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Angus Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee
Quarter 4 ending 31 March 2024

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Introduction and Overview of Local Policing Priorities

As from April 2013, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 has required Divisional Commanders to produce and publish a Local Policing Plan (LPP) for each local authority area. The Angus LPP 2023-2026 clearly sets out the policing objectives for Angus and will report to the Angus Scrutiny and Audit Committee. Quarterly Performance Reports are produced to allow scrutiny by Angus Scrutiny and Audit Committee. This report covers the period from 1 January until 31 March 2024.

In line with the Angus LPP, the Quarterly Performance Report provides a more holistic overview of progress across the service to meet our strategic outcomes. This approach provides a wider and more detailed picture of traditional policing performance measures, supplemented with additional insight and narrative to the many different aspects of policing and corporate support functions.

The measures are longer term focussed rather than reflecting the ongoing performance of the day-to-day operational challenges we face and aim to provide evidence of the effectiveness and impact of our services as a whole.

We have introduced a number of key performance measures and insights questions in support of our local police plan to focus attention on impact and outcomes. For example:

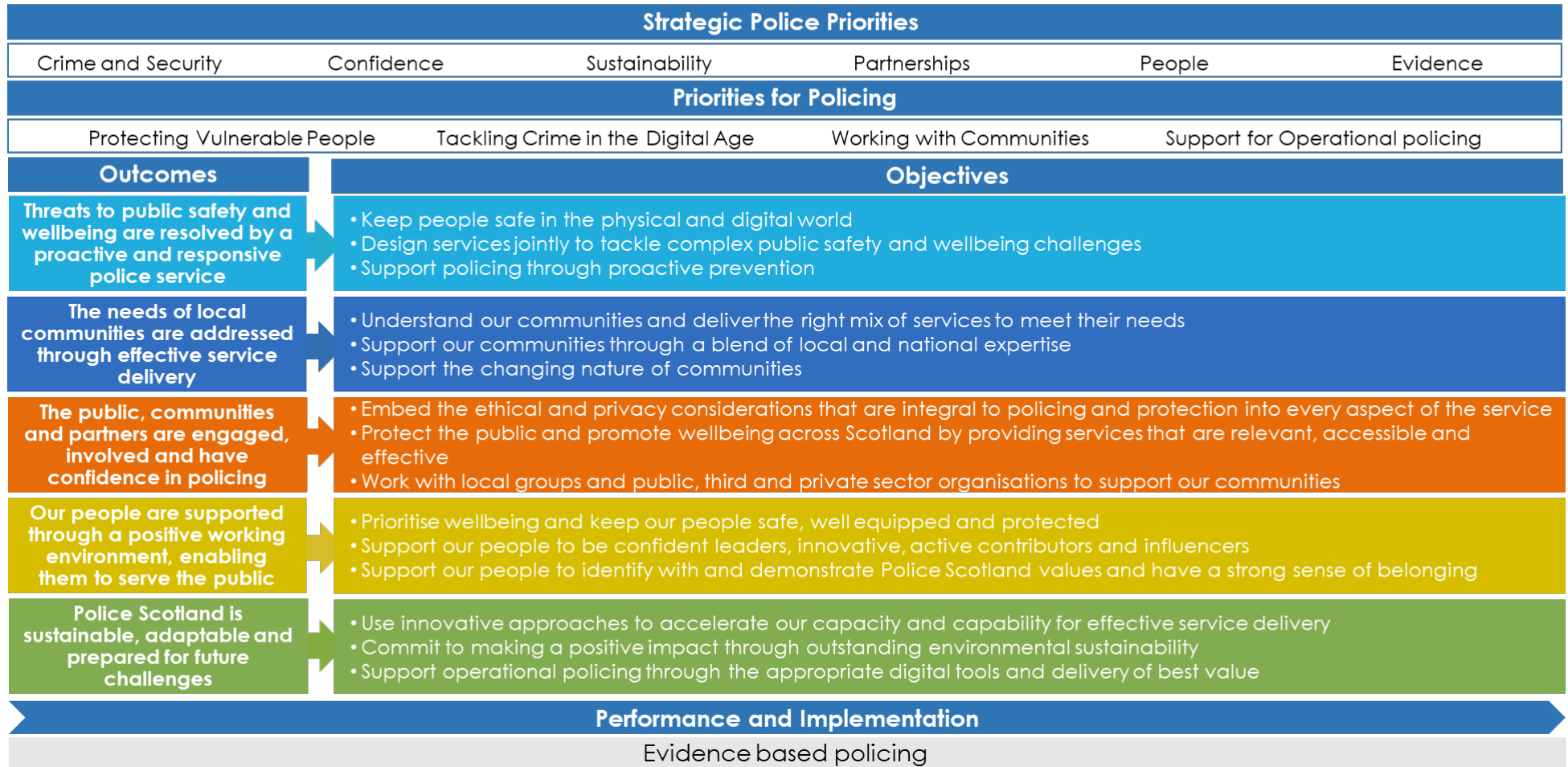
- How effective are the diversionary activities provided?
- How effective are the processes in place to prevent acquisitive crime?
- How well are we engaging with the public?
- What progress has been made in terms of collaboration and what percentage of the divisional estate is co-located with partners?

To enable a more detailed examination by the Committee of specific local priorities and strategic outcomes, a 'Spotlight' focus will be provided on one of the priority areas on a quarterly basis. The Spotlight focus will rotate each quarter in line with the expected updates outlined in the Angus LPP.

Police Scotland's strategic objectives



Our Vision | Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland
Our Purpose | The purpose of policing is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland
Our Values | Fairness | Integrity | Respect | Human Rights





Plan On a Page - Angus Local Policing Plan 2023-2026

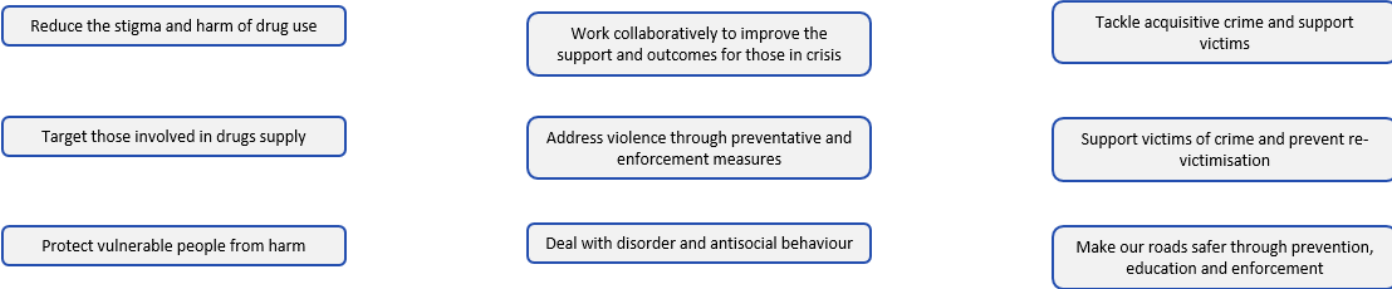
Our Vision Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland
Our Purpose Improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland
Our Values Fairness Integrity Respect Human Rights

PUBLIC HEALTH

Local Policing Priorities



Local Policing Objectives



Police Scotland Strategic Outcomes



PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

PERSON CENTRED APPROACH

PARTNERSHIPS

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Quarter 4 - Performance on a Page – 1st January 2024 to 31 March 2024

