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Angus Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee
Quarter 1 ending 30 June 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 April until 31 June 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:

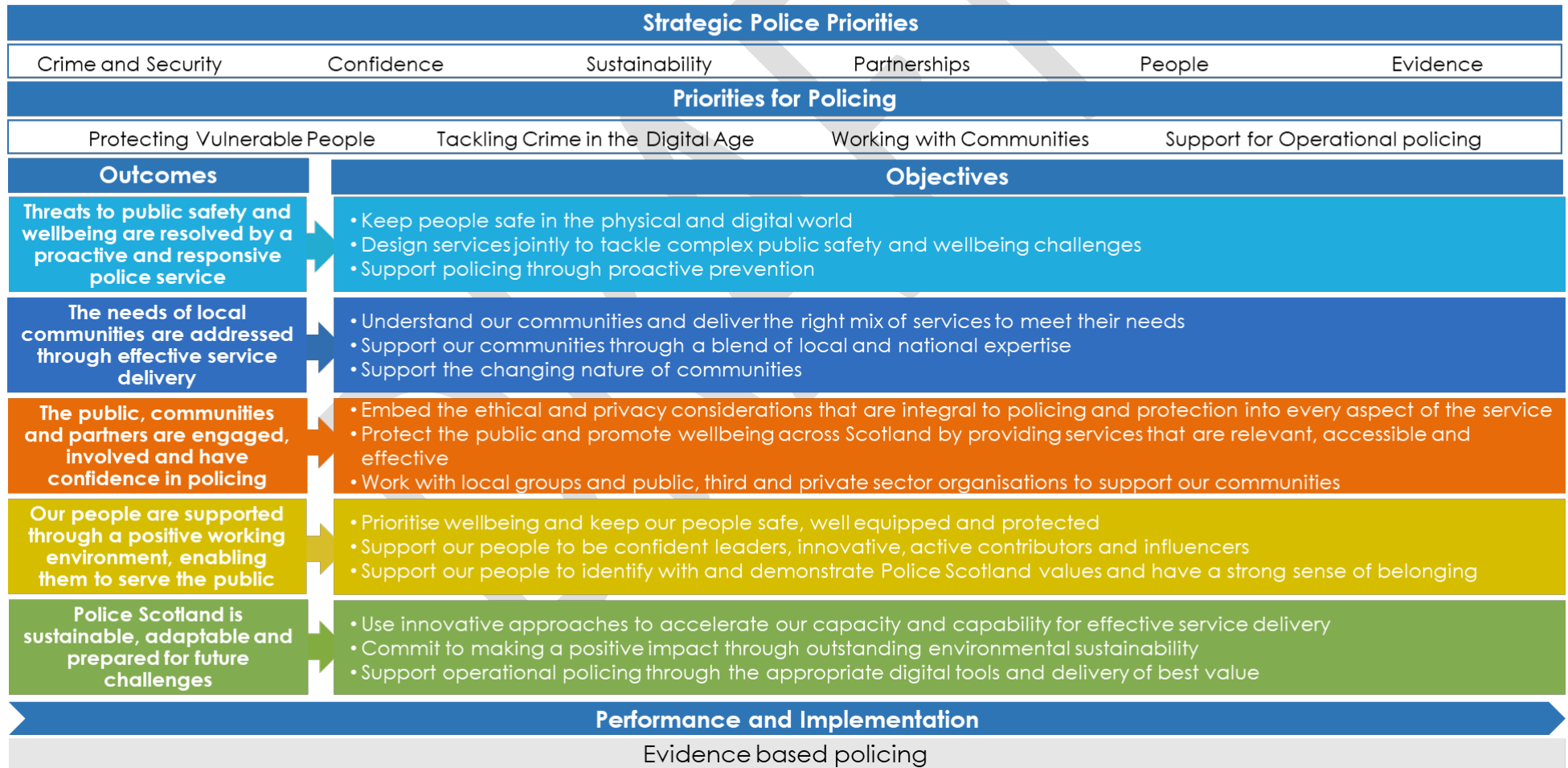
- How effective are the diversionary activities provided?
- How effective are the processes in place to prevent acquisitive crime?
- How well are we engaging with the public?
- What progress has been made in terms of collaboration and what percentage of the divisional estate is co-located with partners?

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

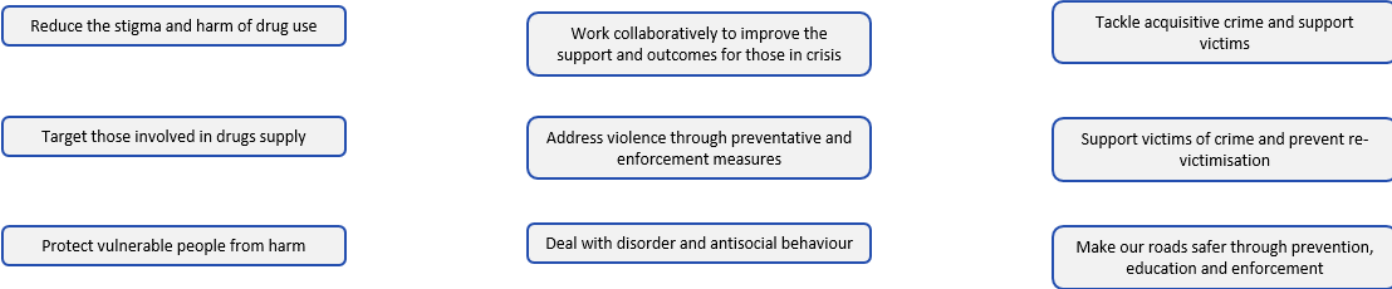
Our Vision Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland
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PUBLIC HEALTH

