



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA

Scrutiny Report

1st April 2018 – 31st December 2018



Midlothian

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents there may be minor amendments between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. The extraction date from recording systems can also differ so it would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in the report as official statistics.

Data contained in this report should only be used to identify trends as figures are likely to change over time.



INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide a summary and brief assessment of performance in the Midlothian Command Area for the Quarter 3 period of 01/10/2018 - 31/12/2018.

The report references the themes from Midlothian Community Planning Partnerships Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and the aligned priorities within the Local Policing Plan for Midlothian, namely:-

- * Protecting People
- * Reducing Anti-social Behaviour & Hate Crime
- * Reducing Violence
- * Tackling Substance Misuse
- * Reducing Road Casualties
- * Reducing Acquisitive Crime
- * Tackling Serious & Organised Crime

All data is sourced from Police Scotland internal systems and is correct as of 2nd January 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Missing Person Incidents - Adults

2017/18	2018/19	Change
113	94	-16.8%



Q1-3 has seen a welcome decrease in the number of adults being reported as missing, down by 16.8% (a reduction of 19 cases) compared to the same period last year.

The majority of those reported had a vulnerability of some kind with mental health related issues the most prevalent, and 12% were cared for adults.

These types of incidents are resource intensive, and often take days to resolve.

Bogus Workman Crimes

2017/18	2018/19	Change
3	3	-



Bogus workman incidents recorded by police remain at a similar level to last year with three recorded. Cold callers targeting elderly and vulnerable victims for gardening work continues to be the MO of choice.

A lot of prevention focussed activity continues throughout Midlothian under the banner of Operation Monarda and it is hoped this will continue to prevent crimes of this nature.

Domestic Abuse Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
711	898	+26.3%



There has been a significant rise in the number of domestic related incidents this year compared to the corresponding period last year. The number of incidents that resulted in a crime being recorded has however decreased in the last year by 9.5%, with 36.9% of all incidents reported to the police subsequently recorded as a crime.

I am pleased to announce an increase in the detection rate for domestic abuse – currently 73.2%.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hate Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
73	74	+1.3%



Police have recorded 74 hate incidents in 2018, one more than the previous year resulting in an increase of 1.3%. Good work has been undertaken in regards to solving hate crimes, which has increased by 15% in the last year (77% up from 62% in 2017).

Like last year, there is no particular pattern or identified trends, with neighbour disputes still being the most common form of incident that has a hate related factor.

Antisocial Behaviour Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
5009	4474	-10.7%



Reports of ASB continue to decrease across Midlothian, with 497 incidents per 10,000 population. The work of the MCAT's and our Community Beat Officers are playing a significant role in achieving this through intelligence led patrols, as did our Festive Operation, which ran during the month of December focused around tackling ASB, theft shoplifting, night time economy and violence.

Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation

2017/18	2018/19	Change
36	55	+52.8%



A proactive and intelligence led approach by our MCAT's has seen a significant rise in detections which continues to rise as the year progresses.

The number of drugs possession charges has also increased by 68 % this year (450 and 268 respectively) which again highlights the robust approach to substance misuse by officers in Midlothian.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housebreaking (Domestic)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
66	105	+59.1%



Comparing year on year data was always going to be a challenge for this particular crime such was the success both in recorded and detected crimes in relation to domestic housebreakings in 2017/18.

Education around crime prevention and securing property appears to be improving with 40% of all domestic housebreakings YTD being attempts and 60% being successful. The previous year 80% of break-ins were successful.

A reduction of 31.1% overall is seen in housebreakings, with non-dwellings - down 58.4% YTD (87 in 2018 from 209 in 2017). A similar picture is seen in business housebreakings which have decreased from 112 in LYTD to 74 in 2018 (-33.9%).

Crimes of Dishonesty

2017/18	2018/19	Change
1883	1762	-6.4%



This is another positive figure in an area of business that gave us cause for concern last year. An overall 6.4 decrease from LYTD (121 fewer crimes) and the figures are also below the 3 and 5 year averages.

Violent Crime (Murder, Culpable Homicide, Attempt Murder, Serious Assault, Robbery)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
50	45	-10%



A positive start to this year with a continued drop in serious violent crime for the third successive year.

Crimes of serious assault continue to decrease with six fewer crimes in 2018 than the previous year, and no crimes of murder recorded. Minor assaults remain a challenge for police with an increase of 46 in 2018 compared to the previous year, however an ongoing national enquiry into historical crime accounts for over 60 of these..

