

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting
Date	30 January 2019
Location	East Ayrshire Council, Kilmarnock
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM
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.

Homicides

Since the last meeting of the Board, there have been nine homicides recorded in Scotland. The deaths have occurred across Scotland, each having a significant impact on those directly involved and the wider community. Local officers have provided a dedicated policing response and community reassurance, supported by our Major Investigation Teams (MITs). All nine homicides are detected.

Operation Dive – Edinburgh City Division

Following an intelligence led operation involving the Organised Crime Partnership* and US Homeland Security, a male from Edinburgh was arrested and charged with firearms offences. On Monday 14 January 2019, he was sentenced to five years imprisonment at Edinburgh High Court.

The investigation, which commenced in September 2018, centred on the interception of a Glock hand gun, 150 rounds of ammunition and a suppressor, supplied from the United States and purchased online by the male.

**The Organised Crime Partnership, which launched in September, is a multi-agency partnership involving Police Scotland and the National Crime Agency (NCA), with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) authorising investigative activity to tackle serious and organised crime.*

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.

Significant Drugs Detection – North East Division

Two parcels were intercepted by UK Border Force at Coventry International Parcel Hub which were found to contain approximately eight kilograms of MDMA. On Thursday 20 December, officers from the Organised Crime Partnership along with Police Scotland pro-active officers executed a search warrant at the intended recipient's home address in the Aberdeen area, which resulted in a further seizure of approximately 34 kilograms of MDMA and over £8,000. The drugs seized have an estimated street value in excess of £1,500,000. Two males, aged 22 and 26 years old respectively, have been arrested and charged.

Operation Diode - Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Division

Following a protracted intelligence led operation, on Thursday 20 December, four members of a Serious and Organised Crime Group were sentenced to an accumulated 19 years imprisonment. They were found guilty of producing over 1,600,000 Etizolam tablets, with an estimated street value in excess of £1,500,000, using a pill press machine within a garage in Paisley.

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.

Best Practice Exchange Vietnam

On Thursday 29 November, Police Scotland's National Human Trafficking Unit took part in a best practice round table event hosted by the United States Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam. Attendees included government officials, law enforcement, border security, representatives from the Vietnamese legal establishment, NCA and representatives from the United States, Australian and German Embassies. Discussion centred on trafficking within Vietnam and on the trafficking and migration between Vietnam and the UK, including transit countries. Police Scotland delivered a presentation on the current situation within Scotland involving Vietnamese nationals.

It was highlighted that collaborative working between Scotland and Vietnam would be a positive step forward, re-affirming both the UK and Vietnamese Government's commitment to the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding on anti-human trafficking co-operation, signed by the Vietnamese Minister of Public Security and UK Home Secretary.

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.

Festive Drink-Drive Awareness & Enforcement Campaign

Minister for Community Safety Ash Denham MSP, Lord Advocate James Wolffe QC and ACC Mark Williams launched the Festive Drink-Drive Awareness and Enforcement Campaign on Tuesday 27 November, at a high profile media event in Edinburgh, highlighting the criminal and personal consequences of being found guilty of drink driving. The campaign ran from Saturday 1 December – Wednesday 2 January 2019 and was led by Road Policing Division, offering support to local policing divisions across Scotland.

The campaign utilised an intelligence led approach, coupled with analytically evidenced-based deployment of resources, to areas with high instances of prior drink driving offences.

Of the 8,672 drivers stopped during the campaign, 565 drivers failed the road side breath test, compared with 567 drivers during the same period in 2017/18. Of the 565 offenders, 23 were detected the morning after, down from 39 in 2017/18. The campaign saw sustained positive coverage on social media, with strong support shown by the public.

3. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT**BREXIT**

As previously reported to the Board, Police Scotland is engaged at a National level, and on Wednesday 16 January, I attended the Chief Constable's Council, where Brexit was discussed at length. Additional engagement continues with the Home Office through the Strategic Capabilities Board.

No additional funding has yet been allocated for Brexit related contingencies. In order to fulfil our policing responsibilities, a decision has been taken to bring forward the recruitment of 120 officers in this financial year to ensure capacity and resilience is in place, to prepare against a range of contingencies associated with Brexit. The Deputy Chief Officer has been tasked with identifying savings in the current year to redirect funding to develop this additional capacity.

