

Scrutiny Report April - December 2015

Midlothian



The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. There may be minor amendments between the information in this report and the final statistics – for example: due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, road crashes or incidents. It would not therefore be accurate or appropriate to refer to, quote or use the data in this report as official statistics.

(Figures relate to Midlothian as a whole for the date period 1 April 2015 - 31 December 2015 with comparisons made to the previous year 1 April 2014 - 31 December 2014)

TYTD = This Year to Date LYTD = Last Year to Date

Priority 1 – Tackling Substance Misuse

Indicator - Reduce the volume of crime aggravated by alcohol

Target - Reduce from LYTD

Current situation

On target. TYTD alcohol aggravated crime accounted for 9.0% of all group 1-7 crime recorded by Police in Midlothian, down from 10.4% LYTD.

Reasons

Compared to the previous year, there were 212 fewer crimes recorded overall in Midlothian TYTD, and a decrease in alcohol aggravated crime by 1.4% (95 crimes). TYTD there were 5176 Group 1-7 crimes recorded in Midlothian, with 466 tagged with the 'alcohol' aggravator. LYTD there were 5388 crimes recorded, of which 561 were aggravated by alcohol. The percentage of alcohol aggravated crime is also lower TYTD compared to the 3-year average of 11.5%.

The largest proportion of crimes (69%) related to threatening and abusive behaviour, breach of the peace, and common assault, with a quarter of crimes recorded in the area of Dalkeith town centre. 209 alcohol fuelled crimes were violent offences, up slightly from 203 in the same period last year.

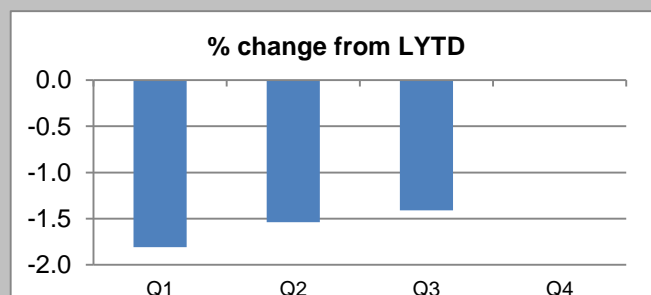
What are we doing

A number of actions are being taken by Police and the Community Safety Partnership in tackling alcohol fuelled violent crime:

- Targeting of 'party houses' through the weekly partnership tasking and co-ordination group
- Following the grading meeting on 29 January, four licensed premises have achieved the Best Bar None Award - 3 x gold and 1 x silver.
- Police visits to problem and monitored licensed premises
- Early intervention meetings with licencees and their staff following incidents within licensed premises
- Dispersal details within Dalkeith and Penicuik Town Centres
- Campaign Against Violence (CAV) days of action

Indicator - Reduce the volume of crime aggravated by alcohol

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	9.0%	10.4%	-1.4%



Priority 1 – Tackling Substance Misuse

Indicator - Increase the proportion of positive stop searches for drugs

Target - Increase from LYTD

Current situation

An enhanced version of the National Stop & Search Database commenced on 1 June 2015. The enhanced database brought significant changes to the process of data capture and the methodology for recording data items. No previous year to date figures are provided as it has been acknowledged this data is not 100% accurate, therefore comparisons will provide misleading results or invalid conclusions.

Reasons

In general terms (all search types), between June and November 2015, Police in Midlothian conducted 299 stop and searches (222 statutory and 77 consensual), with 63 of them proving positive (21.0%), resulting in a total of 48 seizures.

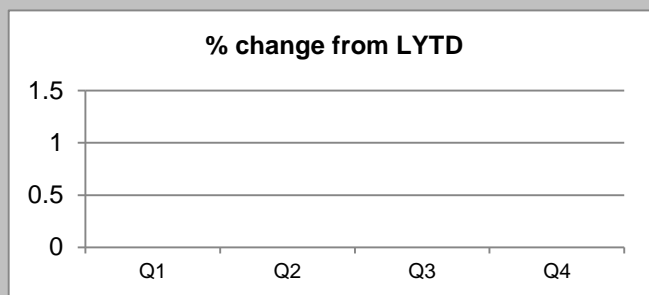
YTD in the Lothian and Scottish Borders Police carried out 973 stop and searches for drugs (92 consensual and 881 statutory), with a positive return of 28.2%, which is above the force figure of 26.0%.

