

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	29 September 2022
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Sir Iain Livingstone QPM Chief Constable
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached:	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Authority with information relating to the Police Service, policing and the state of crime.

This report is submitted as a Standing Agenda Item.

1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of Police Scotland is 'to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland' and our focus is Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events.

2. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

SERIOUS VIOLENCE INCLUDING HOMICIDE

Murder of Peter Coshan – Edinburgh

On Friday 12 August 2022, 75 year old Peter Coshan was reported missing from the Seafield area of Edinburgh, having last been seen in the area on the previous day. The circumstances of his disappearance raised significant concerns for his welfare, and an immediate policing response was initiated, led by detective officers from Police Scotland's Major Investigation Team, with support from Edinburgh City Division.

On Wednesday 17 August, two men aged 63 and 27 were arrested and charged with murder. They subsequently appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court where they were remanded in custody. Following the arrests, the complex and challenging investigation continued. As a result, enabled by strong public support in response to appeals for information, on Sunday 4 September, the body of Peter Coshan was recovered near to the village of Kirkwhelpington, Northumbria.

Murder of Jill Barclay - Dyce

On Saturday 17 September, the body of 47 year old Jill Barclay was found near to an address on Stonewood Road, Dyce. Following investigation by Police Scotland's Major Investigation Team, a 22 year old man was arrested and charged with murder. He subsequently appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court where he was remanded in custody. In conjunction with the criminal investigation, officers from North East Division carried out additional patrols in the area to offer community reassurance and support.

Attempted Murder of Police Officer - Glasgow

In the morning of Friday 23 September, a police sergeant from Greater Glasgow Division, who was carrying out enquiries along with a colleague in the Wyndford Drive area of Maryhill, sustained neck and facial injuries when he was assaulted by a man armed with a bladed weapon. Following

the attack, the officer was conveyed to hospital for treatment, with further post incident support provided to his colleague and other officers who had responded. A 26 year old man was arrested and detained in custody, pending appearance at Glasgow Sheriff Court in respect of attempted murder and assault. This traumatic incident once again highlights the dangers that officers and staff can face as a result of their public service, and I repeat my unequivocal position that being assaulted is not, and should never be considered, part of the job.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Significant Convictions

On Friday 26 August at the High Court in Glasgow, 42 year old Alexander Thomson was sentenced to four years imprisonment and issued with an Order of Lifelong Restriction, following his conviction in respect of violent and sexual offences. The conviction and sentence followed investigation by Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Taskforce into offences against four women, which took place over a seven year period from 2012. The Order of Lifelong Restriction means that on release from prison, Alexander Thomson will be monitored for the rest of his life.

On Friday 16 September at the High Court in Aberdeen, 38 year old Daniel Fuller was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, with an additional three years to be served on licence, following his conviction in respect of sexual offences. The conviction and sentence followed investigation by detective officers into sexual offences against a number of women in the Highlands, Dundee, and West Lothian, over a 13 year period.

These convictions were enabled by the bravery, courage and dignity of women who came forward to report what had happened to them, both in the police investigation, and in the subsequent court proceedings. Together with a range of statutory and third sector partners, Police Scotland remains committed to tackling violence against women and girls by targeting offenders, delivering a professional and sensitive response for victims, and continuing to encourage those who face abuse to come forward.

Stakeholder Engagement

On Tuesday 30 August, the Scottish Police Authority and COSLA jointly hosted a partnership stakeholder seminar in respect of Violence Against Women and Girls, at the COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh. Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham led the Police Scotland representation at the seminar, which provided a forum for a range of organisations and partners to come together and discuss local, community and national

work designed to improve outcomes for women, girls and children. Throughout the day, attendees also considered opportunities for further integration, development and collaboration in this vital area.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Naloxone – National Roll Out

As previously reported in February, following consideration of the learning from a successful Test of Change, it was decided that all operational officers in Scotland would be trained and issued with Naloxone intra-nasal spray, an emergency antidote which counters the effects of opioid overdose. Preservation of life and keeping people safe lies at the heart of policing, and the decision to equip officers with Naloxone supports that broader policing purpose and mission to reduce drug related deaths in Scotland.

On Wednesday 31 August, the national roll out of Naloxone commenced, with around 150 officers in Paisley, Greenock and Shetland receiving their Naloxone kits. Coinciding with International Overdose Awareness Day, this was the first step to expand the availability of Naloxone within Police Scotland beyond the initial Test of Change areas. Around 1,000 officers are now trained and have access to Naloxone, and the roll out will continue in the forthcoming months.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Contact Assessment Model

As has been reported previously, Police Scotland introduced the Contact Assessment Model (CAM) to improve the way we triage and respond to contact from the public. CAM uses an enhanced assessment and decision making model, based on threat, harm and risk. It is designed to support the most vulnerable and ensure that every individual gets the appropriate help when they need it.

On Wednesday 31 August, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) published their Assurance Review of CAM, focusing on its operational impact. The review underlines the significant progress made in how Police Scotland respond to calls from the public and partners, moving from a model based on policy driven responses, to an individual assessment of threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability and

engagement for each caller. The recommendations from the HMICS review will assist us to drive further improvements in this vital area of policing.

4. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

DEATH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN – OPERATION UNICORN

Along with fellow citizens throughout the United Kingdom and across the world, the death of Her Majesty The Queen had a significant impact on the people and communities of Scotland. On announcement of the death of Her Majesty, the policing response in Scotland - Operation Unicorn - was initiated under a full command structure led by Assistant Chief Constable Kenny MacDonald as Gold Commander. Associated plans, which had been developed and refined over many years, were activated. Police Scotland officers and staff, supported by colleagues from across the United Kingdom, stepped forward to deliver a safe and secure operation, and maintain business as usual services for the people of Scotland. On conclusion of ceremonial events in Scotland, a number of officers provided mutual aid to support the policing of the State Funeral in London.

Policing had an important role to ensure the close bond between Her Majesty and our communities could be expressed safely and with dignity. I place on record my extreme gratitude to all officers and staff involved in Operation Unicorn, and to those involved in maintaining effective local and national services while significant numbers of colleagues were deployed away from their core duties. These officers and staff exemplified the values of Police Scotland, and demonstrated professionalism, compassion and commitment to public service throughout this difficult time.

5. OUR PEOPLE

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

On Wednesday 21 September, Police Scotland's Chief Financial Officer, Mr. James Gray, was named Public Finance Professional of the Year, at the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Scotland Public Finance Award ceremony in Glasgow. The award recognises the achievements of a public finance professional in delivering excellence and clear benefits in their organisation.

Since 2013, Police Scotland has developed, enhanced and matured its financial oversight, processes and controls, and is acknowledged to be an organisation which demonstrates significant financial grip and rigour. The outstanding leadership of CFO Gray, along with the diligent and professional work of members of staff within the wider Finance Team, has been a significant factor in that development. I commend him for his sustained contribution and am pleased that he has received this well-deserved public recognition.

POLICE MEMORIAL EVENTS

On Wednesday 7 September, the annual Scottish Police Memorial Trust Service of Remembrance was held at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. Due to the pandemic, this was the first time that the service had been held in person since 2019, although it had been marked virtually in the previous two years. The service was attended by families and friends of officers who have died on duty in Scotland, police officers, members of staff, and other distinguished guests.

On Sunday 25 September, along with colleagues from the wider policing family across the United Kingdom, I attended the National Police Memorial Day service in Belfast.

Both services were important and poignant events which provided an opportunity to honour and respect those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while carrying out their public duty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the information contained in this report.