

**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**

**MIDLOTHIAN**

**LOCAL POLICING PLAN**

**2014 - 2017**

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# **Policing Plan for 2014 - 2017**

## **1. Introduction and purpose of plan**

This Midlothian Policing Plan sets out the local policing priorities and objectives for Midlothian for 2014-2017 and is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. It is produced as part of a planning process which takes account of the Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services, the Strategic Police Priorities set by Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Police Authority's Strategic Police Plan, the Midlothian Council Joint Strategic Assessment and the Chief Constable of Scotland's Annual Police Plan.

The Plan is also structured in such a way that it takes into account the concerns of our local communities following a good degree of consultation and community engagement through a number of means. It is intended that the plan will therefore balance local needs with the broader challenges and also our commitment to tackling nationwide priorities at a Midlothian level.

## **2. Foreward**

### **Chief Constable Sir Stephen House QPM**

The first year of Police Scotland has seen significant change in many aspects of the organisation, however, the delivery of locally-focused operational policing remains the bedrock of this service. I remain strongly committed to the principle that community-based policing, which responds to local need and demand, is crucial to delivering services that keep people safe and maintain public confidence.

One of the ways in which we can visibly demonstrate this commitment to local policing is by listening to communities and asking them to help shape our priorities. We have consulted widely across the council area with local people and other organisations to help identify our priorities. By combining the information we received through this consultation process with analysis of crime and other performance data we have established the priorities and objectives that are set out in this plan.

In developing this plan the Local Policing Team, led by the Local Commander, has worked closely with public, private and third sector organisations as well as directly with communities, because we recognise that partnership working is critical to making our communities safer. Importantly, this approach has also ensured that our

planning process is aligned to the broader vision set out in the Community Plan and supports the Single Outcome Agreement. This plan is therefore a commitment to working across agencies to deliver better outcomes for communities as well as setting out how policing will be delivered in this area.

I am pleased to say that we have achieved much in the first year of Police Scotland to tackle crime and prevent harm - reducing the number of people who have been the victims of violence and the number killed and injured on our roads as well as addressing other crucial priorities for communities. This plan sets out an agenda to build on that success by tackling the issues that will improve the safety and well being of communities across this local authority area.

**Chief Superintendent Gill Imery, Divisional Commander,  
The Lothians and Scottish Borders Division**

Local policing continues to be the focus of Police Scotland, and I am delighted to present the Local Policing Plan for Midlothian. The priorities set out in the plan have been developed in consultation with local people and partner agencies, taking account of crime analysis and national policing priorities.

Effective policing is based upon sound partnerships, shared information and strong collaboration. This is reflected in our local outcomes and priorities which rely on excellent local delivery and joint working across partnership and geographic boundaries for successful delivery.

By working to meet the needs of local communities, and delivering a high standard of service, we will continue to maintain public confidence and satisfaction. Our activity will target those who cause the most harm within our communities, and will protect those who are most vulnerable. We will maximise all opportunities to reduce and prevent crime and disorder, and ensure that officers are deployed in the right place, at the right time.

The priorities and objectives outlined in this plan provide a clear focus for local policing, whilst retaining sufficient flexibility to adapt to emerging issues. I am confident that the plan demonstrates our commitment to meet the needs of the communities we serve in Midlothian.

## **Councillor Owen Thompson, Chair of Safer Communities Board**

Protecting the local community and keeping everyone safe is our utmost priority and we are pleased to be working with Police Scotland and our other partners on this policing plan, over the next three years.

During this time we hope to strengthen our links with local neighbourhoods to tackle tough issues which are apparent, not just here in Midlothian but throughout the country. Issues such as substance misuse, reducing violence, reducing housebreaking and tackling serious and organised crime. As a board, we've already had some great successes. Anti-social behaviour has reduced by nearly 8% and this is through great partnership working and working with the young people who are often accused of such crimes.

But we must not be complacent, we know that there is still a lot of work to do and that is why I'm looking forward to developing strategies to reduce crime and disorder with the board over the next few years. If we can stop these crimes in their tracks, we can hold up Midlothian as a great place to live, study, work and visit. So here's to the next three years of joint partnership working and working on a safer society for the future.

