stay and play in the Bairns Hoose. They are happy coming back for support, they trust the adults that they have met at the Bairns Hoose."

Feedback from a teenager who experienced a JII prior to the Bairns Hoose having opened and is now a member of the Changemakers Group and is influencing the design and development of our building and how we support children going forward:

"Having an interview happen at the Bairns Hoose is so much better for children. I had my interview at school in a tiny room with a busy corridor with people moving about and going past while I was talking. It didn't feel private, and we had to sit close together to all be able to fit in the room with the camera fitting in too. Having the cameras in the roof in the interview rooms is so much better. Children will be

able to relax and forget that the camera is there while they talk. I felt like the camera was pointing at me because I had done something wrong, and like even though I knew I wasn't really, it felt a bit like I might be getting arrested. The Bairns Hoose feels calm, safe, and friendly for children."

Feedback from parent supporting a teenager to attend JII:

"It feels comfortable, calm, and private. It is good to be able to be just next door to the room where she is talking to the police. I am right here if she needs me."

Police Scotland are working closely with our partners within COPFS and SCRA by ensuring they have the full SCIM package at an early stage in proceedings. Our visually recorded interviews of a child's testimony reduce the chance of them having to appear in court thereby reducing exposure to further trauma.

We remain committed to the Learning Review work in respect of children also, and in line with the service for adult cases; a Detective Chief Inspector leads on this work, alongside partner agencies. This ensures we can continue to identify areas for development and areas of good practice and take this forward into our strategies and delivery plans.

We continue to be supported by colleagues in the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit who hold responsibility for much of the work connected to child abuse and exploitation online. They carry out enforcement in relation to those who have committed offences such as downloading indecent images of children; ensuring perpetrators are brought to justice and appropriate safeguarding measures implemented.

Case Study

Through close collaboration between police, social work and a third sector agency, a young female was supported to overcome her fears and engage with the police to provide her account as the victim of a serious sexual offence. The combined approach of emotional support, trust building and consistent encouragement enabled her to feel safe and confident in sharing her experience. Without the support of these agencies this crucial evidence may have never been captured, highlighting the vital role of multi-agency support in ensuring that vulnerable individuals are able to participate in the justice process.

Serious Organised Crime



Objective: DETER - Support private, public and third sector organisations to protect themselves and each other. Understand the drivers and emerging risks in respect of Serious Organised Crime and encourage a multi-agency approach to protect those vulnerable in our communities

Objective: DIVERT - Build an effective pan-Grampian partnership, with a view to diverting people away from involvement in Serious Organised Crime, making Aberdeen City a hostile environment for those who seek to exploit our communities

The Interventions team under the direction of the Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Divisional operational lead ensure that proportionate and effective support is provided to those most at risk in regard to SOC and the associated vulnerabilities, inclusive of substance dependency, cuckooing, exploitation and child criminal exploitation. During the reporting period over 60 visits were completed to individuals within these criteria, over 10 of whom were assisted with property moves to reduce their risk of exploitation and criminality. A number of referrals were provided to individuals with partner agencies to provide support.

The Divert and Deter strands of the 4D's aims to support and divert those vulnerable individuals ensuring they have the relevant skills and support networks in place to alleviate their difficulties and protect against becoming further victims of SOC.

Case Study

In August 2025, the occupant of an address in the north of the city contacted Police to advise she was being cuckooed by an OCG. Officers attended and traced a nominal from a London based OCG within. He was found in possession of quantities of 'Crack' Cocaine and Heroin, and quantities of cash and was held to appear at court the next day. The occupant was subsequently safeguarded, provided relevant referrals to support agencies and our colleagues in Partnerships and Interventions continued to support the occupant through engagement and access to the wider support network.

Operation Clarinet was an operation generated in relation to the supply of drugs throughout North East division, specifically Heroin, Cocaine and tablets containing Nitizenes and Fentanyl, which increase the strength of these drugs and risk to drug users. Drugs seized throughout the operation confirmed the presence of Nitizenes in the area. In conjunction with partner agencies, Partnerships and Interventions colleagues immediately utilised a variety of tactics to raise awareness to service users and support agencies to reduce fatalities and non-fatal overdoses.

During the enforcement phase, drug search warrants were executed throughout areas of Aberdeen which had been experiencing an increase in drugs deaths and non-fatal overdoses. Quantities of Diamorphine (Heroin) and Cocaine (including Crack Cocaine) were seized allowing quick time analysis and identified engagement in areas where intelligence and the analysis indicated controlled drugs with Nitazenes and other adulterants present. Over 19,000 tablets were seized inclusive of Zopiclone, Diazepam, Pregabalin, Alprazolam and Dihydrocodeine. Taking cognisance of poly drug use and the impact the consumption of tablets also had on drug deaths and non-fatal overdoses this short, targeted operation saw 16 people charged regarding the supply of controlled drugs. This included individuals from England involved in County Lines, one of whom, as a result of his apprehension was returned to prison on recall for a period of over 10 years. Throughout the operation a significant number of individuals were referred to our Partnerships and Interventions team, whom in turn have referred them to support agencies.

