

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	25 March 2020
Location	Tele-conference
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM
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. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

SERIOUS VIOLENCE (INCLUDING HOMICIDE)

Our priorities cut across all aspects of criminality and policing and we will tackle the areas that pose greatest threat and risk.

Murder of Brenda Page – North East Division

On Tuesday 17 March 2020, a 79 year old man was arrested for the murder of Doctor Brenda Page. Doctor Page, who was 32 years old, was found murdered in her flat at Allan Street, Aberdeen, in July 1978.

The 79 year old man appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on Wednesday 18 March and was released on bail.

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Our priorities cut across all aspects of criminality and policing and we will tackle the areas that pose greatest threat and risk.

Serious Organised Crime Taskforce

Police Scotland is an integral part of the Serious Organised Crime Taskforce in Scotland. The Taskforce is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, with membership including senior representatives from across the public, private and third sector.

On Monday 2 March 2020, the Taskforce published a report highlighting progress made to implement Scotland's Serious Organised Crime Strategy. Successes outlined in the report include the implementation of the Banking Protocol, which, as previously reported to the Authority, is a rapid response scheme designed to prevent bank customers falling victim to a scam. The Protocol has prevented more than £13m fraudulent transactions in Scotland, with many of the potential victims being in a position of vulnerability.

The report also highlighted the work of the Organised Crime Partnership, a multi-agency partnership involving Police Scotland and the National Crime Agency (NCA). This partnership has led a number of successful

operations, including detections and convictions relating to the seizure of firearms and ammunition.

County Lines Enforcement Activity

As previously reported to the Authority, 'county lines' is the name given to the practice of drug dealers from larger cities expanding their activities into smaller towns and rural areas, exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell controlled drugs, and often using violence to drive out local dealers. In February, Police Scotland carried out intelligence led enforcement activity targeting those involved in county lines, both in the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division and as part of a national day of action.

Officers from Police Scotland Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit provided specialist support, focused on a particular county line operation in the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division. This resulted in the arrest of two males, who were found to be in possession of crack cocaine and a five figure sum of cash. Both males appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs. They were released on bail with specific conditions restricting their movements in Scotland.

Officers from national and local divisions within Police Scotland also undertook a day of action which targeted those believed to be involved in county lines drugs supply. The operation, which was carried out in conjunction with Merseyside Police, Lancashire Constabulary, Cumbria Constabulary and British Transport Police, resulted in the arrest of 56 people for a variety of drug offences. This included the arrests of three males in Scotland, who were charged with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs following the seizure of heroin, crack cocaine and a four figure sum of cash in Aberdeen. The three males appeared at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on Thursday 26 February and were released on bail.

Partnership Activity – Lanarkshire Division

Between October 2019 and February 2020, an innovative partnership between Police Scotland and Local Authority Trading Standards Teams in Lanarkshire, continued to tackle harm inflicted on local communities by organised crime groups.

Focused on counterfeiting and doorstep crime, results included the seizure of around £250,000 in counterfeit goods, the reporting of five individuals in respect of frauds with a combined value in excess of

£130,000, and the identification of a number of Proceeds of Crime Act opportunities. Investigations were also carried out in conjunction with Home Office Immigration and HMRC, leading to civil penalty recovery team referrals. The success of the partnership approach was commended by the Executive Director of North Lanarkshire Council who is the DETER Strand Lead for Scotland's Serious Organised Crime Taskforce, and the Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

Our priorities cut across all aspects of criminality and policing and we will tackle the areas that pose greatest threat and risk.

Road Safety Campaigns

Police Scotland is committed to working in partnership to enhance road safety across Scotland. Road Policing officers continue to focus on improving driving behaviour, through high profile patrols, driver education and the enforcement of road traffic legislation. The latest Police Scotland enforcement campaign to promote road safety, supported by the Safety Camera Unit, took place between Monday 17 and Sunday 23 February. The campaign focused on reckless motorist behaviour including excessive speed, failure to wear a seatbelt and mobile phone use. It resulted in the detection of over 1,600 speeding offences, 24 seat belt offences and 21 mobile phone offences.

Our Vulnerable Road Users Campaign took place between Monday 16 and Sunday 22 March, focusing on the safety of cyclists and pedestrians. Through media messages and proactive patrolling by Road Policing officers, the campaign highlighted the collective responsibility to improve road safety, outlining simple steps which can be taken including being visible, alert to your surroundings, and demonstrating courtesy to other road users.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Supporting people considered vulnerable and working with partners to reduce harm.

