



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
POILEAS ALBA

Scrutiny Report

1st April 2018 - 30th September 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 2 period of 01/04/2018 - 30/09/2018.

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
75	65	-13.3%



The first half of this year has seen a welcome decrease in the number of adults being reported as missing, down by 13.3% (a reduction of 10 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 11% 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	0	-100%



It is very pleasing to note no identified bogus workmen cases reported, which is three fewer than last year.

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

Domestic Abuse Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
488	587	+20%



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 half year figures are more in line with the 5 year average.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hate Incidents

2017/18	2018/19	Change
53	49	-7.5%



A pleasing first half year that has seen four fewer hate incidents compared to the previous year, a drop of 7.5%.

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
3457	3051	-11.7%



This is a very satisfying figure when you consider the fantastic period of weather we enjoyed, which normally sees an increase in antisocial incidents.

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

Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation

2017/18	2018/19	Change
24	32	+33.3%



A proactive and intelligence led approach by our MCAT's has seen a significant rise in detections and I am confident that this will continue to rise as the year progresses.

The number of people caught in possession of drugs has also increased by 88% this year which again highlights the robust approach to substance misuse by officers in Midlothian.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housebreaking (Domestic)

2017/18	2018/19	Change
46	74	+60.9%



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.

However, overall housebreakings in Midlothian are down 32.2% in H1 compared to last year (181 crimes compared to 267 last year), with 86 fewer victims. Break in's to sheds/garages (non dwelling) has reduced by 59.1% and break in's to business premises have reduced by 40.4%.

Crimes of Dishonesty

2017/18	2018/19	Change
1279	1226	-4.1%



This is another positive figure in an area of business that gave us cause for concern last year. An overall 4.1% decrease from LYTD (53 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
31	30	-3%



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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Road Casualties



	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Fatal	1	1	0.0%
Serious	22	15	-31.8%
Slight	69	76	+10.1%
KSI	25	17	-32%
Children KSI	2	1	-50.0%

Missing Person Incidents - Child

2017/18	2018/19	Change
240	245	+2%



The figures show a marginal increase from LYTD with five more cases. Looked after and accommodated children (LAAC) account for over 43% (106 incidents) 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 VOSA.
- 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.

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.

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



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.

High viz patrols during Gala days/festivals in order to deter ASB/underage drinking.

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

Drug Supply, Production & Cultivation



There has been a significant increase in drug enforcement over the first half of this year, 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 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.

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.

Continued media campaign providing security/crime prevention advice.

The Straiton Retail Crime Partnership is nearing its launch to raise awareness and information on known shoplifters within the various retailers who have signed up to date.

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



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

Early intervention with known violent offenders released from HMP.

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 July - 30th September

Best Bar None: Having had 14 premises signed up last year, through some excellent engagement and encouragement from Community Beat Officers, we have over 40 premises on board this year which is an excellent return.

Rural Crime Initiative: Continued work around 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 rural community.

Young People: Increased engagement with children and young people over the summer holiday period helping to support initiatives such as the Summer Newbattle Learning Community.

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

Off Road Bikes: Officers deployed on quad bikes to address off road motor biking throughout Midlothian. These deployments have been a real deterrent in addition to some youths being charged or issued with ASBO warnings.

Road Safety: Very good support and returns from Midlothian officers in the Drink Drive campaign between 29th June-13th July and lots of good work supporting mobile phone/seatbelt campaign.

Fake ID: Working with licencees to raise awareness of the growing trend of young people using fake ID as proof of age