### 3. Priorities and Objectives

#### **Priority - Tackling Substance Misuse**

**It is widely recognised that drugs and alcohol have a negative impact upon our communities. Our intention is to reduce the impact these substances have within Midlothian by continuing to tackle alcohol fuelled violence and disorder and drug dealing.**

##### Alcohol

The effects of alcohol abuse are far reaching. It damages physical and mental health impacts on community safety, affects relationships and has direct links to crime and disorder.

Misuse of alcohol is an obvious theme which runs through the majority of our priorities. This has also been reflected within the Single Midlothian Plan<sup>1</sup> in which it is ranked as a 'very high' priority.

A significant proportion of all individuals taken into custody are under the influence of alcohol, including the majority of domestic abuse perpetrators, and alcohol was a contributory factor in approximately 20% of crimes of violence.

This clear correlation between excessive alcohol consumption and instances of disorder has led us to analyse incidents and enabling problem areas to be identified. We have effectively and proactively targeted these disorder 'hot spots'.

In order to improve these issues over the longer term, we will work alongside the licensed trade to encourage responsible management of licensed premises, both on and off sales, and will continue to support 'Best Bar None' and 'Pubwatch' to make licensed premises within Midlothian safer. We will however, where warranted, be robust in enforcing alcohol licensing legislation and will make presentation to the licencing board if we feel it necessary.

Over the past year we have increased significantly the volume of visits we have made to licensed premises and as indicated we intend this to continue.

We have also supported the development of the Midlothian Licensing Forum which will review manner in which the Licensing Board operates within Midlothian and, through time, will give advice and make recommendations to the Board in relation to those matters.

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<sup>1</sup> Midlothian's Single Outcome Agreement

## Drugs

Tackling drugs within Midlothian is also a priority for Police Scotland. Analysis of feedback from our recent public consultation<sup>2</sup>, where respondents were asked what they thought should be prioritised, showed that 35% felt drug dealing and drug misuse was a problem in Midlothian.

Those who supply or use drugs are often involved in a multitude of other types of crime including violence, acquisitive crime and fraud which causes profound long-term harm in our communities.

In order to tackle drug misuse we will continue to target those we know to be involved in taking and/or dealing drugs and through an 'intelligence led' approach will fully utilise our powers of stop and search to detect those involved.

### **Objectives:**

- Reduce the level of alcohol related incidents and violent crimes within Midlothian
- Tackle the problem of misuse of drugs by increasing the proportion of positive stop searches for drugs

We recognise the importance of harm reduction and intervention strategies and will continue to work alongside and support Mid and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership.

## **Priority - Protecting People**

**Protecting people is a key priority for our officers and we are committed to keeping the people of Midlothian safe from physical, sexual or emotional harm, irrespective of their age or social background.**

In unison with our community planning partners we are intent upon addressing vulnerability and preventing harm. These are issues which can impact not only adults, who may be unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or financial affairs through disability, illness, physical or mental infirmity, but equally also to children.

We will continue to develop ways of working in partnership to protect those most vulnerable members of our communities. Our effective information sharing protocols, enables us to identify those most exposed to risk and allows us to put effective measures in place to protect them.

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<sup>2</sup> Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey 2013

Over the past year we have seen a dramatic increase in the volume of recorded incidents of domestic abuse across Midlothian. This has arisen as public awareness of the issue and confidence in the way reports are dealt with has increased and is an important change in attitude to what had, in some cases, become accepted behaviour.

In order to deal with this increase within Midlothian, we have introduced a Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit which has contributed to us achieving a detection rate of 77.9%<sup>3</sup> for domestic abuse cases. We have however, also now advanced what activities are carried out after reports are received. Multi-agency focus groups have been introduced intended to deal with the highest risk domestic abuse cases. One group looks specifically at the risk posed by the perpetrator and what measures can be taken to manage that risk (MATAC), a separate dedicated group (MARAC) looks at the victims circumstances and what support mechanisms and safety measures can be put in place to help them. These groups have been greatly beneficial in helping design bespoke support packages for victims and in developing ways of managing those who pose the greatest risk of continuing to commit domestic abuse.

Females are the victims in a disproportionate number of domestic abuse incidents. Whilst recognising that there are also male victims in these crimes we will continue to support the Mid and East Lothian Violence Against Women Partnership raising awareness of domestic violence and supporting victims.

