

SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY

Meeting	Scottish Police Authority Board Meeting
Date	2 May 2018
Location	Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling
Title of Paper	Interim Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Deputy Chief Constable (Designate) Iain Livingstone
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 on Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events within Police Scotland.

2. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

VIOLENCE, DISORDER AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Police Scotland will work in partnership to reduce harm caused by public & private space Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour, Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime.

Anti-Muslim Letter

On or around Friday 9 March 2018, a number of anti-Muslim letters were received by Members of Parliament and other groups in England, which were subsequently reported to police. As a result an investigation led by UK Counter Terrorism Policing North East commenced. No letters were reported to have been received in Scotland.

The letters, and subsequent media coverage caused significant concern within many communities, with a fear that they may incite individuals to target Muslim communities. Whilst there were no known recipients in Scotland, there remained a potential for an increase in community tensions, particularly around Tuesday 3 April, which was the specific date mentioned in the letters.

Police Scotland remains clear that no hate crimes or incidents will be tolerated, and community reassurance messages were delivered to key contacts and stakeholders including Mosques, along with an increase in engagements between community leaders and the police. A full briefing was provided to local officers and call centre staff across the country, in order to ensure any potential reports or tensions were identified and acted upon at the earliest opportunity.

There were no reports of any connected incidents on or around 3 April, and there has been no increase in hate crime. Community engagement continues and feedback from partners has been positive in terms of the approach taken.

Serious Assault – Lanarkshire Division

On Tuesday 17 April, officers from Lanarkshire Division responded to numerous reports of a 38 year old male being the victim of an attack within a Supermarket, in North Lanarkshire.

The victim was taken to Glasgow Royal Infirmary after an unknown corrosive substance was thrown in his face. Due to the nature of the call, police led a multi-agency response alongside the Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The victim was treated in hospital for facial injuries which are likely to result in permanent scarring. As a result of the initial officer's response in establishing cordons, identifying witnesses, the preservation of evidence and crime scene management, local Detectives arrested a 44 year old man for Serious Assault, who has been remanded in custody.

SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

Police Scotland will work in partnership to prevent harm caused to individuals, communities and businesses by Serious Organised Crime (SOC) and enhance our understanding and response to cyber threats and internet enabled crime.

Operation Engagement

Work has advanced to the custody preparation first phase stage which comprises six accused, all currently remanded in custody in connection with five incidents of extreme violence perpetrated by individuals believed to be involved in organised crime. The trial is scheduled for later this year.

Several additional arrests have been made in relation to those involved in this feud related violence. The team have also recovered a number of firearms, drugs and illegally obtained money through Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) seizures and with the assistance of partners, successfully disrupted criminal use of vehicles and illegal business activity.

Murder - Greater Glasgow Division

A 29 year old man was shot in the head by a masked gunman at a set of traffic lights in the Maryhill area of Glasgow on Monday 16 April and died two days later.

Police Scotland has confirmed this was a targeted shooting and has a dedicated team working in Glasgow in tandem with the Operation Engagement Enquiry Team.

Operation Lacquer

This is an ongoing intelligence led operation concentrating on a Serious Organised Crime Group who are heavily involved in the distribution of Class A controlled drugs throughout the Edinburgh and Lothian areas. To date there have been over 30 arrests and more than £130,000 in POCA recoveries.

A drugs search warrant was executed on Friday 30 March at an address in Edinburgh, during which over 300g of cocaine, 16kg of white powder and about 10,000 tablets were recovered. One male was arrested and charged.

COUNTER TERRORISM AND DOMESTIC EXTREMISM

Police Scotland will work in partnership to protect our communities by reducing and mitigating the risk and impact of Terrorism and Domestic Extremism.

Connor Ward

I previously reported on the trial of Connor Ward from Banff, who was convicted last month at the High Court in Edinburgh in connection with two charges of breaching the Terrorism Act 2000 and the Terrorism Act 2006. Ward, who possessed a vast amount of material, including 131 documents relating to the manufacture of explosive devices, as well as terrorist activity and Nazi organisations, was sentenced at Edinburgh High Court on Thursday 12 April to life imprisonment with a minimum term of six years.

Loyalist Terrorist Groups (online), Inverness

During 2017, Police Scotland became aware of a photograph of three Inverness based males on Facebook wearing clothing bearing the symbol of a proscribed Northern Irish related loyalist terrorist organisation. A comment next to the pictures contained text that invited support for that organisation.

