

Dundee City Council Policy and Resources Committee

19 NOVEMBER 2012

**Report by Superintendent Brian Weir,
Dundee Local Policing Area
Tayside Police Community Policing Division**

**SUBJECT: POLICE AND FIRE REFORM:
LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT**

OPERATIONAL REPORT

Report No. 432-2012

<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
 - 1.1.1 note and question 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 the Dundee Local Policing Area.

3 PERFORMANCE

3.1 Crime

- 3.1.1 There have been 6 murders in Dundee during this reporting period compared with only 1 in the same period in 2011/12. One of these murders remains undetected at the time of this report. However, during the same period the number of Attempted Murder and Serious Assault crimes has fallen from 85 to 47. This report however does reflect a marked reduction in violent crime in the city. Sadly, the difference between a murder and a serious assault is often only a matter of chance and not intent - a single punch or a single blow with a knife can result in either minor injury or fatality. The detection rate for violent crime has improved slightly from this period last year to 79.8% with a reduction in overall victims of violent crime down 67 or 41.6%.

3.1.2/

- 3.1.2 The other consequence of a murder investigation is, rightly, the number of resources required to fully investigate and report the circumstances. This means resources are drawn from across both Dundee and the neighbouring Local Policing Areas (Angus and Perth and Kinross) and the subsequent impact this can have on other aspects of policing. However, the Local Policing Area Command is conscious of this and is taking every available step to minimise this impact on the delivery of local policing services.
- 3.1.3 It should also be noted that at the start of every murder enquiry (and other significant events) a Community Impact Assessment is carried out by the local Inspector or Chief Inspector, to determine what effect the crime could have on a particular area, residents or community group and consider the steps required to provide appropriate reassurance. A relatively recent innovation, this is particularly effective in identifying community concerns at an early stage and mitigating them.
- 3.1.4 Crimes of Indecency (including Rape, Assault with intent to rape, Indecent Assault, etc) have fallen by 14.8% from 115 to 76 compared to last year. Given the devastating impact these crimes have on their victims, this is a particularly welcome reduction. For the same reasons the increase in detections from 64.3% to 77.6% is also welcomed.
- 3.1.5 As previously described, Domestic Housebreaking has increased from last year over the reporting period however this results from an increase in April and May, since which time the figures have dropped considerably. The increase in April and May was largely attributable to two individuals, working separately, who are prolific housebreakers when at liberty. Once sufficient evidence had been acquired, and they were arrested and put to court, the level of housebreakings dropped back to below the previous few years' levels. Efforts continue to identify such repeat offenders, particularly on their release from prison, to minimise their impact on householders in the city.

3.2 Drugs

- 3.2.1 There were 17 drug related deaths recorded in this period compared to 14 last year. Work to address the drugs problem across the city continues at all levels from Section resources to the Force Drugs Branch. In addition, police officers and staff continue to engage fully with partners to address the supply of drugs and the harm caused. This includes playing a full part in the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.

3.3 Domestic Abuse

- 3.3.1 Domestic Abuse continues to be a focus for police resources. In addition to having officers dedicated to providing support to victims, and using partners to assist, every incident is examined with a view to taking the earliest possible action to provide an appropriate intervention to safeguard the victims and deal with the offender. Often children feature in such cases and again measures are put in place to support them. The increase in recorded incidents of 13% may be seen as both concerning that there were 1332 incidents and encouraging that victims feel confident in reporting these events.

3.4 Road Casualties/

3.5 Road Casualties

- 3.5.1 Having had no road fatalities in Dundee during 2011/12 it is regretful to record that there was one such incident in this reporting period.

4 NOTABLE EVENTS

- 4.1 Tayside Police, along with all other British Forces, sent staff to England to assist with the Olympic Games held during the past summer. The impact this may have had on policing in Dundee was mitigated by having an embargo on annual leave during this period.
- 4.2 The Scottish Defence League protest held in Dundee on 1 September was policed successfully with assistance from officers from Angus, Perth and Kinross and other Scottish Forces. There were no significant incidents at this event and a subsequent debrief was held to identify learning points for any future events.
- 4.3 Following Dundee Football Club's late admission to the Scottish Premier League a number of home fixture clashes with Dundee United were identified. As a result, following discussions with both clubs and the SPL, it was agreed to trial low risk fixtures being played on Friday evenings and, if successful, to consider playing further low risk fixtures on Friday evenings where future home clashes occur. The criteria for success being minimal disruption to local residents, minimal impact on policing the evening economy in Dundee and commercial success for the clubs.

5 COMMUNITY POLICING STYLE

- 5.1 The Community Policing Model has now been implemented across the city. The vision for Community Policing in Dundee is to actively understand and engage with our diverse local communities to create **Safer Stronger Communities** where people know that police and partners understand the issues that matter most to them and are able to tackle them together thereby **Making a Difference**.
- 5.2 Community Policing addresses and tries to resolve all aspects of criminal and anti-social behaviour from vandalism to organised crime and terrorism. All staff are responsible for delivering this service to prevent and fight crime, reduce harm, contribute to public safety and protect the vulnerable.
- 5.3 The Community Policing Model is being delivered through three key objectives:
- Having an identifiable dedicated officer(s) located in each geographic community.
 - Consulting with the community to identify and establish local policing priorities.
 - Adopting a shared partnership problem solving approach to dealing with issues, determining accountability and appoint the most appropriate lead agency.

- 5.4 It is anticipated that an evaluation of the impact of this model will be made available to members at the end of the financial year.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

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

8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- 8.1 This report does not have any impact on the environment.

9. SUMMARY

- 9.1 The attached report provides members with an update regarding significant operational matters and context to the performance information within the local policing area.

10. COMPLIANCE

Is the proposal;

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