

# POLICE SCOTLAND

## FALKIRK LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2014-2017

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## **1. Introduction and purpose of plan**

This plan sets out the local policing priorities and objectives for Falkirk for 2014-2017 and is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

The process of producing the plan takes account of the Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services, the Strategic Police Priorities set by Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Police Authority's Strategic Police Plan and the Chief Constable of Scotland's Annual Police Plan. (1)

The recognition of such influences is appropriate as local policing is now delivered within a national framework which allows local concerns to be addressed alongside a commitment to contribute to national demands.

The focus of the plan however is on responding to the needs and expectations of the communities in Falkirk as identified in the local priorities. The plan will set out these priorities along with the outcomes we are trying to achieve and the approaches which we will take in doing so.

The Falkirk Council area is situated right at the centre of Scotland. It has a growing population which, according to the preliminary results of the 2011 Census, is now 156,000, making it the 11th largest council in Scotland. Population projections for Falkirk show an increasing number of residents of pensionable age.

Falkirk is one of the best connected locations in Scotland, equidistant between Glasgow and Edinburgh and at the heart of the motorway network. The area is important for the Scottish economy with Scotland's busiest port situated at Grangemouth along with the nearby extensive refinery and petro-chemical industries.

The area has diverse communities, many of which demonstrate a high measure of affluence, whilst others suffer from significant levels of deprivation. The local Community Planning Partnership has a keen focus on tackling the most significant inequalities which exist in the Falkirk council area.

This local authority plan will therefore be supported by nine local community plans based on the Multi-Member Wards in Falkirk. These plans will reflect community level priorities and respond directly to local needs and demands.

The Local Policing Plan presents the issues which emerged across the communities in the Falkirk Council area, although the level of priority placed on each might have differed according to the circumstances in individual wards.

Although this is a three year plan, there will be ongoing reviews to ensure that the priorities remain valid and that emerging ones are recognised.

(1) Full versions of these documents can be found at:

Strategic Police Priorities – [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/Police/StrategicPolicePriorities](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/Police/StrategicPolicePriorities)  
SPA Strategic Police Plan – [www.spa.police.uk/assets/128635/strategic-police-plan-web](http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/128635/strategic-police-plan-web)  
Annual Police Plan – [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

## **2. Foreword by:**

### **Chief Constable Sir Stephen House QPM**

The first year of Police Scotland has seen significant change in many aspects of the organisation, however the delivery of locally-focused operational policing remains the bedrock of this service. I remain strongly committed to the principle that community-based policing, which responds to local need and demand, is crucial to delivering services that keep people safe and maintain public confidence.

One of the ways in which we can visibly demonstrate this commitment to local policing is by listening to communities and asking them to help shape our priorities. We have consulted widely across the council area with local people and other organisations to help identify our priorities. By combining the information we received through this consultation process with analysis of crime and other performance data we have established the priorities and objectives that are set out in this plan.

In developing this plan the Local Policing Team, led by the Local Commander, has worked closely with public, private and third sector organisations as well as directly with communities, because we recognise that partnership working is critical to making our communities safer. Importantly, this approach has also ensured that our planning process is aligned to the broader vision set out in the Community Plan and supports the Single Outcome Agreement. This plan is therefore a commitment to working across agencies to deliver better outcomes for communities as well as setting out how policing will be delivered in this area.

I am pleased to say that we have achieved much in the first year of Police Scotland to tackle crime and prevent harm - reducing the number of people who have been the victims of violence and the number killed and injured on our roads as well as addressing other crucial priorities for communities. This plan sets out an agenda to build on that success by tackling the issues that will improve the safety and well being of communities across this local authority area.

### **Vic Emery, O.B.E Chair of the Scottish Police Authority**

I passionately believe that the establishment of Police Scotland and the SPA has created significant opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness of policing. We want you the public to have a real say on local priorities and for policing to listen to that public voice. This plan is where that comes together. It sets out what your local priorities are – identified from what local people are saying is most important to them, and underpinned by local evidence and intelligence gathered by policing in this area.

We want you to be able to question, and judge, how well the police are performing against those priorities. So we will expect your local commander to report publicly and regularly on how they are achieving the priorities set in this plan, so you and your community can assess for yourselves how policing is working for you.

We want residents to be able to see how money invested in policing is being used and what results it brings, and to understand better how national and local policing decisions are made and why.

Scotland is a country with reducing levels of crime, and a strong bond of trust between the Police service and the Scottish public. Local partnerships, a focus on prevention and collaboration, and genuine accountability at both local and national level underpin that bond.

Working together to turn this plan into results, as professionals and members of the public, is about making this part of Scotland a place of greater safety – and a greater place to live.

**Councillor Pat Reid**

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the local Policing Plan for Falkirk for 2014/17.

**Chief Superintendent David Flynn, Local Police Commander**

Local policing continues to be the focus of Police Scotland, and I am delighted to present the Local Policing Plan for Falkirk. The priorities in this plan have been developed in consultation with local people and partner agencies, taking account of analysis of crimes and incidents and national policing priorities.

Sound partnerships, shared information and strong collaboration form the foundations of effective local policing. This can be seen in our local outcomes and priorities which rely on joint working across partner organisations and geographic boundaries for their successful delivery.

By delivering effective local policing which meets the needs and expectations of local communities to a consistently high standard we will continue to maintain public confidence and satisfaction. We will target those who cause the most harm within our communities, and will protect those who are most vulnerable. We will take every opportunity to reduce and prevent crime and disorder, and ensure that officers are in the right place at the right time and doing the right things.