When measured against the initial increase and national picture the operation saw a decrease in deaths and non-fatal overdoses with significant disruption to drug dealing lines. There was also an increased intelligence picture which was shared nationally in regard to the effect and prevalence of Nitazenes within certain drug markets and the associated risk.

Case Study

In September 2025, Interventions and Partnership Officers attended an address in the Seaton area of Aberdeen following intelligence that a Liverpudlian dealing syndicate had cuckooed the occupant. On attending, individuals who had recently purchased controlled drugs from the locus were detained and items were thrown from an identified address. Entry was gained and the occupants secured. A Liverpudlian nominal along with a nominal from Aberdeenshire were identified as those responsible and arrested and charged to appear from custody. Various quantities of 'Crack' Cocaine, Diamorphine, Cannabis as well as cash and dealing handsets were recovered. The occupants were safeguarded and a further safety plan implemented.

Objective: DETECT - Work collaboratively with others to provide a coordinated response to identify, detect and prosecute those involved in serious organised crime

Objective: DISRUPT - Deliver a collaborative multi-agency response to disrupt Organised Crime Groups by sharing intelligence, ideas and resources

Pro-active Policing, enforcement and disruption to OCG's by our local Policing teams, Pro-active and OCG teams along with national resources took place across Aberdeen in the reporting period.

As indicated in the Executive Summary Drug supply charges have increased by over 20% comparative to the previous year and over 50% compared to the 5 Year Average.

During the reporting period over seventy drug search warrants were executed, with a significant volume of controlled drugs located and seized. The various drugs seized have an estimated 'street' value in current quantity and thereafter if sold in their intended dealing quantities this number rises significantly. The subsequent values detailed are based on projected 'deal' quantities: over £600,000 of Cocaine, over £700,000 of Heroin, over £1,000,000 of Cannabis and over 3500 Cannabis plants

with the potential 'street sale' value of anywhere between £750,000 and nearly £3,000,000. These are only a select few of a wide variety of substances seized during the reporting period.

As is clear in the pro-active increase in drug detection and the continued enforcement we remain committed to successful outcomes as we tackle those creating the greatest harms, whilst supporting our communities to be resilient in the fight against SOC.

The case studies below are examples of our numerous and varied enforcement successes and approaches utilised to dismantle SOC.

Case Study

In June 2025, whilst engaged in unrelated enquiries the Aberdeen Proactive team observed a nominal from Manchester, who was seen meeting individuals on Crown Street, Aberdeen, and apparently dealing controlled drugs. He was thereafter approached by Officers, made off on foot and apprehended shortly thereafter. At this time, he was found in possession of a 'dealing' telephone, wraps of Crack Cocaine and keys to a nearby guest house. Enquiries at that address led Officers to trace another Manchester based nominal along with significant quantities of controlled drugs and money on open display. Both were arrested and COPFS were consulted resulting in a drugs search warrant for the address. In total over 400g of Crack Cocaine, 400g of Heroin and over £4000 in cash were recovered. Both were charged and held to appear at Aberdeen Sheriff Court.

Case Study

In late August 2025, OCG Officers discovered a significant cannabis cultivation at a premises on Dee Street, Aberdeen whereby in excess of 1000 Cannabis plants valued over £1,000,000 were recovered. 4 males were apprehended and held for court. Further enquiry identified a further large-scale cultivation on Union Street, Aberdeen further linked to one of the males. In excess of 500 plants were recovered with a 'street' value in excess of £400,000. A further 3 males were apprehended in relation to the cultivation on Union Street and held for court. Health and Safety attended at both cultivations due to concerns over the structural integrity and Officer safety concerns during dismantling. Following evidential capture of the relevant productions, Building Control were contacted and subsequently provided relevant documentation to the owners of the properties to ensure they follow compliance for safely clearing the properties.

Case Study

In September 2025, two males, later established to be Bulgarian and Albanian nationals were observed in suspicious circumstances near an address on Roslin Street, Aberdeen. A short time later, they were stopped in the company of a further Bulgarian male. After a short foot pursuit one of the males was apprehended with over 30 wraps of Cocaine. The others were searched with relevant legislation and found in possession of over £600 in cash. Intelligence linked them to a nearby address which was secured with a significant quantity of controlled drugs on open display within. Warrants were craved and over 200g of Cocaine, over 20 kilos of Herbal Cannabis and drug dealing paraphernalia were seized. They were held to appear at court the next day.

Antisocial Behaviour, Violence and Disorder



Objective: Reduce antisocial behaviour, violence and disorder by working with partners to facilitate early interventions for those involved in, or those vulnerable to becoming involved in, such behaviours

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) remains a key priority and as such, partnership working is essential to tackling the root causes of such behaviour. Our established relationships through Aberdeen's Community Safety Partnership are a collaborative approach to identify emerging issues, understand the causation factors and undertake problem solving to implement joint sustainable solutions.