What are we doing

Officers in Midlothian continue to search people on an intelligence led basis.

Indicator - Increase the proportion of positive stop searches for drugs

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
26.0%	28.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A



Priority 2 – Protecting People:

Indicator - Increase the number of Adult at Risk referrals made to partner agencies

Target - Increase from LYTD

Current situation

On target. There were 996 referrals made to partnership agencies TYTD, up from 946 LYTD - an increase of 5.3%.

Reasons

Improved awareness among police officers of the risk factors involved and the necessity for informed consent to share with partnership agencies.

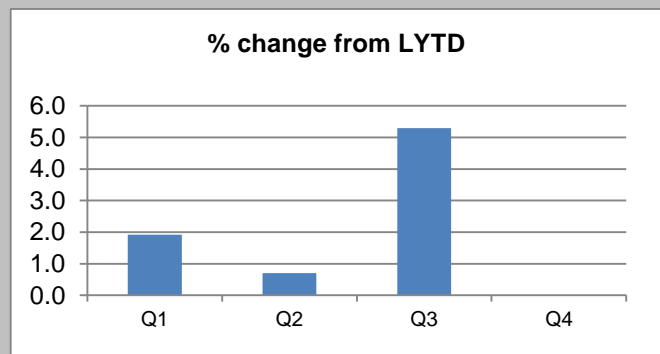
An adult protection screening pilot was launched across East and Midlothian in July 2015. The multi agency screening group meets twice a week to screen adult referrals prior to submission. The main benefit of this group is to allow referrals to be made and received more effectively and efficiently by the relevant agency.

What are we doing

- Introduction of VPD (Vulnerable Persons Database), as a standardised national process and database, making it easier to raise a referral for adults involved in domestic incidents and hate crimes and adults at risk.
- Continued awareness-raising among police officers regarding criteria for submission of adult concern referrals.
- Operation Monarda: Police have been working with partner agencies, the third sector and local communities across Midlothian as part of an ongoing national campaign to help minimise risk and prevent harm to vulnerable and older people from criminals who commit doorstep crime (incl road shows, foot patrols, attendance at community facilities such as libraries, leisure centres, and day centres).
- Within the last 6 months police representatives from a public protection perspective have moved to a co-located unit within the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh.
- Recent introduction of the ICMU (Incident Crime Management Unit), whose role in principle is to triage receipt of initial submission of adult VPDs, which will improve the quality, standard and compliance aspects of adult protection VPDs.

Indicator - Increase the number of Adult at Risk referrals made to partner agencies

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	996	946	5.3%



Priority 2 - Protecting People

Indicator - Ensure 95% of Domestic Abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24 hours)
Target - 95%

Current situation

On target. TYTD 98.3% of all domestic abuse initial bail checks were completed within the prescribed timeframe of 24 hours. This compliance exceeds Police Scotland's target of 95.0% and both the force and divisional YTD figures of 97.1% and 97.2% respectively.

Reasons

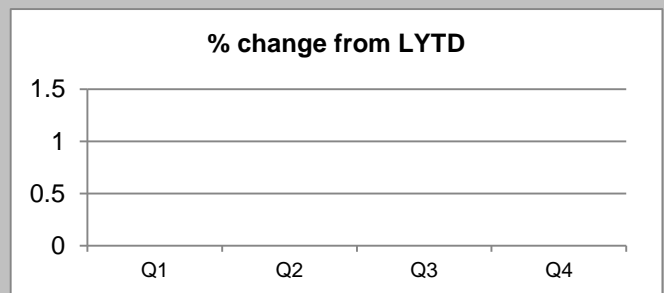
Supervisors and officers are fully aware of the importance of these checks and the disciplined process that is in place between the courts and the police.

