

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting
Date and Time	30 October 2013, 1300hrs
Location	Curl Aberdeen
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Item Number	10
Presented By	Chief Constable
For Approval / For Information – please annotate (IN RED BOLD)	FOR INFORMATION
Appendix Attached:	N/A

PURPOSE

To provide members of the Scottish Police Authority with information on progress and significant events within Police Scotland since the last Public Authority meeting on 2 October 2013.

BACKGROUND

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

FURTHER DETAIL ON REPORT TOPIC

2.1 Operational Update – Keeping People Safe

Bookmakers Awareness Campaign

Police Scotland is working with bookmakers across Scotland to increase security and awareness at their premises in order to Keep People Safe. A poster entitled 'Robbery – Odds On You'll Get Caught' has been launched and made available to bookmakers premises across Scotland making clear the measures in place at the premises to improve security. In addition, staff working in bookmakers have been trained to recognise suspicious behaviour and to promptly report this to the police. Working with the bookmakers, Police Scotland aims to reduce the number of robberies and thus ensure all premises are a safe place for people to visit and work.

Offshore Policing

International police chiefs joined officers on the beat in Aberdeen on 7 October 2013, as part of a visit to observe the good practice of Police Scotland in offshore policing; for which the service is recognised as a world leader. A team of 4 senior commanders from Bahrain, Kenya and Saudi Arabia learned how Police Scotland provides all operational responses to oil and gas installations in the central and northern North Sea, extending as far north west as the Faroes waters in the north Atlantic Ocean and as far east as Norwegian waters.

New Fire Investigation Protocol

Scotland will be better protected from those who deliberately set fires due to a historic agreement between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Forensic Services. A new fire investigation protocol – signed by Chief Officer Alasdair Hay, Chief Constable Sir Stephen House and SPA Forensic Services Director Tom Nelson – commits all 3 organisations to sharing their specialist skills and expertise when responding to incidents. The agreement covers how first responders approach incidents from the outset, aiming to preserve evidence to help ensure those responsible for wilful fireraising are brought to justice. By jointly investigating fires, the 3 services aim to reduce the number of incidents and the deaths, injuries and trauma resulting from them. The protocol means those responsible for deliberately starting fires are more likely than ever to be traced and brought before the courts.

Campaign Against Violence

Phase 3 of the Campaign Against Violence (CAV) is now well underway, with office based police officers across the country routinely deploying on key dates in support of local policing activity to tackle violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour. Phases 1 and 2 of the campaign have concluded with 6862 officers deployed over 18 days throughout April – September 2013, delivering 54,896 additional patrol hours in support of Keeping People Safe. Phase 3 of the campaign commenced in October 2013 with officers deploying on 4, 11, 18 and 25 October 2013. Phase 3 lasts until the end of December 2013 and will see officers deployed over a further 5 days throughout November and December at various Divisions across Police Scotland. Planning in respect of CAV deployments for the remainder of Phase 3 is ongoing and takes into account specific issues and local intelligence.

2.2 Commonwealth Games 2014

The launch of the Queen's Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace on 9 October 2013 marked the first Police Scotland operational deployment of the Commonwealth Games 2014 Safety and Security Programme. Officers facilitated movement of the baton into and around Scotland prior to its departure for India; the first stage of the relay international sector. The Commonwealth Games Intelligence Cell is now operational and the Accreditation Clearing House in Glasgow has commenced.

Evaluation is currently underway in relation to Private Contract Security bidders and it is anticipated that decisions on the final workforce mix will be made in the next few weeks. Police Scotland logistical arrangements are progressing well, with arrangements for accommodation, transport and catering all being finalised. The planning team provided a safety and security budget presentation to the Finance and Investment Committee on 3 October 2013. It was agreed that the planning team would report further to members later in the year, setting out the likely impact of the Games operation on business as usual, particularly the impact on Local Policing. Impact on Local Policing may, for example, include protecting the assets of the Games such as the athletics village.

2.3 The Ryder Cup

Police Scotland is currently making preparations for the 2014 Ryder Cup which will be hosted in Scotland between 23 – 28 September 2014. Planning for the event has been underway for some time with the planning team gaining learning experiences from Celtic Manor, Wales and Medinah, Chicago where the Ryder Cup contests were previously played in 2010 and 2012. Two officers from Police Scotland visited Chicago as part of a delegation from Team Scotland. There were a number of good learning points from the visit including the briefing methods used by authorities in Chicago which ensured that officers had access to relevant information at all times when they were deployed at the event. In addition, best practice was shared in respect of crowd movement and dispersal routes.

The event will be the last of the major events taking place in Scotland in 2014, the year of the Homecoming, and once again the eyes of the world will be on Scotland. Police Scotland aims to create a positive legacy for Perthshire and indeed the whole of Scotland and also provide a great experience for all those involved in the event.

2.4 101 Single Non-Emergency Number

The single non-emergency number has now been operational since February 2013 and over 880,000 calls have been made to Police Scotland via the 101 number. Currently, 55.6% of non-emergency calls to Police Scotland are via 101.

The Voice Recognition application which was added to the 101 system at the end of July 2013 and allows callers to select and be connected to any Force across the UK is working well and will be fine tuned in early November 2013 to enhance functionality.