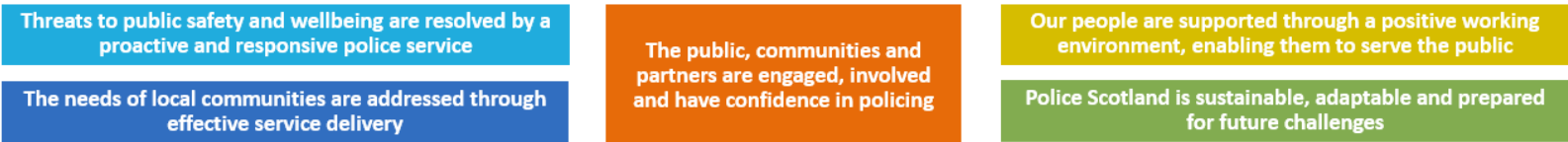
Local Policing Priorities



Local Policing Objectives



Police Scotland Strategic Outcomes



PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

PERSON CENTRED APPROACH

PARTNERSHIPS

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Quarter 1 - Performance on a Page – 1st April 2024 to 31 June 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	125	136	181	-8%	-31%	35.2%	28.7%	X	6.5%	x
ASB Incidents	7,162	7,668	7,456	-6.6%	-3.9%	-	-	-	-	-
Violence										
Robbery	7	10	8	-30%	-12.5%	85.7%	100%	80%	-14.3%	5.7%
Serious Assault	8	12	14	-25%	-36.6%	88.9%	66.7%	88.7%	22.2%	0.2%
Common Assault (excluding Emergency Workers)	197	235	264	-16.1%	-25.5%	77.2%	75.3%	70.3%	1.9%	6.9%
Public Protection										
Overall Group 2	100	71	79	41%	26.3%	67%	64.8%	61.4%	2.2%	5.6%
Rape	9	5	10	80%	-11.8%	66.7%	60%	45.1%	6.7%	21.6%
DASA Crimes	10	8	12	25%	-18%	50%	50%	70.8%	0%	-20.8%
Road Safety										
Speeding offences	11	45	150	-75.5%	-93%	100%	100%	100%	0%	0%
Drink / Drug Driving	41	34	39	26.4%	10.3%	100%	100%	98.5%	0%	1.5%
Acquisitive Crime										
HBs	32	63	49	-96%	-34.3%	43.8%	22.2%	31.7%	21.6%	12%
Dwelling HBs	11	26	20	-57.6%	-45%	45.5%	19.2%	24%	26.2%	21.5%
Motor Vehicle Crime	56	58	48	-3.6%	16.6%	67.9%	55.2%	43.6%	12.7%	24.3%
Fraud	73	82	55	-11%	33.2%	31.5%	13.4%	22.6%	18.1%	8.9%
Shoplifting	209	139	82	50.3%	153.6%	62.2%	59%	66.7%	3.2%	-4.5%

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 2 Attempted Murders during the reporting period. Both Attempted Murders have been detected and have been reported to COPFS.

Serious Assault

There were 8 Serious Assaults recorded during Q1 which is a reduction of 25% from the 12 reported LYTD. This also remains well below the 5 year average of 14 crimes.

It remains the case that the most common factors in respect of the commission of these crimes are the presence of drugs and alcohol on the part of both victims and perpetrators, that victims and perpetrators are known to each other prior to the commission of the crime, with the use of weapons also a factor.

Of the crimes committed in Q1 there was a large geographical spread. 3 crimes occurred in Arbroath with the remainder spread between Forfar, Brechin, Montrose, Carnoustie and Monifieth. 3 of the 8 offences involved the use of weapons including bottles, a metal pole and knives.

4 of the crimes recorded were committed at or in private residential premises, 1 was committed within a licenced premises, 1 was committed in a public street and 2 were committed within educational premises.

Of the 8 crimes committed 7 of these have been detected with CID progressing active lines of enquiry in respect of the remaining undetected crime. This delivers a detection rate of 88.9%, which is an increase of 22.2% in comparison to LYTD.

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Robbery

There were 7 Robberies recorded during the reporting period, which is a reduction of 3 crimes in comparison to LYTD and remains under the 5 year average of 8 crimes.

The detection rate for the reporting period was 85.7%, meaning 6 of the 7 crimes reported have been detected and reported to COPFS. The remaining undetected crime is under investigation by CID, who are pursuing a number of active lines of enquiry.

Geographically, 4 of these crimes occurred within Arbroath, with the remaining crimes spread across Forfar, Brechin and Tealing.

Common Assault

There were 197 Common Assaults recorded during the reporting period. This continues a positive trend in reducing numbers of these crimes which has now continued over a number of quarters. In the same period LYTD we saw 235 crimes recorded, demonstrating a 16% reduction in occurrence rates during Q1. This is 25% lower than the 5 year average.

We have seen a continuation of positive detection rates with the detection rate for the reporting period being 77.2%, which delivers an improvement of 1.9% in comparison to LYTD.

It is pleasing to report that we have seen a marked reduction in Assaults Against Emergency Workers in Q1, in comparison to LYTD figures. This reporting period we have recorded 27 crimes, in comparison to 50 LYTD. The figure does remain above the 5 year average of 26 crimes. I would note our appreciation of this Committee's strong condemnation of this particular crime type in previous public meetings. We would hope that these figures demonstrate a turning point where lower levels of violence towards Emergency Workers is sustained through-out the remainder of the performance year.

Investigations

Reactive CID continue 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.

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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.

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 and build upon the strong performance figures delivered in respect of serious violent crime last year.

Domestic Violence

During the Q4, 2023/24 Scrutiny Committee we were asked by Committee members to provide some more detailed statistics in respect of Domestic Violence.

In order to meet that request, I will use this section of the report to provide a detailed breakdown of those crimes linked to domestic offending perpetrated during the course of the 2023 / 24 performance year, whilst also providing an overview in respect of how those trends have continued into Q1.

The first table provides an overview of the total number of domestic related incidents reported and demonstrates how many of those incidents resulted in a crime being recorded.

Domestic Incidents & Crimes	2023/2024	2024/25 Q1
Total number of Domestic Incidents	1139	284
Total number of Domestic crimes	628	169

Building upon the above table, the following allows an analysis of the most prevalent crime types linked to domestic offending recorded across the Angus local authority area during 2023 / 24 and Q1 of this performance year.