Tackling rape and other serious sexual offences is of utmost importance. We will continue to operate a victim-centred approach whilst managing offenders to reduce the risk of harm through early and effective intervention. Recent local developments include the introduction of a Rape Investigation Unit, which has dedicated officers specifically dealing with these most serious of incidents. This has led to a greatly increased detection rate for rape including the solvency of some outstanding historical reports.

We will continue to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate the risks presented to public safety by all offenders managed under the auspices of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) with our dedicated Offender Management Unit and Community Policing Teams charged with this task.

### **Objectives:**

- Increase the number of Adult at Risk referrals made to partner agencies
- Ensure 95% of Domestic Abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24 hours)
- Domestic Abuse crimes and offences – achieve a detection rate of at least 75.0%

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<sup>3</sup> Figure refers to period 01/04/13 – 13/03/14

The focus of police activity will be to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities are protected and feel safe. This will be achieved by identifying victims of crime and ensuring support mechanisms are in place for them.

Our work in this field can make a real difference to the lives of those affected within our local communities.

## **Priority - Reducing Violence**

**We are committed to keeping people safe and improving their feeling of safety by tackling violent crime.**

Violent crime can have a serious and long lasting impact on victims and families. The most recent Citizens Panel Survey conducted on behalf of Midlothian Community Planning Partnership led to tackling violent crime being identified as a 'very high priority'. Over the past year violent crime has accounted for XX% of all crimes within Midlothian. As a result our officers are determined to do all they can to reduce the volume of violent crimes committed, whilst also providing appropriate mechanisms to support those affected.

We will continue to work with and support partner agencies and together reduce levels of violence across Midlothian through intervention, enforcement, education and the rehabilitation of offenders.

As earlier mentioned, it is apparent that the excessive consumption of alcohol can often increase the likelihood of both perpetrating and being a victim of a violent crime and in recognising this strong and recurring link, we will continue to work closely with the Licensing Board and the local licensed trade to encourage social responsibility and provide a safe environment for all.

Our work to tackle violent crime has developed in a number of ways over the past year. Our use of intelligence and analysis is vital and by establishing crime trends we are able to utilise our resources to best effect, deploying high visibility patrols at the most relevant times and places. These patrols provide reassurance and act as a deterrent for those intent upon carrying out an act of violence and also allows us to be effective when utilising our powers of stop and search.

We have introduced an Antisocial Behaviour and Violent Offender Monitoring Group to Midlothian, which invites partners to a regular meeting at which violent offenders are discussed. The forum encourages dialogue around the most effective ways to interact with these individuals and discourage them from committing any further violent acts. We will continue to develop this forum and share good practice learned from experiences and from other areas.

**Objectives:**

- Decrease the number of violent crimes per head of population and by doing so make Midlothian a safer place
- Increase the percentage of positive Stop and Searches for offensive weapons

We will continue with the use of intelligence analysis to proactively target and manage these known violent perpetrators and work towards ensuring more people feel safe within the communities of Midlothian.

## **Priority - Making our Roads Safer**

**Our priority is to keep people safe on the roads and prevent criminals from using our road network.**

We will continue to work with partner agencies to ensure people using our roads are kept safe. We will use an intelligence led approach to the reduction of road casualties by targeting contributory factors - speeding motorists (highlighted as a problem in our public consultation survey), uninsured and disqualified drivers, drink and / or drug driving, those not wearing a seatbelt and individuals who use mobile phones while driving and will pursue all opportunities to positively influence driver behaviour.

Over the past year we have used a number of tactics in order to target those who use the roads to further their criminal activities and those committing driving offences. Pro-active police patrols, analysis of problem areas, acting upon specific intelligence regarding offenders and the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology are methods that have proven to be very effective. As a result we have made some significant drug recoveries, increased the number of people detected for speeding, detected 99<sup>4</sup> people for drink/drug driving and removed 230<sup>5</sup> uninsured vehicles from Midlothian's roads.

Our Community Police Teams and Road Policing Officers will continue to conduct operations throughout Midlothian targeting offenders.

We will also continue to utilise legislative powers to seize vehicles from criminals at every available opportunity. This ensures that the criminals who use their vehicles whilst committing crimes face the real prospect of these been taken from them, thus acting as a deterrent to their criminal activity.