The priorities and objectives outlined in this plan provide a clear focus for local policing, but retain enough flexibility to change to meet any new issues which might emerge over the life of the plan. I am confident that the plan demonstrates our commitment to meet the needs and expectations of the communities we serve in Falkirk.

### **3. Priorities and Objectives**

#### **Developing the Policing Priorities**

This part of the plan details policing priorities, our objectives and their outcomes and the approaches we have in delivering policing in Falkirk. Some of these approaches such as intelligence-led community policing are so important that they form threads of activity that run through what we do. They can be regarded as organisational priorities.

A later part of the plan shows how we intend to use our resources and work with partners. The principle of working with others is key to delivering this plan and all aims and actions which we set out should be regarded as routinely involving partners wherever possible. A list of some of the organisations and agencies with which Police Scotland works is contained in an appendix to the plan.

We are committed to keeping people and communities safe and protected from harm. We will do so in places where they live, work and visit and will police in a way that means engaging with and working with the communities. This approach is in line with the fundamental policing principles detailed in the legislation that established Police Scotland.

The priorities set out here are based on what people in Falkirk tell us are their main concerns. They reflect the wider policing priorities of reducing harm in communities, making them safer and reducing the fear of crime. They are the result of listening to the concerns of local communities identified through consultation and of analysing information about crimes and incidents which is held by the police and our partners.

This lets us tackle the problems which trouble people in Falkirk, and also the type of harmful behaviour or activities which the public may not be so aware of. That behaviour or those activities often target people who are vulnerable for a number of reasons or who are harmed by people in positions of trust.

The improved wellbeing of individuals and communities is the focus of the Falkirk Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The views of the public gathered by the community planning partners help to inform its aims and planned outcomes. We are partners to the agreement and this plan directly or indirectly supports all of those planned outcomes. All of the local priorities can be aligned to one or more of the community planning priorities and their outcomes. The outcomes are shown below along with a summary of the elements of each to which police will contribute:

**Prosperous businesses will underpin the success of our local economy, providing sustainable and quality employment.**

The main contribution which policing can make to this outcome is through a reduction in crime and the fear of crime in the area, making it a more attractive place to do business and to attract investment.

### **Children will be supported in early years so that they become young people who are confident and successful**

There are specialist police units dedicated to the protection of children and all officers will submit reports when they identify children who may be vulnerable. This helps to achieve the intended outcomes that:

- Children will be supported in early years so that they grow up in a safe environment where they are protected, loved and enabled to enjoy their lives, and so that our most vulnerable children are supported and protected.

### **Our area will be a safer place to live**

This is the part of the Single Outcome Agreement to which policing makes the most direct contribution. The policing priorities in the plan will combine to seek to ensure that:

- Our area will be a safer place to live and citizens will be protected; vulnerable children and adults will be protected; citizens will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing; communities will be safer; and crime and fear of crime will be reduced.

### **We will be healthier and live longer**

Police are partners in a number of groups which address issues around substance misuse and its impact. Regulation of the supply of alcohol and enforcement activity against drugs suppliers are used alongside signposting of support services to reduce the potential for harm. This should help achieve an outcome whereby:

- People are healthier and live longer because of reduced levels of alcohol, drugs and substance misuse

### **Older people will be able to be independent and have choice and control on services within supportive communities**

The policing priority of “protecting people” relates in particular to those persons with some vulnerability. Age is often regarded as a category of vulnerability and policing priorities and approaches look to increase older people’s sense of safety and security. These actions should help to bring about a situation whereby:

- Older people will be able to be independent feel safer, more confident and integrated within their communities;

### **Our area will be a fairer and more equal place to live**

One of the values applied by Police Scotland is to show respect for all people and their beliefs, values, cultures and individual needs. This is reflected in one of our stated equality outcomes - that everyone in Scotland is able to contact the police when they require our assistance, and this experience is positive.

This approach extends across all types of disadvantage, and is shown, for example, in the commitment that:

- We meet our Corporate Parenting responsibilities so that our most vulnerable children have the encouragement and support to reach their full potential

The approaches which we take to support the Single Outcome Agreement include looking to:

- tackle the misuse of alcohol and its effects;
- achieve high levels of community confidence and satisfaction;
- engage regularly and closely with all parts of our communities;
- recognise the diversity of those communities and their needs and expectations;
- acknowledge inequalities that exist and contribute to their reduction;
- identify and protect people with particular vulnerabilities; and
- continue to improve how we do things.

When people in Falkirk took part in consultation, they identified in a survey carried out by community officers some local problems which they were aware of. However, in a separate on-line survey, people also pointed to issues which they felt the police should treat as priorities even where this was not seen as a particularly big local problem.

An example of this was assault and violent crime which was only considered a local problem by a small proportion of people, but which was identified by others in the community as a high priority for police action. A similar response was received in respect of domestic abuse and theft by housebreaking. This perhaps reflects the desire of the communities for action to prevent crime before it becomes a problem.

Local priorities are based on the feedback from both types of survey and on other consultation undertaken, and on professional police judgement of what issues are likely to affect the wellbeing of people, communities and places in Falkirk.

## **Protecting People and Places**

### **People**

While there is a consistent element in what we do of keeping all people safe, this priority focuses on those individuals who are vulnerable to harm because of their particular circumstances. That harm may take the form of physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect, and vulnerability may occur because of age, capacity or relationship with the offender.