	Recorded Crimes			Change		Detection Rates			% point Change	
	CYTD	LYTD	5yr Av	From LYTD	From 5 yr Av.	CYTD	LYTD	5yr AV	From LYTD	From 5 Yr Av.
ASB and Disorder										
Overall Grp 4	599	690	778	-13.2%	-23.0%	32.1%	30.6%	39.6%	1.5%	-7.6%
ASB Incidents	5041	5236	6310	-3.7%	-20.1%	-	-	-	-	-
Violence										
Robbery	23	19	25	21.1%	-7.3%	82.6%	84.2%	69.4%	-1.6%	13.3%
Serious Assault	56	58	56	-3.4%	0	76.8%	75.9%	84.2%	0.9%	-7.4%
Common Assault (excluding Emergency Workers)	859	950	1021	-9.6%	-15.8%	74.0%	71.6%	72.4%	2.5%	1.7%
Public Protection										
Overall Group 2	306	380	356	-19.5%	-14.1%	60.8%	58.4%	57.4%	2.4%	3.4%
Rape	39	65	55	-40.0%	-28.8%	60.5%	41.5%	44.4%	19.0%	16.2%
Domestic Abuse	41	57	-	-28.1%	-	80.5%	77.2%	-	3.3%	-
Road Safety										
Speeding offences	120	72	1026	66.7%	-88.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Drink / Drug Driving	137	85	122	61.2%	12.5%	99.3%	96.5%	95.4%	2.8%	1.1%
Acquisitive Crime										
HBs	186	156	171	19.2%	8.8%	39.8%	39.7%	32.2%	0.1%	7.6%
Dwelling HBs	86	62	72	38.7%	18.8%	36%	33.9%	25.4%	2.1%	10.6%
Motor Vehicle Crime	210	231	172	-9.1%	22.2%	46.7%	45.0%	43.9%	1.6%	2.8%
Fraud	327	252	180	29.8%	81.9%	16.8%	23.8%	24.8%	-7.0%	-8.0%
Shoplifting	558	415	313	34.5%	78.0%	54.5%	63.6%	68.3%	-9.1%	-13.8%

Overall Group 2' All Sexual Crimes including Rape & Attempts, Indecent & Sexual Assaults, Prostitution Offences and 'Other' Group 2 Crimes.

Overall Group 4' All Fireraising, Vandalism, Reckless Conduct and 'Other' Group 4 Crimes.

Local Priority/Activity – Address violence through preventative and enforcement measures

The approach to violent crime in the Angus local authority area continues to be delivered via a blend of preventative and enforcement activity. Angus remains a safe place to live and when violent crime does occur there is a high detection rate with offenders quickly brought to justice. The following paragraphs will review performance figures up to the end of Q4 across a range of crime types.

Murder / Attempted Murder

There were no Murders and 4 Attempted Murders during the 2023/24 performance year. All Attempted Murders have been detected and have been reported to COPFS.

4 Attempted Murders is an increase from the 2 crimes committed during LYTD, however the numbers remain extremely low. The 100% detection rate in respect of Attempted Murders has now been maintained for the past 5 years.

Serious Assault

There were 56 Serious Assaults reported during the 2023/24 performance year. This is a reduction from the 58 reported LYTD and remains consistent with the 5 year average. During Q4 there were 14 crimes recorded, which is comparable with occurrence rates for this crime type in all previous quarters.

The detection rate for the performance year was 76.8%, which is a 0.9% increase on LYTD figures.

The common factors in respect of the commission of these crimes have not changed during Q4. The presence of drugs and alcohol on the part of both victims and perpetrators continues to feature heavily. In a high number of cases victims and perpetrators are known to each other prior to the commission of the crime and weapons have featured in those crimes where more serious injuries have occurred.

The following provides a practical example of some of our work on this crime type during Q4.

During late March, 2024 Police were called to an address in Arbroath where a report had been received that a male had been struck by a baseball bat leaving swelling and a cut which required several stitches.

The response from uniform officers was immediate. This allowed Police to quickly obtain an account from key witnesses who were able to identify the perpetrator. The perpetrator was swiftly arrested, charged and presented in front of a local Sheriff.

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Robbery

There were 23 Robberies reported during the 2023/24 performance year. This is a slight rise from the 19 reported LYTD, however remains below the 5 year average of 25 crimes. There were 6 Robberies reported during Q4, which again is consistent with the average number of crimes committed each quarter across the performance year.

The detection rate for the performance year was 82.6%, which is a slight decrease from 84.2% LYTD, however confirms that 19 out of the 23 crimes reported were detected. This maintains a significant increase against the 5 year average detection rate which is 69.4%.

It remains the case that the causal factors in respect of Robberies remain consistent with those linked to Serious Assaults, as outlined in the earlier part of this report.

An example of the approach adopted in investigating and detecting the crime of Robbery from Q4 is provided below.

In March, 24 an adult was walking home from a local night club when they were attacked by a group of four people. During this assault a mobile phone was stolen. On returning home the complainer called '999' and response officers immediately attended to ensure they were safe and to establish the facts.

The case was taken up by Detectives from Angus CID who were later made aware of a video emerging on social media which captured the robbery as it took place. Detective officers approached staff at various licensed premises who provided great assistance to the investigation, with combined CCTV footage resulting in each assailant being identified and subsequently charged with robbery.

Common Assault

There were 859 Common Assaults reported during the 2023/24 performance year. This demonstrates a significant reduction in occurrence rates when compared to the 950 crimes reported LYTD. As the 5 year average is 1021 crimes, this demonstrates a strong positive trend in reducing this crime type.

The detection rate for the performance year was 74%, which is a 2.5% increase when compared to LYTD figures and a 1.7% increase against the 5 year average.

The above progress in respect of Common Assaults has not translated across to figures pertinent to Assaults committed against Emergency Workers.

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This performance year has seen the commission of 124 Common Assaults against Emergency Workers, which is a 39.3% increase on LYTD. This figure is by far the highest occurrence rate seen in the past 5 years and compares to a 5 year average figure of 89 crimes.

We continue to have in place robust procedures to support officers in the aftermath of such incidents. These statistics demonstrate the determination and courage of local Emergency Workers as they carry out duties designed to safeguard the people of Angus, often at significant risk to themselves. I would recognise that the vast majority of people in our communities value the work of the Emergency Services, however this persistent increase in violence remains a matter of concern.

Rape and Sexual Crime

The crime of Rape and other serious sexual offences can have a profound impact on victims both psychologically and physically and can affect community confidence. Police Scotland is committed to protecting vulnerable people and preventing all forms of abuse. The focus of any Rape or sexual crime investigation must be victim focused with the safety and wellbeing of victims being our primary concern.

There were 306 sexual crimes reported during the 2023/24 performance year. This demonstrates a reduction of 74 crimes (-19.5%) in comparison to LYTD and is 14.1% less than the 5 year average. There were 39 crimes of Rape or Attempted Rape recorded during the same period, demonstrating a reduction of 26 crimes (-40%) in comparison to LYTD. This also delivers a reduction of 28.8% against the 5 year average.

Detection rates for all Sexual Crime during the 2023/24 performance year were 60.8%, which is a 2.4% increase on LYTD figures and a 3.4% increase against the 5 year average. In respect of Rape and Attempted Rape detection rates were 60.5%, which is a 19% increase on LYTD and an increase of 16.2% against the 5 year average.

Rape and sexual crime inquiries can be complex and difficult to investigate, evidence and progress to prosecution. Investigations can be protracted and in some cases victims will have waited to report offences for a number of years. The reported figures will include investigations that remain under active investigation by specialist units including the Divisional Rape Investigation Unit and National Rape Task Force.