In addition to enforcement of road traffic legislation we will continue to work with our community safety partners to promote road safety for the people of Midlothian.

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<sup>4</sup> Figure refers to period 01/04/13 – 13/03/14

<sup>5</sup> Figures refers to period 01/04/13 – 05/01/14

We will support and contribute to initiatives like 'Road 2 L' (a rolling intervention within schools targeting the parents and carers of S5 and S6 pupils), '2MRO's Driver' (an annual intervention for S6 pupils) and the annual road safety event at Glencorse Barracks for young service personnel based in the area.

### **Objectives:**

- Decrease the number of people killed or seriously injured on Midlothian's roads
- Increase the number of people detected for dangerous driving

Whilst we acknowledge that the vast majority of people driving on our roads are responsible and ensure they are doing so legally, we intend to continue with our robust enforcement activity tackling those who do not.

## **Priority - Reducing Antisocial Behaviour**

**We will do everything we can to make Midlothian a safe place to live, work, grow up in and visit.**

Antisocial behaviour comes in many forms including vandalism, harassment, drinking alcohol in public places, littering, hate crime, drug dealing, dog fouling and noise complaints. The broad nature of offences means no one agency can take responsibility for tackling the problem overall and instead, in Midlothian, agencies work together dealing with antisocial behaviour through the Community Safety Partnership.

Our officers are dedicated to tackling all levels of antisocial behaviour, which is a significant cause of concern for our communities. This was highlighted recently in our public consultation survey where youths causing annoyance (27%), drunken behaviour in public (22%) and littering/fly tipping (35%) were identified as the areas people were concerned about most.

Over the past year there has been a greatly reduced number of reports of antisocial behaviour within Midlothian (down 7.7%<sup>6</sup>). We do however, acknowledge these community concerns and will work together to address them.

The reduction is due in no small part to the work of the Antisocial Behaviour Tasking and Co-Ordination Group which meets weekly to discuss developing antisocial issues and the most effective tactics to address them. Resources, some of which are funded by the Community Safety Partnership, are then directed to proactively target these 'hotspot' areas and persistent offenders.

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<sup>6</sup> Figure refers to period 01/04/13 – 13/03/14

We will also continue with the regular deployment of additional Campaign Against Violence (CAV) officers from non-operational roles to target anti-social behaviour hotspots at times of peak demand.

We are committed to effectively tackling Hate Crime, which can have a devastating impact upon its victims, and to investigating and detecting all crimes driven by prejudice, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender and disability. We will continue to work with these communities to encourage the victims of hate crime to report such crimes and to increase confidence.

We also have officers integrated within the Council Community Safety and Estates Team who proactively share information regarding incidents of antisocial behaviour and this co-ordinated approach is reaping dividends.

### **Objectives:**

- Increase the detection rate for hate crime
- Reduce the number of incidents of Antisocial Behaviour reported by members of the public

We are committed to reducing the number of people affected by antisocial behaviour and will continue to work closely with partner agencies to exploit all opportunities to prevent it through effective and innovative joint working and mitigate its impact.

## **Priority - Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

**Our priority is to keep people safe from the threat, risk and harm posed by the activities of serious organised crime groups.**

It is widely recognised that serious and organised crime has a detrimental effect on communities in a number of ways. Those involved have spread their activity into an increased variety of criminal enterprises including illegal drugs, money laundering, fraud, human trafficking, fake goods, and internet crime and show no concern for their victims both physical and financial.

Everyone is affected by serious and organised crime and Midlothian is no different to any other area of Scotland. We rely heavily upon information from members of the community to enhance our knowledge of the activities of these groups and this intelligence assists us to maximise our disruptive impact.

Serious organised crime groups will seek to exploit any available opportunity through fear and intimidation in order to generate wealth and legitimise their income. They make money at the expense of hard working law abiding people and undermine legitimate businesses.

Scottish Government through its 'Letting our Communities Flourish' strategy have set four objectives through which serious and organised crime should be tackled

- Detect crimes and offences committed by serious and organised crime groups
- Divert individuals, particularly young people, from engaging in or using the products of serious organised crime
- Disrupt the activities of serious organised crime groups who pose the greatest risk, threat and harm to our communities
- Deter serious organised crime by implementing measures to protect communities, businesses and the public sector.