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Road Casualties



	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Fatal	2	1	-50.0%
Serious	28	24	-14.3%
Slight	106	105	-0.9%
KSI	30	25	-16.7%
Children KSI	2	1	-50.0%

Missing Person Incidents - Child

2017/18	2018/19	Change
312	338	+7.7%



The figures show a slight increase from LYTD with 26 more cases. Looked after and accommodated children (LAAC) account for over 45% of all missing child related incidents, with many who repeatedly abscond.

Child mispers always have an element of vulnerability and are prioritised accordingly. The volume of cases places a high demand on resources.

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Protecting People - Adults (Bogus Crime, Missing Persons)



Police and their partners in Midlothian are recognised as a leading authority regarding their proactive work with Op Monarda. This operation has been undertaken in May and September this year with some positive activity focussing on the following:

- Days of action – road checks implemented targeting work vans in conjunction with DVSA.
- Visits and engagement with staff/clients providing advice and leaflets to all banks, libraries, care homes, pharmacies, medical centres and post offices.
- Foot patrols engaging with members of the public in all town centres and to sheltered accommodation.
- Banks and building societies now all involved in new 'banking protocol'
- Social media campaign providing help and advice throughout the initiative.
- Media releases issued when scams are identified on a day to day basis.

Dalkeith CBO has recently taken on delivery of the 'Digital Parenting' booklets produced by Vodaphone. Woodburn Primary School has already asked for police inputs to every P6 class.

Domestic Abuse



This continues to be a high priority for Police Scotland.

- Following the development of the SafeLives and College of Policing programme 'Domestic Abuse Matters (Scotland)', training is now being delivered to all police officers.
- In conjunction with our Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, high tariff perpetrators are identified and processed through the MATAC process, and victims identified and supported via MARAC.
- The new disclosure laws are actively being used and several disclosures made to relevant partners/individuals with a view to protecting further victimisation.
- Proactive bail checks being robustly enforced on a daily basis.
- Good use of police bail conditions when being liberated from custody on an undertaking for a future court date to protect victims.
- Referring victims to relevant local and national support agencies.
- Submission of iVPD forms for all children and young people affected/witness to domestic abuse

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Antisocial Behaviour & Hate Incidents



- A monthly partnership tasking and coordination partnership was initiated in December 2018 to target problem locations, offenders and emerging issues on a short term basis.
- ASB Liaison Officer is in the process of applying for a CRASBO for a recidivist Shoplifter.
- High viz patrols and Operations during school holiday periods, Gala days and festivals in order to deter ASB/underage drinking.
- Police continue to operate the Dalkeith Pubwatch.
- A new youth drop in centre at Cowden Pavilion has been initiated with joint working between Police, Aim High, Dalkeith Thistle CFC, Greggs and Dalkeith Miners Club. The club operates on Friday afternoons welcoming all secondary school children to deter ASB and underage drinking.
- A clean up has been organised in Lord Ancrum Wood in partnership with Forestry Commission and Newbattle Abbey College to remove damaged and fallen trees in an effort to remove the long standing and well used drinking den within the woods.
- Activity is being planned around off road motorbike initiatives in problem areas for later in the year.

Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation



- There has been a considerable increase in drug enforcement year to date, with the MCAT's playing a leading role in this regard.
- Several significant seizures of Class A and B drugs have been made in the first quarter, which has also seen a number of cash seizures. The value of cash and assets seized YTD is £33,600.
- The new electronic briefing site operating within Midlothian is affording officers up to date intelligence at every briefing.
- Intelligence is key to success in this area of business and our community officers are now hosting mobile drop in/surgeries in an effort to increase community engagement and provide a platform for people to speak to the police face to face.
- During Q3 Choices for Life Drugs resources were used for inputs to both S3 pupils at Lasswade HS and Newbattle HS.
- A number of MDA warrants were executed during the Festive initiative in December with approx. value £5000 of cocaine, £2000 heroin and £300 cash seized.

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Crimes of Dishonesty (including Housebreaking)



Lock Down Crime roadshows continue utilising premises with large footfall to maximise publicity. Lamp post wraps have also been attached and have caused a great deal of discussion to date, which has raised peoples awareness of the campaign, and more importantly, the need to secure their premises. This campaign has seen a significant decrease in the break ins to sheds/garages within Midlothian.

The Straiton Retail Crime Partnership has had several meetings and a number of retailers now actively involved. This partnership will be enhanced with the introduction of a radio system that retailers will have to alert one another when known shoplifters are targeting the retail park.

Crime prevention advice being offered to the many new developments throughout Midlothian, identified vulnerable premises or repeat victims.