In a number of cases, multiple crime reports will have been raised in respect of one report from one victim, detailing multiple incidents over a period of time. In the majority of cases the victim and perpetrator are known to one another.

All Rape investigations are conducted by specially trained officers and are overseen by an experienced Senior Investigating Officer (SIO). All crimes are subject to regular review to ensure that all available lines of enquiry are identified and progressed.

Investigations

Reactive CID take ownership of Serious Assault and Robbery investigations in most cases unless there is an early detection negating requirement for protracted investigation and their involvement.

The Detective Inspector responsible for the CID in the Local Policing Area will ensure undetected crimes of this nature are subject to regular scrutiny / review to ensure all investigative opportunities are identified and progressed in a timeous manner.

We continue to take proactive steps to reduce instances of violence across Angus.

These steps include careful analysis of violent crimes, ensuring that we quickly identify emerging trends, repeat locations and repeat offenders. Daily tasking is completed to ensure all violent offenders subject to apprehension warrants are arrested quickly and presented to the court. We carefully collate details of all known offenders subject to bail conditions, ensuring that intrusive checks are completed to ensure compliance. Arrests are made where orders are breached.

Those suspected of committing crimes of Domestic violence are discussed daily and enforcement action is prioritised based on robust risk assessments, supported by carefully considered safety plans for those at risk of further harm.

We continue to deliver proactive patrols in key locations linked to the night-time economy where violence can be more prevalent and where local engagement has informed us that people feel less safe.

The detection rates delivered against violent crime this year remain some of the best across the country, demonstrating that the prevention and detection of violence remains an absolute priority, as we are determined to ensure Angus remains a safe place to stay, work in and visit.

Local Priority/Activity – Deal with disorder and antisocial behaviour

Police Scotland recognises the importance of working with partners to reduce the risk of vulnerability to individuals and our wider communities.

We continue to prevent and deter instances of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), building and developing close working practices with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), the local authority Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Housing providers and Trading Standards, along with a range of others who have a shared interest in reducing the impact of ASB.

There were 5,041 recorded ASB incidents during the 2023/24 performance year. There were 5,236 incidents recorded LYTD, meaning we have seen a 3.7% reduction. This also delivers a 20.1% decrease against the 5 year average.

The following paragraphs will provide a broad range of examples of work carried out by local policing teams across Angus during Q4, to prevent occurrences of ASB with a particular focus on engagement and education.

High Visibility Patrols and Engagement

During Q4, local Community Policing Teams have carried out high visibility patrols in the town centres of Forfar and Kirriemuir. Regular reassurance and crime prevention visits have been carried out to businesses operating during evening hours and to other shops which have unfortunately been identified as victims of repeated incidents of antisocial behaviour. Youths involved in antisocial behaviour have been identified, they have initially been spoken to in the presence of their parents before being referred to partner agencies and education.

In response to concerns regards ASB linked to football matches, targeted high visibility patrols were delivered in Brechin town centre and the Ward Road area on match days. These delivered positive engagement opportunities, which were used to educate on the impact ASB has on local communities. These issues were monitored through-out the quarter, with incidents reduced significantly following police intervention.

Regular community drop in events have been held in both Kirriemuir and Forfar. These events have been supported by partners in Housing and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The events were delivered at a range of venues, including local fire stations and the Community Flat, Glens, Forfar. These allowed local residents the opportunity to engage with and raise concerns directly with the most appropriate agency.

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The Forfar Youth Community drop in has started to deliver some successes in reducing the number of Youth ASB calls received by the Police, due to the provision of a positive community resource that can be accessed by younger people.

Our Preventions and Intervention Team continue to attend weekly housing association meetings to focus on identification and targeting of emerging ASB issues. They have supported a number of proactive patrols working alongside our community teams to tackle and deter anti-social behaviour in repeat locations, including specific housing visits to identified addresses and ASB letter drops.

Community Teams have been engaging with local residents during 'Coffee with a Cop' events. These help to foster trusting relationships in order to identify issues in local communities, build intelligence and offer solutions or identify partners to assist. We continue to provide a multi-agency response to ASB, alongside SFRS, ASBT, Housing and Trading Standards, with a shared interest in reducing the impact these instances can have on local communities.

Enforcement Action

The Arbroath Community Policing Team took ownership of a series of vandalisms, malicious mischief and fire raising in Arbroath estimated to have resulted in £25,000 of damage. A thorough investigation was completed, supported by local community members resulting in 2 youths being charged with several offences and reported to the Youth Justice Assessor for consideration.

Responding to concerns regards youths congregating in an abandoned and dangerous building in the Letham Grage area, a series of targeted patrols were delivered. These resulted in 5 youths being traced within the building and returned to their parents where positive responses were received. No further complaints have been received and work continues with the owner to consider the security of the site.

Schools

Local Community Policing Teams have been working hard through-out Q4 in collaboration with both primary and secondary schools across Angus. School talks have been delivered in schools in Arbroath, Kirriemuir and Forfar, linked to issues such as violence, hate crime and the dangers of social media. Working closely with teachers at Arbroath High School positive action has been taken in respect of fire raisings within the school resulting in the perpetrators being identified and appropriate action taken to mitigate against the harm of this behaviour.

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Officers have attended Maisondieu Primary School, completing educational work aligned to online safety and the use of social media, plus delivering a 'One punch, one life' input to the P6 year group. This activity within the school was built upon through the delivery of a Junior SafeTaysiders Event which included inputs from Police Scotland, Trading Standards, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and Royal Highland Education Trust.

The 'Pitchin In' programme has been delivered to S1 pupils at Brechin High, along with S1 and S2 pupils at Montrose Academy. This is a Police Scotland youth initiative which assists young people to develop decision making skills, prevent young people being drawn into ASB associated with football disorder and wider youth ASB behaviours. These programmes were delivered in collaboration with colleagues in Education and members of both Montrose and Brechin City football clubs.

Licensing

During Q4, the Divisional Licensing Team processed 356 licence applications for the Angus local authority area. This included applications for occasional licenses to allow premises to have additional outdoor areas, variation to premise licences, renewals and grants for taxi operators and drivers and renewals. There were 24 inspections carried out throughout Angus, with 2 recorded incidents of ASB at or in the vicinity of licensed premises. No single premises was identified as problematic during this period.

The Divisional Licensing Team have been working closely with our local Community Policing Teams in response to concerns regards the underage purchase of alcohol. Where there has been any suggestion that alcohol sales to underage persons have occurred, licensed premises visits have been carried out with a particular focus on education and prevention.

During Q4, 48 applications for short term let properties have been processed and these are expected to continue throughout the year.

Local Priority/Activity – Tackle acquisitive crime and support victims

Levels of Acquisitive Crime continue to be impacted by the cost of living crisis, with increases in occurrence rates across a range of Acquisitive Crimes seen nationally. Our tactical approach to Acquisitive Crimes continues to be directed by the work of the Divisional Acquisitive Crime Group, which meets monthly and is chaired by the Detective Chief Inspector, Reactive CID. This groups brings together representatives from across local and national Divisions who are working within Tayside, including representatives of our Roads Policing Unit, Specialist Crime Division and Operational Support Units.

The groups are supported by the inclusion of a Community Crime analyst, who brings a detailed analytical document for discussion to ensure that resources are best targeted towards repeat offenders, areas where crime levels are higher and those crime types which are causing most community concern.

