

Scrutiny Report April 2016 - September 2016

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 and should be treated as management information only.

(Figures relate to Midlothian as a whole for the date period 1 April 2016 - 30 September 2016 (YTD) with comparisons made to the previous year 1 April 2015 - 30 September 2015 (LYTD))

YTD = 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

Off target. YTD alcohol aggravated crime accounted for 9.3% of all group 1-7 crime recorded by Police in Midlothian, up from 8.9% LYTD, however compares favourably with the 3 year average figure of 10.9%.

Reasons

Compared to the previous year, there were 506 more crimes recorded overall in Midlothian YTD (+15.0%), and an increase in alcohol aggravated crime of 61 crimes (0.4%). YTD there were 3883 group 1-7 crimes recorded in Midlothian, 363 were tagged with the aggravator 'alcohol'. LYTD there were 3377 crimes recorded of which 302 were aggravated by alcohol.

Violence is inextricably linked to alcohol abuse with over a third (36%) of alcohol aggravated crime acts of violence. A further 28% of alcohol aggravated crime related to threatening and abusive behaviour and breach of the peace. Vandalisms accounted for 8.0% of all alcohol aggravated crime. Substance misuse among youth people continues to be a challenge for police with 111 alcohol related youth calls recorded by police across Midlothian YTD, up from 85 LYTD.

Analysis of violence and antisocial behaviour offences (crime groups 1 and 6), revealed that over a fifth of such crimes (21.3%) YTD were tagged with the aggravator 'alcohol'. On a positive note this was slightly below LYTD figure of 23.9% suggesting that the proportion of violent and antisocial crime aggravated by alcohol is declining.

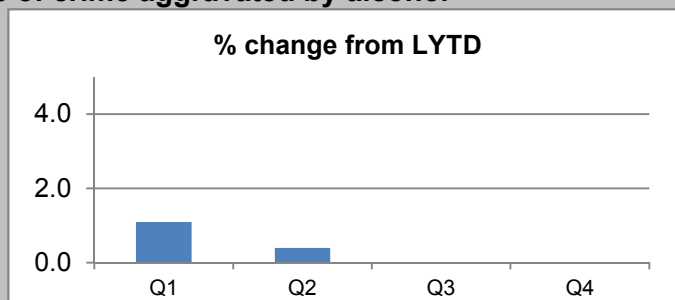
What are we doing

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
- Police visits to problem and monitored licensed premises (currently there are 3 monitored and no problematic)
- Early intervention meetings with licencees and their staff following incidents with Licensed premises
- Revised dispersal detail within Dalkeith Town Centre
- Monthly proactive joint visits being carried out by Police Licensing Officer and Licensing Standards Officer Midlothian Council.
- Local Days of Action continue across the division
- 3 officers have now been identified who will now be responsible for taking Best Bar none (BBN) forward together with the pub watch. Work started to encourage greater participation in the Best Bar None Awards
- In conjunction with Community Justice partners, seeking to introduce a pilot arrest referral project
- Seeking exclusion orders from licensed premises as part of a sentence for alcohol related offences
- Review of violent crime being undertaken by National Violence Reduction Unit to examine practice/procedures in an effort to identify best practice and reduce levels of alcohol related violence
- Violence and licensing issues are a priority within the Divisional Festive Campaign

Indicator - Reduce the volume of crime aggravated by alcohol

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	9.3%	8.9%	0.4%



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 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 previously acknowledged this data is not 100% accurate, therefore comparisons will provide misleading results or invalid conclusions.

Reasons

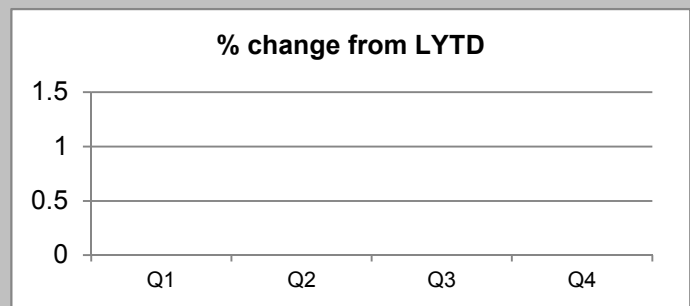
YTD there were 148 stop and searches (total including drugs, weapons and stolen property) carried out by police in Midlothian, 43 of which were positive (29%).

