



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Scrutiny Report

1st April 2018 - 30th June 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 1 period of 01/04/2018 - 30/06/2018.

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 1st August 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Missing Person Incidents - Adults

2017/18	2018/19	Change
34	41	+17.1%



The first quarter of this year has seen a rise in the number of adults being reported as missing, increasing by 17.1% (an additional seven cases) compared to the first quarter of last year.

The majority of those reported had a vulnerability of some kind with mental health related issues the most prevalent. These types of incidents are resource intensive, and often take days to resolve.

Bogus Workman Crimes

2017/18	2018/19	Change
2	0	-100%



This is a very pleasing start to the year with no identified bogus workmen cases reported, which is two fewer than last year.

A lot of prevention focussed activity under the banner of Operation Monarda has taken place within Midlothian and we are hopeful that this has played a significant part in these figures.

Domestic Abuse Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
233	308	+32.2%



There has been a significant rise in the number of domestic related incidents this year compared to the corresponding period last year. However it has to be noted that last year saw an overall decrease in incidents of 5%, and our first quarters figures are only marginally above the 5 year average.

The increase in recorded incidents is consistent throughout the Lothians and Scottish Borders division and the sustained period of good weather coupled with alcohol consumption is a factor in this rise.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hate Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
28	20	-28.5%



A pleasing first quarter that has seen eight fewer hate incidents compared to the previous year, a drop of over 28%.

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
1745	1550	-11.17%



This is a particularly satisfying figure when you consider the fantastic period of weather we have been fortunate enough to enjoy, which normally sees an increase in antisocial incidents.

There is no doubt that the MCAT's are playing a significant role in achieving this through intelligence led patrols.

Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation

2017/18	2018/19	Change
12	12	0.0%



While the figures show there is no change in the figures compared to last year, there has been a substantial increase in enforcement activity this year and I am very confident that we will see a very positive picture as the year progresses.

A number of cases are pending, awaiting forensic analysis before charges can be libelled.

The number of people caught in possession of drugs has increased significantly to 148 this year compared to 85 the previous year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housebreaking (Domestic)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
19	34	+78.9%



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. Figures this year are more on par with both the 3 and 5 year averages of 31 and 33 respectively.

However, overall housebreakings have fallen by 33.6% and seen 45 fewer crimes in the first quarter (134 PYTD compared to 89 YTD). Break ins to sheds and garages have dropped significantly (61%) and business housebreakings fell by 31%.

Crimes of Dishonesty

2017/18	2018/19	Change
652	588	-9.8%



This is another excellent first quarter in an area of business that gave us cause for concern last year. An overall 9.8% decrease from LYTD (64 fewer crimes) and the figures are also below the 3 and 5 year averages.

In addition to the decrease in overall housebreakings above, vehicle related crime and shoplifting have both decreased this year.

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

2017/18	2018/19	Change
18	6	-67%



A very positive start to this year with a significant drop in violent crime which has dropped 67%, with 12 fewer crimes.

Serious assaults have decreased 52% (from 9 to 4) and robberies down 82% (from 8 to 1) being the most significant factors in this drop.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Road Casualties



	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Fatal	0	0	0.0%
Serious	15	7	-53.3%
Slight	37	45	21.6%
KSI	16	7	-56.25%
Children KSI	1	0	-100.0%

Missing Person Incidents - Child

2017/18	2018/19	Change
116	113	-2.5%



The figures show a marginal decrease from LYTD with three fewer cases. Again, children and young people missing from residential units still account for the majority of cases, and many 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 in Midlothian were identified as a leading authority regarding their proactive work during Op Monarda in May. In conjunction with partners in Midlothian Council and VOSA, the following activities were undertaken:

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

There will be further Op Monarda work in September.

Domestic Abuse



This continues to be a high priority for Police Scotland.

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.

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



Weekly partnership TAC process identifying problematic individuals/locations, which are thereafter tasked to MCAT/CBO/Response officers to target.

Working with Midlothian Council ASB/Legal to actively pursue recidivist offenders with ASBO/CRASBO.

Problem Solving Partnerships established to tackle larger location/community focussed issues. This approach has been highly successful at Bonnyrigg and Mayfield.

Proactive patrols at showgrounds in order to deter ASB/underage drinking.

Underage drinking initiative, led by the MCAT's throughout the summer holiday period.

Patrols around the Mosque during Ramadan, engaging with representatives and attendees.

Positive engagement with Syrian refugee families and identification of a SPOC .

Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation



There has been a significant increase in drug enforcement over the first quarter of this year, with the MCAT's playing a leading role in this regard.

A large scale cannabis cultivation in addition to several significant seizures of Class A and B drugs have been made in the first quarter, which has also seen a large increase in cash seizures.

Officers have received training inputs on the gathering and recording of intelligence, and a new electronic briefing site is now in operation within Midlothian giving officers up to date intelligence at every briefing.

Future plans include 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.

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Crimes of Dishonesty (including Housebreaking)



Lock Down Crime roadshows continue utilising premises with large footfall to maximise publicity. This campaign has seen a significant decrease in the break ins to sheds/garages within Midlothian.

Continued media campaign providing security/crime prevention advice.

Development of the Straiton Retail Crime Partnership to raise awareness and information on known shoplifters.

Rural Crime initiative that includes rural thefts.

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

Crime prevention surveys undertaken at identified vulnerable premises or repeat victims

Violent Crime



Monthly partnership ASBVO group seeks interventions/enforcement actions on known offenders

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

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 eg: 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 motorbikers) providing advice and support on road safety related matters

Supporting Road Policing officers with Op Close Pass aimed to reduce injuries to pedal cyclists

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 MLC 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 April - 30th June

Lets Rock – Over 25,000 people attended the first ever Lets Rock event at Dalkeith Country Park on the 23rd/24th June. Delighted to advise there were only a few minor incidents/ejections despite it being a very hot day with a sizeable element of the crowd having consumed a considerable amount of alcohol on both days.

This looks like it is going to be a significant event on the calendar of events for Police, with next year already having been confirmed.

Best Bar None: Having had 14 premises signed up last year, through some excellent engagement and encouragement from Community Beat Officers, we are hopeful we may have as many as 30 premises on board this year which is an excellent return.

Local Gala Days: Attendance at all local festivals by community officers/MCAT's. All went well and some excellent engagement with local residents was had.

Engagement with our Muslim Community: The 3rd April was designated a "punish a Muslim Day" by online hate groups. Midlothian officers engaged with our Muslim community pre/post and on the day with no rise in tension noted. Additional patrols and engagement was provided and well received during Ramadan.

Rural Crime Initiative: April and May saw officers out and about in the Pentland Hills/Parks and Estates in Midlothian 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 community and will be repeated in Oct/Nov when sheep return from the hills.

Young People: Increased engagement with the Y2K project in Mayfield through enhanced CBO visits. This has strengthened engagement and relationships with young people and staff. In addition, all residential units in Midlothian now have an allocated CBO to foster and strengthen relationships with the residents and staff.

Lock Down Crime Campaign: Continuation of roadshows and lamp post wrap arounds now in place at Straiton advertising the campaign. Further roadshows and expansion of lamp post wraps planned over the coming months.

ASB/Underage Drinking Campaign: Campaign being delivered by MCAT's tackling ASB/underage drinking at identified hotspots over the summer holidays. Some good seizures of alcohol already made and a reduction of ASB as a consequence. This initiative also sees checks and engagement with local off sales to deter any proxy purchase.

Road Safety: Very good support and returns from Midlothian officers in the Drink Drive campaign between 29th June-13th July.