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Breakdown of Domestic Crime Types	2023/24	2024/25 Q1
Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	284	73
Sexual Crimes	49	10
Crimes of Dishonesty	23	9
Damage & Reckless Behaviour	38	9
Crimes Against Society	98	34
Anti-Social Offences	91	25
Miscellaneous Offences	42	7
Road Traffic Offences	3	2
Total	628	169

As can be seen, almost half of all incidents reported relate to violence, with both Anti-Social Behaviour and Crimes Against Society being the next highest categories. Crimes Against Society relates to offences committed in breach of statutory laws, with the most prevalent recorded in relation to Domestic offending being breach of a Bail Order or Undertaking to Appear conditions which have been put in place to safeguard victims from further offending.

The following figures, allow an understanding of how levels of Domestic Offending, relate to levels of overall reported crime.

	2023/24	Q1
Percentage of Crimes with a Domestic Tag	8.99%	9.67%

This indicates that crimes linked to Domestic offending amount to approximately 10% of the total crime demand in Angus, with that percentage increasing to around 28% of all violent crime reported.

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Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it. The Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) 'In Partnership Challenging Domestic Abuse' (hereafter referred to as the 'Joint Protocol') is a definitive statement of practice which Police Scotland is obliged to follow and will be held accountable to.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as: "Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct, and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere including online."

We recognise that many other crimes may be committed by perpetrators that do not fit this definition, and any other crime where domestic abuse is a factor will be recorded with domestic abuse as an aggravator to the offence.

The data produced for the Q1 period 01/04/2024 to 30/06/2024 now includes all domestic abuse crime data. The percentage of all crimes with a Domestic abuse tag for the period is 9.67% and is comparable with last year.

It should be noted that the total number of crimes recorded is not necessarily indicative of the number of victims of crime. For example - 1 victim could contact Police to report domestic abuse however during enquiry several standalone crimes may be identified (e.g., theft, bail offence, S38 offences) during the course of the offending. Each of these crimes would need to be recorded as a separate crime in accordance with the Scottish Crime Recording Standards counting rules.

The number of incidents recorded for this period is 284 (recorded through our iVPD system), from which 169 crimes were identified.

From the data there is a broad range of offending identified and detection rates for each crime type are similar in comparison to last year, indicative that we continue to focus on and prioritise domestic offending and target these perpetrators.

There have been 10 domestic sexual crimes recorded during the Q1 period. The majority of these will be investigated by our specialist Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit. Where there has been any disclosure of rape or serious sexual offending, a specialist Sexual Offences Liaison Officers (SOLO) will be appointed to engage with victims and these investigations will be led by an SIO.

It should be noted that data for the current period and for the year ahead will not be comparable to figures for last year due to the source systems used to collect the data. Detection rate data will also be lower as any records raised before 1st April 2024, but detected on or after 1st April 2024 will not be counted.

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Within D Division we have a number of processes in place which support the protection of victims and prevention of further offending, along with processes to target and mitigate the risk posed by domestic abuse perpetrators.

For every reported domestic abuse incident officers will attend and will engage with victims, prioritising their safety. Every victim will be asked questions through the Domestic Abuse Questions (DAQ) to allow officers to assess the initial risk. When someone is experiencing domestic abuse, it is vital to make an accurate and fast assessment of the danger they are in, so they can get the right help as quickly as possible.

The Domestic Abuse Questions and Risk Indicator checklist are tried and tested ways to understand risk, informed through extensive research of domestic abuse. Our local advocacy and support partners also use these assessment tools ensuring there is a shared understanding of risk across professions.

Victims identified to be at high risk of harm through the DAQ will be referred through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, a local meeting where representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies meet to discuss individuals at high risk of serious harm or homicide as a result of domestic abuse.

Angus MARAC meetings are held fortnightly and allow agencies to share information and develop a coordinated plan to keep people safe. The MARAC also ensures there are links into other agencies to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator.

In the reporting period there have been 26 cases reviewed at MARAC in Angus with multi-agency action plans being developed to prevent further harm to the victims.

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland

The aim of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) 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.

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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.

During the reporting period there have been 22 applications within Angus.

Nationally DSDAS requests have increased by approximately 29% on LYTD figures. This demand is expected to continue as knowledge of the scheme continues to expand allowing people and agencies to seek information to protect people from domestic abuse.

Within D Division we 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.

MATAC - Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination

The aim of MATAC is to effectively tackle offending by perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm. Coordinated partnership work to identify and investigate domestic abuse perpetrators ensures better outcomes for victims and their families.

In Tayside Division MATAC meetings are held monthly, investigators from our Domestic Abuse Task Force have ownership for the majority of the MATAC targets and investigations. Currently there are 15 MATAC investigations ongoing across Tayside, 1 of these is in the Angus area.

All Domestic Abuse incidents in Angus and across D Division are subject to daily review by the Local Area Commander and specialist Domestic Abuse officers ensuring that victims are safeguarded, and investigations are progressed to arrest perpetrators as soon as reasonably possible.

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 7,162 recorded ASB incidents during the reporting period, which is a -6.6% reduction in comparison to the 7,668 incidents reported LYTD. This continues to compare favourably with the 5 year average, as it demonstrates a 3.9 % reduction when compared against that figure.

The following paragraphs provide examples of work carried out across Angus local authority area by our Response and Community Teams demonstrating a continued focus on ASB, with activity delivered well directed towards those issues raised by community members and their elected representatives.

Arbroath

During Q1, the Arbroath Community Policing Team identified a series of linked Hate Crimes which involved a number of youths residing in the Arbroath area. Those crimes were linked to instances of racial abuse targeted towards a specific young person. The individuals responsible were quickly identified and charged with offences, their parents visited and appropriate reports submitted to the Youth Justice Assessor. Building on this approach, the team went on to deliver a number of Hate Crime inputs at Arbroath High School, with the support of the school's leadership team, seeking to prevent any broader repetition of the offences.

The Arbroath Community Team also responded to a series of crimes at Arbroath Harbour during Q1, which related to thefts of emergency flares from boats. These flares were subsequently set off on the beach, parks and in residential parts of the town. The team quickly identified the youths involved, again libelling the appropriate charges and working with parents to bring the issue to a conclusion. The potential dangers of such behaviour, both in terms of the safety of those operating the boats and the illegal releasing of flares, were highlighted via social media and central to discussions with those responsible.