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 YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	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

Off target. There were 660 incidents concerning adults at risk and vulnerable adults referred to partnership agencies YTD, down from 662 LYTD (-0.3%).

Reasons

In total between April and September YTD there were 660 referrals made to partnership agencies YTD, down 2 from LYTD (662).

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

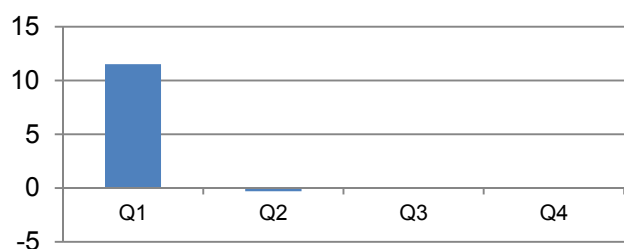
What are we doing

- Continued awareness-raising among police officers regarding criteria for submission of adult concern referrals.
- Established a co-located Public Protection 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 YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	660	662	-0.30%

% change from LYTD



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. YTD 100% of domestic abuse initial bail checks were conducted within the prescribed timeframe of 24 hours - above the 95.0% target.

Reasons

Initial bail checks are vital to ensure that the perpetrator is adhering to bail conditions imposed at the court. It is well known that perpetrators regularly return to victims irrespective of bail conditions, and these checks, which include a physical search of the property, are designed to protect the victim and provide levels of support and reassurance.

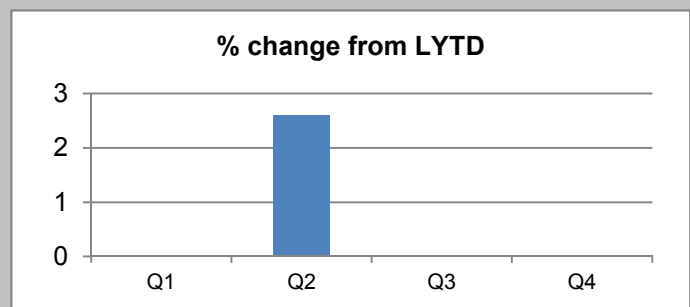
Supervisors and officers are fully aware of the importance of these checks and the disciplined process that is in place between the courts and the police.

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 YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	100.0%	97.40%	2.60%



Priority 2 - Protecting People:

Indicator - Domestic Abuse crimes and offences – achieve a detection rate of at least 75.0%
Target - 75%

Current situation

Off target. Detection rate for domestic abuse crimes and offences YTD is 72.4%, below the target figure of 75.0%.

Reasons

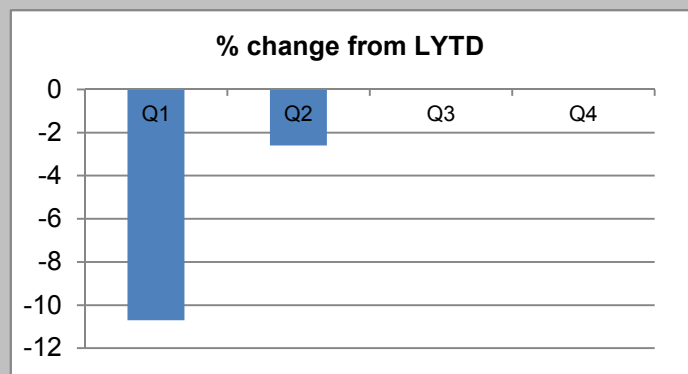
YTD there were 387 crimes and offences of domestic abuse recorded in Midlothian, up from 376 LYTD (11 crimes, +2.9%). On a positive note the number of incidents of domestic abuse reported to police decreased by 5.5% YTD. The solitary nature of this type of offence makes investigations complex.