Dedicated housebreaking teams who share intelligence with neighbouring authority areas to target travelling criminals (Op Bistra/Greenbay/Hayes)

Violent Crime



Detailed night time dispersal plan to reduce alcohol related violence

Robust enforcement of bail curfews/conditions on violent offenders

Intelligence led stop and searches for weapons

Development of Fearless/NKBL/MVP programmes within schools to deter violence and encourage information/intelligence

Early intervention with known violent offenders released from HMP.

Op Dignity was established in November 2018 to review all outstanding Group 1 crimes of violence throughout the Lothian and Scottish Borders division in an effort to identify any learning, and new enquiry lines, with a view to improving performance.

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Road Casualties



- Increased sites for Camera Safety Partnership, both static and mobile
- Local hand held radar checks at identified community hotspots
- Structured patrol matrix for local road policing resources at identified casualty hotspots
- Supporting national campaigns e.g. speeding, mobile phone, drink/drug driving
- Working with partners in Midlothian Council to identify and improve road engineering issues
- Regular engagement with vulnerable road users (young drivers and motorbikes) providing advice and support on road safety related matters. In October 2018 2morrrows driver event was delivered in partnership with MLC and Education.
- Supporting Road Policing officers with Op Close Pass aimed to reduce injuries to pedal cyclists
- Road Safety played a central part in the December Festive Operation with 36 road traffic offences detected 26 road checks carried out.

Serious & Organised Crime



Working with Midlothian Council on a joint action plan (Integrity Group) to reduce the harm to our communities from Serious and Organised Crime.

Actively encourage intelligence/information on any serious and organised crime activity in the area.

Exploring every opportunity to seize any cash or assets from known SOCG's

Raising awareness amongst the community of the impact of SOCG through engagement sessions

In conjunction with MC Education, ensure SOCG plays a part within the Curriculum for Excellence framework.

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Counter Terrorism



Working with Midlothian Council on a joint action plan (Integrity Group) to reduce the harm to our communities from Counter Terrorism.

Raise awareness of CT issues within our communities

As part of the PREVENT agenda, educate our young people on CT related matters

Ensure the security of our premises through integrity testing

Ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities through training

PREVENTION & ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of Events, Operations & Activity from 1st October– 31 December 2018

Rural Crime Initiative: Continued work around the Pentland Hills/Parks and Estates in Midlothian in November 2018 engaging with dog walkers regarding their responsibilities to keep their dogs under control and free from sheep worrying. Additional engagement with farmers and landowners regarding rural thefts and wildlife crime, in particular hare coursing. Very well received by the rural community. A five-month multi-agency campaign was launched on 8 January 2019 at Penicuik House by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC), the aim of the campaign being "Your Dog - Your Responsibility".

Young People: Mental Health Awareness Conferences were held at Lasswade HS for S5 and S6 involving workshops and guest speakers. Choices for Life Drugs resources were used for inputs to both S3 pupils at Lasswade HS and Newbattle HS. Inputs continue to primary schools and local groups (e.g. air cadets) across the authority area on subjects such as personal safety, online safety, and road/cycle safety.

Lock Down Crime Campaign: Continuation of roadshows and lamp post wrap arounds now in place at Straiton advertising the campaign. Work now underway with retailers in Dalkeith Town Centre.

ASB: With the aim to divert teenagers away from anti-social behaviour, Dalkeith Community Beat officers have teamed up with Aim High, Dalkeith Thistle CFC and Dalkeith Miners Club to run a drop-in facility for all secondary school age youngsters every Friday afternoon at Cowden Park.

During December Police ran a Festive operation tackling ASB, theft shoplifting, night time economy ASB and violence which included school and hot spot patrols, safety talks within local health centres, acquisitive crime patrols at retail outlets, road safety talks within schools and rural crime patrols. Similarly an Operation took place on the run up to Halloween/Bonfire night (ASB focus), including liaison with community councils holding large events (e.g. Loanhead attracting 1,000 individuals), and partnership working with SFRS and Midlothian Council.

Protecting People: J Division is now in a position to share information with the Fire Service who are a statutory agency. This means that police do not require consent to share information if it is justifiable, proportionate and necessary. In November/December Police supported the White Ribbon Domestic Abuse Campaign. On 25 November Police participated in an intelligence led multi agency Operation relating to human trafficking day in the Bonnyrigg ward.

Road Safety: Road Safety Driver Event took place with 260 Army Personnel at Glencourse barracks involving Army, Road Policing, Safety Camera Unit, SFRS and Midlothian Council. Further, road safety was an element of the festive campaign with road safety talks delivered and support of the drink driving campaign.