Police in Midlothian are committed to tackling this issue and will continue to develop methods in which to do so.

The problem is one that cannot be solved by the police in isolation, so we have developed a working strategy with our key partners to face this challenge. We will work with a wider selection of partners including Midlothian Council and local businesses and build relationships in order to improve information exchange helping reduce their vulnerability to crime.

We will encourage our communities to work with us by giving us the information we need so that we can develop a fuller picture of serious and organised criminal activity within our communities. Once in possession of this information we will be able to continue with our intelligence-led approach enabling us to direct resources in the most effective and appropriate way in order to achieve our objectives and reduce the impact serious and organised crime has in Midlothian.

#### **Objectives:**

- Increase the number of detections for drugs supply, drugs production, drugs cultivation
- Increase the amount of cash and assets seized from criminals using the Proceeds of Crime Act.

By developing the ways in which we tackle these groups criminal activities we will reduce the negative impact they hold on our local communities and see improved public confidence.

### **Priority – Reducing Housebreaking**

**We will work in our communities to protect property and where housebreaking does occur will do everything to bring the perpetrators to justice.**

Housebreaking is an extremely personal crime which can have not only a financial, but also an emotional impact on individuals, families and businesses. It can leave victims with a feeling of violation or intrusion which can be long lasting and we recognise the significant impact that this type of crime can have on our local communities. Unfortunately the effects of housebreaking can often be even more widespread with its impact can have a disproportionate effect upon a communities feeling of safety.

Recent analysis has confirmed an increase in housebreaking across Midlothian. This is a concerning development and confirms the need to prioritise these crimes. Reducing Housebreaking has also been identified as a concern to our local communities it being highlighted as a priority during our recent Citizens Panel Survey by 73% of respondents.

It is likely that the current economic challenges facing our communities may well be contributing to an increase in domestic housebreaking.

In response, over the past year, we have introduced dedicated resources to investigate housebreaking through 'Operation RAC' – Reduce And Capture. These experienced officers thoroughly investigate all housebreaking crimes which has led to a significant increase in our rate of detection.

We will, however, continue to undertake intelligence gathering, analysis on criminals and crime patterns and to deploy specific police patrols and increase visibility to minimise opportunities for thefts to occur.

In addition, we will endeavour to heighten public awareness of the situation to achieve a reduction in the risk of them becoming a victim of this type of crime. We will also work with residents and local businesses to 'target harden' through crime prevention surveys encouraging people to make their property as secure as possible which deters potential thief's.

We have also undertaken work in order to limit opportunities for the reset and sale of stolen property engaging with second hand dealers and will continue disrupt the supply chain exploited by criminals.

**Objectives:**

- Reduce the number of thefts by housebreaking at domestic properties
- Increase our detection rate for crimes of housebreaking

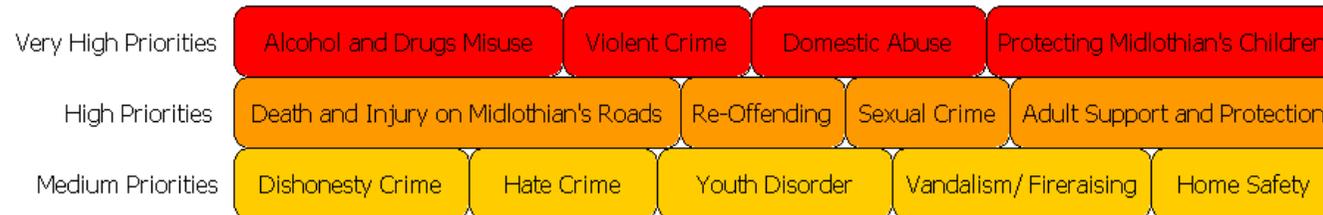
We will remain vigilant and our efforts will continue unabated in order that we can quickly detect those offenders who choose to commit this type of crime in Midlothian.

