



Subject **PERFORMANCE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA APRIL – AUGUST 2013**
Date: **19 OCTOBER 2013**
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight matters in the Area Command such as emerging trends, threats and issues or particular successes and difficulties.
- 1.2 The Falkirk Policing Performance Scrutiny Report table contains the current information on performance against selected performance indicators. This covering report provides complementary information to that in the table to present a rounded picture of issues affecting policing in Falkirk Council area.
- 1.3 The format of this report generally follows that of the Local Policing Plan priorities (i.e. Violence/Disorder & ASB, Serious Crime, Domestic Abuse etc) as they appear on the Scrutiny Report table.
- 1.4 The colour coding on the table is intended to provide a visual representation of variations in performance. It is based on the protocol which informed reports to the Central Scotland Joint Police Board. An explanation of the coding is given within the table.
- 1.5 There will normally be contextual information provided on current performance which shows improvement or reduction against that achieved previously. For a small number of indicators only the Forth Valley Division figure is available at this time, and this is identified in the contextual comments.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The long-term trend of reducing crime rates has continued in this quarter with a drop of 11.7% in crime groups 1 to 4 compared to the 5 year average. However, there is a marginal rise of 0.6% from the figure at this time last year. A decrease in crimes of serious violence (-17) is offset by slight increases in crimes of indecency (2), dishonesty (15) and damage to property (14).
- 2.2 There are currently 51 sections in the Policing Performance Scrutiny Report table. Some of these sections contain more than one indicator, giving a total of

56 indicators. These reflect the aspirations of Forth Valley Division to achieve continuous improvement in service delivery to the communities in this area.

- 2.3 The table contains information produced by Police Scotland which is relevant to national priorities and also reflects the objectives in the Falkirk Local Policing Plan. The 35 indicators which relate directly to the local policing plan are shown as **emboldened** in the table. The remaining 21 indicators also provide valuable information on local performance as they fit comfortably under the six local priority headings.
- 2.4 Together, they help to provide information on trends in performance which is expanded by the contextual information and actions shown in the final column. Of the 46 indicators for which data is available, 21 show positive performance whilst 25 show reduced levels. The scrutiny table provides detail of how significant the variations in performance were, and whether it varied in respect of the previous year or the 3/5 year average or both.
- 2.5 The long-term downward trend in crimes and offences involving **Anti-Social Behaviour, disorder and vandalism** has continued over the reporting period. Within this overall figure, there was an increase of 5% in incidents of disorder from the previous year, although there was a reduction of 17% on the 5 year average.
- 2.6 In respect of **violent crime**, there were significant reductions in both serious and minor assaults with detection rates in both categories remaining at high levels. In the majority of assaults no weapon was used. The number of robberies was the same as the previous year at 12 and slightly up against the 5 year average of 9.8.
- 2.7 A focused effort against the **misuse of drugs** has seen a rise from last year in the number of persons charged with the supply, production or cultivation of illegal substances (56 to 71) which is in line with recent upward trends taking performance back towards the 5 year average (88).
- 2.8 **Crimes of dishonesty (group 3)** show a very slight increase of 0.9% overall against 2012/13 but remain below the 5 year average. The most significant rises are in Fraud and Theft by Shoplifting, although both Theft by Housebreaking and Motor Vehicle Crimes have reduced against both the previous year and the 5 year average. The detection rate for acquisitive crime is 47% which sits midway within the range normally achieved for this type of crime.
- 2.9 The number of **domestic abuse incidents** (733) shows a drop against the previous year (818) and continues the longer-term trend of reductions in the numbers of such incidents reported to police. This issue has been given particular emphasis within Forth Valley Division and measures including intervention, enforcement and target profiling have been applied successfully.
- 2.10 One of the objectives under the priority of **Protecting the Public** is to reduce the levels of **crimes of indecency**. These have in fact increased slightly from

78 during the reporting period last year to 80 in this year but show a reduction against the 5 year average (89.4). Crimes are recorded according to the date they are **reported** regardless of when they occurred, and detections are recorded when the perpetrator is charged, which may be some months later. This means that the number of detections in any given period may vary from the number of crimes reported in that period. This can lead to detection rates of more than 100% where the number of detections exceeds the number of reports. This is seen in the Scrutiny Table (section 32) in respect of the rape detection rate (106.9%). Levels of offending by individuals who are strangers to the victim remain low.

- 2.11 Another objective under the preceding priority is to respond to **hate crimes and offences**. On average, there have been about 20 such crimes each month, with the largest single characteristic of victims having been race (43%). The rates for detecting offenders remains high at almost 89% and reflects the importance placed on addressing this issue. Effort in detecting offenders is complemented by the provision of assistance, advice and guidance to victims.
- 2.12 **Road Policing and Road Crime** is being addressed within the new structure of a local Forth Valley Divisional Road Policing Unit supplemented by the national Trunks Road Policing Group which covers activity on key main routes. The number of road collisions (115 to 116) shows a marginal rise on previous year, but people killed or seriously injured (34 to 14) shows a reduction. Focused efforts on addressing the potential causes of collision such as speeding and use of mobile phones while driving have led to increased detections under these categories. More detail on collisions is shown in the attached table, and locations and severity of injuries are highlighted on the maps provided.
- 2.13 **Community Confidence and Engagement** remains at the heart of local policing, and the **number of complaints about the police** and the nature of such complaints can be a measure of how well this is being achieved. The number for this reporting period is 47 which is an additional 12 complaints to those recorded in the first quarter of the year. There were a total of 89 allegations contained within the 47 complaints, of which 82 were in relation to the actions of staff whilst on duty, and 7 were in respect of the quality of service delivered by the organisation. No significant trends in respect of individuals or particular locations are currently discernible. The service user survey previously employed to measure satisfaction levels has been replaced by a new standard national survey, the results from which are not yet available.

3. RISKS AND THREATS

- 3.1 Some of the risks and threats which continue to present are:
- Metal theft
 - Skimming devices in Automated Teller Machines
 - Bogus collection/theft of "charity" clothing

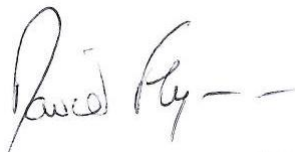
- Child neglect (including the level of care and hygiene in the home)
- Local impact of serious organised crime groups
- Changes/trends in drugs supply

By their nature, these remain longer-term threats and Forth Valley Division continues to focus on intervention and enforcement to address them.

- 3.2 No significant new operational issues emerged during the last reporting period.
- 3.3 There were no significant new operational issues emerging during the current reporting period.

4. UPDATES

- 4.1 This section of the report provides brief details of any matters within Falkirk Area Command which present a challenge for Forth Valley Division or which are of particular interest. Information on recent issues which emerged since the production of this report will be provided by way of a verbal report at the meeting.
- 4.2 Police Scotland has published proposals for changes to public counter provision at police offices. This would mean the identification of each office within one of 5 standard categories ranging from 24/7 opening to no reception provision. There are no significant changes to current provision within the Falkirk council area. Proposals have been circulated to members to allow comment to be made.
- 4.3 There are other proposals relating to the withdrawal of the role of traffic warden across the police divisions where that role still exists. There are disparate approaches to enforcement of parking offences across Scotland with a number of councils having adopted legislation allowing such offences to be decriminalised and thereby become their responsibility. These proposals are currently out for comment and have been circulated to local members. Should the decision after consideration of responses be to withdraw the role, then it is likely that this will be undertaken by the end of March 2014. This would then leave a decision with local authorities, including Falkirk, as to how parking enforcement would be addressed.



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