Search warrants were executed at the home addresses of the three males, within Inverness and a large number of items were recovered. In March 2018, following arrest and interview, all three were charged with

inviting support for a proscribed terrorist organisation contrary to Section 12(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000.

PROTECTING PEOPLE AT RISK OF HARM

Police Scotland will work in partnership to protect those at risk of harm and reduce the impact of all forms of neglect, abuse and sexual crime.

**Police Scotland Online Child Sexual Abuse Campaign
#NotMyFriend**

On Tuesday 27 March 2018, Police Scotland launched a four week online child sexual abuse campaign entitled '#NotMyFriend'.

The campaign aimed to reduce online child sexual abuse offending by challenging perpetrator behaviour, highlighting the personal risk perpetrators are taking through their offending behaviour and signposting them to third sector support, specifically Stop It Now!

The campaign involved digital advertising, social media messaging and poster distribution. It has been supported by a range of partner organisations including statutory and third sector organisations, the public and private sectors. An evaluation of the campaign is being undertaken.

Banking Protocol

The Banking Protocol model is a multi-agency initiative between law enforcement, banking institutions and Trading Standards. Its aim is to identify vulnerable victims who are in the process of being defrauded of funds from their bank accounts at the earliest opportunity and to intervene to prevent these crimes.

Victims, particularly elderly and other vulnerable people are targeted by suspects for a range of fraud offences, including courier fraud and bogus worker offences. These crimes often involve the perpetrator encouraging the victim to attend at their bank, post office or other financial services provider in person and withdraw or transfer cash.

The purpose of the model is to ensure a consistent policing approach as a response to the threat of live-time financial crime committed against vulnerable victims. Since the commencement of the protocol on Monday 5 March 2018, 75 calls have been dealt with by Police Scotland Service Centre preventing over £200,000 of customer money from fraudulent

scams.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Police Scotland will work in partnership to influence driver and road user behaviour, reduce road casualties and detect and deter all types of criminality on our roads.

Road Policing

The most recent road safety campaign focusing on the dangers of speeding, not wearing seatbelts and using mobile devices whilst driving was launched on Monday 16 April and concluded seven days later.

Police raised public awareness on these 'fatal factors' through roadside engagement, education, encouragement and where necessary, enforcement. The highest levels of compliance with speed limits is observed on those trunk routes with average speed camera schemes such as the A77, A9 and A90, evidencing that such schemes are an effective deterrent.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Police Scotland will work in partnership to create an environment designed to prevent and reduce the threat of Acquisitive Crime.

Housebreaking

Over recent months, Police Scotland has tackled domestic housebreakings across the Central belt where large quantities of cash, gold and jewellery have been taken. The total value of the property stolen during this time is estimated to be in the region of £650,000. The majority of the victims are of Asian origin.

I am pleased to report there have been no incidents in Scotland since Monday 26 March, and as a result of a targeted multi-force policing operation, six arrests have been made and over £10,000 has been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

3. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

SPA Board Meeting
Interim Chief Constable's Report
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SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S REPORTER ADMINISTRATION

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) Liaison Meeting took place on Thursday 5 April. This meeting provides a platform to closely examine the working relationship between the police and SCRA, the nature and types of referrals being made, and to consider joint initiatives which focus on appropriate support for the many vulnerable young people Police Scotland comes into contact with on a daily basis.

LOCAL AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of the ongoing Local Approaches to Policing work, and in recognition of the close working relationships that exists between Local Authorities and their local police across the country, I have met with six Chief Executives since the last Board. I have been reassured by the unanimous recognition of the excellent local engagement and joint working that is underway, and I have taken the opportunity to meet with a number of front-line officers and their senior command teams working in each area.

SCOTTISH RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

I attended the Scottish Resilience Partnership on Wednesday 18 April, which is a strategic meeting that affords chief officers from the emergency services and key partners the opportunity to discuss our collective approach to resilience. The meeting, which was attended by the Deputy First Minister, offered an excellent opportunity to examine the recent severe weather and consider any lessons learned, as well as discussing the type of joint exercising we can collectively deliver across the country to test resilience processes.

4. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINALS

The weekend of 14 and 15 April saw the Scottish Cup semi-finals take place at the National Stadium, Hampden. On Saturday, the first semi-final was contested by Aberdeen Football Club and Motherwell Football Club. A conventional policing operation was put in place for a crowd of more than 18,000, which involved over 200 police officers. There were no arrests made.