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During Q1 we supported colleagues in SFRS with the execution of a warrant at a local hotel, pertinent to non-compliance with a Fire Enforcement Notice. It is believed this was the first warrant of its kind executed in Scotland. It resulted in the gathering of vital evidence in support of the SFRS investigation.

We have responded to increasing concerns regards groups of people congregating at benches in High Street, Arbroath. The presence of large groups has reduced people's sense of safety in the area and impacted upon local businesses. We have responded through delivering a series of high visibility patrols, identifying members of the group and taking enforcement action where proportionate. This remains an ongoing issue and we are working closely with businesses and the local authority to deliver longer term solutions. This will remain a focus through-out the following quarter.

Monifieth and Carnoustie

During the quarter, we have delivered high visibility patrols in the Monifieth area in relation to youth disorder at Tesco, Farmfoods and Beach Park. A targeted input was delivered at Monifieth High School in relation to disorder and inappropriate behaviour.

High visibility patrols were delivered at Pitskelly, Carnoustie and Barry Buddon with an associated media appeal in relation to the illegal use of off-road bikes. These patrols focussed on the identification, education and enforcement of repeat offenders. There are future plans to deliver a joint operation, including colleagues from Dundee, who have seen issues associated with the same group in Broughty Ferry.

Forfar and Kirriemuir

The local Community Poling Team have continued to work alongside Housing Officers to address concerns raised by members of the public and elected members to address anti-social behaviour within tenancies in Forfar. We have recently dealt with several neighbourhood disputes including noise complaints, drug misuse and general anti-social behaviour. Several people have been warned over their behaviour and calls to Police are being monitored in respect of future conduct.

Following concerns raised to Police regarding an individual being involved in supply of drugs within Kirriemuir area, a Drugs search warrant was executed, and an individual has been reported to the PF for drugs offences by the Community Policing Team. This individual's activity resulted in significant impact upon neighbours which has now been alleviated.

Concerns were raised to Police regarding alcohol sales and vapes being sold to children, leading to anti-social behaviour in Forfar. The Community Policing Team liaised with partners in education and have conducted visits to licensed premises, assisted by our colleagues in the Licensing department tackling the issue head on.

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Following calls to Police by local residents, the local Community Policing Team have been carrying out focused enquiry into a number of concerns over XL Bulldogs in the town who were regularly out without being on a lead or muzzled in public areas. A search warrant has been executed and another XL Bully dog was seized within the Forfar area. One male has been reported to the PF for various additional offences. Further search warrants have been craved and executed in the Kirriemuir area in relation to animal welfare and illegal veterinary medicine possession concerns. An individual has been reported to the PF for various linked offences.

This proactive approach has resulted in dogs being seized from unsuitable homes and will undoubtedly assist to protect and reassure the public.

Montrose

The 'Pitchin In' programme was delivered during Q1 at Montrose Academy and Brechin High School. This program targets younger people to reduce youth offending behaviour and promote individual and community wellbeing. It uses skills and activities linked to football to promote a collaborative approach to prevention, diversion and education based upon building decision making skills and resilience.

Joint Young Fire fighters events were held at Montrose Fire Station and Brechin Fire Station in conjunction with colleagues from SFRS, again promoting youth engagements and seeking to encourage responsible citizenship.

A series of rural patrols were completed in Edzell due to reports of persons taking drugs within vehicles late at night. These patrols delivered public reassurance, through a visible approach targeted at the right times in the right place to respond to community concerns.

Preventions and Interventions

Angus Partnerships, Interventions and Preventions Team continue to attend weekly housing association meetings to focus on identification and targeting of emerging issues. These meetings focus on recurring ASB issues and ensure proportionate action is taken from a multi-agency perspective.

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Our Preventions Team have delivered a number of proactive patrols, working alongside our community teams, to tackle and deter anti-social behaviour at identified repeat locations, including specific housing visits to identified addresses and ASB letter drops. This collaborative approach to tackling ASB in Angus affords us the opportunity to detect and deter any criminality, ensuring our communities have confidence in their public services and most importantly feel safe. Angus currently has no live ASBO's.

We have recently had two community officers trained as Design Out Crime Officers to assist community planning and identify opportunities for early interventions.

Licensing

During Q1 our Divisional Licensing Team have processed 423 licence applications for the Angus area. This included applications for occasional licenses to allow premises to have additional outdoor areas, renewals and grants for taxi operators and drivers.

There were 24 recorded ASB incidents at or in the immediate vicinity of licensed premises during Q1. This resulted in 12 premises inspections being carried out, with no single premises identified as problematic during this period.

The licensing team have been promoting 'by-stander' training and are due to deliver an input to Angus Council members in the near future. "By – Stander" is a training programme that is delivered to raise awareness of vulnerabilities within the night-time economy aimed at keeping people safe. This primarily highlights the importance of early intervention and 'not being a by – stander'. A number of case studies and videos are shown and discussed, this demonstrates impactfully how early intervention can reduce harm. Although initially designed for the licenced trade we have tailored the content and delivered to voluntary groups and taxi drivers.

The team are providing a By-Stander Training input at Angus House, Forfar later in the year, open to all from Angus local authority who may wish to attend.

Local Priority/Activity – Make Our Roads Safer

There have been no fatal road traffic collisions in this reporting period, which delivers a reduction in occurrence rates in comparison to the 2 fatal collisions which occurred LYTD. However, we have seen an increase in serious injury collisions with 20 collisions recorded, in comparison to 15 LYTD.

It remains the case that the most common causal factors linked to road traffic collisions locally and nationally are the 'The Fatal 5' which are Dangerous / Careless Driving, Drink / Drug Driving, Speeding, Seat Belts and use of mobile phones.

Our targeted work to reduce collisions on our roads are driven by the intelligence led deployment of Roads Policing Officers. The current priority routes in Tayside are the A9, A90, A923, A92, A94, A930. This determination is based upon the detailed statistical analysis of the last 5 years of collision data.

During Q1 a range of national campaigns were delivered in Angus including Fatal 5 campaign; motorcycle safety campaign; Operation Close Pass, Child Safety Week and the national seatbelt campaign.