#### **Child protection**

It includes protection for children, both in preventing them from becoming victims and in taking steps through early and effective intervention to stop them from becoming offenders. There is a dedicated police child protection unit which is co-located in police



premises alongside partners from Social Work, Education and the National Health Service. This arrangement allows early joint discussion about prioritising work and delivering early and effective interventions

### **Vulnerable adults**

The priority of protecting people also extends to vulnerable adults in the community. The main responsibility for this lies with the Adult Safety and Protection Unit, but all staff have a role to play in identifying such vulnerability through the submission of Vulnerable Person Reports. There is a system for transmitting such reports for discussion and action, and vulnerable adults will feature in the monthly Multi Agency Tasking And Coordinating (MATAC) meetings. Work will also include referrals or signposting to other support agencies, both statutory, such as the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Social Work Services, and third sector, such as Age Scotland and Women's Aid.

### **Hate crime**

Hate crime can be defined as offences against those who may be targeted as victims because of some personal characteristic such as race, gender or disability. Action against this offence will be supported nationally with the introduction of the Third Party Reporting portal within the Police Scotland website. This facility allows victims to report information to the police via another organisation or agency, such as an approved advocacy service or professional representative body, where victims may feel unable to report incidents of hate crime directly to the Police, for whatever reason. A list of participating organisations in the Forth Valley is available via the portal on the Police Scotland website. Training for Third Party Reporting accreditation will remain ongoing in the Falkirk area throughout the term of this local policing plan.

Coordination of partner activity is delivered under the Multi Agency Hate Response Strategy (MAHRS).

### **Domestic abuse**

Domestic abuse has been recognised as a serious public protection issue in Falkirk and receives special focus because of this. A dedicated Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit ensures the most problematic offenders and victims get appropriate levels of intervention from trained staff. Moreover, any incident of domestic abuse has comprehensive and thorough investigation by the officers attending, with a focus on the safety and wellbeing of the victim. This will often involve directing victims to partner agencies which can offer a range of support and assistance, both in the short and long term. Partnership work supports the high risk victims of domestic abuse through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, with the local offenders similarly discussed at the Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATAC) meetings.

### **Major incidents and events**

In addition to the risk to vulnerable individuals, personal and community safety can be affected by threats such as severe weather or other major incidents or by the consequences of events such as processions, rallies and other public events.

Although not currently seen as a significant issue by communities, we are aware of the harm that can arise in any of these situations and consider that planning and preparing for eventualities should be a priority in any policing plan. When we have to respond to a threat, we have the benefit of being able to call upon resources from across the whole of Police Scotland.

Planning and preparing for emergencies is of particular importance in the Falkirk council area because of the concentration of refinery and petro-chemical businesses in Grangemouth. A multi-agency group with representatives from the emergency services, local authorities, voluntary sector and industry has long-established plans which are regularly exercised and reviewed. The group is known as the Major Incident Control Committee (MICC).

Police Scotland will take the coordination lead in the response phase of any incident and, as a single national organisation, can call upon a wide range of resources with varying types of expertise. It is, however, the contributions of all partner agencies and organisations and the skills and experience they bring that deliver a coordinated and effective response. Good communications is also an essential part of dealing with any incident. Providing relevant information to the right people at the appropriate time assists the management of the incident and keeps the public well informed.

### **Terrorism**

The same considerations and availability of resources apply to the threat from terrorist activities. We work with partners, communities and businesses to implement the government's strategy to tackle terrorism which is known as CONTEST. This helps to reduce the risk from terrorism and allows people to go about their business in the area freely and with confidence.

A training agenda for workshops under the Prevent sub-group of CONTEST is currently either in the process of being delivered or designed for partners, including the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Falkirk Council Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and Education.

### **Partnership working**

Some of the key partner agencies working together with the police to protect people are Falkirk Council services such as social work, education and corporate and neighbourhood, Forth Valley National Health Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and voluntary sector groups such as Age Scotland and Women's Aid.

### **What we aim to do:**

- Identify vulnerable people to reduce the likelihood of them coming to harm;
- Stop children and young people becoming victims of crime or offenders and support the "Whole Systems Approach" to youth justice.
- Highlight the increased danger of becoming a victim through the excessive use of alcohol and other substances;
- Work with Criminal Justice Social Work and Health partners to carry out intervention work with offenders whose substance misuse issues is linked to their offending.
- Tell vulnerable people about different ways to improve personal safety
- Refer vulnerable people to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to ensure they receive a home fire safety check
- Make it easier for victims to report an incident
- Tackle the increasing use of the internet and other social media to target victims

- Detect offenders early to help prevent further harm
- Target and manage repeat offenders to stop them re-offending
- Continue to develop early intervention actions through the local MATAC process
- Provide immediate support to victims and signpost further support
- Plan and prepare with partners for identifiable major risks and threats.
- Implement the CONTEST strategy

**What this should mean:**

- Vulnerable people less likely to become victims
- Young offenders diverted from further involvement in crime
- Quicker identification of victims and potential victims and better support
- Less likelihood of offenders committing further crime
- Avoidance or reduction of harm to the community and environment
- Planned joint approach to reduce the risks from terrorist activity

**How performance and success will be measured:**

- Levels of associated crimes and incidents
- Detection rates for associated crimes and offences
- Diversion rates for young people
- Deployment of resources to support victims
- Strength of partnership arrangements and initiatives
- Frequency of planning meetings and exercises
- Access to Police Scotland resources

**Actions to support this priority:**

- Prioritised investigation of crimes against vulnerable persons
- Risk assessments to identify victims and repeat and high tariff offenders.
- Early identification and support of vulnerable persons
- Processes to support child protection principles in respect of victims and offenders.
- Support plan for vulnerable adults
- Use partner agencies and community advisors to identify the incidence and victims of hate crime
- Regular participation in planning process and exercises
- Using resources from across Police Scotland to respond to major events or incidents
- Allocate responsibility and accountability for delivery against priorities to an officer of superintendent rank

## **Places**

### **Environment**

The appearance and condition of the surroundings in which people live can have an impact on their quality of life and sense of wellbeing. This was seen in the priority that residents of Falkirk placed on issues such as litter, fly tipping, graffiti and other

vandalism. The last mentioned is one of the single largest categories of crime committed in Falkirk, although it has been falling steadily over the past few years.