Drugs Conference and Summit – Glasgow

Police Scotland continues to work with partners to address drug related issues in the communities of Scotland through prevention and enforcement activity. Assistant Chief Constable Gary Ritchie, who holds

portfolio responsibility for Partnership, Prevention and Community Wellbeing and represents Police Scotland on the Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce, attended the Scottish Drugs Death Crisis Conference and the UK Drugs Summit, both held in Glasgow in February.

On Wednesday 26 February, the Scottish Conference featured a number of sessions including lived/living experience and local approaches being developed by partners. On Thursday 27 February, the UK Summit considered a range of topics including public health surveillance and the development of new ways to identify the extent of the drugs market across the UK.

Naloxone Delivery Steering Group

As previously reported to the Authority, Police Scotland is considering a proposal to introduce a Test of Change exercise to explore the benefits and perceived issues around the carriage of Naloxone by police officers, and inform the development of a future evidence-based policy. A Delivery Steering Group, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Ritchie with representation from key internal and external partners and stakeholders, met for the first time on Thursday 12 March. The Steering Group will develop the proposed Test of Change using a whole systems approach, with priority areas for consideration identified.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Engaging with the public and communities to build resilience and prevent crime.

Cyber Scotland Week

Between Monday 17 and Sunday 23 February, the Police Scotland Cybercrime Harm Prevention Team held a series of events to promote cyber resilience across Scotland. Events included 'The Gathering' at the Scottish Event Campus, Glasgow, where cybercrime prevention and online safety advice was provided to visitors in conjunction with ethical hackers.

The team also delivered cyber resilience training to the Highlands and Islands Contest Protect & Prepare Group which included senior managers, HR professionals, finance and IT colleagues from partner organisations. Presentations were also delivered to educational establishments, social services and businesses in Orkney and Shetland.

National Hate Crime Campaign

The Police Scotland Hate Crime Campaign, supported by 'I Am Me

Scotland', was launched on Wednesday 4 March by Assistant Chief Constable Ritchie. With a particular focus on disability hate crime, the campaign recognises the significant under reporting of such incidents and is designed to raise awareness and encourage reporting by those who suffer from or witness crimes of this nature. The launch of the campaign was well publicised across various media outlets and is supported by social media platforms using the hashtag #DontTolerateHate, with the simple message that disability hate crime is never acceptable.

TACKLING CYBER RELATED CRIME

Building capability to address the threat from cyber related crime.

Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Protecting children is a key priority for Police Scotland and reports of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, committed by sexual predators in Scotland and worldwide, continue to rise. Police Scotland officers and specialist staff investigate online sexual abuse on a daily basis, tackling what is one of the most serious crime threats in Scotland. Cyber-enabled crime is increasing demand on policing in Scotland and elsewhere, and it is essential that despite funding challenges, we continue to invest in resources and new technologies, supporting officers to keep pace with this complex area of investigation.

On Wednesday 26 February, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland published their findings in respect of Police Scotland's response to online child sexual abuse, making ten recommendations. Police Scotland will carefully consider these recommendations and remains focused on protecting children in Scotland.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Delivering change that enables our people to deliver an effective and sustainable service.

Mobile Working

In February and March 2020, the roll out of mobile working in local policing divisions was completed, with officers in Forth Valley and Fife Divisions receiving mobile devices. As of Friday 6 March, over 7,500 officers have been trained and issued with mobile devices. There have been around 725,000 digital notebook entries and in excess of 77,000 witness statements recorded using mobile capability. Officers continue to provide extremely positive feedback and are offering suggestions to further improve and enhance mobile capability in the future.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

STRATEGIC COMMAND COURSE

On Wednesday 26 February, I attended the Strategic Command Course at the College of Policing in Ryton. I delivered an address to delegates where I offered some personal reflections on the challenges facing policing in the 21st century. As previously reported to the Authority, Police Scotland is heavily engaged in the Strategic Command Course and the experience and skills which are evident in Scotland add value to ongoing developments in policing, both nationally and internationally.

PARLIAMENTARY EVIDENCE SESSION

On Thursday 27 February, accompanied by Chief Financial Officer James Gray, I provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament Public Audit and Post-Legislative Scrutiny Committee, after evidence from the Scottish Police Authority Vice Chair, Interim Chief Executive and former Chair. The evidence session related to the Auditor General for Scotland's report, 'The 2018/19 Audit of the Scottish Police Authority', and considered a number of areas relating to policing in Scotland, including financial sustainability and overall governance and scrutiny arrangements.