In 2019/20, it would not be appropriate to reduce the service by 300 officers in the first half of the financial year, as had been budgeted for. In practice we will frontload recruitment for the year while considering what measures will be necessary to remain within budget.

The situation remains dynamic however, I will continue to provide updates to the Authority on an ongoing basis.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF POLICING FOOTBALL IN SCOTLAND

As previously reported, DCC Will Kerr commissioned an Independent Review of Policing Football in Scotland, with DCC Mark Roberts who is the NPCC lead for football, appointed to conduct the review. During November, DCC Roberts visited Scotland where he conducted a variety of focus groups involving internal and external stakeholders. As part of the review, DCC Roberts attended the Rangers v Celtic fixture on Saturday 29 December.

The outcome of the Review will be presented to the Authority in due course.

JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICING

On Thursday 31 January, I will provide evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-Committee on Policing. This session will consider policing priorities for 2019/20 and policing related matters.

4. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

OPERATION WINTER CITY – EDINBURGH CITY DIVISION

Operation Winter City took place between 16 November and 5 January 2019, to maximise safety within Edinburgh City Centre during a period of markedly increased demand. Highlights included Light Night, Santa Parade, Social Bite Sleep in the Park, Torchlight Procession and the Hogmanay Street Party.

During the Winter City operation, officers provided a high visibility police presence throughout the Christmas venues and city centre area, with positive feedback from partners, communities and individuals, and also from the officers deployed on the detail.

Engagement opportunities with local residents, visitors, businesses and partners were enhanced and increased, delivering positive interventions and preventions, whilst developing effective joint working practices and working relationships. The increased police officer presence during these periods of high demand added great value to keeping the hundreds of thousands of visitors and local residents in the city centre safe.

Partnership working throughout the operation was key to its success.

Key partners involved included British Transport Police, City of Edinburgh Council, Underbelly, Victim Support Scotland, retailers and representatives of the licensing trade.

SIGNIFICANT FOOTBALL EVENTS

In December, Greater Glasgow Division hosted a number of high profile football matches including; Celtic v Salzburg, Rangers v Hibernian and Rangers v Celtic, with crowds of up to 60,000 supporters, requiring significant policing operations.

On Saturday 29 December, the Rangers v Celtic fixture at Ibrox football stadium involved a significantly reduced 'away' ticket allocation. This necessitated considerable changes to segregation arrangements for attending fans. It was policed by conventional and public order officers to ensure the safety of spectators and the match passed without issue.

On the same date, the Hibernian v Heart of Midlothian fixture took place at Easter Road stadium, Edinburgh. Prior to kick off, three males were arrested in the City Centre in possession of pyrotechnics. There were four further arrests during the match, with the most notable being a male arrested for allegedly shouting racial abuse.

The scheduling of both fixtures presented policing challenges however, the significant deployment of conventional, specialist and public order resources, delivered an effective policing plan to maximise the safety of those attending and minimise disruption to local communities.

C3 ABANDONED 999 CALLS

The number of abandoned/silent 999 calls (sometimes referred to as dropped 999) received by Police Scotland increased during the month of December. Each call necessitates the creation of a police incident and has to be investigated to ensure the safety of the caller. That ranges from cross-referencing the number on police systems to see if there have been previous calls, to calling back the number. This takes time which could be spent handling genuine emergency situations and helping people in real distress.

There were 434 incidents recorded within a 24 hour period over the 25/26 December. This compared with 242 and 257 incidents recorded within 24 hour periods in March and September, respectively.

Children being given their parent's phones, people trying out new devices received for Christmas, as well as phones being put away in pockets and handbags without the screen being locked, were thought to be the main reasons for the abandoned calls.

Public engagement was carried out through a number of media outlets appealing to members of the public to remain on the line in the event of accidental calls, to alleviate the demand impact on frontline resources.

5. OUR PEOPLE

STAFF PAY & REWARD MODERNISATION

Personal outcome letter packs were sent to staff on Friday 18 January. The packs provided information on the proposed Terms and Conditions, Pay and Grading structure, and confirmed the particular impact on each individual. Trade Unions will meet with their members in the coming weeks to ensure that staff fully understand the proposal. A future ballot will be held with all members invited to vote.

Comprehensive communication relating to Terms and Conditions and Pay and Grading, as well as an extensive list of FAQs, has been made available via the Staff Pay and Reward Modernisation section of the intranet.