The Divisional Acquisitive Crime Team and wider Reactive CID continue to take responsibility for investigating crimes series in the Angus area. This provides enhanced investigative ability and targeted resources.

The Acquisitive Crime Team meet every morning with colleagues from neighbouring Divisions. This results in links to cross border crime series being identified quickly, maximising intelligence / evidential opportunities and delivering cohesive regional crime investigations.

The following paragraphs will review the performance statistics which are detailed at the start of this report, in respect of some key Acquisitive crime types.

Theft by Housebreaking

There were 186 crimes of Housebreaking reported over the 2023/24 performance year. Overall, this is an increase of 30 crimes in comparison to LYTD figures and is also in excess of the 5 year average. The figures in respect of both HBs to Dwelling houses and Commercial premises have seen similar increases through-out the year.

The detection rate for the 2023/24 performance year was 39.8% which is an increase of 0.1% in comparison to last year and delivers an increase of 7.6% against the 5 year average.

There are two distinct groups of offenders relevant to the above crimes, which are local opportunists and more organised criminal groups who are prepared to travel extensively across the country to commit crime, in an attempt to enhance the chances of going undetected. When both are considered together the impact on crime occurrence rates are significant.

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The following paragraphs provide a practical demonstration of the activity carried out to detect and prosecute those offenders linked to the commission of Theft HBs.

A series of rural Theft HB occurred in a rural area close to Forfar. A range of lines of enquiry were completed, including detailed forensic examinations, CCTV reviews, door to door enquiries and media requests to encourage any potential witnesses to come forward. As the investigation progressed search warrants were sought, granted and executed resulting in the recovery of a range of stolen property including power tools and stolen vehicles. Two adult male offenders were arrested and charged with a range of offences.

A Commercial premises in Forfar was subject to a Theft HB. Search warrants were sought to recover items of stolen property. On execution of the warrant a number of younger people were traced within a property where a range of stolen property was recovered including alcohol and a significant number of vapes. Reports were submitted to the Children's Reporter, with detailed referrals submitted to partner agencies.

Motor Vehicle Crime

There were 210 Motor Vehicle crimes reported during the 2023/24 performance year. This statistic includes a range of offences including the Theft / Attempt Theft of Motor vehicles and Thefts of property from both secure and insecure vehicles. This occurrence rate is a decrease of 21 crimes when compared to the 231 crimes reported LYTD. Occurrence rates in Q4 were consistent with other quarters earlier in the year.

Detection rates in respect of Motor Vehicle crime for the 2023/24 performance year were 46.7%, which is an increase of 1.6% in comparison to LYTD figures and an increase of 2.8% in comparison to the 5 year average.

Of the crime types included in these statistics there are two notable areas which are worthy of further focus. Firstly, the occurrence rates pertinent to the Theft of Motor Vehicles has in fact increased this year.

The method of perpetration often related to travelling criminals coming into the Angus area and carrying out multiple crimes within a short period of time, before moving on to other parts of the country. These travelling offenders are subject to regional and national focus and collaboration, as they are active across the country.

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Secondly, of the 210 crimes recorded 92 crimes related to the commission of Thefts from vehicles which were insecure. This is the single highest crime type recorded and demonstrates that a lax approach to security significantly increases an individual's likelihood of becoming the victim of Theft. We continue to use social media and mainstream media strategies to highlight the importance of locking vehicles and keeping high value items out of sight, as simply locking doors and closing windows is often a sufficient deterrent and could see substantive decreases in occurrence rates in this area.

The following paragraph provides a practical demonstration of the activity carried out to detect and prosecute those offenders linked to the commission of Motor Vehicle crime.

During Q4 a significant acquisitive crime series occurred within the Letham, Forfar and Monifieth areas whereby 12 crimes took place as part of a division wide series. Working in tandem with partners in Dundee the perpetrator was identified from CCTV footage at a garage forecourt and following enforcement with search warrants a quantity of stolen property was recovered. Each of the 12 crimes were detected and the perpetrator later pled guilty to the offences at court.

Fraud

There were 327 crimes of Fraud recorded during the 2023/24 performance year. This is an increase of 29.8% in comparison to LYTD. These local increases are consistent with the national picture and are driven substantively by the commission of Cyber-enabled Frauds perpetrated by offenders outwith the United Kingdom.

Locally our focus remains on prevention, understanding that detecting offences committed outwith our legal jurisdiction is not going to significantly reduce occurrence rates.

To that end, we are engaged in several schemes, designed to support local people avoid becoming victims of Fraud, or preventing them from becoming repeat victims should they be targeted. One example of this is the Banking Protocol.

Banking Protocol is a preventive measure put in place to protect and aid any member of the public that may be susceptible to any form of scam or fraud.

If banking staff are suspicious of activity they can freeze or refuse payment to protect the person and their funds. The customer is contacted and made aware by banking staff, who also report concerns to Police, who will thereafter investigate any potential criminality. Referrals are submitted to the local authority, often resulting in review via FAST (Financial Abuse Support Team) if deemed appropriate.

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Angus follows the nationwide pattern of recording crimes of fraud, sextortion and scams. Over this period, we have held numerous FAST meetings with Angus Council Adult Protection partners, safeguarding victims and putting in place measures to prevent any repeat crimes. There have been 48 FAST meetings completed during this performance year, focussed on some of the most vulnerable to financial abuse.

Over the course of this performance year Banking Protocol Interventions have safeguarded £477,500 which was being actively targeted by Fraudsters.

Preventions

During Q4, a substantive number of targeted activities were completed, with a view to suppressing acquisitive crime across our local communities. The following paragraphs offer some examples.

Members of our Local Community Policing Teams worked closely with colleagues from the British Transport Police during days of action linked to Montrose Train Station. This activity was designed to tackle both those involved in County Lines who may be seeking to transport drugs via the rail network, but also offered opportunities to tackle and disrupt those travelling into the area for the purpose of committing rural acquisitive crime.

Where crimes of dishonesty such as Theft by Shoplifting were accompanied by ASB or violence, our Community Policing Teams have delivered regular reassurance visits to victims, providing crime prevention advice and support. The victims of crime, with their consent, have been referred to partner agencies such as Victim Support Scotland. Local Officers prioritise detection and apprehension of repeat offenders, linking crimes and reporting them together to ensure the court has a full and up to date picture of an individual's repeat offending.

Community Policing Teams delivered engagement events at both Hillside Church and Edzell Community Cottage promoting the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, whilst also having a stall with a range of crime prevention material, advice and signposting to online resources. These events were supported by colleagues from Trading Standards.

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Local Community Policing Teams across Angus worked in conjunction with officers from our Partnerships and Interventions Team and Police Scotland Youth Volunteers through-out Q4. This activity focussed on crime prevention during darker nights, under the banner of our 'After Dark' campaign. This initiative highlights properties which may be at increased risk of criminality due to either being in an area identified as being subjected to previous acquisitive crime, or properties seen to be in darkness with no apparent additional security measures. It delivers direct interventions to those seen to be at higher risk of becoming the victim of an acquisitive crime, whilst also focussing on a more general leaflet drop to offer advice and signposting to broader crime prevention resources.

During Q4 and responding to rises in Vehicle crime in Monikie during January, 2024 a targeted leaflet drop was organised for the area. Crime prevention literature was delivered along with information on rural crime and the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland scheme. Special Constables and Police Scotland Youth Volunteers supported the initiative.

