

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting
Date	31 May 2018
Location	COSLA, Verity House, Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh, EH12 5BH
Title of Paper	Interim Chief Constable's Report
Reference	B05.2018/01
Presented By	Deputy Chief Constable Iain Livingstone, Interim Chief Constable
Recommendation to Members	For Discussion
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.

Level of Violent Crime

Members will have noted the media reporting in recent weeks around police recorded crime across the UK, and a particular focus on increasing levels of serious violence. In England and Wales this particularly relates to gun and knife crime.

I previously reported on Police Scotland's engagement with Cressida Dick, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), when she visited Scotland on Friday 23 February 2018. The visit provided the opportunity to explore the complex causes of violent crime, with a particular focus on the Public Health approach that has continued to be developed by Police Scotland in conjunction with the Violence Reduction Unit, since its inception in 2005. Bringing wider services together, such as Social Work, Education and Health, along with the Police to deal with the root cause of violent behaviour remains a critical element of our long-term approach to reducing all forms of violence.

Local approaches to tackle violent crime are being developed to ensure that multi-agency responses are developed in line with what people tell us matters to them. The 'Trauma Informed' policing model being developed in Ayrshire is an example of this, focussing on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and understanding the impact these experiences have, to better equip officers and staff to take the best action for that child or young person.

Partnership work is also underway to embed a national approach to address weapon carrying in schools. On Wednesday 9 May 2018, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers delivered live sessions that were developed with 'No Knives better Lives' to Secondary 1 and Secondary 2 pupils at

Braeview Academy, Dundee. This session was also attended by Mr Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

Homicides - Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division

As previously reported, between January and March 2018, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division experienced four homicides, all of which were investigated by a dedicated team of detectives, led by a trained Senior Investigating Officer (SIO). This is an unusual occurrence for any Division, and none of these incidents are linked in anyway.

Three of the four incidents are now solved and one remains unsolved. The unsolved incident relates to a male being assaulted and killed in the street in Renfrew on Sunday 14 January 2018. A Major Investigations Team remains dedicated to this enquiry.

The unusually high number of homicides over a short period of time is understandably of concern, and a community reassurance plan and high profile patrols were implemented, with community impact continually monitored.

Divisional Hate Crime Champions

To build upon existing work being undertaken by officers across the Police Service to effectively tackle hate crime, Safer Communities staff have commenced a programme to train a cadre of local officers to be 'Hate Crime Champions'.

Training courses have been delivered to approximately 80 officers, who will continue to be deployed in their existing roles, however they will raise awareness of hate related incidents and provide local support for officers and staff as required. They will be able to assist with the early recognition and investigation of hate crimes and incidents, identifying appropriate aggravators and providing colleagues with general updates. They will act as a conduit to share best practice nationally and receive regular updates from Safer Communities and other key partners, on hate related matters.

SERIOUS AND 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.

Murder – Greater Glasgow Division

On Thursday 10 May 2018, at the High Court in Glasgow, David Scott was

found guilty of the murder of Euan Johnston and sentenced to a minimum term of 22 years imprisonment. Mr Johnston had links to serious and organised crime and was awaiting trial in relation to drug offences involving £640,000 worth of diamorphine at the time of his death. It is believed that David Scott was acting as part of a group who had been carrying out surveillance on the victim, and he was identified through DNA found on the zipper of a hooded top, which was recovered from the getaway vehicle.

Significant Drug Seizure and Arrests

As a result of an intelligence-led operation in the West of Scotland, a female was identified as a key nominal in the supply of drugs in the Dundee area. On Wednesday 2 May 2018, a joint operation involving the Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit (OCCTU) North, Divisional Pro-Active officers, the Divisional Rape Investigation Unit, Public Protection Unit and Major Investigation Teams, took place whereby a number of simultaneous search warrants were executed at the subject's address and those of key associates. A total of half a kilogram of diamorphine was recovered, as well as the arrest of two further nominals in relation to a historical rape and a murder.

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.

