

SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY

Meeting	Public SPA Board Meeting
Date	24 August 2017
Location	The Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Item Number	6
Presented By	Chief Constable Phil Gormley
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached:	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) with information on progress and significant events within Police Scotland since the last SPA Board meeting on 22 June 2017.

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 on Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key events and activity within Police Scotland, in support of that focus.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON REPORT TOPIC

2.1 Significant National/International Incidents

2.1.1 Serious Organised Crime – Feuds

The past year has seen an increase in tensions between rival elements within the Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) across the central belt of Scotland. There are clear fractures between and within the OCGs which has led to significant acts of violence. These acts have been indiscriminate in nature and without regard for wider public safety however, they have been targeted at individuals involved or associated to OCGs and have not caused injury to any other members of the public.

These OCGs are long standing, complex groups, who often rely upon familial links to ensure their own operational security, as well as threats of violence and intimidation. More recently, we have seen the additional challenge of groups developing an enhanced capability and reliance upon technology to evade law enforcement.

This level of complexity has meant the policing response has required a blend of overt and highly visible policing to disrupt the groups daily activities, along with the deployment of high-end specialist capability from our Specialist Crime Division. The use of a sophisticated covert strategy does not always allow the publication of operational outcomes but communities should be reassured that Police Scotland has disrupted and prevented further acts of violence through this specialist capability.

Where acts of violence have occurred, Police Scotland has put significant resource towards those incidents to provide public reassurance and to actively investigate and bring the offenders to justice:

- 1. September 2016 – Firearm discharged at Robert KELBIE in Ratho, Edinburgh. In February 2017, a suspect was charged with attempted murder and after appearing at court has been remanded in custody.**

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

2. November 2016 – Ewan JOHNSTON shot and killed in Glasgow. In July 2017, two men were charged with murder and after appearing at court have been remanded in custody.
3. January 2017 – Firearm discharged at Ross MONAGHAN in Glasgow. Two men were arrested at separate times in possession of firearms and both charged with the attempted murder; now remanded in custody.
4. February 2017 – Executive Action on Operation ESCALADE led to the recovery of 11 firearms and £1.6m in cash being recovered in Glasgow.
5. In June 2017, a series of intelligence-led searches were carried out at industrial premises in Possilpark, linked to OCGs involved in these ongoing feuds. This operation involved Local Policing, Specialist Crime Division and Road Policing resources, along with multi-agency support from the Department of Work and Pensions and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Following extensive searches, firearms and components, controlled drugs and further items of evidential value were recovered.
6. Police Scotland continues to take forward a disruptive strategy; Hi-Viz patrols, disruption teams, Threat to Life warnings, vehicle stops and searches. Much of this activity is focussed on those levers which OCGs rely upon to take forward these acts of violence. The latest disruption, on 8 August, saw a further recovery of firearms and stolen vehicles.

The robust response instigated by Police Scotland has resulted in key members of the OCGs having either been disrupted due to police attention or remanded in prison. Police Scotland continues to work with a range of law enforcement partners, which includes the SPA Forensic Services and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to present the best possible evidence against those involved in this criminality.

7. On 10 August, nine men appeared at the High Court in Glasgow charged with a range of offences relating to firearms, drugs, money laundering, attempted murder and being involved in serious organised crime. Their trial has been set for 28 November 2017. Police Scotland's assessment at this time is that this has caused a significant disruption to the OCGs and their ability to function or take forward large scale criminal ventures.

This critical work continues apace and Police Scotland will sustain the full breadth of its capabilities against serious organised crime. The Service expects to provide further evidence of its impact in this area in the coming months.

2.2 ORGANISATIONAL UPDATE

2.2.1 Policing 2026

Work continues under the direction of Deputy Chief Officer David Page to produce a 3 year implementation plan for the 2026 Strategy.

Neil Dickson, Director of Change was appointed on 31 July 2017, reporting to Deputy Chief Officer David Page. Neil has started to meet with colleagues across the organisation, including officers and staff to both better understand the organisation and to identify key themes in relation to change.