Our Youth Engagement Officers are now well established and work closely with colleagues in Education and Social Work, as well as within the third sector, to recognise, understand and intervene at an early stage in those issues which cause harm to both our young people and those in the community. Focused work has been carried out across the city with those recognised as disengaging with education to reintegrate them back into school and divert them away from engaging in ASB.

We know that Aberdeen's city centre is a welcoming and attractive place for young people to socialise in a positive way. An antisocial element can exist, and it is vital we take a multiagency approach. Operation Galaxite is responding to this progressively and offers activities where there is a means to engage and divert young people away from ASB.

Our Community Action Team are working alongside our newly appointed Local Authority Youth Workers to establish relationships and identify achievable outcomes to divert young people into positive destinations.

Focal Point

Operation Armour

During the month of May 2025, the Community Action Team deployed across Aberdeen City in response to the challenges faced around the use of e-bikes and associated ASB. Working with partners and national colleagues we made a significant impact, not only in terms of ASB, but also road safety and drug supply with numerous vehicles seized, cash and drugs recovered, and a significant number of individuals reported to the Procurator Fiscal and signposted to support services and interventions.

Our Children and Young Persons team work closely with partners in Education, Social Work and the third sector, to recognise those young people at greatest risk of coming into conflict with the law and to provide targeted interventions to prevent further harm.

We continue to work collaboratively with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to deliver the 'Fire Skills' programme alongside preventative inputs in schools.

Understanding the impact which weapons can have, particularly on young people, we have worked in partnership with schools across the city and No Knives Better Lives to deliver presentations on knife crime and the harm it can cause.

Where weapons incidents do occur, we engage with the well-established multiagency risk management process which aims to safeguard the young people involved.

Objective: With partners, identify locations where antisocial behaviour and violence is most likely to occur and work with communities and other agencies to find lasting solutions and enhance community safety

ASB remains a key priority and much of our work in this area is done in collaboration with partners via the Community Safety Partnership. Reports of ASB are discussed daily at the Community Safety Hub meetings, with the data being used to identify longer term trends, allowing us to undertake collaborative problem solving with partners and communities.

Our Youth Engagement Officers continue to deploy at schools across the City to address ASB at lunchtimes. By undertaking high visibility patrols in key areas, clear boundaries around acceptable behaviour have been set to encourage positive choices, whilst reassuring the wider community, including local businesses, that their concerns have been addressed.

Through our relationships with the Community Learning and Development Team, we identify the areas where ASB is causing the most harm and ensure youth services are directed into these areas, targeting the correct individuals and groups to ensure activity provides the best possible opportunity for diversion.

Community feedback tells us a visible policing presence in the city centre is wanted, namely, at St Nicholas Street, Union Street and Market Street. We have enhanced our city centre resourcing, understanding that enforcement also plays a key part in the reduction of ASB and Violence. This has afforded a reduction in our antisocial offences across the five-year average.

This work is being highlighted under the banner of, 'Operation Galaxite'. Enforcement activity has seen a positive response from city centre businesses and residents. Work is ongoing with regards to the ASB caused by 'street drinking'. As well as enforcement activity, we are working collaboratively with partners to identify solutions for getting upstream and signposting to addiction support services.

Just beyond this reporting period but a joint initiative alongside SFRS was conducted in October 2025 whereby Breakfast Clubs were held at their premises in Anderson Drive, Aberdeen where Community Policing Officers attended in support. A great opportunity for positive engagement at an early juncture with people of all ages to inform them of the impact ASB can have on our communities.

Objective: Working with partners, we will enhance our understanding of the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour and violence and develop public health approaches to prevent these harms

Aberdeen's night time economy sees thousands of people enjoy the city centre each weekend. Long established links with Aberdeen City Council's Licensing Team, and strong engagement with licensed premises helps drive standards, maximising safety and minimising risk to the public. Our Weekend Policing Plans remain robust and regularly reviewed to ensure we have a visible presence in the right places. The Street Pastors continue to play an integral part in supporting those who are or may become vulnerable in the city centre every weekend. This essential service maximises our Officers deploy ability to other Police matters.

OFFICIAL

We continue to take a forward-looking joint approach, alongside the Aberdeen City Council Licensing Team, to drive high standards within licensed premises and during events, promoting a safe environment for people wishing to socialise in the city. By working with premises, organisers and organisations such as the Street Pastors, measures are put in place to ensure that vulnerability is recognised and addressed, and attendees and the wider community feel safe. A key outcome of this preparatory work is also reduced demand for frontline services, recognising the impact that violence and vulnerability can have on the city.

Street based approaches are taking place in our 'Hot Spot' areas which has seen partners, including Third Sector and health, offering support to those who may benefit such as addiction related support, and support towards accommodation. These approaches are necessary in the city centre where we know that communities and businesses are impacted by people consuming alcohol and the resultant ASB. We know that during this reporting period, levels of ASB were comparable to the previous year but are confident the foundations and partnerships we have in place will support the area.