Aside from the delivery of national campaigns and our focus on our most dangerous high speed roads, local Community Teams and Roads Policing colleagues continue to respond to local complaints regards speeding and anti-social driving, with targeted patrols delivered across Angus on slower speed roads through-out the quarter. We continue to protect our more vulnerable road users, through routine deployments at and near our local schools to protect younger people travelling to and from educational establishments.

Some examples of this activity are –

Following concerns from Local residents regarding vehicles speeding, Community Officers carried out high visibility speeding patrols in various locations including Lunanhead, Dundee Road, Craig O'Loch Road, Kingsmuir, Forfar and Brechin Road, Lindsay Street, Glamis Road and Sheilhl Road, Kirriemuir.

The Local Community Policing Team have conducted local educational initiatives at Primary schools including Newtyle and Eassie whereby children were spoken to about road safety and then assisted officers to use the speed detection equipment.

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Speeding drivers were handed letters by the children requesting that they reduce their speed near to their school. This approach has been seen to be effective and resulted in improved driver behaviour.

A local initiative also saw Road safety inputs and internet safety talks delivered to Cub groups in Forfar, these children are working towards badges for these topics. Officers from the Community Policing Team have spoken to members of the Community and through Local Community Councils regarding concerns from members of the public over the routes regularly being used by large timber lorries. These concerns were highlighted and have been passed to Forestry Land Scotland.

A number of patrols have been delivered at Andover Primary School and Ferryden Primary School in response to concern from residents linked to vehicles travelling in the exclusion zones in breach of the restrictions. A combination of education and enforcement activity was completed and successful in impacting driver behaviour.

Road traffic speeding initiatives were completed at Stracathro and Edzell Primary Schools linked to the Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO's) program.

Speed checks were completed in Brechin, Aberlemno, Montrose, Little Brechin and Ferryden after concerns raised by residents of speeding in these areas.

Drink / Drug Driving

At the last Scrutiny Committee, I committed to providing additional information in respect of our Drunk / Drug driving statistics. The following table provides that detail, giving the ratios between the number of offences linked to drink driving in comparison to drug driving, during the last performance year and Q1 2024/25

As can be seen, the largest number of offences continues to relate to drink driving, however the increasing detection of drug driving offences due to the use of drug wipes, is impactful in terms of increasing the overall performance figure linked to this offence category.

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	Drunk / Drug Driving	2023/24	24/25 Q1
Alcohol		111	31
Drugs		25	10
Total		136	41

Local Priority/Activity – Support policing through initiative-taking prevention

Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership

Police Scotland continue to form part of the Angus ADP and the overall aim of this partnership is to prevent harms that are associated with alcohol and drug use and to work with services, communities and people with lived experience to understand our local communities and how best to support them. ADP influence change in policy, systems and institutions and work to reduce the misinformation and stigma about alcohol and other drugs.

Our Partnership and Interventions Team continues to liaise with partners on a daily basis in respect of any emerging drug trends ensuring appropriate actions, interventions and preventative messaging is applied through the respective multi-agency forums delivering an integrated approach from both a health and policing perspective. Previous reports highlighted the inclusion of alcohol in the 'Substance Trend Monitoring Group'.

We continue to monitor drug trend alerts from RADAR and ensure pharmacies are engaging with substance users to be mindful of what they are sourcing.

A Tayside multi-agency meeting is held and chaired 6 weekly by Police to review and establish emerging trends, develop intelligence and ensure appropriate harm reduction measures are in place at a strategic level.

Non-Fatal Overdose Group

Our Partnerships team continue to attend the daily multi-agency Non-Fatal Overdose meetings, sharing relevant information in relation to any person who has experienced a near-fatal overdose as a result of their consumption of suspected illicit substances. Over the reporting period, there were 46 individual Angus cases discussed, with 21 being repeat cases. One in particular was highlighted as being at significant risk of overdose. An emergency IRD was planned and as a result, that individual is now fully engaging with partner supports.

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Every case discussed instigates a multi-agency response to ensure a holistic approach for interventions and positive engagements to reduce the harm to these individuals.

Since 1st January, 2024 to the end of Q1 there have been 10 suspected drug related deaths which is a reduction from the 14 suspected drugs deaths recorded in the same period LYTD. During Q1, Naloxone has been deployed by local officers on 3 occasions, providing vital medical interventions at the time of medical emergency.

Mental Health Awareness

During Q1, there were 7 completed suicides in Angus, a reduction of 3 in comparison to the same period in 2023.

Our Angus Mental Health and Wellbeing Network continue to meet monthly with the following providing examples of the topics which are currently being prioritised:

- Bereaved by Suicide Service
- Children and Young People
- Evaluation Workshops
- ARE YOU OK? Rollout

Discussions are ongoing in respect of Suicide Awareness week and options for collaborative work to be delivered with key partners.

The Angus Community Wellbeing Centre planning is well underway with visits having been undertaken to the Neuk, Perth and Hope Point, Dundee. Police Scotland are represented on the planning board, alongside a range of key stakeholders.

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

Through-out this report I have attempted to include examples of positive, proactive policing which demonstrates our commitment to delivering services locally, in conjunction with our local communities and in a way that reflects local priorities and focuses on supporting those who are most vulnerable.

We continue to deliver our national 'Your Survey' and 'User Experience' surveys and I will provide full reports on both within the Q2 and Q4 Committee reports. I can confirm that at the end of Q1, the stand-out statistic from our survey activity is that over 90% of respondents who reside in Angus feel safe or very safe, which reflects the fact that Angus continues to be a low crime area, with low levels of serious violent crime.

Formal Public Consultation

In terms of this report, I plan to focus on the recent completion of the formal public consultation in respect of the proposed re-location of Forfar Police Office. Our motivation in respect of this proposal stems from the fact that our current premises are now old, in a poor state of repair and not consistent with our national and local estates strategies.

We remain absolutely dedicated to maintaining and developing our local service delivery, through retaining a station in Forfar, and retaining all of the current local teams and officers within their current roles. However, we do need to ensure that the environment we provide for our officers and local communities is modernised, fit for purpose and provides a sustainable base to deliver policing in Forfar and its surrounding areas in the medium to longer term.