Police Scotland work closely with Falkirk Council Environmental Services and the Community Safety Partnership to deploy resources according to information and intelligence about offending, for example each Sub Area Command has identified "priority locations" which are targeted by local officers to reduce offending in these areas.

It is important that the police contribute to protecting the environment, although this will be a shared responsibility with council services and partners such as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

**What we aim to do:**

- Detect offenders who, in the main, come from the area where the crime is committed
- Work with partners to develop prevention strategies for offences
- Identify if locations where there are repeat offences need improvements to reduce opportunity of offending
- Deploy resources according to information and intelligence about offending.

**What this should mean:**

- Reduced levels of offending and harm to the environment
- Preventive measures designed to reduce the problem
- Improved quality of life for communities

**How performance and success will be measured:**

- Levels of associated crimes and incidents
- Detection rates for associated crimes and incidents
- Community opinion on impact on quality of life

**Actions to support this priority:**

- Increased staffing for the Community Investigation Unit
- Increased patrol and response capacity at peak times of offending
- Regular analysis of offending patterns to best direct the police response
- Continue to develop early intervention actions through the local MATAC process
- Allocate responsibility and accountability for delivery against priorities to an officer of superintendent rank

## **Dealing with Anti Social Behaviour**

Anti Social Behaviour can have an adverse effect on the quality of life of people who experience it on a regular basis. It can also cause undue levels of fear in communities because of the perception of general disorder associated with it.

Much of the antisocial behaviour is linked to private rather than public space disorder and call analysis shows us addresses of note to target along with partners including the Local Authority Housing Offices, Registered Social Landlords, Falkirk Council Private Sector Team, Conflict Resolution Service, Environmental Services, Safeguarding Communities - Reducing Offending (SACRO).

By working in partnership with such a wide range of services we are able to take actions against antisocial offenders, including warnings against tenancies, warnings and fixed penalty tickets (Environmental Services), Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, Restorative Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (SACRO), Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBO) as well as our own Police legislative powers.

This is a priority strand of work under the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership where monthly updates and emerging threats are tactically discussed and addressed, They are also being monitored and actioned on an operational level by a multi-agency sub-group and Community Policing teams on a daily basis to ensure early and effective measures are put in place to tackle antisocial behaviour.

### **Alcohol**

We know that the consumption of alcohol is often a contributory factor in such behaviour, as it is in other types of offences. This is confirmed by responses to our surveys in Falkirk where people identified rowdy, drunken behaviour as one of the main causes of local concern, along with disturbances caused by young people.

General rowdiness associated with the effects of alcohol can be seen in noise and disorder in the streets and loud parties. Analysis of problem locations and persistent offenders allows us to target such disorder. This has led to a steady decrease in the number of calls from the public about anti-social behaviour which we receive. It does however remain an important local policing issue given the priority placed upon it by communities in Falkirk.

Misuse of alcohol and other substances can be a causation factor in antisocial behaviour and to this end we participate in the Forth Valley Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, identifying emerging threats and opportunities for intervention within our communities.

### **Young people**

While communities will always tolerate a certain amount of noise and disturbance associated with young people gathering together, people become concerned where such behaviour becomes excessive on a regular basis.

Young people at risk of harm are identified routinely through Vulnerable Person Reports. The weekly tasking and coordinating meeting allows early identification of offending patterns of individuals.

School Based Officers can play an important role in establishing relationships with young people and providing guidance and support which seeks to educate young people about the impact of antisocial behaviour and their own social responsibilities. This role is being examined at a national level with a view to promoting a consistency of approach. Guidance will be produced which will acknowledge the contribution which such officers make in the school environment and assess how local discussion and negotiation can be used to provide a service across all of the secondary schools in a local authority area.

Police took the lead in a Forth Valley wide alcohol awareness initiative which placed particular emphasis on the potential effects of alcohol misuse on young people.

**What we aim to do:**

- Reduce the fear of crime associated with anti social behaviour and disorder
- Improve people's perception of personal safety in their community
- Target known problem locations and repeat offenders
- Enforcement activities where necessary
- Ensure licensed premises are supplying alcohol in a responsible manner
- Highlight to young people how their behaviour can impact on others
- Consider what resources partners can bring to the problem

**What this should mean:**

- Continuing reduction in the incidence of Anti Social Behaviour
- Improved quality of life for communities
- Reduced fear of crime
- Increased sense of feeling safe in local neighbourhood
- Well regulated licensed premises.

**How performance and success will be measured:**

- Number of calls received about Anti Social Behaviour
- Number of incidents of disorder
- Level and type of policing activity for local licensed premises

**Actions to support this priority:**

- Analysis of crimes and incidents to target resources
- Focused activity by community teams to prevent incidents
- Involvement of partners to develop preventive measures
- Consultation to measure community confidence and satisfaction
- Close working relationships with licensed trade to promote the licensing objectives
- Continue to develop early intervention actions through the local MATAC process
- Allocate responsibility and accountability for delivery against priorities to an officer of superintendent rank

## **Violent crime**

In the Falkirk Council area, all categories counted under violent crime show reductions, including minor assaults. This is reflected in the fact that violence was not indicated as a major problem in any of the wards in Falkirk by respondents to the Community Survey carried out by community officers.

Nevertheless, violence was also shown by respondents to the separate on-line survey as a priority for action by the police and is therefore included in the plan.