In collaboration with schools across the city, the Children and Young Persons team, have delivered various inputs to professionals, parents and carers on topical youth issues including exploitation and consent. This has provided valuable knowledge on such areas, allowing early intervention and understanding of the risks facing young people.

Road Safety and Road Crime



Objective: With partners in Road Safety North East Scotland (RSNES) increase safety and reduce casualties on our roads

Objective: Prevent instances of crime occurring on our road network

Objective: Improve road safety by proactively targeting drink and drug drivers

Motorcycle Safety Campaign - 21 March to 26 September

This campaign, running throughout the peak spring/summer riding period, promoted safe and responsible riding and driving across Scotland's roads. Road Policing and National Motorcycle Unit Officers carried out dedicated patrol activity on popular biker routes, and routes with a history of serious injury and fatal collisions involving riders.

The campaign saw a strong focus on the contribution all road users can make to reducing rider casualties. Several Weekends of Action, targeting popular bank holiday riding dates, were included, plus a Fortnight of Action that ran from the 2nd to 15th of June to coincide with the UK-wide 2Wheels initiative co-ordinated by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

NPCC Operation Spotlight - 1 to 31 July, incorporating the Summer Drink Drug Drive Campaign



This campaign aligned with an NPCC UK-wide initiative running throughout July, intended to educate and protect drivers against the Fatal 5 risk taking driving behaviours of drink & drug driving, speeding, using a handheld mobile phone, careless driving and not wearing a seatbelt. Each of these behaviours increase the likelihood of a collision and often its severity / survivability. This was the first occasion Police Scotland has participated throughout the entire duration of this NPCC initiative.

Operation Spotlight led off with the Summer Drink & Drug Drive Campaign. Running over the first fortnight, it provided a strong focus on drink/drug driving which represents a significant challenge to safety on Scotland's roads as illustrated in the increase in offences against the 1- and 5-year comparisons. The campaign highlighted the growing road safety threat from drug drivers. Social media was utilised to improve road user engagement, drawing on public-facing campaign material from key partner Road Safety Scotland.

To further enhance our capability around the detection of impairment through drug driving, a pilot scheme has commenced, initially in other parts of the country, that involves the use of roadside drug wipes to analyse samples which detect the presence of controlled drugs in the system.

Young Drivers Fatal 5 Campaign - 22 September to 5 October

This campaign aligned with an NPCC UK-wide campaign over these dates, intended to educate and protect young drivers (defined as the under 25s) against the Fatal 5 adverse driving behaviours. During the course of the campaign, Officers detected a number of offences among young drivers.

Focal Point

Operation Armour

Under Operation Armour during the summer period, a dedicated unit of Officers were deployed to deal with anti-social riding by youths on E-Motorbikes in public areas across the City. Not only can these machines be a danger to pedestrians and other road users, but they also present a significant risk to the rider, many of whom do not adorn appropriate safety clothing and helmets. With the support of Officers from the Road Policing Department and Detectives from the Proactive CID, intelligence was developed to identify riders and where machines were being stored. Officers obtained and executed warrants resulting in the seizure of some **14** E-Motorbikes with a number of offenders charged with road traffic offences.

Acquisitive Crime



Objective: Reduce acquisitive crime, by working with partners to facilitate interventions for those involved in, or those vulnerable to becoming involved in, acquisitive crime

Acquisitive crime is a high-volume matter accounting for a substantial number of all crimes reported in Scotland, often targeting the most vulnerable in society. As stated in the Executive Summary there have been increases observed in certain crime types inclusive of OLP to Motor vehicle offences, Shoplifting and Fraud. There has been a decrease in Housebreakings except for those in non-Domestic settings, which have increased against the previous year but remain well below the 5 Year Average. There have been notable improvements in other areas of Group 3 crime over the reporting period. Motor vehicle crime specifically Theft of a Motor vehicle and Theft from M/V have seen notable reductions of over 20% and 30% respectively.

The Financial Crime Triage Hub (FCTH) has been a key component of North East Division's response to cyber and financial crime and has been referenced in previous reports, taking the learning and development of this unit the Acquisitive Crime Triage Hub (ACTH) was formally launched on 1st April 2025.

The ACTH carry out a similar role to the FCTH and remain under the umbrella of the Divisional Acquisitive Crime lead for the division and work alongside the FCTH and Divisional Cyber Enabled Crime Team (DCECT) allowing a holistic approach and view of acquisitive crime as it continues to evolve. Centralised governance, functionality and oversight, supports effective decision making around investigation and focus on the planning of crime prevention / reduction initiatives. This positively impacts on performance through collaboration with relevant partners and ensuring crime trends are identified, shared both locally and nationally and effectively targeted.

The ACTH identify opportunities for diversion for those involved in acquisitive crime and ensure the protection of vulnerable members of the community from becoming victim and further victim of acquisitive crime.