The Carnoustie Community Policing Team assisted with the organisation of a Tackling Rural Crime Together event along with Scottish Land and Estates and the national Partnership Against Rural Crime (PARC) group. This event focused on building links with the rural community to offer support and guidance in relation to rural crime, particularly acquisitive crimes. The event was well attended and has helped reinvigorate an appetite for the Angus PARC group, with forthcoming meetings now being planned.

Community Policing Teams have provided staff training at establishments which operate as keep safe premises. This initiative is part of the "I Am Me" programme and offers support to vulnerable persons in the community by providing them with a safe space to attend at times of crises or when additional support maybe required. Currently there are 42 Keep Safe places across Angus and our teams are currently re-visiting these to ensure compliance to the required standards, with further visits arranged for potential new locations. Keep Safe Awareness Week was delivered during Q4, and refresher training was delivered to our Community Policing teams with the assistance of the national lead officer. This has increased our capacity to raise awareness, assist with compliance checks and refresh social media advertising of this invaluable service.

In Q4 an increase in crimes targeted towards vulnerable people was identified. These crimes related to criminals who either befriending vulnerable people or asking them for assistance under false pretences, to gain access to their homes or finances with the intention of stealing from them.

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Often these vulnerable people provided money, belongings, or transport voluntarily in the belief that they were being helpful and assisting someone in need. In many cases, victims felt too afraid to turn the person away. This investigation has been a long running collaboration between local Community Policing Teams and CID officers taking time to build the confidence of victims, secure evidence and identify offenders. Detailed safety plans have been implemented and referrals made to appropriate partner agencies. Where appropriate Community Teams have engaged with neighbours and family to ensure that others are looking out for the wellbeing of victims.

The investigation remains ongoing, however notable arrests have been made and many offences have now been detected. This activity has been underpinned by a recent media release seeking to inform of this crime type and support any other victims to contact local officers for assistance.

The Preventions team continue to support victims of high value thefts and HBs by carrying out a site visit and offering suitable crime prevention advice. Officers are working alongside colleagues, internally and externally, including Victim Support Scotland to look at preventative measures and ways to safeguard vulnerable persons and target repeat offenders.

The Retailers Against Crime intel database is now being utilised by our Divisional Intelligence Officers DLIO which is improving the intelligence flow received regards those who are actively shoplifting and we hope this will assist in strengthening our response to this crime type.

Local Priority/Activity – Enable and support effective engagement and communication with the public

This section of the report has been prepared using data gathered via our Your Police continuous public feedback survey and the User Experience Survey. An outline of the methodology for both surveys is outlined below.

Your Police is open all year and is available for anyone to complete at any time to provide feedback to their local police service. It is fully accessible on our online Engagement Hub which meets legislative standards for accessibility and is compatible with browser translation. It is available in British Sign Language and alternative languages and formats on request. We have gathered around 100,000 responses to this survey since its launch in 2019. Responses help shape policing in local areas.

The User Experience Survey is sent to a sample of around 14,000 people each month who have contacted the police. An invitation to participate in the survey is sent via text message. The sample is made up of a representative number of people who have contacted the police to report crime (calls, online reporting, email, face to face) from all areas in Scotland over the previous month. Around 1,800 people respond each month to share their feedback on the quality of the service they received. This survey has been delivered in this format since 2020. To ensure our data is robust and independent, research fieldwork is delivered by our social research partner, Progressive Partnership Ltd.

Anonymous data is gathered and presented in a number of Insight Dashboards available to all within Police Scotland which helps inform local service delivery. We Asked, You Said, We Did feedback is shared regularly on social media channels, nationally and locally, to ensure we communicate in a dialogue with the public about what we are doing to respond to what they told us. Our drivers of public confidence are shaped based on our rich understanding of the data. We know that service visibility and accessibility, community engagement and how our people demonstrate our values and behaviours all drive positive user interactions and maintain public confidence within the service.

The statements below are presented to respondents in our Your Police survey. They are invited to rate to what extent they agree or disagree with the statement. Figures below include those who said they strongly agree and agree, excluding don't know and not answered. Numbers in brackets indicate the sample size (total number of respondents).

We do not report on less than 20 respondents to ensure robustness of data.

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Public Opinion Statements D Division	Q1 22/23 (24)	Q2 22/23 (1052)	Q3 22/23 (361)	Q4 22/23 (122)	Q1 23/24 (16)	Q2 23/24 (649)	Q3 23/24 (152)	Q4 23/24 (142)	Change on last Quarter
Feel safe in their local area	83%	88%	84%	76%		78%	82%	74%	-8%
Police listen to concerns of local people	50%	36%	40%	38%		28%	29%	28%	-1%
Local police are friendly and approachable	70%	67%	64%	61%		63%	64%	60%	-4%

Public Opinion Statements Angus	Q1 22/23 (6)	Q2 22/23 (309)	Q3 22/23 (97)	Q4 22/23 (30)	Q1 23/24 (6)	Q2 23/24 (259)	Q3 23/24 (45)	Q4 23/24 (43)	Change on last Quarter
Feel safe in their local area		86%	92%	90%		75%	82%	88%	+5%
Police listen to concerns of local people		37%	31%	46%		29%	18%	32%	+14%
Local police are friendly and approachable		64%	60%	67%		62%	60%	65%	-5%

Less Safe Locations

Locations people are concerned about in their community are gathered via our Your Police survey. Respondents are asked to mark areas on a map and then name locations where they feel less safe, along with comments about what makes the location feel less safe and any ideas for what would make it safer. This data can be shared to foster understanding at local and national levels about what locations in communities are causing concern and to inspire collaborative responses where necessary.

The locations which respondents highlighted in respect of Angus are High Street, Forfar and Mayfield Shops. Arbroath.

User experience and public confidence

We know from our own research and academic studies that levels of public confidence and experience of contacting and interacting with police are not always connected. Not everyone responding to our Your Police survey has had contact or directly engaged with the police, so their view on confidence is shaped by other factors, such as community feeling towards the police, news and media reporting or others' experiences. This means that public confidence figures alone are not an accurate measure for the quality of service being provided in communities. However, research evidence suggests public confidence and perceptions can impact likelihood of someone contacting, approaching and cooperating with police.

Overall satisfaction nationally with contacting the police was at 71% in Quarter 4, up 2 percentage points from the previous quarter. Satisfaction has remained between 66%-71% in the 2023-24 financial year. Detailed below are our User Experience results for D Division local authority areas.

Overall Satisfaction	D Division (303)	Perth & Kinross (74)	Dundee City (65)	Angus (54)
	68%	78%	54%	87%

More data is available on the Insight Dashboard including satisfaction with initial contact and attending officers. This can be presented on-screen if helpful from a Police Scotland laptop during scrutiny meetings.

Areas for consideration

The key concern for respondents was a lack of follow-up once their incident had been reported. 52% of respondents in D division in Q4 stating feeling adequately informed about the progress of their incident. Not being given enough information may lead to decreased feelings of safety and confidence in policing and cause further demand. Updating people once an incident has been reported or attended may increase confidence both in the police, and in their ability to report future incidents.

Receiving an appropriate response was a key driver of negative experiences. Two thirds of responses (66%) reported feeling that the police provided an appropriate response. Key themes for those respondents mentioned a slow or no response for reported incidents or having to call 101/999 multiple times for the same incident. This is an area where C3 are exploring how to make improvements to the Contact Assessment Model with awareness of the increased demand on local policing.

The public value officers who show understanding, compassion and listen to individuals' needs. The values and behaviours demonstrated in these positive interactions are core drivers of public confidence alongside visibility, accessibility and presence and community engagement. Positive feedback is available in our PowerBI insight dashboards for local policing colleagues to use for reward and recognition to support a positive workplace culture with feedback at heart.