2.3 OPERATIONS/INITIATIVES OF NOTE

2.3.1 TRNSMT festival (7 - 9 July)

TRNSMT festival was produced by Glasgow-based 'DF Concerts' and took place at Glasgow Green, on the same weekend as 'T-in-the-Park' was held in previous years. The TRNSMT festival was 'non-camping' but attracted over 110,000 patrons during the three-day weekend. This being a new festival and held near a city centre, significant Police Scotland resources were deployed to the venue, the communities immediately surrounding Glasgow Green and the City Centre itself, supported by British Transport Police, G4S, Community Safety Glasgow and other blue light services.

In the current climate of terrorist threats to crowded places, the public's response to uniformed police at the event, including authorised firearms officers was notable, with praise and thanks given personally and via social media for the 'friendly and approachable policing' of the event.

10 people were arrested at the event and no significant serious crimes, sudden illnesses or injuries were reported. A successful element of the operation was the 'zero tolerance' approach to illegal drug taking by the promoters and police, which will be repeated at the forthcoming 'Summer Sessions' event to be held in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow later this month.

2.3.2 The Edinburgh Festival (4 – 28 August)

The Edinburgh Festival is the collective name for the many independent festivals and events held annually in Edinburgh during the month August. This year will be the 70th anniversary of the event with a special launch scheduled for 4 August.

Anecdotally, Edinburgh swells by a million people a week during the period and Festival itself attracts the third biggest audience in the world (only after the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup). As such, the resulting pressure on the city centre footprint, police resources and response capability is substantial.

Edinburgh Division has once again implemented its Operation SUMMER CITY to ensure that both residents and visitors enjoy this demanding period safely.

Working with various partners, Police Scotland deploy a suite of protective security measures, which includes the National Barrier Asset, to ensure safe and secure events.

2.3.3 Safe Summer Campaign (July – September)

Police Scotland continues to focus its efforts on delivering strengthened national and local violence prevention activity by engaging and working our partner agencies.

The three month national Safe Summer campaign is an 'umbrella' campaign to highlight that Police Scotland is taking action to tackle violent crime in Scotland. The key aim of the campaign is to reduce violent crime by targeting hotspots for offensive weapons; disorder and antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related violence. Divisions will carry out a range of operational activity to tackle violent crime, dependent on their violence profile. The campaign is also designed to raise awareness of the causes of violent crime, while seeking to change behaviours and attitudes. The campaign is supported by resource from Police Scotland's National Safer Communities and Corporate Communications.

2.3.4 Student Safety

Police Scotland is working with Universities and Colleges nationally to launch its Student Safety campaign to promote key messages to help students feel safe as term time begins. The key messages of the campaign centre around six main safety areas which affect students;

Home and Property, Online Safety, Party Safety, Identity Safety, Water Safety and Illicit Trade.

2.3.5 Working Together with the Scottish Prison Service

HMYOI Polmont

As recently reported in the media, Sergeant Hamish MacLean has been seconded to HMYOI Polmont as a Police Liaison Officer since April 2015, to assist with projects that break down barriers between police and young people, reduce the frequency and severity of offending and to divert young people on the cusp of Serious Organised Crime to a more positive lifestyle.

A Team Building and Leadership Course has been designed and delivered collaboratively with the Scottish Prison Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and relevant third sector organisations including: Committed to Ending Abuse (formerly Falkirk Women's Aid); Barnardo's; Mentor UK; Respect Me; and I Am Me, to address the underlying causes behind offending and meet the needs of each young person.

An Interim report from July 2017, shows that 63% of young people trusted the Police Liaison Officer on conclusion of the course. A full evaluation is due to be presented to the Scottish Government in December 2017, as part of the Scottish Improvement Leader Programme.

HMP Edinburgh

Police Constable Tracey Gunn, Scotland's police officer of the year, is to receive international recognition for the innovative work she is facilitating in the Scotland's prison network. She has been the driving force behind the creation of the Police Liaison Officer position at HMP Edinburgh which was the first role of its kind in Scotland. The initiatives and ways of working that have been introduced at HMP Edinburgh have been adopted as best practice at other prisons across the country. Having already been recognised in Police Scotland's Force Excellence Awards and the British Association for Women in Policing, Tracey has now been recognised as 'Officer of the Year' by the International Association of Women Police.