What are we doing

- Pro-active Domestic Abuse bail checks for both offender and victim.
- 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 questionnaire
- 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
- Seasonal national campaigns
- Full review of unsolved crimes currently on going
- Selected officers undertaking enhanced investigation training into domestic abuse to assist operational officers

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

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	73.7%	72.4%	75.0%	-2.6%



Priority 3 - Reducing Violence :

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

Target - reduce from LYTD

Current situation

Off target. YTD there were 6.8 violent crimes per 10,000 population, above LYTD figure of 4.3 crimes per 10,000 population.

Reasons

59 violent crimes (all group 1) were recorded YTD in Midlothian. This is 53% above LYTD when 38 crimes were recorded and above the 3-year average of 45 crimes.

There were 2 fewer victims of attempted murder YTD compared to the LYTD (2 and 4 respectively). Crimes of serious assault have increased from 13 LYTD to 23 YTD, albeit there has been a change in the Scottish Crime Recording Standards regarding what is defined as a serious assault that has played a significant part in this rise. Crimes of assault and robbery have increased by 6 crimes YTD compared to the previous year (8 and 14 respectively). Common assaults have also increased YTD with 487 assaults recorded up from 430 LYTD (+13.3%).

Detection rate for all group 1 crime is 81.4% YTD, down from 89.5% LYTD.

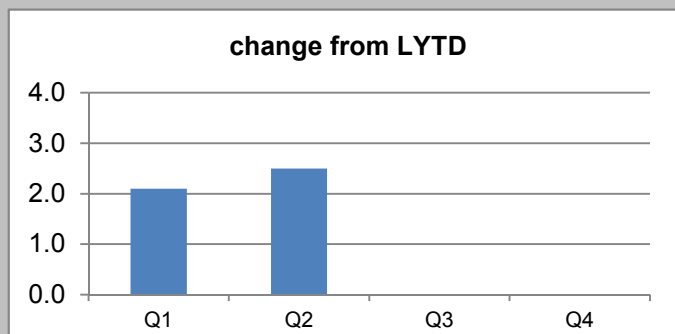
What are we doing

A number of actions are being taken by Police and the 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 detail within Dalkeith and Penicuik Town Centres
- Targeted use of Local Action Days
- 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 eviction are carried out by the relevant housing association/ council)
- Robust monitoring and enforcement of bail conditions/curfew for known violent offenders
- Active early engagement with violent offenders released from prison
- Prioritising of warrants for violent offenders
- Process established to extend MAPPA to include violent offenders
- Fortnightly analysis of serious assaults/robberies to establish any trend/hot spots
- Review of violent crime being undertaken by National Violence Reduction Unit to examine practice/procedures in an

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

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	6.80	4.30	2.5



Priority 3 - Reducing Violence

Indicator - 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 previously acknowledged this data is not 100% accurate, therefore comparisons will provide misleading results or invalid conclusions.

Reasons

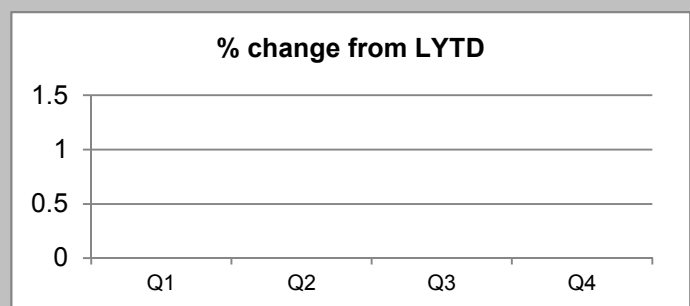
YTD there were 148 stop and searches (total incl drugs, weapons and stolen property) carried out by police in Midlothian, 43 of which were positive (29%).

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 YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	N/A	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. YTD 29 people were killed or seriously injured on Midlothian's roads, up 2 from LYTD (27) and 10 more than the 3-year average of 19.