Wider context – Trust in public service delivery

Progressive Partnership Ltd is commissioned by Police Scotland to undertake research to increase understanding of trust in Police Scotland as an institution and the factors influencing this (e.g., media, local crime rates and engagement with officers and staff).

Quarterly online quantitative survey, including open-ended questions; recruiting a broadly representative robust sample (at the national level) of 1,000 people in Scotland.

The public have a negative sentiment to Police Scotland's ability to provide effective policing services with a reduced budget. 39% (n=311) of a nationally representative sample (n=1,002) of adults in Scotland in Q4 felt this will have negative effects on public service delivery. 13% (n=104) of respondents felt services were already stretched and funding currently too low (7% n=58).

Only 1% (n=10) worry about the effect of a reduced budget on estates/stations closing. Public sentiment is more concerned with having a police service that is adequately staffed (9% n=71); visible (5% n=41); responsive (3% n=20); has the right priorities (2% n=19) and is suitably well equipped (2% n=15).

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There is a worry that a reduced budget will see increases in crime, which will then go on to not be investigated and solved. 3% (n=21) of respondents worry this will affect their risk of harm, as they are not confident the police will be able to protect them.

We know it is a challenging time for policing nationally. Hard choices are being taken to deliver effective policing within the revenue budget available to us. Our service draws together the strategic direction of policing with research, insight and engagement to enable the service to build a robust understanding of the drivers of trust and confidence, and what is needed to enable positive experiences with people who contact us for help. Understanding more about trust and confidence enables the service to respond to community needs more effectively. This service is important when considering strategic choices i.e., the future of our estates and giving a proportionate response to crime.

We need to understand and be sensitive to community concerns around feelings of safety, confidence and trust and communicate how future changes in the way we do things are helping put the needs of our communities at the heart of what we do. Involving the public, communities and partners in the way we do things is vital if we are to maintain public confidence in policing.

Local Priority/Activity: Seek out shared learning and training opportunities with partners

Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC)

DESC is a programme of work to deliver operational and legislative change, supported by new technology, for the collection and sharing of digital evidence at every stage of a criminal case and prosecution across the criminal justice sector. DESC is currently being trialled in a small number of areas of the country, with that pilot rolled out in Angus local authority area during Q4.

The programme is a collaboration between criminal justice sector partners - Police Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service, and the defence community supported by the Scottish Government. The programme is one of the leading collaborative technology programmes in the world.

DESC stands for Digital Evidence Sharing Capability and is a significant programme designed to deliver an end to end service which will collect, manage and share digital evidence throughout the criminal justice process.

DESC is funded by the Scottish Government who also provide coordination and support for the programme. DESC also supports the Scottish Government's national strategy that describes a vision of modern, user-focused systems that use digital technology to deliver simple, fast and effective justice.

The service will allow:

Police to gather evidence and store it in the DESC solution (collection and ingestion)

Police to digitally share evidence with COPFS (revelation)

COPFS to digitally share evidence with the defence (disclosure)

The prosecutor (and defence) to present evidence digitally to the court (presentation).

DESC is designed to complement and integrate with COPFS case management systems SOSR and FOS. DESC helps agencies to provide a better public service and provide a platform for further modernisation.

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DESC as a programme will allow the storage, sharing and presentation of evidence which exists in a digital format (e.g. digital CCTV, Body worn camera footage, material recorded on a DVD, digital documents, emails, or the contents of a mobile phone) as well as evidence which contains data in a non-digital format (e.g. paper records and forms, video tape, non-digital photographs).

An example of the benefit that DESC will bring will be to allow CCTV footage of a crime to be quickly shared with the police, prosecutor, defence agent and court, allowing the case to be resolved quickly (for example, by a plea of guilty or by accepting that a defence is made out) at the first appearance or soon thereafter. If the case is resolved more quickly it reduces the need for members of the public to be cited and to attend court and provides a quicker outcome for the accused. It also reduces unnecessary work for the defence, Crown, Police and court staff.

Digital evidence will be able to be shared between parties through DESC. This will reduce the need for such evidence to be physically transported from police to PF to defence and to court. This will allow digital evidence to be shared more quickly, efficiently and securely.

Body Worn Video

Body Worn Video (BWV) has been used to a limited extent across policing in Scotland, including within North East Division since 2010. Since October 2021, BWV was introduced to all armed police officers across Scotland in time and on schedule for COP26 conference.

The introduction of BWV cameras will be a significant change to policing in Scotland which requires understanding and engagement with the public, our communities and partners.

We know from the consultations, feedback and national studies that equipping officers with BWV will deliver many benefits including:

- The enhanced ability to gather best evidence
- A reduction in complaints against officers and earlier resolutions being realised
- Increased public confidence and trust in Police Scotland
- An increase in guilty pleas resulting in fewer trials and less time spent at court
- It will support officer and public safety
- Improved operational effectiveness.

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As announced by the Chief Constable on 22 May, 2024 Body Worn Video will be rolled out nationally starting with Tayside Division hopefully during late summer. Tayside has been chosen as the first Division to receive Body Worn Video, as a result of its earlier commitment to the DESC pilot, as DESC is the platform which will manage recorded footage from Body Work Video deployments.

SCIM – Scottish Child Interview Model

The Scottish Child Interview Model is a new approach to joint investigative interviewing which is trauma informed, maintaining the focus upon the needs of the child in the interview and minimising the risk of further traumatisation, whilst seeking to achieve to best evidence through improved planning and interview techniques.

SCIM was developed by a team of experienced social workers and police officers who drew upon national and international research and best practice. The National JII Project was set up in 2017 and, following this research and development stage, testing in practice began in 2019.

The National JII Project forms part of the response to recommendations within the Evidence and Procedure Review (2015) which set out the aspiration to remove the need for children to give evidence in court by achieving a position in which the joint investigative interview could be led as 'Evidence in Chief'.

Bespoke interview plans are developed, informed by the needs of each individual child. Planning is focused on maximising the child's participation. Interviewers are skilled at responding to the needs of the child. Support for the child before and after interview is considered during the planning. The key outcome is to ensure children are protected from abuse, harm and exploitation.

Training has been completed during the reporting period and SCIM is to be launched across Tayside mid-May 2024.

Quarter 4 Thematic Spotlight

Local Priority/Activity – Support Policing through Proactive Prevention

The thematic spotlight will look at those areas of work where locally we are focussed on protecting vulnerable people from harm. This work spans across a number of different areas and includes people of all ages and from all communities across Angus. As such, I have opted to provide a broad range of different examples, which help to demonstrate the range of services provided by Police Scotland to safeguard and protect our communities.

The following paragraphs will provide some statistical information and local service delivery examples pertinent to Missing Persons, Concern for Persons Calls, our Mountain Rescue Team, the Risk and Concern Hub, Non-Fatal Overdose Pathway and the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland. Although a divergent group of topics, they are all designed and delivered to proactively safeguard individuals, or provide an emergency response at times when lives are at risk.

Missing Persons

Police Scotland has responsibility for responding to reports of Missing persons across the country. Missing persons investigations are varied, can be complex, require significant resources and often involve a range of both local and national specialist departments. At the start of each investigation a careful risk assessment is completed, to ensure the risks to an individual are fully understood and the Police response is prompt, proportionate and well delivered.