### **Tackling violence against women**

Violence against women is recognised as a significant problem across all communities and receives particular focus from police and partners. This focus will be maintained through the joint work of dedicated police units and key partner agencies. Police rely heavily upon the skills and experience brought by diverse agencies to the arrangements for protecting and supporting victims. As well as the MATAC and MARAC processes referred to, the Falkirk Domestic Abuse Forum is another partnership we take part in, and this approach is another priority strand of the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership.

### **Alcohol**

We know that alcohol is a major contributory factor in the commission of assaults both in public places and in homes. Again we look to proper regulation of licensed premises as a means of reducing the likelihood of offences and have not encountered any major problems in respect of such premises in the Falkirk area.

This may be down to our approach which favours early identification and resolution of issues through effective interventions. Police Scotland provided comment on the Falkirk Licensing Policy as and when required as a contribution to the wider aspects of the sale and supply of alcohol.

Regular visits are carried out at licensed premises across the area command with particular focus within the busy town centre. This is complemented by regular Pubwatch meetings that ensure that relevant partners in the scheme are aware of local violent offenders who are excluded from licensed premises. Such awareness allows police and partners to better monitor the presence and activities of such offenders in our town centres.

We also monitor night time crowds by means of officers in visible, pre-determined locations so that we can identify potential incidents and take action to stop any violence from developing.

### **What we aim to do:**

- Work with partners to tackle violence against women
- Work with partners to tackle violence in houses
- Target known problem locations and repeat offenders
- Ensure licensed premises are supplying alcohol in a responsible manner
- Prevent the misuse of alcohol

- Ensure sufficient resources are available to police the night time economy

**What this should mean:**

- Reduction in crimes of violence
- Safer night time economy
- More attractive and safer environment for residents and visitors
- Reduction in number of people suffering injuries as a result of violence

**How performance and success will be measured:**

- Levels of associated crimes and incidents
- Detection rates for associated crimes and incidents
- Level and type of activity in respect of licensed premises
- Community opinion on impact on quality of life

**Actions to support this priority**

- Analysis of crimes and incidents to target resources to locations and offenders
- Increased patrol and response capacity at peak times for offending
- Work with partners to develop intervention strategies for violence in houses
- Work with partners to develop intervention strategies in regard to violence against women
- Close working relationships with licensed trade to promote the licensing objectives
- Continue to develop early intervention actions through the local MATAC process
- Allocate responsibility and accountability for delivery against priorities to an officer of superintendent rank

## **Disrupting Organised Crime**

The activities of organised crime groups cause harm to communities across Scotland including in Falkirk. Although these activities can include money laundering, fraud and human trafficking, it is the supply of drugs which has the greatest impact in this area. People tell us that misuse of drugs in communities remains a primary concern for them and identify action against crime groups as a priority for police.

### **Supply of drugs**

Communities in Falkirk have supported police action by providing information about who is dealing drugs in their area, and community teams often play the lead role in mounting operations against those individuals.

### **Preventing access to business**

Local authorities and other partners have a role in preventing criminals from using legitimate contracts and businesses to launder criminal proceeds.



**What we aim to do:**

- Continue to target local drug dealers
- Work with colleagues and partners to disrupt organised crime locally and nationally and to arrest those involved in it.
- Training of partner agency staff to recognise high levels of unexplained wealth
- Deprive criminals of cash and assets obtained from crime
- Prevent access of crime groups to legitimate businesses
- Help those misusing drugs to recover

**What this should mean:**

- Reductions in the supply of drugs locally
- Safer communities experiencing less harm
- Support for vulnerable people affected by drugs misuse
- Reduced capacity for crime groups to conduct criminal business

**How performance and success will be measured:**

- Levels of associated crimes and incidents
- Detection rates for associated crimes and incidents
- Number of arrests of crime group members
- Community opinion on impact on quality of life
- Impact on criminal funds
- Level of activity in signposting drug users to support organisations

**Actions to support this priority**

- Analysis of intelligence to target offenders
- Joint operations with partners to apply differing sanctions to criminals
- National and regional resources used to support operations
- Seizure of criminals' cash and assets
- Use intelligence to prevent criminals obtaining public contracts
- Scrutinize all licensing applications to identify any links to crime groups
- Disrupt the use of the road network by crime groups
- Coordinate activity through a Crime Reduction Delivery Group

**Crimes of Dishonesty**

This type of crime includes frauds, thefts and housebreakings and is likely to affect all communities to some extent. There has been a steady fall in the overall numbers of such crimes which may explain why it was not identified as a significant problem in most communities in the community consultation questionnaire. In contrast, some types of dishonesty were highlighted as a priority for police action in the separate on-line survey. This is understandable given the very personal impact of such crimes.

In 2014 a dedicated Community Investigations Unit will be established in Falkirk comprising a sergeant and six constables. Its main remit will be the investigation of crimes of dishonesty.

### **Housebreaking**

Theft by housebreaking was a particular concern. There is a financial loss to housebreaking but also a sense of intrusion which can create a disproportionate effect on the feeling of safety in communities. National and regional resources from Police Scotland have been deployed to combat travelling criminals particularly through the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition and focused motor bike patrols. This led to the identification of one organised crime group whose activities were curtailed and the submission of valuable intelligence to support further prevention initiatives.

### **Road checks**

Vehicles are often used in the commission of crimes of dishonesty and strategic road checks are a means of preventing and detecting crime. We have and will continue to seek the support of Operational Support Unit (OSU) at areas identified as vulnerable to crimes of dishonesty.