2.3.6 Police Scotland Youth Volunteers

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) continues to be the fastest and most recognisable programme of its type in the UK. Such is the success

of the programme that forces in England, Wales, Ireland and New Zealand (launching September 2017) are now forming similar initiatives, replicating the Scottish model. With 25 groups now established and another 15 due to start before the end of 2017, PSYV continues to offer incredible opportunities for young people to give back to communities, while deepening engagement between Police Scotland and young people locally and nationally.

In late July, PSYV Dunfermline travelled to England to take part in the UK Police Cadet competition (a combination of physical and mental challenges). The group (who were Scottish Champions last year) were victorious, left as UK champions and were a great credit to Police Scotland and PSYV. Over the weekend of 5 - 6 August, a further 230 volunteers took part in the Scottish version and PSYV Stranraer took the trophy home to Dumfries and Galloway Division. Dumfries and Galloway Division will represent Scotland at next year's UK competition, which Police Scotland has been asked to consider hosting.

2.3.7 Changes to Recording of Offensive Weapons (August)

Changes to the way offensive weapons and knives are recorded have been introduced, following a request from Police Scotland to the Scottish Crime Recording Board (SCRB). The SCRB agreed that from 1 April 2017, the new recording standard will show the number of knives or offensive weapons possessed, as well as the number of knives or offensive weapons used to commit other crimes in public places, schools or prisons. This will further improve Police Scotland's understanding of weapon and knife crime across the country and allow Divisions to better target its resources locally, whilst continuing to work with partners more effectively to prevent crime. Communications activity has been undertaken to highlight the changes internally and externally.

2.4 CRIME UPDATE

2.4.1 Operation ADVANTAGE- Gleneagles Robbery

This operation was mounted in response to a high value armed robbery that took place at Gleneagles Hotel, near Auchterarder, Tayside on the 27 June 2017. The armed robbery attracted significant media attention, both locally and nationally.

Following determined and extensive enquiries throughout Scotland and the wider UK, officers from Tayside Division, supported by Police Scotland's Specialist Crime and Operational Support Divisions, and the Metropolitan Police, detained a male on the 27 July 2017, at an address

in London. A firearm was also recovered at that time. The male has since appeared at Court and been remanded in custody. Positive lines of enquiry continue to be pursued in relation to others involved in the robbery.

2.4.2 Operation MYRIAD (23 June - 9 July 2017)

Operation MYRIAD was initiated in the Drylaw area of Edinburgh in response to increased levels of ASB, crimes of violence and dishonesty. The operation involved uniformed and plain clothes officers from Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders, Fife and Forth Valley Divisions supported by a number of specialist Divisions and Units, including Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit, School Link Officers, Funded Family and Household Support Teams, Operational Support and Specialist Crime Divisions. This operation led to a number of prevention, disruption, enforcement and education activities, which included Hi-Viz patrols, leaflet drops, school visits, reassurance visits to complainers and victims, as well as various disruption and enforcement deployments.

Operation MYRIAD outcomes included:

- 71 arrests for various offences and warrants.
- 9 Misuse of Drugs warrants executed, with over £9,000 worth of drugs seized.
- 28 vehicles seized and 24 further prosecutions for various offences.
- 15 stolen motorcycles and 5 stolen cars recovered.
- Significant reductions in reported ASB and Violent Crime
- Strong local public and stakeholder support, and expressions of confidence in local policing.

2.4.3 Recent Disruptions

On 10 August, as part of an intelligence-led operation, officers executed two search warrants at addresses in the east end of Glasgow. During the searches, quantities of heroin and cannabis worth an estimated street value of £300,000 were recovered along with a firearm and several rounds of ammunition. Two men were arrested in connection with alleged drugs and firearms offences, and a 26 year old woman was also arrested in connection with alleged drugs offences.

On 11 August, officers from Greater Glasgow Serious and Proactive Crime Team, stopped and searched a vehicle in Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire. The search resulted in a quantity of heroin and cannabis

with an estimated street value of £430,000 being recovered. Two men and a woman were arrested.

Also this month, two men pled guilty to being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs following a combined recovery of approximately 135 kilos of cannabis resin, with a potential street value over £625,000. The recovery followed a joint operation between Police Scotland and the National Crime Agency which was carried out in the Motherwell area between December 2015 and January 2017. The men will be sentenced at a later date.