A missing person is defined as anyone whose whereabouts are unknown and:

- Where the circumstances are out of character
- The context suggests the person may be subject to crime, or
- The person is at risk of harm to themselves or others

Risk Assessment

Missing Persons are categorised as Low, Medium or High risk based on the following criteria:

Low risk – The apparent threat of danger to the missing person or public is low.

Medium Risk – The risk posed is likely to place the missing person in danger, or they are a threat to themselves or others.

High Risk – The threat posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the missing person is in danger through their own vulnerability, or may have been the victim of a serious crime, or the risk posed is immediate and there are substantial grounds for believing that the public is in danger.

All High Risk missing person investigations are subject to routine Strategic Gold Groups, chaired by a senior police officer.

Occurrence Rates

During 2023/24, the number of Missing Person/ Absconder investigations completed in Angus was 260. This is a 7.9% increase on LYTD figures.

Incident Type	2022/23	2023/24	Change	% Change
Missing Person/ Absconder	241	260	19	7.9%

The following table illustrates the categories of missing persons and provides confirmation of the ratio of reports relevant to adults, adults missing or absconding from care, children and looked after children.

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Angus Missing Persons		
Missing from	2022/23	2023/24
Home Address	149	176
Residential Children's Home	43	40
Foster Care Placement	1	7
NHS Establishment	1	0
Adult Supported Accommodation	11	5
School	10	9
Other	26	23
Total	241	260

A number of Missing Person investigations include a multi-agency aspect with a collaborative approach adopted to trace and safeguard those reported missing as quickly as possible. At the end of each Missing Person investigation a thorough review of the causes of the missing person episode are conducted with a view to reducing the likelihood of a further occurrence. Individuals are routinely referred to the agency deemed best placed to offer appropriate support. We work closely with all partners engaged in the provision of residential care and the above statistics see some reductions in numbers of missing person investigations across those establishments for people of all ages.

Our local approach to Missing Persons is discussed and reviewed quarterly at our Divisional Missing Persons Board where good practice and learning, both locally and nationally is shared, with specific discussions held in respect of those repeat missing persons who need greater focus and support.

Alongside local authority colleagues, we have made an application to the 'Missing People' national charity who are running a project to build on our local response to missing children and adults. The project is fully funded by the Scottish Government as part of the Missing Persons Framework Implementation Project.

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This will include in-depth support and will involve a detailed review of current local multi-agency policy, guidance, and practice relating to missing people to identify what is working well and what areas of development could improve the response further. This support will be tailored to the specific needs of each local area, and specific findings and recommendations shared.

Of the 260 people who were reported missing during the 2023/24 performance year, 257 were traced safe and well. A total of 27,254 officer hours were dedicated to investigating Missing Persons reports during the performance year.

Concern for Persons Calls

Concern for Persons Calls cover a very broad range of Police activity, however, can be generally categorised as those calls from individuals in crisis, requiring the support of services when at time of greatest need.

We have seen a significant increase in relation to these call types in recent years and that has continued during the course of this performance year.

Police Scotland have an ethos of providing the best possible service to those in need, rather than a simplistic focus on those more traditional aspects of Police work, such as crime investigation. As such, we routinely respond to calls from those in mental health crisis, or in crisis driven by life events, addiction issues or those feeling vulnerable and isolated within our communities.

This work is delivered in conjunction with partners, with Police Scotland often being the first responders, particularly out of hours, when immediate support and assistance is required.

The following table provides detail of the numbers of Concern for Persons Calls received this year, in comparison to last year to date figures.

Incident Type	2021/22	2022/23	Change	% Change
Concern for Person	661	863	+175	+26.5%

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Our Partnership and Interventions Team work closely with the Angus Suicide Prevention Team and have been involved in shaping local preventative work. Bereavement packs continue to be provided to all families affected by a suicide and these have been reviewed and updated again this year. Police and partners are looking to re-invigorate local concern groups and community engagement is currently underway.

Risk and Concern Hub

Identifying and prioritising the response where information suggests an individual may be experiencing adversity and / or vulnerability is at the heart of improving the wellbeing and safety of people.

Police Scotland's interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) records information about individuals who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity or situational vulnerability which may impact on their current or future wellbeing. Adversity is often defined as a difficult or unfortunate event or circumstance. Most people face some form of adversity at one point in their life while some face adversity more than others.

The database also records incidents where there has been a response required in respect of adult or child protection and domestic abuse.

The Risk and Concern Hub has a primary role in identifying and sharing information about children and adults who may have protection or wellbeing needs that requires intervention or support from statutory partners. The process does not change existing child and adult protection arrangements and is, in fact, designed to complement them, particularly in relation to repeat and escalating wellbeing concerns.

During the reporting period 1,256 Concern Reports were generated in relation to people residing in Angus, risk assessed and processed by police, with a substantial proportion being shared with partner agencies.

Escalation

The principle of escalation is to identify victims, subjects of concern and perpetrators whose behaviour or exposure to risk is increasing and to deliver appropriate measures of care, support, targeted intervention, or statutory protection measures at the earliest opportunity.

Escalation is triggered on the number of Concern Reports received in relation to an individual or family in a 30 day rolling period.

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Each trigger point will dictate a different response that may include, but are not limited to:

- Consideration of a professionals' meeting or similar.
- Referred for consideration of an Initial Referral Discussion if concerns amount to child or adult protection.
- Highlighting the concern to divisional partnership coordinators to liaise with external partners.
- If this escalation relates to a Domestic Abuse victim, consider MARAC processes.
- If this escalation relates to a Domestic Abuse perpetrator, consider MATAAC processes.
- Consider highlighting escalation to D for additional victim support / perpetrator management.
- Briefing Local Area Commanders for tasking a local policing response.
- Consideration of holding internal police meeting.
- For children, assessing whether the subject requires referral to SCRA.

Within the reporting period 127 escalations were completed involving people residing in Angus LPA.

Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences, IRDs and Professionals' Meetings

Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences, IRDs and Professionals' Meetings are formal meetings to discuss and share concerns regarding harm or risk of harm to an adult. They allow professionals to share information about concern and normally involve only those who have a contribution to make to protect an adult. They can also be used to consider whether they meet the three-point test and would be opened to Adult Support and Protection proceeding. During the reporting period Risk and Concern Hub staff were involved in 108 Adult Protection multi-agency meetings involving people residing in Angus LPA.

Quality Assurance

During the reporting period a multi-agency audit of Adult Support and Protection IRDs was carried out identifying good practice, with the aim of assisting continuous improvement and helping to deliver on better outcomes for those in our communities subject to Adult Support and Protection processes.

Mountain Rescue Teams (MRT)

Police Scotland has 4 dedicated Mountain Rescue Teams, based in the legacy Force areas of Tayside, Grampian, Northern and Strathclyde. The Tayside-based Team was created in 1971 (as the Angus Constabulary Mountain Rescue Team) and currently consists of 16 Officers, with plans to increase the establishment to 20 Officers by 2026.

Police MRT in Tayside

The Police Scotland Tayside Mountain Rescue Team has primary responsibility for locating those who are lost or missing, treating those who are unwell or injured and recovering those who have died in the mountainous, hazardous and other complex environments of the Tayside Region. They also help provide a response to any incident where the services of the Police are required, but the environment or location involved is too hazardous for conventional Officers to reach.

The Team operates across the whole of Tayside, including all the glens, hills, mountains, rivers and lochs in Perthshire, Angus and Dundee. The Police Team has 3 bases at Forfar, Perth & Baluniefield Police Offices. They have access to 4x4 vehicles, a Command vehicle and various rafts for incidents upon water. Although not exhaustive, their specialist skills include search & incident management, EMT-level medical care, water rescue, rope rescue, all-terrain driving & mental health crisis intervention.