Reasons

In the reporting period there were 3 fatal road accidents on Midlothian's roads, resulting in 5 fatalities. There were 3 more fatalities YTD than the previous year when there were two. Serious road casualties decreased by 1 YTD compared to LYTD (24 and 25 respectively). There were also 7 fewer slight injuries on Midlothian's roads YTD compared to the previous YTD (109 and 116 respectively).

On a positive note the number of collisions (as opposed to casualties) that resulted in fatal or serious injury decreased from 26 LYTD to 20 YTD which highlights there were fewer accidents on the road YTD.

3 children were seriously injured YTD, 1 more than LYTD (2) and 1 above the three-year average (1).

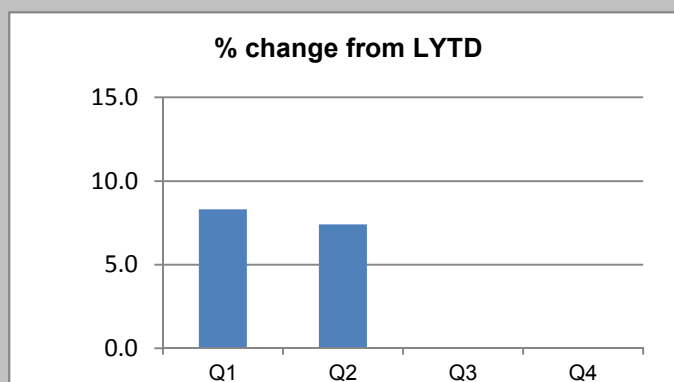
Analysis of all Killed/Seriously Injured accidents continues to be undertaken in an effort to establish causation factors or identify any "hot spot" areas, however this has failed to identify anything or any locus of significance.

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
- Community Beat 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 and address local Ward related matters
- Joint work with partners in VOSA to ensure road worthiness of vehicles/HGV's and that drivers are complying with standards required
- Tomorrow's driver events - aimed at S5/6 year pupils to raise awareness of the dangers on the road were held in August.
- Operation Zenith - targeting motorcyclists behaviour on the road
- Divisional Road Safety group established looking at education/enforcement and engineering issues
- Road safety a divisional priority in this years Festive campaign

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

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	118	29	27	7.40%



Priority 4 - Making our Roads Safer

Indicator - Increase the number of people detected for dangerous driving

Target - Increase from LYTD

Current situation

On target. YTD there were 30 detections for dangerous driving in Midlothian, an increase of 13 (76.5%), from LYTD (17).

Reasons

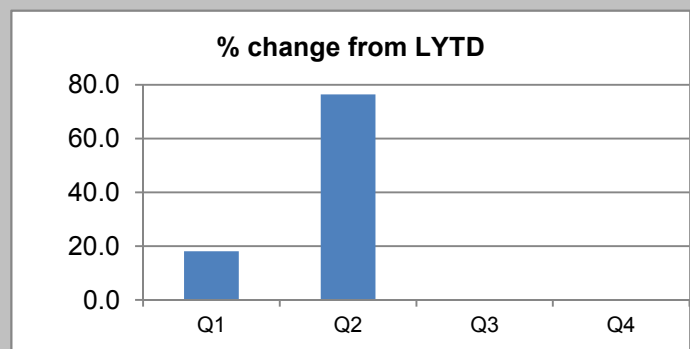
Males aged 25 years and under are over represented in dangerous driving offences (52%). Dangerous Driving offences recorded in Midlothian account for 27% of all offences in the Lothian and Scottish Borders Division.

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
- Four sites have now been established for mobile and fixed cameras in identified hotspots. It is anticipated this will have a preventative effect on RTCs.

Indicator - Increase the number of people detected for dangerous driving

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	111	30	17	76.50%



Priority 5 - Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

Indicator - Increase the detection rate for hate crime

Target - increase from LYTD

Current situation

On target. The detection rate for hate crime in Midlothian was 75.6%, above 70.7% LYTD.

Reasons

At the end of September the Midlothian detection rate for hate crime increased by five percentage points compared to the same period the previous year, and sits above the divisional figure of 69.2%. YTD there were 39 recorded hate crime incidents, up 3 from 36 LYTD (+8.3%).