## Midlothian Local Priorities

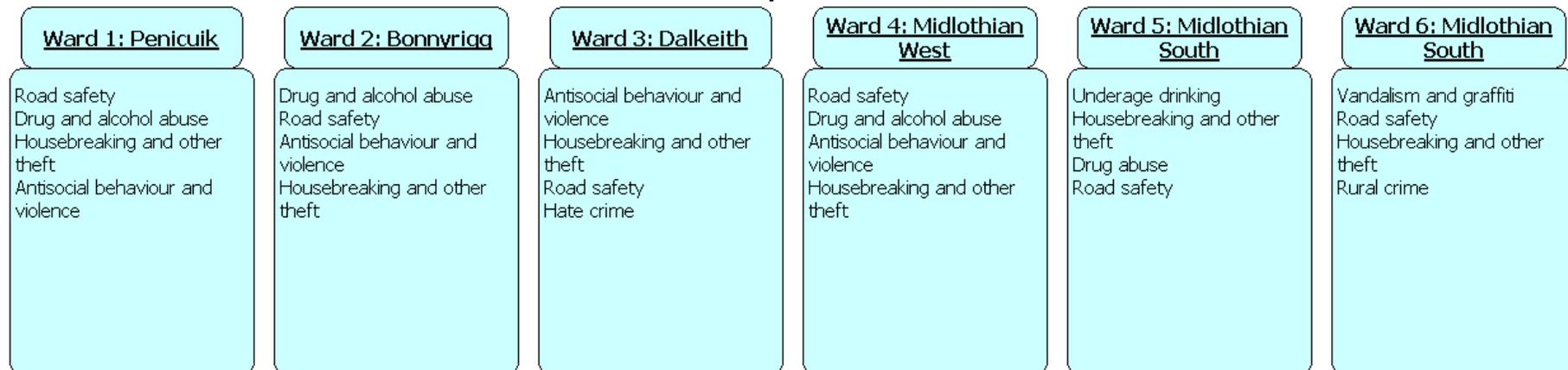
### Midlothian Policing Priorities



### Midlothian Community Safety Priorities



### Ward Specific Priorities



## 4. How we identified our Priorities

The priorities and objectives set out within this plan have been influenced by a number of factors. They have been developed following engagement with local communities as we recognise and understand the importance of our policing plan being informed and influenced by local people.

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 lays out the statutory policing principles under which the police are required to operate. In line with this, Scottish Government outlines strategic priorities for the police, which evidence how police are contributing to the Governments purpose and the national outcomes.

Our Midlothian priorities are aligned to those of Police Scotland, which are established through the Scottish Policing Assessment, but, most importantly, they are also aligned to the Single Midlothian Plan (SOA) and particularly the aims of the Community Safety Partnership. These aims come as a result of listening to and talking with our communities, and others who have a vested interest in making Midlothian a safe place to live, work, grow up in and visit.

The flow chart, on the previous page, shows how our priorities link at all levels from national outcomes down to ward plans.

To achieve this aim the partnership works towards the following outcomes:

- People feel safe within their locality
- Neighbourhoods and homes are safer
- Fewer people are victims of crime, abuse or harm
- Our communities take a positive role in shaping their future

Over the last few months we have carried out a number of different engagement activities throughout Midlothian in order to obtain feedback to help us confirm what the important local issues are. These have been conducted in a variety of different formats including our public consultation survey (454 completed within Midlothian), Citizens Panel Questionnaire (a representative group of 1000 local residents), liaison with a variety of community councils, elected members and communities. We have also engaged with representatives from groups with protected characteristics and undertaken environmental visual audits. The Community Safety Strategic Assessment also informs us of key local trends that have arisen over the past year.

This programme of engagement and consultation has made a critical contribution to identifying issues for Midlothian and these have been translated into the key policing priorities.

Some issues that have been highlighted to us in the course of these processes have been even more locally specific and this information has helped inform our Multi Member Ward Plans. The information we have gathered on local issues has helped us greatly and has enabled us to ensure we have identified the correct local priorities. In turn this will enable our local resources to target local problems ensuring that police activity is directed to achieve these local priorities.

We acknowledge that consultation with the community is a continuous process both formally and informally and we will endeavour to continue listening to the communities we police.

## 5. Local Policing arrangements

The Midlothian Command Area serves approximately 80,000 people over 137 square miles reaching from Pentland Hills Regional Park to the small village of Fala.

It is one area of The Lothians and Scottish Borders Division of Police Scotland (J Division). The Divisional Commander is Chief Superintendent Gill Imery.