The only full-time member of the Team is the Team Leader (currently Constable Paul Morgan). The remaining Officers have MRT as a specialist role in addition to their core Policing role. When an incident is reported, they may be called upon to leave their core role to attend, or if off duty, respond from home. At present we have Officers in the Team whose core roles are within CID, Roads Policing, Cyber Crime, Response Policing, Community Policing & Wildlife Crime.

Working with partners

The Police Team are supported in their role by their volunteer colleagues and friends from Tayside Mountain Rescue Team (TMRT), who also operate across the region with 3 bases in Blairgowrie, Aberfeldy and Dundee. The Police and volunteer Teams train together at least 1-day per month and deploy at incidents together. The only exceptions to this are when there is either a known risk to the rescuers from the person being searched for, a suspected criminal element to the enquiry or the recovery of human remains is known from the outset.

The Team also works closely with Scottish Fire & Rescue during incidents involving the search for and rescue of persons in rivers, lochs or gorges across Tayside.

2023

Throughout the course of 2023, the Police Team were deployed on 116 occasions across Tayside, as a result of 85 individual incidents. This was the highest number of recorded deployments in the Team's 53-year history and is reflective of the steady increase in demand due to the public spending more time in the countryside for recreation, social media's increased 'advertising' of popular hills or beauty spots, a lack of understanding around the seriousness of weather and geography and also an increase in mental health related incidents, including those where suicidal intent plays a part.

Throughout 2023, the Police Team dedicated 3394.50 hours of time to locating and rescuing people in Tayside. They also ran the largest ever land search in the region's history in the hills around Blair Atholl, as well as the largest inland water search ever conducted in Tayside, near Edzell.

Police MRT Deployments – 2024

Between 1st January and 13th May 2024, the Police Team have deployed on 31 occasions. Of that number, 4 deployments were within Angus, accounting for 53 hours of Officer activity in the County.

During those deployments, 6 people was successfully rescued and 1 person's body was recovered.

Some examples of activity carried out are provided below:

January, 2024 - Injured Hill Walker – Tulloch Hill, Glen Prosen

A 999 call was received from a hillwalker reporting that her 52 year old companion had slipped on wet ground and badly injured their right lower arm. The pain was reportedly so bad that the casualty was struggling to remain conscious due to the nausea.

The Police and volunteer Teams deployed and located the casualty after 1.5kms of off-road driving. Medical care was provided, diagnosing a badly fractured arm. Pain relief was administered and the casualty removed from the hill for transfer to ambulance.

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February, 2024 – Lost Hill Walkers – Glen Doll

A 999 call was received from a 32 year old female hillwalker who was lost in thick mist, rain and freezing conditions in Glen Doll, along with their 8-year old child. The pair had left the Glen Doll visitor car park earlier in the day to climb the Munro 'Mayar' (928m) but had been overcome by poor weather and were unable to find their way off the mountain safely. The caller was spoken to by MRT but was by then hysterical and scared. Due to their clothing being completely soaked and having no provisions, the pair were becoming hypothermic, and the female had lost the use of one hand. With no shelter available, they were both losing other fine motor skills and were overcome by the situation.

Their location was established using specific technology, and both the Police and volunteer Teams deployed, with a SAR helicopter also called upon. The aircraft spotted the pair through the mist and managed to land safely nearby. They were found to be suffering from the early stages of hypothermia so were flown direct to Glen Doll and passed to MRT for re-warming and aftercare.

April, 2024 – Lost Hill Walker – Glen Doll / Glen Prosen

The Police Control Room were contacted by the Apple SOS Satellite Service, which relayed messages from a male who was out of mobile phone reception, but using satellite SOS technology to report that he was lost in the hills having set out from the Glen Doll car park. The message intimated that he was uninjured but lost. It also provided contact details for his wife along with his location in latitude and longitude, which placed him in Glen Prosen.

Police and volunteer MRT deployed and located the male safe and well in the Glen. He was checked over, returned to his vehicle and fed by the Team before being able to continue his journey home unaided.

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Community Engagement

The Police MRT Leader delivered land-based Search & Rescue presentations to the following community organisations and statutory groups since 1st January 2024:

January – MRT in Tayside – Perth & Kinross Council Scrutiny Board

January – MRT & Multi-agency working – Police Control Room Staff

January – MRT & Multi-agency working - Scottish Fire & Rescue, Kinloch Rannoch

February - MRT in Tayside / Mountain Safety – Arbroath Probus Club

February - MRT in Tayside / Mountain Safety – Arbroath Rotary Club

May – MRT Base Tour – Forfar & District Hillwalking Club

Other Items of Note

On 7th January, 2024 Temp Chief Superintendent Jason Carrigan met with members of both the Police Team and the volunteer Team to present them with Divisional Commander awards for 'Outstanding Team Performance' and 'Partnership Working'.

On 23rd March, the Police MRT Leader met with Scottish Chief Constable Jo Farrell and gave her a presentation about the work of Police and volunteer MRT across Tayside and beyond. This allowed her to get a local overview of our work specifically in Angus and Perthshire, but detailing how we work with other agencies, engage with our communities and support colleagues across our regional boundaries.

Non-Fatal Overdose Pathway (NFOD)

Officers within the Preventions and Interventions Team continue to attend weekly Multi-Agency Near-Fatal Overdose meetings sharing relevant information in relation to any person who has experienced a non-fatal overdose, because of the consumption of suspected illicit substances.

Over the period of 1st January, 2024 to 31st March, 2024 there were 14 discussions held at the Angus NFOD with a multi-agency response developed to ensure a holistic approach is taken to the interventions applied, with positive engagement and harm reduction delivered for those involved.

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We continue to monitor drug trend alerts from RADAR and ensure pharmacies are engaging with substances users to be mindful of what they are sourcing. A&E and NHS Navigators are now part of this group ensuring a wider capture of current drug trends.

Locally, we remain committed to tackling the harm caused by alcohol and drugs, with Chief Inspector Fitzgerald recently taking over as Chair of the Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership. Although new to the role, this demonstrates a firm commitment from local policing to work closely with partners across Angus, to further strengthen and develop our response to the complex issues surrounding alcohol and drug harm.

Disclosure Scotland Domestic Abuse Scheme

The aim of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland is to provide a way of sharing information about a partner's abusive past, with a potential victim. It gives people at risk of Domestic Abuse the information they need to allow them to make an informed decision whether to continue the relationship.

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland has two main triggers for disclosure *Right to Ask* and the *Power to Tell*.

Right to Ask - is open to anyone who has concerns about a new partner's abusive past or has concerns about another person's new partner. An example of this would be a parent concerned about their child's new partner.

The concerned relative or friend will not, under normal circumstances, receive any information on the person causing concern. If a disclosure is deemed necessary, lawful and proportionate, the person potentially at risk, or person best placed to safeguard that individual, will receive the information.

Power to Tell - enables Police to make a public interest disclosure when we receive information or intelligence about a relationship/developing relationship which may otherwise leave a person at avoidable risk of harm from a violent partner.

Anyone can make a DSDAS application via the Police Scotland internet page.

Police Scotland rely heavily on local partners to support disclosure through the scheme and will often visit potential victims jointly to ensure support can be offered once any disclosure has been made.

During the 2023/24 performance year there have been 103 DSDAS applications received in Angus.