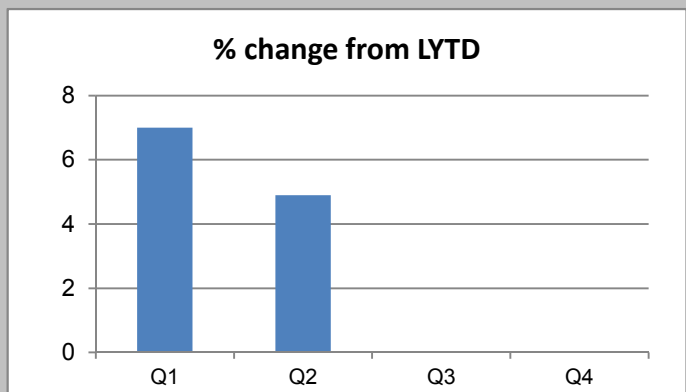
Racially aggravated hate crime continues to be a challenge in Midlothian with offences taking place between neighbours, at point of sale, and against police officers during arrest. Attitudinal issues across Midlothian continue to play a part in hate crime and education is key to changing such attitudes and behaviours.

What are we doing

- Work with partners to consider tenancy matters for convicted offenders.
- Educational inputs at local schools
- A thorough and robust investigation process in place
- Strong links with identified vulnerable premises
- Community Planning Partners signed a pledge to tackle Hate Crime as part of the Hate Crime awareness week
- Worked with local further education establishments to promote Hate crime issues as part of freshers week

Indicator - Increase the detection rate for hate crime

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	69.2%	75.6%	70.7%	4.9%



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. The number of complaints of antisocial behaviour (ASB) increased by 18 incidents YTD compared to LYTD.

Reasons

LTD there were 3243 incidents of ASB reported by members of the public YTD, 0.5% more than the LYTD (3228). ASB calls reported in Midlothian accounted for 29.0% of all ASB calls across the division YTD.

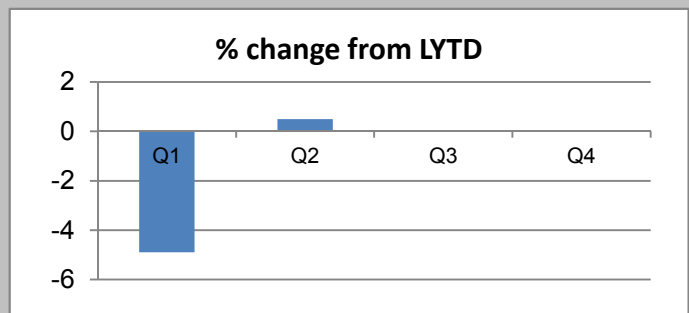
A high proportion of ASB occurs on Friday and Saturday evenings in town centres aggravated by alcohol misuse. A continuing challenge for police is youth related antisocial behaviour in the Woodburn and Bonnyrigg areas. Both areas have Problem Solving Partnership Groups who meet regularly to tackle youth disorder in this area. A further challenge for police is substance misuse among young people and the detrimental effect it has on behaviour and impact on future offending. On a positive note crimes of vandalism have decreased with 553 (Group 4) crimes reported to police, down 2.4% from 567 LYTD.

What are we doing

- Weekly partnership tasking and coordination group - actions taken around repeat ASB loci and offenders
- Increased use of the Midlothian Council Mediation 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
- Woodburn and Bonnyrigg Problem Solving Partnerships on going
- Working in partnership with youth offending and the Children's Reporter regarding a more robust use of supervision orders for youths regularly offending in the community
- Continued use of diversionary activities for young people
- Community Beat Officers/Housing officers joint visits to identified problematic premises
- Partnership work with local residential units to reduce levels of ASB from residents

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

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	11209	3243	3228	0.50%



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

Off target. YTD police in Midlothian detected 35 offences for drugs supply, production and cultivation, which is 5 detections fewer than LYTD (40).