What are we doing

- Pro-active Domestic Abuse bail checks.
- MATAC: responsible for identifying and targeting High Risk Domestic Offenders

Indicator - Ensure 95% of Domestic Abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24 hours)

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
97.1%	97.2%	98.3%	N/A	N/A



Priority 2 - Protecting People:

Indicator - Domestic Abuse crimes and offences Achieve a detection rate of at least 75.0%

Current situation

Off target. Detection rate for domestic abuse crimes and offences TYTD is 74.8%, which is marginally below the target of 75.0%.

Reasons

TYTD there have been 527 domestic abuse crimes and offences recorded in Midlothian, which is slightly below the figure for the same period last year (543).

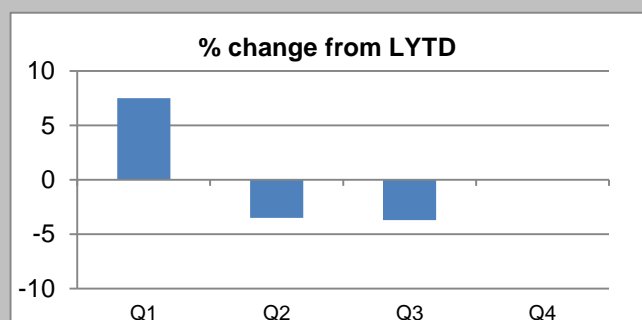
At the end of December, Midlothian had recorded a slight decrease in the number of detections for domestic abuse compared to both the previous year and the target figure. TYTD 74.8% of all domestic abuse crimes and offences were detected. This is 0.2% below the target of 75.0% and 3.7% below last year's figure of 78.5%.

What are we doing

- Pro-active Domestic Abuse bail checks.
- Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC): responsible for identifying and targeting high risk domestic offenders
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC): responsible for identifying and protecting high risk victims of domestic abuse
- Officers trained in identifying risk assessment through domestic abuse questionnaires
- Direct referral process in place to East and Midlothian Domestic Abuse Service (DAS)
- Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) in place to deal with complex and high tariff cases

Indicator - Domestic Abuse crimes and offences – achieve a detection rate of at least 75.0%

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
81.9%	79.4%	74.8%	78.5%	3.7%



Priority 3 - Reducing Violence :

Indicator - Decrease the number of violent crimes per 10,000 head of population

Target - reduce from LYTD

Current situation

On target. TYTD there were 7.1 violent crimes per 10,000 population, slightly below LYTD figure of 7.3 crimes per 10,000 population.

(note the latest population estimate for Midlothian relates to 2014's estimate of 86,210)

Reasons

61 violent crimes (all Group 1) were recorded TYTD in Midlothian. This is 3.2% below LYTD when 63 crimes were recorded and lower than the 3-year average of 73 reported crimes. The rate of violent crimes TYTD is 7.1 crimes per 10,000 population, down from 7.3 LYTD.

There have been 7 attempted murders recorded by police, up one from LYTD. Crimes of serious assault have also increased by 1 compared to the previous year (22 LYTD to 23 TYTD). Crimes of assault and robbery have decreased by 3 compared to the previous year (16 LYTD to 13 TYTD).

Detection rate for all Group 1 crime is an excellent 94.5% (up 7% on last years figure of 87.5%).

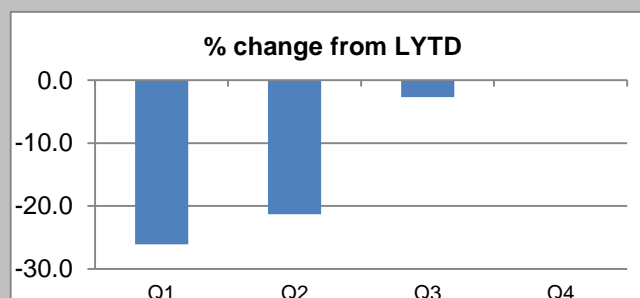
What are we doing

A number of actions are being taken by the Police and Community Safety Partnership in tackling violent crime:

- Targeting of 'party houses' through the weekly partnership tasking and co-ordination group
- Visits to problem and monitored licensed premises
- Dispersal details within Dalkeith and Penicuik Town Centres
- Targeted use of Campaign Against Violence (CAV) officers
- Antisocial behaviour and violent offenders monitoring group - action against high profile and prolific offenders (for example for violent offences committed in the vicinity of the dwelling tenancy warnings or in cases evictions are carried out by the relevant housing association/ council)
- Robust monitoring and enforcement of bail conditions/curfew orders for known violent offenders
- Active early engagement with violent offenders released from prison
- Prioritising of warrants for violent offenders

Indicator - Decrease the number of violent crimes per 10,000 head of population

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	7.1	7.3	-2.7%



Priority 3 - Reducing Violence

Increase the percentage of positive Stop and Searches for offensive weapons Target - increase from LYTD

Current situation

An enhanced version of the National Stop & Search Database commenced on 1 June 2015. The enhanced database brought significant changes in the process of data capture and the methodology for recording data items. No previous year to date figures are provided as it has been acknowledged this data is not 100% accurate, therefore comparisons will provide misleading results or invalid conclusions.

Reasons

In general terms (all search types), between June and November 2015, police in Midlothian conducted 299 stop and searches (222 statutory and 77 consensual). Of all stop and searches conducted 63 were positive (21.0%) with a total of 48 seizures being made.

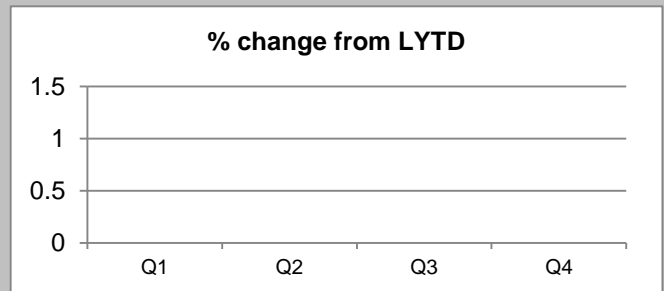
YTD in the Lothian and Scottish Borders Police carried out 111 stop and searches for weapons (38 consensual and 73 statutory), with a positive return of 19.8%, which is above the force figure of 14.1%.

What are we doing

Officers in Midlothian continue to search people on an intelligence led basis.

Indicator - Increase the percentage of positive Stop and Searches for offensive weapons

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
14.10%	19.80%	N/A	N/A	N/A



Priority 4 - Making our Roads Safer

Indicator - Decrease the number of people killed or seriously injured on Midlothian's roads
Target - Decrease from LYTD

Current situation

Off target. TYTD 37 people have been killed or seriously injured on Midlothian's roads, 14 more than the previous year (23), and 15 more than the 3-year average (22).

Reasons

TYTD there have been 3 fatalities on Midlothian's roads compared to no fatalities LYTD. In the last quarter (October - December 2015) there was one fatality; on 6th December a fatal collision occurred on the A68 just North of Pathhead where a 50-year-old male cyclist was struck by a vehicle driven by a 19-year-old female. Police enquiries continue into this accident.

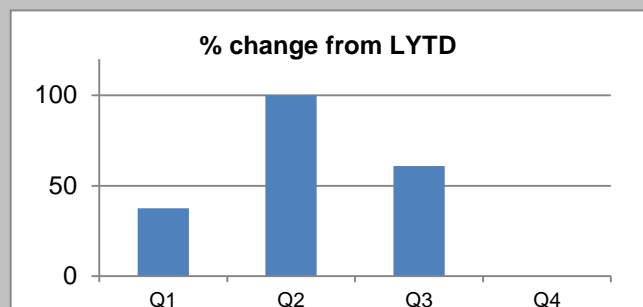
TYTD there were 34 people seriously injured on Midlothian's roads, up from 23 the previous year. 2 children were seriously injured TYTD, up from zero the previous year and comparable to the 3-year average (2). Analysis of all Killed/Seriously Injured (KSI) continues to be undertaken in an effort to establish causation factors or identify any "hot spot" areas, however this has so far failed to identify anything of significance.