Case Study

During May, the FCTH identified four vulnerable people who were subject to enhanced safeguarding measures to prevent them from being further victimised. FCTH passed relevant details of vulnerability and criminality to bank staff as part of the 'Vulnerable Victim Identification Scheme' with referrals made to partners in Adult Support and Protection as appropriate. Enhancement in this area has seen improvements in identification and relevant safeguarding for vulnerable individuals who would be susceptible to this form of criminality.

The ACTH carry out a daily review of all acquisitive crime in the Division. They assess the threat, risk and harm relative to the incident and ensure the most appropriate ownership based on that assessment. They provide support and guidance on how to progress specific enquiries inclusive of contact with neighbouring divisions and forces out with Scotland. Further, they work closely with Community Policing Teams to target repeat offenders and ensure early intervention and coordinated multi-agency responses.

Case Study

Police Scotland received a report in relation to a victim purchasing a gold bar in person from the suspect, the victim would subsequently make their own investigations and confirmed the gold bar as fake. DCECT made investigations into the incident and correlated further incidents across Scotland. The suspect had met each of the victims in person and DCECT coordinated with Officers across the country to obtain statements, productions and independently verify the bar as fake. Relevant investigation provided sufficient evidence, and the male was thereafter traced, arrested and charged. Electronic devices were seized, and he was reported for a Fraudulent scheme.

Objective: Reduce acquisitive crime, by identifying locations where acquisitive crime is most likely to occur and work with communities and partners to find lasting preventative solutions

With the ever-evolving nature of acquisitive crime it is of paramount importance that whilst tackling acquisitive crime locally and ensuring local priorities are met we recognise the importance of engagement and partnership with forces across the United Kingdom. In doing so we take cognisance of the inextricable link between crime trends across the entire UK and that OCG's do not respect geographical boundaries.

Locally the Crime Reduction Unit and the ACTH, as referenced previously, provide support and guidance to local Officers, businesses and victims of crime in our area. Nationally a 4P (Prevent, Protect, Prepare, Pursue) partnership approach has been adopted to clearly define the key workstreams required to protect our communities from the harms of acquisitive crime in a holistic approach.

Our local set up within North East Division allows direct link to the national picture, ensuring we are aware of impacting crime trends and travelling OCG's whilst also being able to feed in directly should we become victim of such crimes ensuring swift apprehension and co-operation throughout Scotland and the wider UK.

During the reporting period several recidivist offenders, independently, committed acquisitive crime series across the city. Local policing knowledge and quick identification of offenders by investigations teams alongside the provision of crime prevention advice, identification of any vulnerabilities through our local structures allow a co-ordinated approach to such offenders and their criminality.

Case Study

In May 2025, several break-ins to Peugeot Partner taxis occurred across north Aberdeen. Enquiries quickly identified a recidivist offender as responsible. He was subsequently traced and arrested regarding the various offences. Relevant engagement took place with taxi companies and preventative messaging delivered to their drivers to curb this identified trend.

Case Study

During June, ACTH coordinated a briefing between 'Retailers Against Crime' and representatives from the retail sector in Aberdeen City. The event was attended by approximately 35 retail managers who expressed commitment to working in partnership to combat retail crime.

Subsequent operations from a number of departments within North East Division saw enforcement and days of action relative to retail crime including a Community Action Team (CAT) operation which resulted in the detection of 46 Shopliftings and the clearance of 8 Apprehension warrants.

On 09/09/2025, Aberdeen CID, the OCG team and CAT led a day of enforcement in relation to retail acquisitive crime. More than 35 Crimes were detected including multiple Theft by Shoplifting offences and ASB, the perpetrators all being variously known in relation to retail crime. 10 outstanding apprehension warrants were also enforced.

Objective: Raise public awareness, and prevent instances, of cyber enabled and cyber dependent acquisitive crime

As highlighted previously the methodologies and nature of acquisitive crime specifically Fraud and cyber enabled and dependant crime continues to evolve and requires a multi-layered and modern approach to tackling this unique crime space.



The FCTH and DCECT continue to engage with and provide expert advice to local partners and businesses across Aberdeen. This is supported by Crime Reduction colleagues at inputs and engagement sessions with a focus on groups where vulnerabilities were present through age or health conditions. These localised engagements were also supplemented with community advice sessions within banking facilities across the city.

Investment scams, cold calling and Crypto related fraud continue to be in the main, perpetrated by individuals overseas which provide a variety of investigative and preventative issues in regard to safeguarding our communities. The FCTH have been exploring opportunities for website takedown requests to

disrupt and disable platforms used to facilitate Fraud. This is unfortunately a relatively reactive response which involves the identification of suspected scam/fraud sites and contact made with the hosting platforms to request the removal of these sites. This can be through social media adverts, identified sites via victims of scams or other fraudulent indicators present. Given the complexities in this area and heavy reliance on overseas co-operation it reinforces the requirement for local initiatives, local engagement, prevention advice and literature to prevent members of our community becoming victims in the first place.

