



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Scrutiny Report

1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019



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 4 period of 01/01/2019 - 31/03/2019.

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 25th April 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Missing Person Incidents - Adults

2017/18	2018/19	Change
143	120	-16.1%



A welcome decrease is seen in the number of adults being reported as missing, down by 16.1% (a reduction of 23 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 10% 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
4	4	-



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

Much prevention focused 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
979	1160	+18.5%



There has been a considerable 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 8.4%. In total 35.9% of all incidents reported to the police were subsequently recorded as a crime.

Detection rate for domestic abuse is currently 76.6%.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hate Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
83	100	+20%



Police have recorded 100 hate incidents in 2018/19, 17 more than the previous year resulting in an increase of 20%. Good work has been undertaken in regards to solving hate crimes, which has increased by 7.2% in the last year (78.1% up from 70.9% in 2017/18).

There are no particular pattern or identified trends in regards to hate crimes recorded in Midlothian, 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
6341	5835	-8.0%



Reports of ASB continue to decrease across Midlothian, with 647.7 incidents per 10,000 population.

The work of the MCAT's and our Community Beat Officers are playing a significant role in achieving a reduction in ASB through intelligence led patrols.

Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation

2017/18	2018/19	Change
53	77	+45.3%



A proactive and intelligence led approach by our MCAT's has seen a significant rise in detections for drugs supply, production and cultivation.

The number of drugs possession charges has also increased by 68% this year (597 and 355 respectively) which again highlights the robust approach to substance misuse by officers in Midlothian.

Several significant seizures of Class A and B drugs have been made in 2018/19, which has also seen a number of cash seizures. The value of cash and assets seized in 2018/19 was in excess of £1M.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housebreaking (Domestic)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
84	145	+72.6%



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 41% of all domestic housebreakings YTD being attempts and 59% being successful. The previous year 78% of break-ins were successful (i.e. entry was gained to the premise).

Break-ins to non-dwellings (excl businesses) are down 50% in 2018/19 with 122 recorded and a similar picture is seen in business housebreakings which have decreased by 58% (n=88).

Crimes of Dishonesty

2017/18	2018/19	Change
2408	2304	-4.3%



A positive figure in an area of business that gave us cause for concern last year. An overall 4.3 decrease from LYTD (104 fewer crimes).

Autocrime has decreased by 19% in the last year, housebreakings (all), by 24%, and pedal cycle theft by 7%.

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

2017/18	2018/19	Change
66	63	-4.5%



A continued drop in serious violent crime for the third successive year.

Crimes of serious assault continue to decrease with 13 fewer crimes in 2018/19 than the previous year, and no crimes of murder recorded.

Assault and robbery remain a challenge for police with an increase of 10 crimes in 2018/19 compared to the previous year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Road Casualties



	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Fatal	2	2	-
Serious	33	30	-9.1%
Slight	130	133	+2.3%
KSI	35	32	-8.6%
Children KSI	2	2	-

Missing Person Incidents - Child

2017/18	2018/19	Change
391	419	+7.2%



The figures show a slight increase from the previous year with 28 more cases. Looked after and accommodated children (LAAC) account for over 46% 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.

A pilot protocol is set to be carried out at a Midlothian Young Persons Unit (further details below).

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 with some positive activity focusing on joint days of action with trading standards and DVSA, advice and leaflets to all banks/libraries/care homes/pharmacies/medical centres/post offices, and foot patrols engaging with members of the public in all town centres and to sheltered accommodation. Banks and building societies are now all involved in new 'banking protocol' and a social media campaign is being utilised for circulating identified scams and disseminating information and advice.

'Shut out Scammers' Campaign in the planning which will include police roadshows at community locations and joint partnership days of action.

A pilot protocol is set to be carried out at a Midlothian Young Persons Unit. All staff at the unit have now been trained in the new protocol and enhanced partnership working at the unit is expected to lead to a considerable reduction in reported child mispers over the next year.

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



- 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 and a similar Pubwatch in Bonnyrigg is in the process of being implemented.
- 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.
- The Community Action Team is planning an off road motorbike initiative 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.
- 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.

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.

The Straiton Retail Crime Partnership remains in place and regular meetings are held between police and retailers. Some retailers have signed up to RAC and also radio link.

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: 1 January 2019 – 31 March 2019

ASB: Effective partnership working remains between Police and Midlothian Council. A joint site visit was carried out at an address in Bonnyrigg, which has been identified as a ASB hotspot for youths in that area. As a result of the visit the council will be fitting secure doors to the bin stores at that location and are proposing blocking a vennel frequented by the youths.

Hate Crime: Hate Crime Awareness campaign ran through 18 Feb to 3 March 2019 and was launched in partnership with Midlothian Peoples Equality Group. During the campaign police carried out visits to Bonnyrigg Muslim Community Centre with discussion held with trustees and community attendees. High visibility patrols were carried out throughout the campaign, educational inputs at Edinburgh College and reassurance visits were carried out to previous victims across Midlothian.

Protecting People: ‘Shut out Scammers’ Campaign in the planning which will include roadshows at community locations, information sessions with vulnerable residents and checks on previous doorstep crime victims, high visibility foot patrols, and leaflet and poster circulation. Joint partnership days of action will also take place with Trading Standards, Roads Policing officers, and DVSA.

Internet Safety: Police supported Safer Internet Day in February 2019, with a number of events, educational inputs and awareness raising activities at local schools. Further police carried out Risk Factory inputs to all P7 pupils on social media and dangers of posting/associated criminality.

Substance Misuse: Community Officers in Bonnyrigg have been working with licensed premises in the area to set up a Pubwatch scheme which is anticipated to go live in the coming weeks.

Rural Crime: A five-month multi-agency campaign to highlight the reality of livestock attacks and distress caused primarily by dogs was launched on 8 January 2019 at Penicuik House, Penicuik Estate by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) in partnership with Police Scotland, NFU, Kennel Club, British Horse Society, Emma Harper MSP and Scottish Land & Estates. The aim of the campaign - "Your Dog - Your Responsibility" is to ensure dog owners understand the distressing and emotive nature as well as emotional and financial impacts such incidents can have, not just on farmers but everyone having to deal with the aftermath.

Further police are working partnership with the local river bailiffs and Dalkeith Country Park rangers to deter and detect poaching and other wildlife crime.