### **What we aim to do:**

- Use analysis of intelligence to target prolific housebreakers
- Help people to reduce the risk of becoming victims of crimes of dishonesty
- Make it more difficult for travelling criminals to commit crime
- Make it more difficult for criminals to dispose of property
- Encourage people to report suspicious activity in their neighbourhood

### **What this should mean:**

- Reductions in crimes of dishonesty
- Safer communities
- Protection for more vulnerable people, particularly the elderly
- Greater disruption of criminal activity

### **How performance and success will be measured:**

- Levels of crimes of dishonesty
- Detection rates
- Level of preventive activity

### **Actions to support this priority**

- Provide warnings about known scams and localised spates of crime.
- Disrupt the use of the road network by criminals
- Increased staffing in Community Investigation Unit
- Targeted and focused operations
- Allocate responsibility and accountability for delivery against priorities to an officer of superintendent rank

## **Making Roads Safer**

Almost everyone in Falkirk makes use of its roads network to some extent. It is therefore no surprise that people saw traffic-related issues both as a local problem and as a priority for police action. These issues ranged from dangerous driving and speeding to anti-social driving and parking problems.

Speeding was identified as a significant problem across most communities in Falkirk and remains a focus for activity, with the number of people charged with the offence increasing compared with both the previous year and the five year average.

Parking also featured strongly as a problem in the community survey, and we will continue to take appropriate action, particularly where it is dangerous or obstructive and in response to specific concerns from communities.

Traffic warden provision was not consistent across Scotland and the service has been withdrawn from those policing divisions where it was still in effect. Transitional arrangements are being discussed to allow consideration of decriminalisation of parking offences which would allow the local authority to take on the function of parking control.

In the meantime, enforcement of parking offences remains among the duties of police constables along with the other demands which they face in dealing with the many other crimes and offences which come to their attention. The range of the situations with which the police deal means that there will always be issues of prioritisation and resourcing.

We will, however, always listen to concerns about parking brought to our attention by communities, local authorities and other partners or identified by officers. These will be considered as part of the local tasking process, which also involves partner agencies, and addressed by specific targeted activity where appropriate.

### **Reducing casualties**

A reduction in the number of people killed and injured on our roads is a policing priority both nationally and in Falkirk. We try to achieve this along with our partners through a mixed approach of education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement.

There has been a steady drop in the number of casualties over the past ten years. We use regular analysis of collision data to identify problem locations and vulnerable road users and take action based on the findings. So, for example, if the A803 shows as a road at particular risk this will lead to increased targeted patrols and speed monitoring.

School Based Officers take on a responsibility for road safety matters in their schools, whilst community officers visit primary school children to promote road safety awareness

A good example of partners promoting road safety is the “Safe Drive, Stay Alive” initiative aimed at young people in the 16-17 years age group at local schools. The Fire and Rescue Service, Police and Education promote this hard-hitting message about the dangers of inappropriate driving and the potentially life-changing outcomes. It includes messages from families who have lost a son or daughter in a road collision and from young drivers still suffering the physical consequences of car crashes.

### **Causal factors**

Collisions can occur for a number of reasons, with excessive speed for current circumstances and forms of distraction being the most common causes. Our focus then is on speeding and other offences such as misuse of mobile phones.

### **Travelling criminals**

Criminals use the roads network to travel to and through areas to commit crime. This creates an adverse impact on the safety of communities in those areas, and another aspect of making our roads safer is to disrupt that kind of activity. We use intelligence and road patrols and checks to do this. The same techniques can be applied to deter activities linked to the threat of terrorism.

### **What we aim to do:**

- Influence and promote responsible road user behaviour
- Reduce the number of persons injured on our roads
- Warn people about the dangers of irresponsible use of vehicles
- Promote engineering improvements to make roads safer
- Ensure vehicles travelling in Falkirk are roadworthy
- Reduce Anti-Social use of our roads
- Enhance reassurance by patrolling our roads
- Reduce the commission of road traffic offences
- Positively impact on the use of the road by criminals
- Support anti-terrorism strategies

### **What this should mean:**

- Safer road travel in Falkirk for everyone
- Fewer road collisions and casualties
- Reduction in nuisance and disturbance from anti social use of vehicles
- Long term reduction in road traffic offences
- Less criminal activity in Falkirk
- Reduction in risk from potential terrorist activities.

### **How performance and success will be measured:**

- Road collision and injury statistics
- Level of selected road traffic offences
- Level of targeted road policing operations

### **Actions to support this priority**

- Listen to local communities about road safety concerns
- Identify problem locations using road collision data and analysis
- Take appropriate action in relation to concerns about speeding and those parking issues which remain a police responsibility.
- Target repeat offenders particularly disqualified drivers and drink drivers

- Carry out regular high profile road policing operations
- Work with partners to provide engineering solutions for safer roads
- Use Automatic Number Plate Recognition to identify offences and offenders
- Work with partners to educate road users about road safety
- Use road checks and visible patrols to reduce risks and increase safety on roads and disrupt criminal activity
- Allocate responsibility and accountability for delivery against priorities to an officer of superintendent rank

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#### **4. How we identified our priorities**

We have identified the priorities and objectives detailed within this plan from analysis of a number of sources both locally and nationally as well as through consultation with partners, communities and members of the public. Much of this consultation was carried out in preparing the initial, interim local policing plan and more recent consultation has provided the opportunity for stakeholders to refresh their views on priorities and identify any new issues.

The Scottish Policing Assessment sets out the priorities for Police Scotland to the year 2015. It is a key document for the police in the continuous process of meeting future policing challenges and ensuring that the service the police provide to the communities of Scotland is of a high standard.

The Assessment draws on information and intelligence provided from across all policing functions and other law enforcement agencies as well as information from key partner agencies including the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and the public. It is through this assessment that risk in relation to crime and disorder is prioritised.