What are we doing

- Targeted patrol matrix used by Roads Policing which identifies hotspots for serious and fatal collisions.
- Deployment of unmarked Roads Policing vehicles and Police Motorcycles
- Additional Community Policing Team Officers have been trained into the use of hand held radar devices and are undertaking speed checks on roads identified as problematic in an effort to positively influence driver behaviour
- Joint work with partners in VOSA to ensure road worthiness of vehicles/HGV's and that drivers are complying with standards required
- Winter Safety Campaign aimed at educating drivers to the hazards of winter driving

Indicator - Decrease the number of people killed or seriously injured on Midlothian's roads

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
1317	170	37	23	60.9%



Priority 4 - Making our Roads Safer

Indicator - Increase the number of people detected for dangerous driving
Target - Increase from LYTD

Current situation

On target. TYTD there have been 32 detections for dangerous driving in Midlothian, an increase of 9 (39.1%), from LYTD.

Reasons

Males aged 17-28 years of age are over represented in dangerous driving offences (82%).

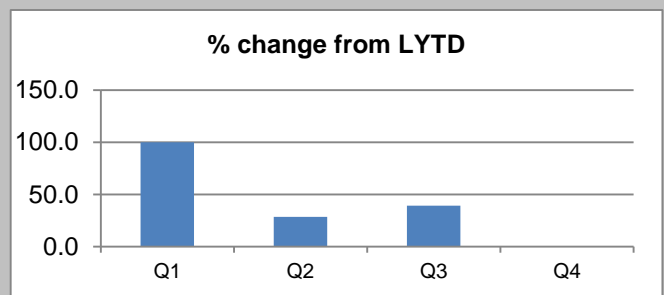
Dangerous driving offences recorded in Midlothian account for 25% of all such offences in the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division and 1.7% for all of Scotland.

What are we doing

- Roads Policing are tasked through the weekly partnership tasking and co-ordination group (TACG) in regards to patrolling antisocial / careless driving hotspots
- Deployment of unmarked Roads Policing vehicles and motorcycles
- Deployment of camera enforcement vehicles in Midlothian. There are currently three sites which form part of their deployment matrix.
- Continued road checks involving Roads Policing working with local Community officers and partners

Indicator - Increase the number of people detected for dangerous driving

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
1921	128	32	23	39.1%



Priority 5 - Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

Indicator - Increase the detection rate for hate crime

Target - increase from LYTD

Current situation

Off target. The detection rate for hate crime in Midlothian is 78.9%, marginally below 79.1% LYTD however slightly above the force average of 77.2%.

Reasons

At the end of December the Midlothian detection rate for hate crime decreased by less than 0.5% compared to the same period the previous year, and sits less than 1% below the Divisional average and 1.7% above the Force average.

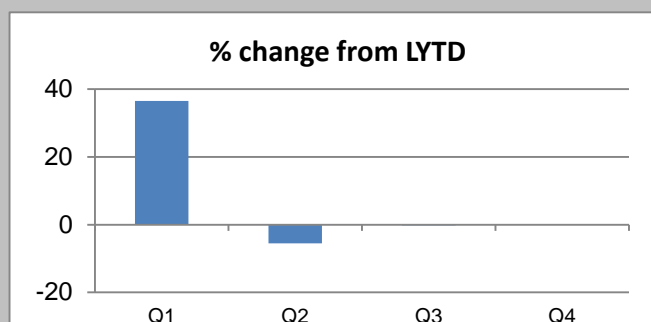
Racially aggravated hate crime continues to be a challenge in Midlothian, with offences taking place between neighbours, at point of sale, and against police officers during arrest. TYTD there have been 59 recorded hate crimes/offences, down from 67 LYTD.

What are we doing

- A racial hate crime offender has been taken to the ASBVO meeting (case is being monitored and on conviction action will be taken against the tenancy)
- Educational inputs at local schools
- A thorough and robust investigation in place

Indicator - Increase the detection rate for hate crime

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
77.20%	79.80%	78.9%	79.1%	-0.2%



Priority 5 - Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

Indicator - Reduce the number of incidents of Antisocial Behaviour reported by members of the public

Target - reduce from LYTD

Current situation

Off target. TYTD the number of complaints of antisocial behaviour (ASB) have increased by 209 incidents compared to LYTD.