Chief Inspector James Royan is the Local Area Commander for Midlothian and is based at Divisional Headquarters at Dalkeith Police Station. He is responsible for police performance, community engagement, partnership working and the daily management of local personnel in response to local needs. He is also responsible for delivering the outcomes highlighted in this Midlothian Policing Plan and our commitments to the outcomes agreed through the Community Safety Partnership and detailed in the Single Midlothian Plan.

Operational uniformed officers are based at various locations throughout Midlothian ensuring that we are able to respond quickly and effectively when needed by the public. This enables us to focus on Keeping People Safe which is at the heart of everything that we do.

For policing purposes Midlothian is divided into two sectors with the East, covering the Dalkeith, Midlothian South and Midlothian East electoral ward areas overseen and West covering Bonnyrigg, Midlothian West and Penicuik wards. Both are overseen by a Sector Inspector.

In addition to this Midlothian Local Policing Plan each electoral ward also has its own plan detailing more specific local ward priorities and outlining our intentions as to how they will be delivered. More details on these Multi Member Ward Plans can be accessed here:

[www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/midlothian](http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/midlothian)

Each area is also served by a number of community policing teams whose activities are built around the needs of the local community. They are responsible for responding to local calls and looking for long term solutions to key issues. These officers will attend local community meetings, engage within the communities to establish local concerns work with partners to identify effective solutions.

Supplementing these officers are a number of other resources including a Criminal Investigation Department and dedicated Roads Policing officers working across the

Midlothian area and the Division can also call on other more specialist police services from other areas if the need arises.

This organisational structure for resources within Midlothian is robust and ensures that we have officers all over the area enabling us to respond in whatever manner is needed and have the expertise to effectively deal with any incident or crime.

## 6. National Outcomes

The Scottish Government's aim is to create a more successful Scotland, with opportunities for all to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. In order to achieve this they have identified 16 National Outcomes which give more detail and provide a structure for delivering this aim. There is an expectation that all public agencies will contribute to the achievement of these national outcomes.

At a Midlothian level the Community Planning process involves these public agencies and identifies regional, local and neighbourhood priorities ensuring they all connect with the national outcomes. These objectives and priorities become The Single Midlothian Plan (our local Single Outcome Agreement).

In order to clearly document the telling contribution which policing can make in achieving the Scottish Government's objectives, 4 strategic police priorities have also been identified which link directly to the national outcomes.

1. Make communities safer and reduce harm by tackling and investigating crime and demonstrating pioneering approaches to prevention and collaboration at a national and local level.
2. Strengthen Scotland's reputation as a successful and safe country by demonstrating excellence in effectively planning for and responding to major events and threats.
3. Provide an efficient, effective service focused on protecting frontline services, delivering the benefits of police reform and promoting continuous improvement.
4. Make communities stronger and improve wellbeing by increasing public confidence and reducing fear of crime, making the new Police Service of Scotland an exemplar of visible, ethical and responsive policing.

This local policing plan has been written ensuring that our objectives are in line with the Scottish Government's National Outcomes but it is fundamental that they also tie in and contribute to the aims of the Single Midlothian Plan and reflect and address local needs.

Our local priorities align to the Strategic Policing Priorities and the Scottish Government's National Outcomes as follows:

Priority	Strategic Policing Priorities	Scottish Government National Outcomes
Tackling Substance Misuse	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16
Protecting People	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16
Reducing Violence	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16
Making our Roads Safer	1, 2, 4	9, 11
Reducing Antisocial Behaviour	1, 2, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11
Tackling Serious and Organised Crime	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11
Reducing Housebreaking	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16

Further information on National Outcomes and Strategic Policing Priorities can be accessed from the Scottish Government website at:

[www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/purposestratobjis](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/purposestratobjis)

and a flow chart detailing how the various levels of objectives and priorities, from national to ward level, link into each other can be accessed here – hyperlink to chart.

## 7. Performance and Accountability

In order to ensure we are performing to an acceptable standard an agreed system has been developed and agreed with the Scottish Government. The Scottish Policing Performance Framework establishes a single suite of performance indicators which reflect the breadth and variety of policing activity across Scotland and is the model within which we report our performance. The framework improves accountability at local and national levels through the publication of consistent and transparent performance information.