At the more local level, the Forth Valley Divisional Strategic Assessment provides an overview of the nature of crime and emerging trends within the area and informs local priorities and objectives. It draws on a range of information including previous crime statistics and an environmental assessment of emerging threats. The Assessment shows that all three local authority areas have generally similar crime and community profiles, but that the weight of concern about specific issues may differ between different communities. That feature will be reflected in the content of the Multi Member Ward Plans.

This plan has also been prepared within the context of the work of the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership and of the Single Outcome Agreement for 2013-2015, which includes local policing priorities for Falkirk which support the Agreement. These are influenced by information and viewpoints from partner agencies and organisations.

Underlying this plan are the key principles of community planning namely; prevention and early intervention; integration of public services around the whole systems approach; and transparency, accountability and innovation in our approaches to policing.

Falkirk's Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2015 sets out the partners' vision for securing long term outcomes for our communities. The SOA outcomes to which this police plan contributes have been identified in an earlier section.

The Falkirk Community Planning Partnership recently reviewed and refined its strategic assessment and this process contributed to the production of the SOA and its outcomes. The evidence came from community opinion and partner judgements about risks to the community.

The Falkirk Community Safety Partnership regularly refreshes its community assessments and this helps to identify key areas of community safety risk. This process reviews the existing Community Safety priorities and considers any new or emerging

threats. It has helped to identify the priorities within this plan all of which link to the local Community Safety Partnership approach and are influenced by partner contributions.

At a local level we carry out consultation with communities on local issues on an ongoing basis through our Police and Communities Together (PACT) approach which identifies month by month what local issues are impacting in each area. The information from this consultation has helped inform the priorities together with more formal consultation carried out jointly with partners through citizen surveys.

These local views have been supplemented by the results from the Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey which gathered the views of people in the nine wards of Falkirk local authority area about what they saw as big local problems. The weight which they applied to issues on which their views were sought helped to define the priorities for policing in the area.

An online survey was also run which was advertised on the Council website and on its internal systems to encourage staff to provide their views. Police officers and staff in Forth Valley Division were also given the opportunity to complete the survey. It covered similar issues to the public consultation survey, but focused on asking people about their priorities for police action in order to complement the questions in the Public Consultation Survey.

Consultation was also undertaken through community organisations along with representatives from the voluntary sector. Community Councils are at the heart of local engagement and their contribution is most welcome. We also sought the views of local and national elected members who represent the Falkirk area and who are able to provide current and local information about community concerns.

We recognise that effective and fair policing is about reflecting the needs and expectations of individuals and local communities. Survey results show that different communities have differing expectations and contrasting experiences of the service provided by the police. Our aim is to ensure that we listen to communities and that our service to all is fair and consistent, keeping those who are most vulnerable safe and enhancing their quality of life.

## **5. Local Policing Arrangements**

Our focus is on keeping people safe. We aim to deliver policing that is visible, accessible and responsive to what people want and need in communities across the area.

Falkirk is one of three local authorities, along with Stirling and Clackmannanshire, which receives local policing services from the Forth Valley Division of Police Scotland. These services encompass functions such as response and community policing in the area commands, and roads policing and local crime investigation across the division. There are specialist units for the protection of vulnerable individuals and for the investigation of rape and domestic abuse. They are supplemented and complemented by other regional and national services which provide support in a number of ways. These include:

### **Regional**

**Specialist Crime Division:** Major Investigation Teams, Forensic Gateways, E – Crime, Financial Investigations, Serious and Organised Crime Units, Counter Terrorism Units, Offender Management, Border Policing Command, Technical Support Unit and Interventions.

**Operational Support:** Event and Emergency Planning, VIP Planning, Armed Policing Training, Road Policing Management & Policy, Armed Policing, Dogs, Trunk Roads Policing Group and Operational Support Units.

**Custody:** Regional Custody Teams.

**Contact, Command and Control:** Area Control Rooms and Service Centres

### **National**

**Specialist Crime Division:** National Intelligence Bureau, Homicide Governance and Review, Prison Intelligence Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, National Rape Investigation, National Rape Review, Fugitive Unit and Scottish Protected Persons Unit, International Unit, HOLMES, Safer Communities Citizen Focus, Preventions and Interventions, and Strategic Partnerships.

**Operational Support:** Scottish Police Information and Coordination Centre, Intelligence, Specialist Operations Training, Air Support, Dive/Marine Unit, Football Co-ordination Unit, Mounted Unit, Mountain Rescue, Motorcycle Unit.

**Custody:** Area Command and Support.

**Contact, Command and Control:** Incident Management and Service Overview.

There are also various departments at regional and national level supplying support services such as finance, human resources, estates, information technology, corporate services and media and communications.



The Local Police Commander in Forth Valley Division is Chief Superintendent David Flynn who has ultimate responsibility for the policing of three Area Commands that correspond to the three local authority areas that include Falkirk.

The Area Commander for Falkirk is T/Chief Inspector Mandy Paterson who is based at Falkirk Police Office and is supported by four Community Inspectors.

The majority of calls from the public for attendance by police are dealt with by officers from Response Policing. There are 5 groups of such officers working a shift pattern which provides policing cover for communities across Falkirk on a 24 hour a day basis. There is supervisory cover for each group provided by officers of inspector and sergeant rank.

There are also Community Policing Teams based across the nine electoral wards in Falkirk to tackle local problems and issues, with Community Sergeants co-ordinating their work. These officers focus on engaging with people in the communities to gain an understanding of local concerns and then to develop local plans to address them. These plans are known as Multi Member Ward Plans and deal with policing priorities specific to each ward and neighbourhood. They also inform the content of this local policing plan as many issues are common to the wards.