Reasons

Police in Midlothian detected 35 offences for drugs supply, production and cultivation YTD - 13% below LYTD.

15 offences were for drugs supply and 10 offences for drug production/cultivation. Compared to LYTD police detected 5 fewer offences for drugs cultivation and 10 fewer offences for drugs supply.

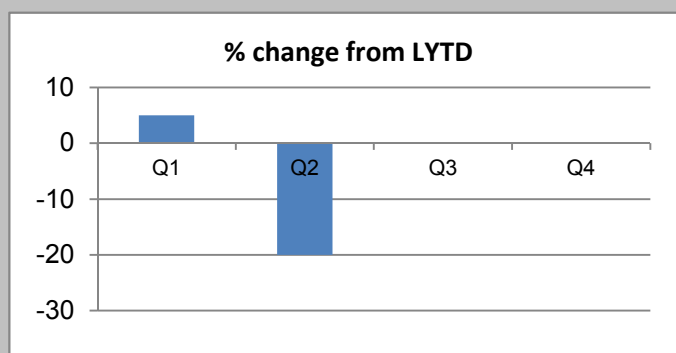
There is currently one SOCG group based in Midlothian. This network is assessed as posing a risk to the community through their involvement in dishonesty crime. Police are actively targeting the group under Operation Bistra.

What are we doing

- Information sharing protocol is now in place to carry out Landlord Registration checks in order to identify potential money laundering
- Operation Sandrone now in place to actively pursue any intelligence relating to drug supply/misuse by children and young people
- Joint Police and Trading Standards work continues in relation to New Psychoactive Substances in our area
- Operation Borah targeting suspected cannabis cultivations
- Midlothian Council Integrity group now have an action plan and joint work well underway.

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

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	180	35	40	-13.0%



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

On target. YTD police seized £41,211.81 in cash and NET assets from criminals using the Proceeds of Crime Act. This is an increase from LYTD (£20,864.87).

Reasons

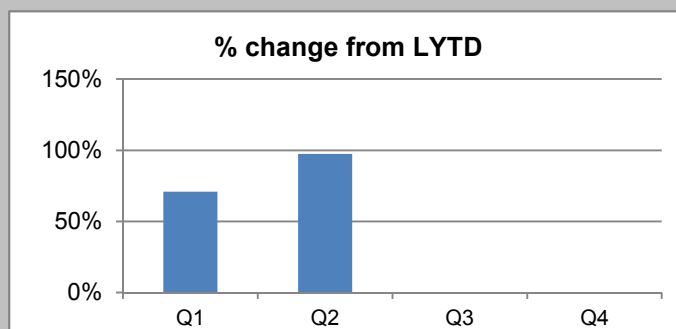
Between April and September there were five cash seizures within the Midlothian area, totalling £41,211.81. No NET assets were seized YTD. LYTD there were the two cash seizures and two NET assets seized. The value of cash seizures and NET assets seized LYTD was £20,864.87. Cash and NET seizures made in Midlothian accounted for over a third (34.5%) of all cash and NET seizures across the Division YTD.

What are we doing

- Police Scotland continue efforts to identify and assess the scale and impact of serious organised crime, and to manage the threat posed by those SOCGs involved in Midlothian.
- Information sharing protocol is now in place to carry out Landlord Registration checks in order to identify potential money laundering
- Joint plan in place with Midlothian Council to tackle SOCG
- Financial Investigator allocated to Lothian and Scottish Borders Division to assist in financial investigations

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

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	£119,559	£41,212	£20,865	97.5%



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 81 domestic housebreakings (incl attempts) YTD, up from 79 LYTD.

Reasons

Housebreaking to domestic properties continues to be a challenge for Police in Midlothian with 81 recorded break-ins YTD, up 2.5% from LYTD total of 79 crimes. The 3-year average for 2013/14 - 2015/16 was 66.

A recidivist group of young males continue to commit high numbers of housebreakings throughout the Midlothian area and dedicated police resources are being directed to this SOCG under the banner Operation Bistra. 29.7% of all domestic housebreakings across the Division YTD occurred in Midlothian.

