

Dundee City Council Policy and Resources Committee

17 March 2014

**Report by Chief Inspector Trickett & Inspector Ogilvie
Dundee North and Dundee South Local Policing Areas
D (Tayside) Division, Police Scotland**

SUBJECT: POLICE LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

**OPERATIONAL REPORT PART 1
March 2014
Report No: 154- 2014**

<p>Abstract: The attached report provides members with background operational information to the performance information submitted separately to provide context.</p>
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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that members note and scrutinise the operational report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide some context to the information provided in relation to performance and to elaborate on some of the work which has taken place within Dundee North and South Local Policing Areas.

3. PERFORMANCE

3.1 Violent Crime

Violence continues to be an issue across Dundee North and South Policing Areas.

In Dundee South the primary issues relate to the night time economy and alcohol fuelled disorder and violence. Police across Dundee are engaged in preventative work to reduce violence occurring. This includes working with licensed premises to ensure they provide a safe environment for customers and promote responsible drinking in order to discharge their wider obligations under the Licensing Act. Operations to deter disorder and in conjunction with door staff take place every weekend to ensure customers are not in possession of anything criminal when entering or leaving the premises.

In Dundee North, much of the violence is domestic violence, often fuelled by alcohol as well. In addition to the support provided to domestic victims by police and partner agencies, police now robustly manage offenders through a series of visits to ensure bail compliance and attempt to prevent repetition and warn them of the consequences of such action. Unfortunately since the

festive period, there have been peaks in domestic violence during the last weekend in January and sadly, Valentines Day.

When violent crime does occur we have improved detection rates across Dundee policing areas so that 4 out of every 5 crimes reported to us see the perpetrator reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

The use of stop and search as a tactic to prevent violence, drugs activity and theft is deployed across policing areas. The year to date total for Dundee (up to 2 March 2014) is 11,462 searches; 6,492 have been for drugs, 1789 for weapons, 1626 for stolen property, 1470 for alcohol, 68 for fireworks and 17 for Firearms. The positive rate for search averages at 15.5%, although varies across categories with 39.2% for alcohol searches, to 11.4% for drugs, down to 2.9% for fireworks.

The proportion of stop and searches by gender is 85.5% male and 14.5% female. The age category with the highest proportion of stop and searches is 16 – 20 year olds at 23.6%, 21 – 25 year olds at 18.2% and 26 – 30 year olds at 15.8%. The 11 – 15 age range accounts for 6.1%. The most frequently searched gender / age is male / 18 years old at 4.5%. The proportion of stop and searches by ethnicity is 97.9% white, the next highest category is Asian at 0.6%.

The use of stop and search as a tactic is an essential tool to detect, deter and disrupt criminals and the police will continue to target the right people, in the right place, at the right time in order to keep people safe.

3.2 Licensed Premises

A recent analysis of violent offending in and around licensed premises in the city centre of Dundee has recently been completed. It shows that overall crime in the city centre has reduced by around 10% compared to last year. However, further analysis shows the reduction lies mid week with a 29% decrease, whereas the weekend has shown a marginal increase. In particular there has been a rise in offending between the hours of midnight and 0600 hours. The hotspots are Ward Road / South Ward Road and Seagate / Cowgate area – both populated by pubs, clubs and late night catering establishments.

During the last year there have been a number of extensions in opening hours to hybrid pubs. This has led to debate at Licensing Committee and Licensing Board resulting in extensions to licensing hours of city centre pubs and clubs to 0100 hours for pubs, 0200 hours for hybrid pubs and 0300 hours for clubs. The increase in violence in the early hours of the morning correlates in time and location to the licensing hours of pubs and clubs. Police Scotland are continuing their efforts to work with licence holders, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) colleagues and members of the Licensing Committee and Board to reduce alcohol fuelled violence in Dundee.

3.3 Housebreaking

The targeting of offenders, patrolling of hot spots for housebreaking and good response when break-ins do occur has reduced the overall number of break-ins to houses. Unfortunately our detection rate has reduced over the year from previous years; this is due to low numbers of crimes limiting detection

opportunities, sporadic distribution across Dundee with no hot spots and a high percentage of prolific offenders in prison. This is an area for us to focus on during the coming year.

3.4 Anti Social Behaviour

Priority locations are identified where criminality, disorder and antisocial behaviour occur. A priority location file is produced, identifying the problem, listing planned interventions including partnership activities coordinated through Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination Meetings (MATAC) at the Community Safety hub. Officers on every shift are tasked with relevant interventions and record activity on a log, which is assessed on a daily basis by Area Commanders.

Operation Highrise continues in the Lochee area. Community and response officers along with the Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Team (ASBT) and the Divisional Violence Reduction Team (DVRT) continue to deal with issues of drug abuse and antisocial behaviour in high rise blocks and retail centres.

3.5 Drugs

Operation Jonquil relates to serious and organised crime, particularly the supply and distribution of the Class 'A' controlled drug – diamorphine (heroin). This crime group has associations across Dundee and Police Scotland target activity against these individuals at every opportunity to detect, disrupt, divert and deter their organised crime.

3.6 Road Policing

There was one fatal road accident in Dundee during the past three months, widely reported in the press, involving a pedestrian crossing the A90.

Road Policing activity features as a priority in both Dundee policing areas and officers carry out activity on a daily basis, including road check points and mobile patrols.

3.7 Planning

The draft three year Dundee Policing Plan has been widely consulted on through Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPPs) and other community and partnership contacts. The draft plan is presented formally in closed session for further consultation and comment. The final plan will be presented at the next committee for approval.

Multi Member Ward Plans, based on LCPP community safety priorities, are currently being updated for 2014.

3.8 Events

There have been no significant events during the reporting period.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

5. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no staffing issues as a result of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

6.1 This report does not have any impact on the environment.

7. SUMMARY

7.1 The attached report updates members regarding significant operational matters and gives context to the performance of the local policing area.

8. COMPLIANCE

Is the proposal;

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| (a) Human Rights Act 1998 compliant? | YES |
| (b) Equality & Diversity compliant? | YES |