Despite the obvious and stated complexities it is an area North East Divisions DCECT and FCTH have been spearheading, with practises and process recognised nationally at the Scottish Cyber and Fraud Centre. Assistance has been further sought from Police Scotland Data Science and AI lead for methods of improving and refining this process to better protect our communities.

Case Study

Police Scotland received a report from the victim who advised that he had lost over £10,000 in a safe account scam. The victim had been phoned by the suspects who claimed they were the fraud team from his bank and that his account had been compromised. DCECT made enquiries into the incident and identified that the victim had made payments to a credit card belonging to an account in England. Further financial enquiries were made which confirmed use of an identified credit card linked to that account and had been used to make high value purchases in Leicester.

DCECT were able to correlate various financial and conventional inquiries to link transactions and identify owners of a business as responsible for money laundering offences. Given the spread of offending across the UK and locality of the perpetrators an evidential package was provided to Leicestershire Police for progression and relevant safeguarding was implemented for the local victim.

Case Study

In June the FCTH submitted website takedown requests in relation to three fraudulent platforms used to facilitate cryptocurrency investment fraud. Victims receive contact from suspects, directing them to the fraudulent websites which lend credibility to the investment fraud. The FCTH contact the platforms hosting these websites to highlight their use in criminality and request their removal. One site was used by criminals operating in China to further their fraudulent enterprise and was removed from the internet another was used by Nigerian criminals in the same way and was also removed.

Counter Terrorism & Domestic Extremism



The North East CONTEST Multi-Agency Board and associated subgroups continue to deliver the UK CONTEST Strategy across the North East of Scotland, aiming to reduce the risks of terrorism using the Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare principles.

- **PROTECT** – strengthening our borders, infrastructure, buildings, and public spaces against attack
- **PREPARE** – where an attack cannot be stopped, to reduce its impact and ensuring we can respond effectively
- **PURSUE** – to disrupt or stop terrorist attacks
- **PREVENT** – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

In line with the Aberdeen Local Policing Plan, we aim to reduce the risk of terrorism so people can go about their lives freely and with confidence by focusing on the local delivery of the CONTEST strategy using four key objectives:

PROTECT – with partners we will share knowledge so that our communities and businesses can strengthen protection against terrorist attacks

In this reporting period, Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) conducted 49 security inspection visits to sites of a sensitive nature across a number of industries.

They continue to provide expert advice to organisations such as Aberdeen Football Club and TECA as well as providing specialist advice for events such as the Aberdeen Christmas Market.

Work is ongoing to provide online security briefings for Councillors under the banner of Operation Ford.

Borders Policing Command Officers continue to conduct operations at a number of ports across Aberdeen to gather intelligence whilst proactively identifying and dealing with the illegitimate passage of persons and goods in various industries including fishing, oil & gas and leisure, routes which criminals and terrorists may seek to exploit.

PREPARE – with partners we will mitigate against the impact of terrorist attacks

Counter Terrorism Planning Officers and CTSA's are engaged in the planning for various events and gatherings across Aberdeen, providing expert advice and guidance to event organisers.

PURSUE – with partners encourage and share information to identify and tackle suspicious activity

The PURSUE strategy allows national Counter Terrorism structures within Police Scotland to provide information and assessments to North East Division's CONTEST Multi-Agency Board. This process informs local policing teams and partners on emerging themes and other relevant matters.

All information and intelligence relevant to Counter Terrorism is assessed and actioned appropriately by Counter Terrorism resources based within North East Division.

There has been no significant deviation in terms of expected volume or trends during this period within Aberdeen. However, the Local CONTEST Board, Local Contest Liaison Officers (LCLO's) and national Police structures are in place to monitor and respond appropriately.

PREVENT – with partners safeguard vulnerable persons from being drawn into Terrorism

Within Police Scotland a 'Prevent' referral process is in place which allows Police and partners to assess and respond to information and intelligence which may require early intervention and safeguarding from potential harm which could be caused by individuals. This process is well established across the north east with representation from relevant partners to ensure wide ranging professions are present and perspectives gained to collectively manage people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Referrals coming from various agencies demonstrates our approach is working well. There has been no significant deviation or trends in this area which cause concern.