We have been transparent about the fact that we have advanced work in respect of the potential to re-locate to William Wallace House, Forfar and in including that potential location within the consultation documents we hoped to ensure that stakeholders and community members were provided with as much current information as possible, to help them reach a well-informed view, so that consultation responses are as meaningful as possible.

The consultation period ended on 26/08/2024 and we are now carefully reviewing and assessing that feedback. I am committed to ensuring that local communities, elected representatives and wider stakeholders are kept up to date as the process continues.

Quarter 4 Thematic Spotlight

Local Priority/Activity – Acquisitive Crime

Quarter 1 Thematic Spotlight - Tackle acquisitive crime and support victims

Introduction

In general terms Acquisitive crimes are those in which an offender acquires or takes items from another person, and so it covers a number of different types of offence. It includes crimes such as Theft, Theft by Housebreaking, Fraud and Theft of/from a Vehicle.

The impact of acquisitive crime on our communities in Scotland is a policing priority. Tackling acquisitive crime represents a challenge for the police and many partner agencies. Effective, long term reductions will only occur by working together and sharing and implementing good practice to keep pace with changing approaches to the commission of this crime type, such as the impact of cyber-enabled offending.

This report will provide a detailed breakdown of the levels of acquisitive crime recorded and investigated within the Angus local authority area during the current performance year, whilst exploring the current trends and perpetuating factors which are central to the commission of these crimes.

Crime Categorisation and Investigative Response

Acquisitive crimes are categorised into, common theft, Theft by housebreaking of dwelling, non-dwelling and other, fraud, OLP motor vehicle, OLP other, Theft shoplifting, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle and other group 3 crimes which includes theft of pedal cycle.

Every morning senior managers meet to discuss each incident of note and assign each case to the appropriate department to review and investigate.

The majority of acquisitive crimes are dealt with by local Policing Response Officers and Community Policing Teams.

In terms of the investigation of those more serious, complex investigations or crime series involving cross boarder crimes, these are dealt with by locality based Reactive CID or Divisional Acquisitive Crime teams. These crimes or series are often overseen by Senior Investigating Officers.

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Support is available from Divisional Acquisitive leads to ensure cross border trends and offending are quickly identified. Nationally Frameworks are in place to ensure the investigation of specific offending is joined up and opportunities maximised. This is the case with high value housebreakings where victims are targeted based on ethnicity, occupation, access to certain vehicles or a combination of all.

Tactical options are key where suspect or stolen vehicles are detected by mobile patrols. Collaborative working between Response, Road Policing and CID officers results in higher success rate in detecting and preventing acquisitive crime.

Statistical Analysis and Crime Management

Tayside Division Community Analysts produce a detailed analysis, which allows senior officers to scrutinise reported acquisitive crimes in Angus and react to emerging trends, deploying both local and national resources on an 'intelligence led' basis to proactively prevent crimes being committed and collaborate to detect crime. This detailed approach to tasking is governed via monthly tasking and coordinating group meetings which are chaired by the Divisional Commander and attended by the full Senior Leadership Team.

Our Crime Management Unit ensures that each acquisitive crime is properly recorded and that a robust professional investigation is delivered. Line managers across local policing and CID routinely assess crimes under investigation to ensure that these investigations are being progressed at pace and that vital safeguarding for victims is in place.

This work also highlights any outstanding DNA or fingerprint results which have returned and potentially identified offenders. These results are a Divisional priority with a strict time scale for addressing them. These are reviewed by a Detective Inspector weekly who ensures these are prioritised and progressed.

Through this combination of strong governance, statistical analysis and careful tasking we can focus our resources effectively to maximise detection rates, limit repeat offending and prioritise crime prevention activity.

Performance Data by Crime Type

In Q1 Angus has recorded a slightly higher number of Group 3 crimes compared to Q1 LYTD with 513 crimes recorded in comparison to 511 crimes last year. However, the detection rates of this year compared to last are significantly higher, with a 50.88% detection rate CYTD in comparison to 38.96% LYTD.

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We continue to work hard in the preventative space, understanding that reducing the numbers of victims of crime and limiting the harm that these crimes cause is of vital importance. The following paragraphs will focus on key Acquisitive Crime types which impacted Angus local authority area during Q1.

Housebreakings to Dwelling Houses

The figure for Theft by Housebreaking (Dwelling Houses) includes all Attempted Housebreaking and instances of Housebreaking With Intent to Steal (i.e. where the security of the property has been overcome but no property stolen). This analysis considers break-ins and attempts to dwellings only – it therefore excludes sheds and other out-buildings.

There were 11 Theft by HB (Dwelling Houses) recorded in Angus during Q1. This is a decrease of crimes when compared to the 26 committed during Q1 LYTD and down on the 16 recorded in Q4 of last year.

Arbroath area has the largest numbers of recorded residential housebreakings in Q1 with 3 recorded and there are 2 recorded each in Kirriemuir and Forfar, with 1 each recorded in Montrose, Carnoustie, Letham and Monifieth.

Whilst it is noted that reported Housebreakings to dwellings are low it should also be noted at this time that detection rates are up to 36.3% CYTD in comparison to 19.2% from the same period LYTD.

There has been significant discussion about improving detection rates across all Housebreakings with a review system having been implemented of all undetected crimes. Local CID supervisors conduct a review on all undetected housebreaking, providing investigative guidance and support. Any issues identified or opportunities overlooked are promptly rectified or raised ensuring learning is taken and shared. Some current undetected housebreakings from Q1 have lines of enquiry remaining and it is anticipated that the detection rate will continue to rise, as those investigations reach a conclusion.

The following is a practical example of our approach. In April a dwelling property in Monifieth was broken into by persons forcing the rear patio door and stealing a quantity of cash, jewellery and handbags from within. By utilising connections in other geographical areas and through established channels, it was identified that the persons responsible were also responsible for a number of other crimes in Perth and Kinross and Kirkcaldy. By working together Officers were able to identify and apprehend 2 males from England who were traveling for the purpose of committing crime.

Housebreakings to Non Dwellings

There were 9 Housebreaking to Non-Dwellings recorded in Angus during Q1. This is an increase of 2 compared Q1 LYTD. The detection rate is currently 33.3% CYTD, an increase from 28.5% LYTD.