At a local level, Midlothian performance is reported to Midlothian Council and scrutinised by the Safer Communities Board. Statistical information is provided that shows the progress being made in order to demonstrate how successful we are being in working towards achieving our key priorities and objectives.

Information regarding our performance will be available to the public on our website [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) and will also be available via the Midlothian Council website

## 8. Local Scrutiny and Engagement

Midlothian now has a Safer Communities Board which was established to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The Board has a duty to scrutinise police performance in Midlothian and meets quarterly. It is structured to consist of 6 elected council members and 5 non-voting members of the Community Planning Partnership.

Both the Divisional Commander and Local Area Commander attend the Board to present police performance data and explain to the Board Members what has led to the results being presented. The Board have a duty to scrutinise the information they are being presented with, question anything they may need further detail about and have the authority to call the Divisional Commander to account should performance fall below an acceptable manner.

The development of the scrutiny functions of the Board will ensure that we remain on track to deliver our local objectives and that these objectives are reflected of the needs of our communities.

We have also made significant effort to ensure we are accessible to all and will continue to do so. We have good relationships with the 16 Community Councils across Midlothian and ensure there is a police presence, with knowledge of local issues, whenever they meet.

Midlothian has an extensive network of Voluntary Organisations with whom we also work. We recognise the importance of the third sector and the impact they have in Midlothian and make efforts to work alongside and support them where we can. Midlothian Voluntary Action and Volunteer Centre Midlothian are the central co-ordination points with whom we have most regular contact.

We also have regular and constructive contact with a large number of other interest groups representative of communities within and across Midlothian. Forward MID, Disability Access Panel, Edinburgh and Lothians Race Equality Council and Midlothian Youth Platform are only a few but give a flavour of the broad nature of the groups and the people they represent.

Our continued involvement, support and engagement with all communities across Midlothian enables us to understand community concerns and reflect them in what we do. Regular contact also allows people the opportunity to challenge us on our performance contributing to the local scrutiny and engagement process.

## 9. Equalities

Recognising and respecting equality and diversity is critical for the police as we aim to secure the trust and confidence of the communities we serve. We have made significant progress in delivering real improvements in equality and diversity and remain committed to providing services that respond to the needs of different communities and to protecting all communities from the risk of harm.

With this in mind we have tried to ensure that equality and diversity considerations are embedded into our day to day work.

As previously indicated we have carried out a good deal of engagement activity and we have tried to ensure that our consultation has been as inclusive as possible. We have consulted with representatives from ethnic minority communities, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and from the disabled community.

This has enabled us to formulate this 3 year plan and the contribution of all has been vital to ensuring it is appropriate and informed as possible in designing our activities in line with what our wide and varied Midlothian communities want from us.

Our commitment to equality and diversity will be evident from our ongoing work across minority groups and through our awareness raising activity with the general public. In order to evidence this commitment we have aligned our activity to two Police Scotland Equality and Diversity Outcomes:

- That people better recognise hate crimes and incidents and feel confident in reporting them
- That people from, and across, protected groups are meaningfully engaged with by us and their views contribute to service improvements

We will conduct our activities with these outcomes in mind and do everything we can to further relationship building with minority groups across the area.

## 10. Local Contact Details

### Contact details

Dalkeith Police Station  
Newbattle Road  
DALKEITH  
EH22 3AX

### Telephone number

Single Non Emergency Number  
101

### Email

For all non-emergency issues or enquiries relating to Police business, you can contact us via:

[MidlothianLPP@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:MidlothianLPP@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

*This group email address is provided for you to discuss non-urgent local policing issues. It should not be used to report a crime or incident.*

For information about your local Community Policing Team and other services that Police Scotland provides, please refer to the Force website at:

[www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

### We are here to help

We will continue to keep in touch with you to keep you updated on the ongoing work being carried out to tackle the issues that are affecting life for you in Midlothian.

- If you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss, contact your local Community Policing Team.
- Dial 999 for an emergency that requires urgent police attention.
- For non-emergency contact, call 101, the single non-emergency number.
- If you have information about crime in your area and wish to provide it anonymously, call:  
CRIMESTOPPERS on  
0800 555 111
- Service users who are deaf or have a hearing impairment can contact Police Scotland via TextRelay in an emergency on 18000 or non emergency on 18001 101.