Performance statistics



These statistics can be found in their expanded form at: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Aberdeen City – Recorded Crime	2024/25	5 Year Average	2025/26	% Change v 5YA	% Change v Prev Year
Group 1 – Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence					
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	2	1.4	2	42.9	0.0
Culpable homicide (common law)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Culpable homicide (other)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Attempted murder	4	9.6	11	14.6	175.0
Serious Assault (of an emergency worker)	3	0.6	2	233.3	-33.3
Serious Assault (inc. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	82	81.2	74	-8.9	-9.8
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	224	241.2	238	-1.3	6.3
Common Assault	1,176	1,232	1,316	6.8	11.9
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	51	58.2	73	25.4	43.1
Domestic Abuse* ¹	849	*	1,103	*	29.9
Stalking	22	18.4	31	68.5	40.9
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	12	10.2	9	-11.8	-25
Threats and extortion	44	38	41	7.9	-6.8
Other group 1 crimes	22	19.6	29	48.0	31.8
Group 2 – Sexual Crimes					
Rape	68	50.6	53	4.7	-22.1
Attempted rape	1	3	8	166.7	700.0
Sexual assault	143	125.4	121	-3.5	-15.4
Crimes associated with Prostitution	8	9	2	-77.8	-75
Indecent photos of children	9	15	20	33.3	122.2
Communicating indecently	29	32	31	-3.1	6.9
Causing to view sexual activity or images	46	55.2	68	23.2	47.8
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image	20	20.2	30	48.5	50
Other Group 2 crimes	36	44.4	41	-7.7	13.8
Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty					
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	63	74	62	-16.2	-1.5
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	26	61	31	-49.2	19.2
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	63	55	26	-52.7	-58.7
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	45	33.6	57	69.6	26.7

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Theft of a motorvehicle	113	102.6	89	-13.3	-21.2
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	145	104.6	96	-8.2	-33.8
Attempt theft of motorvehicle	11	9	10	11.1	-9.1
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	44	29.8	33	10.7	-25
Common theft	671	625.4	647	3.5	-3.6
Theft by shoplifting	1,037	924.6	1,346	45.6	29.8
Fraud	371	401.2	415	3.4	11.9
Other Group 3 crimes	209	248.2	257	3.5	23
Group 4- Damage and reckless behaviour					
Fireraising	48	65.6	88	34.1	83.3
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	856	904.6	808	-10.7	-5.6
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	1	0.2	0	-100.0	-100
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	40	45.8	45	-1.7	12.5
Other Group 4 crimes		2.2	5	127.3	0.0
Group 5- Crimes against society					
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	4	2.2	5	127.3	25
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	2	1.8	3	66.7	50
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	91	77.4	96	24.0	5.5
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	5	2.4	4	66.7	-20
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	0	0	1	0.0	0.0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	147	123	89	-27.6	-39.5
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	8	13.4	18	34.3	125
Supply of drugs (inc. possession with intent)	160	127	198	55.9	23.8
Other drugs offences (incl. importation)	0	1.8	3	66.7	0.0
Possession of drugs	584	713	584	-18.1	0.0
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	2	0.8	2	150.0	0.0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	296	261	309	18.4	4.4
Other crimes against public justice	309	302.2	350	15.8	13.3
Group 6- Antisocial offences					
Breach of the Peace	48	71	40	-43.7	-16.7
Threatening or abusive behaviour	745	802.6	740	-7.8	-0.7
Hate Crime* ²	242	*	194	*	-19.8
Drunk and incapable	0	1	0	-100.0	0.0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	43	49.8	42	-15.7	-2.3
Urinating	47	68.2	24	-64.8	-48.9
Group 7- Miscellaneous offences					

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Wildlife offences	1	2	8	300.0	700.0
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	27	32	60	87.5	122.2
Community and public order offences	216	205.4	245	19.3	13.4
Licensing offences	10	12.8	19	48.4	90.0
Group 8– Road traffic offences					
Dangerous driving offences	79	72.8	96	31.9	21.5
Driving Carelessly	262	258.6	224	-13.4	-14.5
Driving under the influence	174	194.2	243	25.1	39.7
Speeding offences	244	359	180	-49.9	-26.2
Seat belt offences	52	52.8	61	15.5	17.3
Mobile phone offences	87	56	61	8.9	-29.9
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	701	747.6	957	28.0	36.5

*¹ Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/counting rules, comparison of recorded domestic crimes from the 1 April 2024 with recorded domestic crimes prior to the 1 April 2024 is not advised, hence the removal of the 5 Year Average.

*² Please note, comparative figures for Hate Crime are limited to one year, due to different methodology/counting rules since 1 April 2024.

Aberdeen City – % Detection Rates	2024/25	5 Year Average	2025/26	% Change v 5YA	% Change v Prev Year
Group 1– Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence					
Murder (excluding culpable homicide at common law)	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Attempted murder	75.0	93.8	90.9	-2.9	15.9
Serious Assault (of an emergency worker)	100.0	100.0	150.0	50.0	50.0
Serious Assault (inc. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct - causing injury)	95.1	93.6	94.6	1.0	-0.5
Common Assault (of an emergency worker)	101.3	99.1	95.4	-3.7	-6.0
Common Assault	70.5	68.4	64.4	-4.0	-6.1
Robbery (including assault with intent to rob)	100.0	91.8	82.2	-9.6	-17.8
Domestic Abuse* ¹	63.0	*	70.7	*	16.7
Stalking	90.9	79.3	77.4	-1.9	-13.5
Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children	216.7	129.4	44.4	-85.0	-172.2
Threats and extortion	13.6	15.3	4.9	-10.4	-8.8
Other group 1 crimes	68.2	77.6	75.9	-1.7	7.7
Group 2– Sexual Crimes					
Rape	47.1	53.8	43.4	-10.4	-3.7
Attempted rape	0.0	46.7	87.5	40.8	87.5
Sexual assault	64.3	55.8	63.6	7.8	-0.7
Crimes associated with Prostitution	87.5	88.9	150.0	61.1	62.5
Indecent photos of children	66.7	98.7	65.0	-33.7	-1.7
Communicating indecently	48.3	52.5	54.8	2.3	6.6
Causing to view sexual activity or images	58.7	59.4	54.4	-5.0	-4.3
Threatening or Disclosure of intimate image	15.0	27.7	40.0	12.3	25.0