Reasons

4797 incidents of ASB have been reported by members of the public TYTD (209 more incidents than LYTD - an increase of 4.6%).

A specific challenge for police is the high levels of youth disorder in the Dalkeith, Midlothian East and South areas in recent months. Youth disorder hotspots are raised at the Community Safety Delivery Group and weekly tasking and co-ordinating group (T&CG) with specific action being taken by Community Policing Teams, funded officers, community learning and development street workers. A Bonnyrigg Youth Disorder Short Life Working Group has also been initiated to tackle ongoing youth disorder in this area.

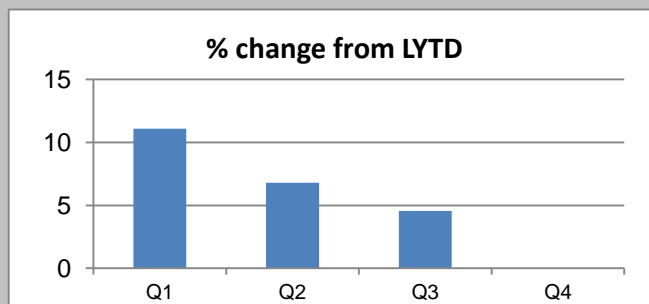
Alcohol related antisocial behaviour continues to be a challenge for police with a disproportionate percentage of incidents occurring on Friday and Saturday between 20:00 and 00:59.

What are we doing

- Weekly partnership tasking and coordination group - actions taken around repeat ASB locii and offenders
- Briefing circulation on the Midlothian Council Mediation Service has resulted in an increase in police referrals to this service
- Antisocial Behaviour and Violent Offenders Monitoring Group (ASBVO) - a number of actions taken each meeting against high tariff ASB offenders
- ASB occurring in private and housing association tenancies are passed to the housing agency involved to ensure enforcement action is taken
- In October 2015, Midlothian was successful in gaining a CRASBO for a hare courser - the first in Scotland
- Consultation ongoing with the Children's Reporter regarding a more robust use of supervision orders for youths who regularly offend in the community
- Rural Experience Midlothian is about to embark on its second diversionary project
- Underage drinking initiative planned for March
- Successful ASB initiative between Midlothian Council and Police at Bonfire night resulted in reduced calls to police and fire service

Indicator - Reduce the number of incidents of Antisocial Behaviour reported by members of the public

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
245068	19917	4797	4588	4.6%



Priority 6 - Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

**Indicator - Increase the number of detections for drugs supply,
drugs production and drugs cultivation**
Target - increase from LYTD

Current situation

On target. TYTD police in Midlothian have detected 60 offences for drugs supply, production and cultivation. This is 4 more detections than LYTD (+7.1%) and 7 more than the 3-year average (+3.2%).

Reasons

TYTD police in Midlothian have detected 60 offences for drugs supply, production and cultivation. This is an increase of 4 offences compared to the same period last year (+7.1%).

40 offences were for supply and 20 offences for production/cultivation. Briefings are taking place with Community Safety Officers and Housing Officers within Midlothian Council to educate front line workers around identifying drug related paraphernalia - this has resulted in a number of detections.

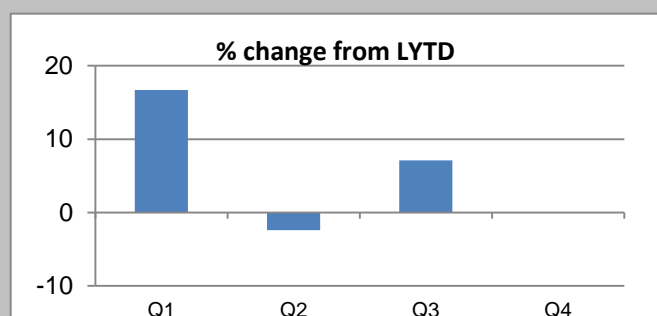
There is one active Serious Organised Crime Group operating within Midlothian. Police have made 103 arrests of SOCG nominals throughout the Lothians and the Scottish Borders area TYTD, exceeding the target figure of 90. In total there have been 162 offences recorded.