Prevent

Police Scotland and the Scottish Government recently hosted a visit from the UK Government's Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT), who spent three days in Scotland discussing the strategic coordination of Prevent delivery. The primary area of discussion was around the new CONTEST strategy, which is expected imminently, and the potential impact on Prevent activity in Scotland.

Work is ongoing to consider any amendments which may be required for both statutory and non-statutory guidance documents in relation to the refreshed CONTEST Strategy, ensuring the context of Prevent delivery in Scotland is also reflected.

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

I have previously reported our online child sexual abuse campaign

entitled '#NotMyFriend', which aimed to challenge perpetrator behaviour, highlighting the personal risk perpetrators are taking through their offending behaviour and signposting them to third sector support.

An initial evaluation indicates positive overall engagement, with a particular focus on two significant target areas. Firstly where individuals engaged with the campaign and subsequently moved on to the Stop it Now website and secondly, on the social media platforms used by 13-17 year olds. A review of social media channels indicates the campaign reached over one million people, with an engagement rate of over 13%. The two week paid-for campaign served a total of 7.3 million impressions (social media views). Facebook and Instagram video results have revealed particularly higher than normal results for a campaign of this nature (more than double) and this will be taken forward in terms of future learning.

A full evaluation will include detailed statistics on the various platforms used, and a joint debrief and evaluation of results with colleagues from Stop it Now. This will support our approach to future campaigns, and an update will be submitted to the Authority for Member's information.

Police Scotland National Firearms Surrender Campaign

Following a rise in recorded firearms offences during 2017 in England and Wales the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Criminal Use of Firearms (CUF) Lead, Northumbria Police ACC Helen McMillan, asked all police forces in England, Scotland and Wales to take part in a National Firearms Surrender campaign during November 2017. The primary purpose of the surrender campaign was to remove illegal firearms from the availability of criminals. Police Scotland confirmed its intention to participate in this campaign, however elected to delay it until a suitable date in 2018. The main rationale for this decision was based upon the then very recent extremely successful air weapon surrender campaign during 2016, where firearms were also surrendered.

Having received approval from the Lord Advocate, Police Scotland will deliver a national firearms surrender campaign between Monday 18 June and Sunday 1 July 2018. A full engagement process has already commenced to inform stakeholders of the intention to run the campaign and key external partners including Scottish Government, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), the National Ballistic Intelligence Service and SPA Firearms Forensics Services were present at the initial planning meeting held on Monday 30 April 2018.

The campaign will be primarily directed at members of the public,

encouraging the surrender of unlawfully held or unwanted firearms and ammunition. It links directly to the policing priorities of reducing the threat from serious and organised crime, and reducing the harm caused by public and private space violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour.

3. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

ARMED POLICING DEPLOYMENT MODEL

As previously reported, the revised Armed Policing Deployment Model commenced on Monday 7 May 2018, and engagement with key stakeholders continues in this regard. The deployment model affords Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) officers the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to local policing priorities, the emphasis being focussed on public protection, vulnerability and speed of response to maximise the safety of the Scottish public. The revised deployment model will not detract ARV officers from their primary purpose and the officers will continue to be managed by specially-trained Inspectors located within the Area Control Rooms across Scotland. The Inspectors are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will maintain the command and control of ARVs at all times (this includes firearms and non-firearms related incidents). They will assess the appropriateness of ARV attendance or support at incidents using established decision making and risk assessment processes. To date there have been no operational issues identified by either Armed Policing or C3.

Examples of recent deployments of ARV officers within local policing include armed officers attending the scene of a serious road traffic incident in Dundee, providing medical assistance to a man who had suffered a serious head injury. On Wednesday 16 May 2018, ARV officers also assisted in the search for a suicidal female. The female was traced safe and well due to the assistance provided from local policing and ARV officers.

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE ON POLICE FIRING RANGES

In December 2017, the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority sought assurance from Police Scotland surrounding the use and access to Police Scotland Firearm Ranges. In response, I tasked the Assistant Chief Constable, Professionalism and Assurance to lead on this work and he subsequently made a request to the College of Policing through the National Armed Policing Portfolio Lead, DCC Simon Chesterman, to carry out an independent review of the use and conduct of the Police Scotland firearms ranges.