Housebreakings Other

There are 18 Housebreakings to Commercial premises recorded in Angus during Q1. This is considerably less than the 30 noted in the same period LYTD. Detection rates are 55.5% CYTD which is a substantive improvement on the detection rate of 23.3% LYTD, which is testament to the successes being delivered via the refreshed approach to governance, review and tasking as described earlier in this thematic review.

Motor Vehicle Crime

There were 44 motor vehicle crimes recorded in Q1, which is a slight reduction from the 45 crimes recorded LYTD, but also a substantive reduction from the 56 crimes recorded during Q4 of last year. Although this demonstrates modest improvements in occurrence rates it does continue a trend of reducing numbers of motor vehicles crimes being committed within Angus. This has been sustained over the past 3 performance quarters.

Motor vehicle crime is spread consistently across the local authority area, with higher numbers of crimes recorded in Montrose, Arbroath, and Forfar.

Building on our successes in detecting higher numbers of Housebreakings, I can also report strong performance in terms of detecting motor vehicle crime this quarter. Detection rates for this reporting period were 72.7%, in comparison to 57.7% LYTD.

This rise has been a result of some impressive collaborative working between LPA, Local CID, Acquisitive Crime Teams and Roads Policing. A number of prolific offenders have been identified and arrested for crimes series conducted within Angus and other areas during this period.

The following paragraphs give some examples of the activity being conducted to deliver those results.

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In April, 2024 a crime series involving a stolen Renault Clio motorcar occurred, resulting in the commission of 7 linked crimes including theft of motor vehicles, thefts from motor vehicles and the targeting of works vans and those tools stored inside. This crime type has a significant impact on the victims who are left unable to carry out their day jobs. These crimes have now all been detected to a significant and prolific offender. He has appeared at court and is currently serving a custodial sentence.

During May and June, 2024 there was a crime series involving the theft of 2 Ford Fiestas from the Montrose Area. This is a vehicle that has been commonly targeted in recent months. This is a known issue nationally and is being addressed through interventions. Good collaborative work with LPA and Angus CID resulted in three persons being identified by recovered CCTV and reported for these thefts.

Following the theft of a Fiat Abarth 500 motor vehicle in Dundee, during Q1, the vehicle was observed on CCTV in the vicinity of 10 further crimes committed across Angus including thefts from motor vehicles. The above stolen vehicle was later recovered in Dundee, searched and items recovered within including several receipts for recent purchases.

Forensic work was carried out within the vehicle, along with CCTV reviews at pertinent locations leading to 2 prolific offenders being identified for all crimes. This was a crime series that started and ended in Dundee, but the majority of offending occurred in Angus. By using local Response and CID officers across Tayside, supported by forensic expert, we were able to detect a number of crimes and arrest offenders, reducing risk to the public. This type of streamlined and efficient collaboration continues.

Theft Shoplifting

There have been 209 Theft by Shoplifting crimes recorded in Q1 compared to 139 LYTD.

Although this rise is concerning, it is consistent with the national picture and is a trend which we have identified at an early stage. We are adopting a two pronged approach to tackling these increased occurrence rates. Firstly, by proactive engagement with shops and retail premises in efforts to raise awareness of crime prevention and secondly by tackling a number of undetected shopliftings, dedicating a team of officers to work on outstanding crimes, looking for links and prolific offenders, identifying opportunities for arrests and in turn reducing the impact certain individuals have within the community.

The outcome of this response can be seen in the detection rates from Q1. Despite the higher number of recorded crimes the detection rate is currently 62.3% which is an increase from 58% LYTD.

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There is evidence to suggest that this approach is starting to pay dividends with promising reductions in occurrence rates seen in the early part of Q2, which we hope to report on later in the year.

An example of the good work conducted by Angus Officers is shown in the detection of 4 linked shopliftings which occurred in Kirriemuir. These crimes occurred over a 4 day period. Through thorough investigation a previously unknown offender was identified for stealing food items. The individual had no previous criminal background and concerned engagement with the individual uncovered a recent history of financial pressure. As a result, a formal adult warning was issued, with a focus on safeguarding and partnership support to assist with the situation in an attempt to tackle the root cause of the issue.

Fraud

The number of reported Fraud's remains consistently high, although in line with increases in this crime type seen right across the country. This crime type continues to be driven by the commission of cyber-enabled crimes often committed by perpetrators out with the UK.

During Q1 73 crimes of Fraud were reported, in comparison to 82 crimes LYTD.

Q1 shows an increased detection rate of 32.8% in comparison to 13.4% LYTD. Although this improvement in detections is positive, a review of crimes from Q1 shows a higher percentage of detected crimes linked to the unauthorised use of bank cards or bank details to purchase goods by a person known to complainer. These crimes were specific to a small number of reports, which resulted in the recording of several crimes. This MO Type often provides more positive lines of enquiries than several other fraud types, such as cyber-enabled crimes. We would anticipate a higher ratio of online offending as the performance year continues, which may impact upon the current strong detection rate delivered.

Fraud enquiries are often complex and protracted with Police dependent on retailers to provide evidence such as documentation. Investigations can often take several months to detect or complete, meaning there may be several more crimes detected moving forward.

Members of our Partnership, Interventions and Preventions Team continue to contact each victim of Fraud within the Angus local authority area at the time a crime is committed, seeking to prevent any further losses, assist to restore funds if possible and provide advice and guidance in terms of online safety and security.

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D Division has a dedicated financial investigator who is available for advice and guidance in relation to Fraud investigations. They have access to more specialised resources, regularly reviews crimes and provide a vital link between the Police, Banks and other financial institutions.

Crime Prevention

The above information provides some key information in terms of how investigations are structured and delivered, whilst outlining current performance in the local authority area. The robust investigation of crimes and the detection of offenders is critical in maintaining public confidence, providing community reassurance, reducing risk, supporting victims and delivering a sense of justice.

These aspects of our work occur as part of our reaction to the commission of a crime, whilst the next section of the report will focus on prevention and improvements in investigations.