What are we doing

- Divisional Intelligence Officer now working within Dalkeith Divisional Intelligence Unit
- Information sharing protocols are now in place to conduct Landlord Registration checks in order to identify potential money laundering operations
- Operation Borah took place on 8th October 2015 - the aim of the event being to raise awareness of the risk to the public and partners that cultivations present and to encourage increased reporting of potential cultivations
- Joint Police and Trading Standards work continues in relation to New Psychoactive Substances in our area

**Indicator - Increase the number of detections for drugs supply,
drugs production and drugs cultivation**

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
3724	296	60	56	7.1%



Priority 6 - Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Indicator - Increase the amount of cash and NET assets seized from criminals using the Proceeds of Crime Act
Target - increase from LYTD

Current situation

Off target. TYTD police have seized £472,766 in cash and NET assets from criminals using the Proceeds of Crime Act. This is a decrease of £265,523 compared to the same period last year.

Reasons

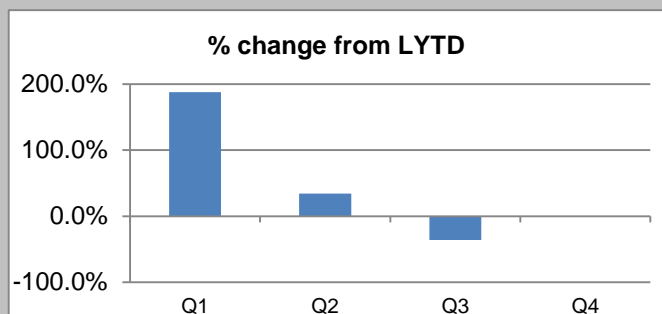
There have been three NET assets seized TYTD totalling £464,446 and a further £8320 in cash seizures from five individuals who reside in Midlothian.
LYTD there were five NET assets seized and five cash seizures with a total value of £738,290. In October and December 2014 there were two large NET asset restraints totalling £375,897 which explains the considerable decrease in seizure amounts in the last quarter (Oct-Dec).

What are we doing

- Police Scotland continues with its efforts to identify and assess the scale and impact of serious organised crime while managing the threat posed by those SOCG's operating in Midlothian.
- Information sharing protocols are now in place to conduct Landlord Registration checks in order to identify potential money laundering
- Joint plan in place with Midlothian Council to tackle SOCG's

Indicator - Increase the amount of cash and NET assets seized from criminals using the Proceeds of Crime Act

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	£472,766	£738,290	-36.0%



Priority 7 – Reducing Housebreaking

Indicator -Reduce the number of thefts by housebreaking at domestic properties

Target - reduce from LYTD

Current situation

Off target. Police recorded 112 domestic housebreakings (incl attempts) TYTD, up from 63 LYTD (an increase of 77.8%).

Reasons

Housebreaking to domestic properties continues to be a challenge for police with 112 recorded break-ins TYTD, up 77.8% from LYTD (63 crimes). The 3-year average for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 was 82.

On a more positive note, non-dwelling housebreakings (e.g. break-ins to garages, garden sheds and outbuildings) have dropped by 34% TYTD and 12.4% compared to the 3-year average. Overall housebreakings (incl attempts) have dropped by 12.7% TYTD compared to LYTD.

The targeting of domestic properties for car keys and the subsequent theft of motor vehicles has been a challenge for police with 16 motor vehicles stolen during such housebreakings TYTD. A recidivist group of young males continue to commit high numbers of housebreakings throughout the area and dedicated police resources are being directed to this SOCG under the banner Operation Bistra.

What are we doing

- Police continue to gather intelligence and deploy resources to housebreakings and autocrime under 'Operation Greenbay' and 'Operation Bistra'. On 17th December, an enforcement day was carried out by police following a number of garden sheds/garages and business premises having been subjected to thefts and attempt thefts where high value pedal cycles, electrical gardening equipment as well as golf equipment were stolen. A number of arrests were made with one 20 year old male detained and subsequently reported for 28 housebreaking related offences.