This piece of work is now complete and in summary, the independent review confirmed Police Scotland's access to and usage of the firearms ranges is in accordance with Health and Safety Guidelines as laid out by the College of Policing and as such should provide an assurance for the Scottish Police Authority.

4. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

EXERCISE BORDER REIVER

Exercise Border Reiver was a Tier 1 Exercise (denotes UK Ministerial play) in the Home Office (OSCT) UK National Counter Terrorism Exercise Programme. The exercise consisted of three days of live play activity between Tuesday 3 and Thursday 5 October 2017.

The learning generated from the exercise has identified good practice and themes for development that will form the basis of further work, training and exercising over the next two years. The Home Office report on Exercise Border Reiver contains a number of recommendations which are, by design, strategic in a UK context and as such there are no specific Scottish recommendations as Police Scotland forms part of the wider UK CT policing response.

The Local Generated Learning and Post Exercise Report that reviewed the nine months of preparatory build and three days of live-play, identified a number of recommendations which have been taken on board by Police Scotland.

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

On Saturday 19 May 2018, the Scottish Cup Final took place at the National Stadium, Hampden. A policing operation was put in place for a crowd of around 47,000, which involved approximately 300 police officers. There were four arrests relating to the football match, which were for a breach of the peace, assault, possession of a pyrotechnic, and detonation of a flashbang.

Following the match, over 10,000 people migrated to the Clyde Gateway to view the Celtic open-top bus parade. The procession lasted for around an hour, and although the crowds were exuberant, the overwhelming majority were well behaved and interacted positively with the police. One person was arrested for vandalism to a police vehicle and a breach of the peace.

5. OUR PEOPLE

DOMESTIC ABUSE TRAINING

The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act, due to come into effect in 2019, creates a series of new offences criminalising the controlling and coercive behaviours that we know are a significant factor of domestic abuse. While physical assaults are the most visible part of domestic abuse, it is evidenced that it can be as difficult to cope with punishing psychological abuse. This new Act recognises, for the first time, the harm psychological abuse causes to victims and their children and the complex way in which perpetrators seek to manipulate not only their victims but also the police response.

In preparation, Police Scotland has committed to provide training to approximately 14,000 officers and staff on how to identify and investigate psychological abuse, and coercive and controlling behaviour in domestic abuse incidents. Following an external procurement process, this training has been awarded to SafeLives, a UK wide organisation, with a track record in training and who are dedicated to eliminating domestic abuse for good. SafeLives will work cooperatively with Police Scotland and their partners to develop the training, recognising one of the most significant opportunities to tackle Gender Based Violence since the inception of Police Scotland.

POLICE SCOTLAND OFFICERS – COMMENDATIONS

12 Police Scotland Officers are currently seconded to key roles within the UK Counter Terrorism Network. Four of the officers have recently been commended by ACC Terri Nicholson, UK CT Policing in relation to outstanding leadership and professionalism, displayed during their deployments to Counter Terrorism policing operations.

The officers were integral to the overall planning, negotiation, coordination and logistics in bringing together partner agencies. The officers are a credit to Police Scotland and I would take this opportunity to formally record my personal thanks to them for their continued professionalism and dedication in this specialised area of Policing.

6. DELIVERING STRATEGIC CHANGE

NATIONAL DATABASE ENQUIRY UNIT

The National Database Enquiry Unit (NDEU) commenced operations on Tuesday 1 May 2018. The NDEU is operating from two sites across the police estate – one site in Inverness and the other site in Govan, which was originally the PNC Unit. The NDEU provides frontline officers across the country with live dynamic information database checks.

Current operational demand from the Highlands and Islands Division is dealt with through Inverness with Aberdeen and Tayside Division demands being phased in by the end of May. The Govan site will continue to deal with demand from the West command area and Edinburgh Division. Plans are being progressed for the NDEU in Inverness to eventually take all PNC checks for both the East and North Divisions.

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 discuss the information contained in this report.