A detailed approach is taken to prioritising our resources to ensure that our activity is targeted in a way which identifies those persons or crimes that present the greatest risks to our communities and those who are at the greatest risk of harm. Although not exhaustive, some of the key components of that approach will be outlined here.

The Partnerships Team have been identifying high tariff premises that are repeat targets for shoplifters with reactive target hardening work being carried out. This can include crime prevention surveys and visits from retailers against crime and design our crime specialists. Repeat Offenders have been escalated to partners to ensure these individuals are having their needs met in terms of emotional, practical and financial support in order to deter them from committing crime.

Advice and reassurance visits have been carried out to all premises where staff members have been abused and or assaulted, while ensuring victim support services have been initiated.

In response to high level rural crime, where recently we have seen caravans, and specific car models targeted, we continue to support these victims by carrying out a site visit, identifying areas for leaflet drops in these areas and raising awareness on social media platforms. Officers are working alongside colleagues, internally and externally to look at preventative measures and ways to safeguard vulnerable persons and target repeat offenders.

Partnerships Officers are also continuing to work with trading standards and Adult Protection at Arbroath Infirmary with Radio North Angus is situated to provide advice/reassurance advice and guidance to listeners.

Divisional Acquisitive Crime Meeting

The Angus LPA Area Commander is a core attendee of the monthly Divisional Acquisitive crime meeting. This is a meeting chaired by one of the 4 Detective Inspectors from the Criminal Investigation Department who cover Perth, Dundee Angus and Serious and Organised Crime. The meeting is attended by representatives from a number of areas across the division who are involved in dealing with acquisitive crime. These attendees include Analysts, Partnerships, CID, LPA, DIU, RPU and FIU.

The aim of the meeting is to discuss the Divisional response to acquisitive crime ensuring that there is a joined-up approach to investigations, interventions and provides a platform promoting responsibility and shared learning.

In this quarter several issues were discussed and addressed including the response to vehicle thefts and the activities of notable offenders like the ones mentioned in the examples above.

This approach continues to be of benefit to the whole division, including Angus.

SPAACE

The Scottish Partnership Against Acquisitive Crime SPAACE recognises Scotland is a diverse mix of people and geography. The partners bring a range of expertise to tackle acquisitive crime with the joint aim of reducing the risks our communities face from acquisitive crime and the associated financial loss.

Scottish Partnerships Against Acquisitive Crime SPACCE have introduced Acquisitive crime strategy in 2023 – 2028.

SPAACE objectives are:

- Minimise opportunities for acquisitive crime and reduce the harm it causes to our communities
- Develop our nationwide approach to reduce doorstep crime and the harm it causes.
- Work with partners to tackle acquisitive crime and protect individuals and businesses from this threat
- Deliver a clearer reporting mechanism for advice and guidance Build upon community and business resilience

Angus Partnerships and Interventions team, work with the above strategy in mind. This good work continues in line with the SPAACE acquisitive crime calendar with our focus for the next quarter moving onto metal theft and plant theft.

National Acquisitive Crime Intranet Page

By the very nature of acquisitive crime, there are emerging crime types and modus Operandi replicated nationally which circulate and develop as a result of a number of external factors, including economic pressures and advancements in technologies. This has never been more evident than in the sharp rise in online frauds committed during the pandemic. As a result, Police Scotland implemented and maintain a National acquisitive crime intranet page. This contains a number of useful tools, advice and resources for tackling and preventing acquisitive crime. These include printable leaflets promoting a range of crime prevention advice, briefings on emerging trends, scene examination advice and a list of intelligence requirements.

The use of this resource is an indicator of the continued commitment by Police Scotland to tackling acquisitive crime and reducing the impact of crimes on people of Angus.

Bail orders and apprehension warrants

When an investigation has reached the point where Police Scotland have sufficiency of evidence to charge a person there are three disposal options for Police.

The accused person is simply charged with the crime and a report detailing the circumstances is submitted to the Procurator Fiscal service for their consideration. This is generally for minor matters where there are no wider concerns.

Release the accused on a 'bail undertaking' after they agree to attend a future court hearing.

Keep the accused person in custody to appear at court the next day. In these cases, Police will send a report to the Procurator Fiscal detailing the circumstances and provide an evidence based view on whether the accused person should be released on bail or 'remanded' to prison for trial.

Conditions of bail are designed to reduce the risk of re-offending and Police will make use of specific conditions such to reduce risk of re-offending.

In relation to acquisitive crime offenders, one of the most sought conditions is a curfew bail. This instructs that a person must reside within their home address between a specified time. Most often this is 1900 hours to 0700 hours, covering the hours of darkness where the majority of Theft Housebreaking and vehicle crime are committed. During this time, Police can attend at any time to check on the person subject to the condition. If they are found to not be within, they are in breach of their conditions and will be arrested and returned to court, where a remand in custody may be imposed.

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Persons who are subject to curfew bail are checked regularly by officers and this is managed on a Divisional level.

If a person accused of an acquisitive crime fails to attend a court hearing, the Sheriff will consider issuing a warrant for that person's arrest. The enforcement of these warrants is another priority for Police Scotland.

Public Support and Reassurance

Locally, Senior Investigating Officers and the Area Commander deliver well developed external communication strategies, to ensure communities understand the nature of Police activity in their local area and are reassured rather than concerned by those higher profile investigations.

The support of members of our local communities is crucial in the fight against acquisitive crime and a focus on our services being visible and accessible is crucial.

Police Scotland routinely seek the support of members of our local communities through a range of engagement tools, ranging from use of the mainstream media, printed press and social media, seeking to engage with as broad a range of community members as possible.

We will continue to ensure that the harm caused by acquisitive crime is mitigated and local communities reassured through the provision of well timed, accurate and accessible information.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this thematic report has aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of local service delivery concerning acquisitive crime in Angus. It has highlighted the extensive resources dedicated to this crucial area, encompassing investigation, arrests, and our commitment to partnership working and preventive measures.

While Angus remains a safe place with relatively low crime levels compared to other regions, the impact of acquisitive crime is still felt across the local authority. We are resolute in our efforts to reduce offending rates, mitigate harm, and enhance public confidence and safety.