- General crime prevention advice is provided by officers attending the scene of domestic housebreakings. More detailed crime prevention surveys are offered to victims of domestic housebreaking who appear vulnerable or who are repeat victims.

- Increase in the use of social media by Community Policing Sergeants in the promotion of home security and personal safety advice

- An ASBO is being considered for a high tariff individual convicted of a number of housebreakings (a CRASBO was applied for but was refused). Action against the tenancy is also being considered.

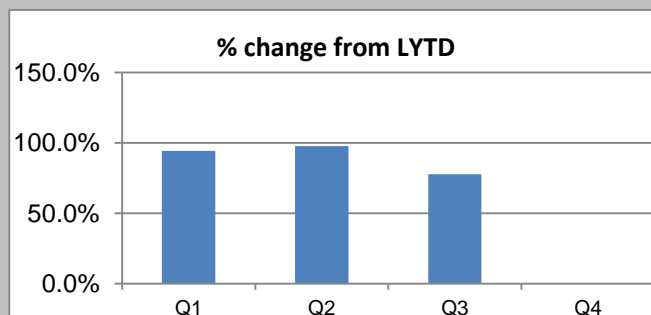
- Consideration for action taken at the ASBVO where stolen property is detected in Council or social housing tenancies where the tenant was convicted of housebreaking in the vicinity of their tenancy

- Housing officers have been educated around the reporting of intelligence to Police (e.g. gardening tools stored within a flat without a garden)

- Deployment of plain clothed officers in problematic areas

Indicator - Reduce the number of thefts by housebreaking at domestic properties

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	412	112	63	77.8%



Priority 7 – Reducing Housebreaking

Indicator -Increase our detection rate for crimes of housebreaking at domestic properties
Target - Increase from LYTD

Current situation

On target. TYTD the detection rate for crimes of domestic housebreaking is 46.4%, compared to 33.3% LYTD and well above the 3-year average of 31.1%.

Reasons

Despite high levels of housebreaking, police continue to make a good number of arrests with the solvency rate for domestic housebreakings sitting at 46.4% TYTD (up significantly from 33.3% LYTD and the 3-year average of 31.1%).

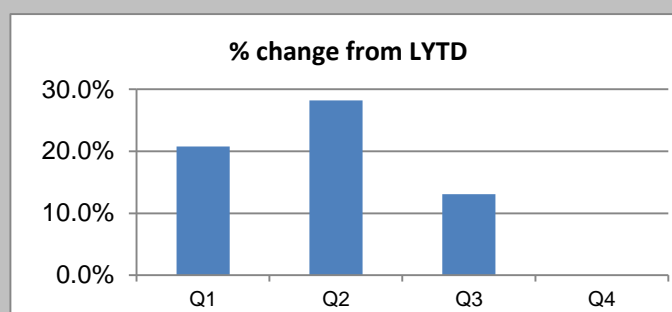
Several nominals have been reported for numerous offences TYTD, with a total of 34 individuals charged with housebreaking offences (incl attempts). Details of repeat housebreaking offenders are passed by police to Midlothian Council Community Safety Team and Criminal Justice Social Work for follow up enforcement action.

What are we doing

- Operation Reduce and Capture (RAC)
- Operation Bistra – Police operation targeting non-dwelling housebreakings and the theft of pedal cycles and gardening equipment across Midlothian
- Police are represented at all CSP Roadshows delivered throughout the year promoting personal, road and home safety
- Joint work with our Search and Recovery Teams (SART) with regards to tracing stolen property
- Joint work with officers from Edinburgh, targeting known housebreakers across both authority areas (Operation Greenbay)

Indicator -Increase our detection rate for crimes of housebreaking at domestic properties

Force TYTD	Divis'n TYTD	ML TYTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	49.8%	46.4%	33.3%	13.1%



Public Confidence - Number of complaints against the Police: YTD 2015/16

In September 2014 the Professional Standards Department introduced a change in process for streamlining the handling, investigation and response to all complaints about the police.

As a result, year on year comparisons are not possible.

Number of complaints - Midlothian	67
Number of complaints - J Division	352

Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	30.9
Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	34.8

	Midlothian	J Division
Total allegations recorded	80	455