WHISTLEBLOWING GUIDANCE – RELAUNCH

Police Scotland published its first Whistleblowing policy and supporting guidance in June 2017, to support individuals to feel confident in raising concerns when they reasonably believe that wrongdoing is being or has been done. Following the publication of the Scottish Police Authority Internal Audit Report in March 2018, by Scott Moncrieff Business Advisors and Accountants, a decision was taken to review the Force's current guidance on Whistleblowing.

This review is now complete and the revised guidance has been streamlined, delivering a proposed process which will enable Internal Disclosures to be made through the online Whistleblowing Report Form, which is forwarded automatically to the PSD National Gateway Assessment Unit for progression.

The revised draft guidance has undergone a standard consultation process prior to publication. In addition to internal reporting and those external options prescribed under the Public Interest Disclosure Act (1998), Police Scotland is seeking to engage an independent organisation whose expertise lies specifically in the Whistleblowing arena. This party will provide confidential, expert advice to officers, staff members and police management via a Whistleblowing advice phone line and advise both individuals and Police Scotland on what may constitute Whistleblowing.

SPECIALLY TRAINED OFFICERS - TASER

The roll out of Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs), commonly known as TASERs, to Specially Trained Officers (STOs) is now complete. 514 STOs have been trained and deploy across the country on a 24/7 basis as part of their operational roles. TASER has been used several times to prevent people coming to harm or resolve violent situations. These incidents are subject to rigorous scrutiny and referral is made to the Police Investigations & Review Commissioner in every incident where a TASER is discharged.

The Scottish Institute of Policing Research continue to evaluate the roll out of TASERs to STOs. The final report will be presented to the Chief Constable early in 2019, and thereafter shared with stakeholders.

6. DELIVERING STRATEGIC CHANGE**2019/20 REFORM & CAPITAL BUDGETS**

Work is ongoing to prioritise investment based on the draft Scottish Government budget for 2019/20. The draft budget allocation was considered at a meeting of the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing on 17 January, which heard evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Humza Yousaf MSP. In advance of this sub-committee appearance, a joint submission from Police Scotland and the SPA was produced and published.

CUSTODY RE-MODELLING PROJECT

The Custody Re-modelling Project is now in its delivery phase, with 150 new staff, in the omni-competent role of Criminal Justice PCSO, scheduled to be in-post across the nine Community Justice Hubs by the end of this financial year. The new role will enable staff to work across the three divisional functions (Custody, Productions and Records) and enable better demand management at a local and national level.

Estate improvements to enable the full alignment of the Division's functions are planned to begin in Inverness, Falkirk and Glasgow this month. Planning and design in the year two sites (Edinburgh, Dundee, Kirkcaldy, Motherwell and Kilmarnock) is also underway, with the work anticipated to be completed in 2019/20.

MOBILE WORKING PROJECT

Since the last Board meeting, funding has been approved for the mobile working project. A multi-million pound contract has been signed with EE to supply mobile services over a three year period. This will bring mobile devices to officers and enable them to access information remotely and spend more time in the communities they serve.

Implementation is scheduled to begin in Tayside Division in summer 2019, followed by the remaining divisions in the North of Scotland, before a phased roll out for the rest of Scotland.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report however, any financial implications which may occur throughout the delivery of policing operations have been considered by specific business areas.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct personnel implications associated with this report however, any specific personnel implications which may occur throughout the delivery of policing operations have been considered by specific business areas.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications associated with this report however, any specific legal implications which may occur throughout the delivery of policing operations have been considered by specific business areas.

10. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct reputational implications associated with this report however, any specific reputational implications which may occur throughout the delivery of policing operations have been considered by specific business areas.

11. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct social implications associated with this report however, any specific social implications which may occur throughout the delivery of policing operations have been considered by specific business areas.

12. COMMUNITY IMPACT

There is no direct community impact associated with this report however, examples of recent police investigations referenced within this report will undoubtedly have impacted on local communities. Local community impact assessments will have been carried out where appropriate.

13. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equalities implications associated with this report, however any specific equalities implications which may occur throughout the delivery of policing operations have been considered by specific business areas.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct environmental implications associated with this report however, any environmental implications which may occur throughout the delivery of policing operations have been considered by specific business areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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