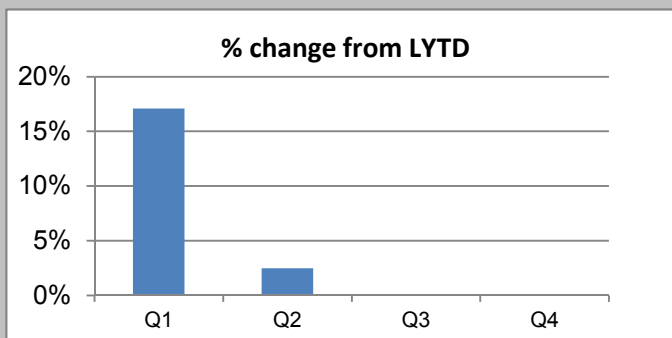
On a positive note, the percentage of successful housebreakings (in that the offender has overcome security and accessed the property), has decreased YTD compared to the PYTD, from 73.4% in 2015/16 to 67.5% in 2016/17. In a higher percentage of housebreakings the offender has failed to overcome security (32.5% YTD were attempts compared to 26.6% LYTD). This is likely in part due to increased crime prevention messages through local social media and roadshows.

What are we doing

- Police continue to gather intelligence and deploy resources to housebreakings under Operation Greenbay and Operation Bistra.
- General crime prevention advice is given by recording officers at victims 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 Sgts in promotion of home security and personal safety advice
- Consideration for action taken at the ASBVO where stolen property is detected in Council or social housing tenancies where 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
- Proactive bail/curfew checks on offenders
- Lock Down Crime in Midlothian Road Shows aimed at raising awareness in our community of acquisitive crime being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership in November and December
- Reducing housebreaking is a divisional priority in the festive campaign
- Introduction of a crime car, joint initiative between local and road policing officers with a key priority of disrupting and detecting housebreaking

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

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	273	81	79	2.5%



Priority 7 – Reducing Housebreaking

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

Current situation

Off target. The detection rate for crimes of domestic housebreaking YTD is 38.8%, below LYTD total of 55.7%.

Reasons

Despite high levels of housebreaking police continue to make arrests with over a third of domestic housebreakings detected YTD. Despite a reduction compared to LYTD (55.7%) the detection rate is slightly above the three-year average of 37.1%. The Midlothian detection rate is also above the average for Lothian and Scottish Borders Division (31.5%).

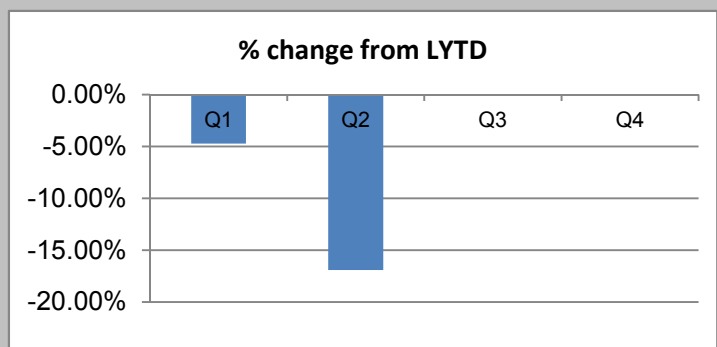
YTD 25 individuals have been charged with a housebreaking offence committed in Midlothian with details passed by police to Midlothian Council Community Safety Team for follow up enforcement action.

What are we doing

- Operation Bistra – Police operation targeting non-dwelling housebreakings and the theft of pedal cycles and gardening equipment across Midlothian
- Introduction of a crime car as per above
- 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)
- All dwelling housebreakings investigated by our Community Investigation Unit (specialist officers)

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

Force YTD	Divis'n YTD	ML YTD	ML LYTD	ML Change
N/A	31.50%	38.8%	55.7%	-16.9%



Public Confidence - Number of complaints against the Police:

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	51
Number of complaints - J Division	243

Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	31.8
Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	33.3

	Midlothian	J Division
Total allegations recorded	65	325