OFFICIAL

Other Group 2 crimes	33.3	40.1	53.7	13.6	20.3
Group 3- Crimes of Dishonesty					
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - dwelling house	44.4	45.9	43.5	-2.4	-0.9
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - non-dwelling	30.8	30.5	22.6	-7.9	-8.2
Housebreaking (incl. attempts) - other premises	44.4	45.1	38.5	-6.6	-6.0
Opening Lockfast Places - Motor Vehicle	35.6	26.2	45.6	19.4	10.1
Theft of a motor vehicle	48.7	50.3	46.1	-4.2	-2.6
Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc	33.1	24.5	34.4	9.9	1.3
Attempt theft of motor vehicle	81.8	48.9	50.0	1.1	-31.8
Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle	45.5	30.9	45.5	14.6	0.0
Common theft	25.2	26.4	22.6	-3.8	-2.6
Theft by shoplifting	47.3	56.2	42.2	-14	-5.1
Fraud	22.9	19.2	18.1	-1.1	-4.8
Other Group 3 crimes	34.0	33.4	31.1	-2.3	-2.8
Group 4- Damage and reckless behaviour					
Fireraising	22.9	31.4	25.0	-6.4	2.1
Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.)	27.8	28.5	31.7	3.2	3.9
Reckless conduct (with firearms)	100.0	100.0	0.0	-100.0	-100.0
Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms)	57.5	60.7	44.4	-16.3	-13.1
Other Group 4 crimes		18.2			
Group 5- Crimes against society					
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (not used in crime)	100.0	90.9	60.0	-30.9	-40.0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (not used in crime)	150.0	111.1	100.0	-11.1	-50.0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife (not used in crime)	90.1	92.0	87.5	-4.5	-2.6
Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity)	80.0	91.7	125.0	33.3	45.0
Possession offensive weapon/knife in a private place (used in criminal activity)	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity)	73.5	79.7	77.5	-2.2	4.1
Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs	75.0	95.5	88.9	-6.6	13.9
Supply of drugs (inc. possession with intent)	91.9	94.3	84.3	-10.0	-7.5
Other drugs offences (inc. importation)	-	100.0	133.3	33.3	-
Possession of drugs	103.8	99.0	95	-4.0	-8.7
Offences relating to serious and organised crime	150.0	75.0	100	25.0	-50.0
Bail offences (other than absconding)	102.4	99.3	85.4	-13.9	-16.9

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Other crimes against public justice	98.7	98.7	91.1	-7.6	-7.6
Group 6 – Antisocial offences					
Breach of the Peace	91.7	95.8	90	-5.8	-1.7
Threatening or abusive behaviour	78.3	77.0	70.3	-6.7	-8.0
Hate Crime* ²	56.2	*	60.8	*	4.6
Drunk and incapable	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws)	100.0	99.2	97.6	-1.6	-2.4
Urinating	91.5	95.9	95.8	-0.1	4.3
Group 7 – Miscellaneous offences					
Wildlife offences	100.0	30.0	37.5	7.5	-62.5
Offences involved animals (not wildlife)	81.5	65.6	58.3	-7.3	-23.1
Community and public order offences	58.3	59.0	54.3	-4.7	-4.0
Licensing offences	100.0	96.9	78.9	-18.0	-21.1
Group 8 – Road traffic offences					
Dangerous driving offences	69.6	77.2	72.9	-4.3	3.3
Driving Carelessly	83.6	89.4	83.5	-5.9	-0.1
Driving under the influence	104.6	95.9	98.8	2.9	-5.8
Speeding offences	100.4	100.3	100	-0.3	-0.4
Seat belt offences	100.0	99.6	100	0.4	0.0
Mobile phone offences	98.9	98.6	98.4	-0.2	-0.5
Unlawful use of motor vehicle	100.7	100.5	98.1	-2.4	-2.6

*¹ Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/counting rules, comparison of recorded domestic crimes from the 1 April 2024 with recorded domestic crimes prior to the 1 April 2024 is not advised, hence the removal of the 5 Year Average.

*² Please note, comparative figures for Hate Crime are limited to one year, due to different methodology/counting rules since 1 April 2024.