Work to cease legacy public numbers is progressing well and a project plan has been prepared and approved. Approximately 400 lines suitable for ceasing have been identified. Callers using legacy lines have been advised by recorded message for the past 7 months to use 101 when calling in future. This message is being updated to inform them that the legacy line they are calling on will be ceased in the near future and thus encouraging callers to use 101 when contacting Police Scotland for non-emergency calls.

2.5 Communications / Engagement

Police Scotland's use of social media continues to attract additional followers, with 393,826 followers across all social media channels; an increase of 4.2% from last month. The national Police Scotland Facebook account has 38,103 followers and Police Scotland Twitter feeds across the country now attract more than 159,900 followers. The Police Scotland national Twitter feed has 18,551 followers, a 10% increase since September 2013.

A 'behind the scenes' feature of the Police Scotland Mounted Branch was developed via social media in order to raise public awareness. This included photographs of the horses, a film showing a training session with the horses and a question and answer session with the Mounted Branch Inspector. This was

viewed more than 27,000 times on Facebook and reflects the approach that Police Scotland is taking to engage the public via social media.

Police Scotland are also using social media as a tool to Keep People Safe. Recently, 5 divisional facebook pages were used to seek the assistance of the public in tracing a vulnerable missing person. The pages were viewed 154,000 times which amplified the appeal for information. The missing person was traced safe and well.

2.6 Specialist Crime

Prison Intelligence Unit

Police Scotland's Prison Intelligence Unit (PIU) was launched on 26 September 2013. The unit provides the national interface between law enforcement at the Scottish Prison Service working closely with all law enforcement agencies, public and private sector prisons, the Scottish Prison Service National Intelligence Bureau and other agencies. It is a conduit for information and intelligence exchange between Scottish Policing and the Scottish Prison Service, with a particular focus on key offenders. The purpose of the unit is to develop and support policy, procedure, planning, research, technology development, advice and communication between Police Scotland and the Scottish Prison Service.

Counter Terrorism

Police Scotland continues its efforts in respect of Counter Terrorism in order to Keep People Safe across Scotland. This reflected by a recent policing operation on Wednesday 23 October 2013, when a number of individuals were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 at several locations on suspicion of various offences.

The policing operation, which also involved the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Security Service, focused on the activities of individuals sympathetic to dissident Republicanism but who are not affiliated to any specific group. Police Scotland led the operation which involved a number of officers, including specialist units and public safety was the priority throughout, with no risk to the public.

This operation demonstrates that Police Scotland is committed to tackling the threat posed by terrorism and that the service is actively working with other agencies in this regard.

2.7 Local Policing Division – Aberdeen City

Aberdeen City Division is responsible for policing the third largest city in Scotland. The Division covers the Aberdeen City Local Authority area, with a population of 220,420 people which swells to near a third of a million with the large daily influx of people attending work and/or enjoying the vibrant city lifestyle.

The Local Policing Commander is Chief Superintendent Adrian Watson, who is supported by 2 Superintendents. The Division has 3 territorial command areas, each having a dedicated Area Commander (Chief Inspector) with responsibility for all day to day policing functions in their respective areas. A community focused policing model prevails, with 14 Community Policing Teams recognised by and based within the communities they serve and each led by an Inspector. As well as responding to local policing needs these teams look for long term solutions to key community issues.

Aberdeen City has long been known as the Oil Capital of Europe and Aberdeen City Division continues the 40 years of work with companies within this ever expanding sector to ensure the best level of service is provided. Aberdeen City Division has operational responsibility for policing the North Sea, where there are circa 25,000 people working offshore.

With its unique position as a hub for the UK energy sector, Aberdeen City is perceived as being wealthy and economically buoyant. However, there are sharp differences between the affluent and deprived areas of the city. Many of the city's regeneration areas feature heavily in the Scottish Index of Multiple Social Deprivation.

Aberdeen City Division believes that partnership working is key to delivering outcomes and continues to build upon an extensive network of agencies and organisations across all 3 sectors. The Division currently engages with over 60 partner agencies in the city centre alone and has dedicated personnel within the Integrated Community Safety Hub working with statutory partners. The Division is committed to the local Community Planning agenda, with the Commander currently holding the Vice Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen.

Although there are still many challenges, Aberdeen City Division continues to make significant progress, with partners and of course the communities, in terms of performance. Violent crime has halved in the past 5 years in the city centre and anti-social behaviour continues to fall across the city. There is a clear correlation between local and national policing priorities in the City and those set by the Aberdeen City Community Safety Partnership. This has allowed a much greater collective focus on what matters to the local communities.

Aberdeen City Division prides itself in continuously developing and seeking out new and innovative ways of conducting their business from across the United Kingdom. In a Scottish context, this has been made easier since the inception of Police Scotland.

Since 1 April 2013, the Division has welcomed additional resources which had not previously been accessible to the city, such as the Air Support Unit and the Mounted Branch, to assist with daily business. This has produced tangible results, including the safe passing of 2 high profile demonstrations. The ease of access to specialist resources was clearly illustrated on 23 August 2014, when a helicopter ditched in the North Sea where 4 people sadly lost their lives.

The Division is determined to continue working with others in ensuring that the city is one of the safest and most welcoming in the country.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this paper.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this paper.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this paper.

REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no reputational implications associated with this paper.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no social implications associated with this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no equality implications associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.