2.5 CORPORATE UPDATE

2.5.1 'Your Wellbeing Matters' Launch

An organisation wide wellbeing launch, branded as 'Your Wellbeing Matters', will take place in mid-September. The objective of this launch is to raise awareness of the dedicated support available to officers and staff. This will be facilitated by a range of information products and the implementation of an organisation wide network of wellbeing champions. This work is being led by the Health & Wellbeing Group chaired by DCC Livingstone and supported by a dedicated sub-group which brings together key internal stakeholders including Scottish Police Federation, Association of Scottish Police Superintendents and Trade Unions and partner organisations including Police Mutual, Credit Union and Scottish Police Recreation Association.

This will be preceded by the Senior Leaders Forum on 5 September, which will focus entirely on Wellbeing. The event will include both internal and external speakers and will provide senior leaders with an opportunity to discuss and influence the way forward for wellbeing as an organisation. Engagement is underway to discuss this work with each Division, prior to the Senior Leaders Forum and mid-September launch.

Over the past 6 weeks, officers and staff have been attending training across the organisation to assist them undertake the role of wellbeing champion. All champions will attend an induction and the externally accredited Scottish Mental Health First Aid Training (SMHFA). Over 150 officers and staff have attended inductions, with SMHFA training continuing until the end of August.

The evaluation for the induction training has been extremely positive and has told us that:

- 98% agreed that the right amount of information was covered in the training in relation to the role of wellbeing champion.

- 99% agreed that they understood what was expected of them as a wellbeing champion.
- 100% agreed that the presenters were effective and answered questions well.
- 96% agreed that they felt effectively prepared to undertake the role of wellbeing champion.

2.5.2 Recruitment

On 26 June 2017, 215 new recruits joined Police Scotland – the largest single intake at the Scottish Police College since the move to quarterly intakes in September 2016.

The Recruitment Team has continued to deliver Positive Action Days for Women across the country, with a scheduled input to be delivered next month in Aberdeen. Work is underway to consider a further programme to address under representation from the LGBT community.

The Positive Action Team continue to deliver 'The Introduction to Policing Programme' across Scotland with a scheduled course taking place next month in Aberdeen. Officers from the team attended the Aberdeen Mela festival on 30 July, to help promote the programme. A fifth course is in the early planning stages for Edinburgh around November 2017.

2.5.3 People Engagement

Kirsty Garrick has been appointed as Head of People Engagement reporting to Jude Helliker, Director of People and Development. Kirsty has started to meet with colleagues across the organisation, including officers and staff to both better understand the organisation and to identify key themes to improve how we engage with our people.

2.6 INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA

2.6.1 Social Media Analysis

An evaluation of Police Scotland's social media, carried out since the last report to the SPA Board, shows the total number of followers across all accounts at the end of July was 1,415,032 which is 19,542 up on the last period.

2.6.2 ProtectingServing - Social Media Campaign

On Monday 14 August, Police Scotland launched a new social media campaign, with the hashtag *ProtectingServing*, to raise awareness of the scale, complexity and breadth of work done by our officers and staff.

Daily posts on Twitter are designed to show the complexity, scope and volume of our work, every day across Scotland, and that effective policing is not just about enforcement. Police Scotland will run this initiative for a few weeks only, after which we will evaluate our approach. Early indications over the first few days of the campaign indicate a good reach of over 160,000.

2.6.3 Festival Safety Campaign

As part of our Festival Safety campaign, Police Scotland issued event safety & travel advice for the TRNSMT festival that took place in Glasgow over 3 days in July, along with pictures of police officers keeping people safe at the event. On Facebook, our TRNSMT content had a strong reach of over 425,000 and made 150,000 impressions on Twitter.

2.6.4 Charity Support

In July, Police Scotland promoted a number of charity events that police officers were participating in – Cycle for Sam, Run Doonhame and the UK Police Unity Tour. The charity related content was popular, generating around 20,000 engagements and reach/impressions of 350,000.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no reputational implications associated with this report.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no social implications associated with this report.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

8.1 There is no community impact as a consequence of this report.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equalities implications as a consequence of this report.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental implications as a consequence of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the information on progress and significant events within Police Scotland since the last SPA Board meeting on 22 June 2017.