Following this evidence session, on Thursday 11 March, along with Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor, I participated in a round table session, hosted by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. The session considered governance and accountability arrangements for policing in Scotland and was also attended by the SPA Vice Chair, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, the Auditor General, and Scottish Government officials.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)

The Police Scotland Strategic Oversight Board continues to meet on a fortnightly basis, and on Thursday 12 March, I attended the latest meeting of the COP26 Operations Board in London, hosted by the Chief Executive for COP26. This was a positive meeting which evidenced continued progress in a number of areas.

On the same day, Assistant Chief Constable Bernard Higgins and Chief Financial Officer James Gray provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament Justice Sub-Committee on Policing in respect of the policing arrangements for COP26. The evidence session considered a number of areas including the proposed operational response, logistics, governance

arrangements and financial implications.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Contingency planning and response measures continue to ensure Police Scotland is prepared to address the rapidly developing situation in respect of COVID-19 and its impact, both in Scotland's communities and within the Service itself. Under the strategic direction of Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham, a police command structure is in place which is directly engaged with Scottish Government, UK Government, partner agencies and police forces across the UK, through well-established resilience and co-ordination arrangements.

The policing arrangements in respect of COVID-19 will be further outlined later in the Board meeting.

6. OUR PEOPLE

POLICE SCOTLAND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (PSYV) GLOBAL CHALLENGE

The Police Scotland International Development and Innovation Unit (IDIU) is providing support to the Malawian and Zambian Police as part of a Scottish Government funded programme relating to Police, Partnerships and the Criminal Justice System. This builds on previous support provided to enhance the protection of vulnerable groups in both countries, particularly in respect of sexual and gender based violence.

Engaging with young people is an important part of this work. The IDIU developed the PSYV Global Challenge to encourage partnership working, enhance personal development and the sharing of experience and learning. The PSYV Global Challenge asked young people involved in PSYV to develop proposals for programmes that could make a difference to young people and their communities in Malawi and Zambia. Following an intensive process involving 60 applicants, eight young people were selected to fully develop their proposals. On Sunday 23 February, the eight finalists presented projects on topics including first aid, bicycle maintenance, eco-bricks, eco-friendly lighting and baby care to the judging panel. Based on the calibre of the presentations, all eight young people have been selected to travel to Malawi and Zambia to share experiences with African counterparts who are undertaking a similar process.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S BRAVERY AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS

On Friday 28 February, I was delighted to host the Chief Constable's Bravery and Excellence Awards at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan. The awards ceremony was the first time that bravery and excellence had been recognised at a joint event, and was an opportunity to recognise outstanding feats of bravery and celebrate innovation and excellence in policing in Scotland.

The award citations illustrate the type of service police officers and staff deliver every day, demonstrating bravery, professionalism, compassion and kindness, to support their fellow citizens in Scotland. The ceremony was an opportunity to pause and reflect on selfless acts of courage which make a real difference to people at their greatest time of need, and allowed us to thank and formally recognise members of the public for their assistance.

PROBATIONER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

On Friday 6 March, 216 probationary constables concluded their initial training at the Scottish Police College to undertake operational roles in local communities, marking the occasion at their Final Parade. As Inspecting Officer, I was impressed by the pride, dedication and enthusiasm for public service which was clearly evident, and I wish each officer well as they embark on a career in policing in Scotland.

As previously outlined in my letter dated 14 February to the SPA Vice-Chair, due to the increased demand associated with COP26, its impact on business as usual policing and concurrent policing demands, I instructed the initiation of a process to recruit the annual complement of new officers in advance of COP26. Work continues to achieve this and on Monday 23 March, over 300 recruits are scheduled to commence their initial training at the Scottish Police College. This represents the highest intake in a single cohort in the history of Police Scotland and is testament to the enduring attraction of policing as a career. Further intakes are scheduled for June and August.

CHIEF'S FORUM

On Wednesday 11 March, I held the latest Chief's Forum, an intranet based discussion forum where officers and staff have the opportunity to put questions directly to me and members of the Force Executive.

This is an excellent opportunity to engage widely across the Service and

144 questions were received on a variety of topics including people, equipment, technology, promotion process and the response to COVID-19. The questions were considered during the Strategic Leadership Board with responses provided via the intranet, and I was again encouraged with the quality, depth and breadth of questions received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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