OFFICIAL

On Sunday, the second semi-final was contested by Celtic Football Club and Rangers Football Club. This match was played to a capacity crowd of around 50,000 and resulted in a full public order tactical plan being established to operate alongside a considerable conventional policing approach, which involved over 700 police officers. There were two arrests, one being a contravention of Section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (with sectarian aggravation) and one relating to Culpable and Reckless conduct due to the use of a pyrotechnic device.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016

The introduction of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 represented some of the most significant changes to the laws of criminal procedure in Scotland for at least a generation. It brought significant reform to the criminal justice system, protecting the rights of suspects while also equipping the police service with the necessary powers to carry out their role of investigating and detecting crime, including new powers of Investigative Liberation and Post Charge Questioning. The Act, which came into place on Thursday 25 January, strengthened police powers with regard to the arrest of a suspect and allows further measures to be put in place to ensure victim and witness safety.

Feedback from staff and partners has been overwhelmingly positive with effective partnership working continuing to address any minor operational issues as they arise.

5. OUR PEOPLE

POLICE SCOTLAND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS 1000TH VOLUNTEER

On Tuesday 10 April, at the Beacon Centre, Greenock the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) Inverclyde Group officially launched and celebrated the recruitment of PSYV's 1000th Volunteer. From five pilot groups in 2014, we now have 32 active groups making a real difference in communities across Scotland.

The PSYV scheme aims to break down barriers between police and young people, offering opportunities to people from diverse backgrounds and presenting them the potential to receive an accredited qualification. With the support of adult volunteers and dedicated police officers, our young people volunteer and make a real difference in local communities.

6. DELIVERING STRATEGIC CHANGE

SERVING A CHANGING SCOTLAND (2026)

A Gateway Review of our transformation portfolio is commencing at the end of April, through the Scottish Government's Centre of Expertise, where high level interviews are being conducted to review Police Scotland's capability to deliver change. The purpose is to provide the Change Directorate with a 'health check', in order to provide assurance that the 2026 portfolio is fit for purpose. This will be the first of many Gateway and Assurance reviews on the Portfolio, and their associated programmes.

CYBER KIOSKS

Mobile phone examinations form a substantial part of the workload undertaken by the Cybercrime Digital Forensic Units. Criminal Justice recently reported that over 40,000 mobile devices were seized last year by Police Scotland.

When the police seize an electronic device under the authority of a judicial warrant, statutory power or following a suspect's arrest, it is lawful for them to seize and examine that device for evidence. A person may also voluntarily provide their electronic device in the knowledge that it will be examined for evidence, relating to that particular crime under investigation.

The provision of kiosks will deliver a facility through which the police can triage such devices, reducing the number which require to be forensically examined, and reducing the inconvenience to a witness or victim of retaining a device which, on later examination, has no evidential value.

SPECIALLY TRAINED OFFICERS (TASER OFFICERS)

The Specially Trained Officers (STO) project is progressing at pace, with instructor courses already underway and scheduled into May. Officers will be deployed from early June, from 27 Operational STO Hubs, situated throughout the country and in each of the 13 Local Policing Divisions.

Contact, Command and Control supervisors are currently receiving further training, with information being circulated to support local command teams to brief out to their local communities and partners. Engagement will include events in local geographical venues throughout the North, East and West of the country to ensure local communities and vulnerable persons representative groups are made aware of STO roll out.

ARMED POLICING DEPLOYMENT

Following the SPA Board on Tuesday 19 December 2017, Police Scotland's Armed Policing Policy was updated to reflect the proposed changes to the current model. In essence, the Armed Policing Policy has been amended to support the conventional deployment of armed officers, to positively contribute to local policing and community priorities in the most appropriate, effective and safe manner.

The policy change will commence on Monday 7 May after relevant stakeholder updates are complete. Since the December Board, engagement has continued around this subject, including a welcomed opportunity to discuss armed deployment at the most recent COSLA Scrutiny Convener's Forum on Monday 26 February. Police Scotland will continue to engage with key groups as the model is being implemented.

The Scottish Institute of Policing Research (SIPR) has also been engaged to review the impact of the Deployment Model and will produce a report on its findings. It is important to stress that Police Scotland remains an unarmed police service with an armed capability - only 2.34% of police officers in Scotland are armed.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

10. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no reputational implications associated with this report.

11. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no social implications associated with this report.

12. COMMUNITY IMPACT

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

13. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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