Community Officers will not only deal with priorities in the ward plan but will also look to resolve any other issues which arise in their communities, and will attend the less urgent calls for service where immediate or quick attendance is not a requirement. They will often seek assistance from partner agencies to provide the most suitable solution to community problems. Community officers working together will create a shared team approach to ward commitments and will provide a consistent and structured approach to issues that affect that area. While the initial point of contact may continue to be an officer who has become known in a local community, other members of the team will pick up work relating to that community in that officer's absence.

Similarly, while that officer will continue to attend community meetings in line with their availability, there will also be a shared ownership of meeting commitments to ensure personal police representation as often as possible. A standard report covering local issues will also be submitted to every community council meeting to ensure that such updates are available as a minimum level of service when officers are unavailable.

The Multi Member Ward Plans and details of Community Officers can be found at [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk) by clicking on the heading of "Your Community" then selecting Forth Valley Division which then displays the three area commands. Selecting the appropriate area reveals the link to each local ward.

There are local crime investigation teams which operate across the division and generally deal with more serious crime or a series of crimes where some link is apparent. In addition there are Community Investigation Units which focus more on crimes which impact on community safety and wellbeing.

The Divisional Road Policing Unit operates across the Forth Valley and provides routine and targeted patrol and operations within Falkirk council area.

As highlighted above, communities in Falkirk now have access to a wide range of specialist functions within Police Scotland which are there to ensure that an equitable and flexible policing service can be provided across Scotland. Indeed some of these units such as major crime inquiry and public order teams are located in police offices in Forth Valley.

The foundation of the policing approach in Falkirk is local policing with its focus on the safety of people and communities. We deploy the resources available to us help achieve those outcomes. A new deployment model is being introduced in the early part of 2014 which is intended to support the implementation of the Local Policing Plan. The model has been designed by senior managers in Forth Valley Division to meet the specific challenges of delivering policing services in this area. Officers and staff who deliver those services were involved in the consultation about how resources could be best used.

Although levels of performance have been high, one of our approaches is to continually improve how we do things. Such improvements are intended to ensure that our services meet the needs and expectations of communities, and also to provide staff with a good work/life balance. The first element helps us to meet our responsibilities in contributing to the objectives of the Falkirk Single Outcome Agreement; whilst the second helps create a workplace where people feel valued and are encouraged to maximise their potential, to ensure the most efficient and effective service is delivered.

The main features of the deployment model are:

- to increase the number of community officers from just over a quarter to almost a half of the total number of response and community officers.
- to match resources more closely to call and service demand profiles
- to introduce a shift pattern for community officers with enough flexibility to undertake community responsibilities and to help meet calls for assistance from the public
- to supplement staffing levels in the Community Investigation Units and other specialist units to reduce the investigative burden on front line officers
- to maintain the high levels of performance and public satisfaction
- to have the right people in the right place at the right time doing the right things

Effective local policing is based upon sound partnerships, shared information and strong collaboration. The same is true of effective community planning and there are many different parties who can contribute to these – communities, local authorities and partner agencies and organizations. Whether from the public, private or voluntary sector partnership working is the key to achieving local outcomes for local communities.

It was mentioned earlier in the plan that we have some approaches to policing which run through most of what we do and how we do it. These are intended to reflect the community planning outcomes to which we contribute and this connection is shown below:

| SOA OUTCOME   | OUR POLICING APPROACH  |
|---|--|
| Our area will be a safer place to live  | <p>Tackle the misuse of alcohol and its effects on the safety of communities;</p> <p>Achieve high levels of community confidence and satisfaction;</p> <p>Identify and protect people with particular vulnerabilities</p>  |
| Children will be supported in early years so that they become young people who are confident and successful         | Identify and protect people with particular vulnerabilities  |
| We will be healthier and live longer  | Tackle the misuse of alcohol and its effects on the safety of communities;   |
| Older people will be able to be independent and have choice and control on services within supportive communities   | Recognise the diversity of communities and their needs and expectations  |
| Our area will be a fairer and more equal place to live.   | <p>Recognise the diversity of communities and their needs and expectations</p> <p>Acknowledge inequalities that exist and contribute to their reduction in delivering our policing service</p> <p>Improve how we do things by reviewing our contribution to communities and community planning and implementing improvements when necessary.</p> |
| Prosperous businesses will underpin the success of our local economy, providing sustainable and quality employment. | Reduce crime and fear of crime to make the area a more attractive place to do business and to attract investment.  |

## 6. National Outcomes

The table below illustrates how local policing priorities contribute to the Single Outcome Agreement for Falkirk, and how both of these elements of community planning link to the Scottish Government's National Outcomes.

| SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT (SOA)  |  | LOCAL PRIORITIES (LP)   |
|---|--|---|
| (A ) Our area will be a safer place to live   |  | Protecting People and Places; (1)<br>Dealing with Antisocial Behaviour ; (2)<br>Tackling Violence; (3)<br>Disrupting organised crime; (4)<br>Crimes of Dishonesty; (5)<br>Making Roads Safer; (6) |
| (B) Children will be supported in early years so that they become young people who are confident and successful |  | Protecting People and Places; (1)   |
| (C) We will be healthier and live longer  |  | Protecting People and Places; (1)<br>Disrupting organised crime; (4)  |
| (D) Our area will be a fairer and more equal place to live.   |  | Protecting People and Places; (1)<br>Dealing with Anti Social Behaviour (2)   |
| LINKS TO NATIONAL OUTCOMES  |  |   |
| SOA   |  | LP  |
| (B)   | Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens                       | (1);  |
| (A); (B); (C)   | We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk  | (1); (4).   |
| (A)   | We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger   | (1); (2); (3); (4); (5); (6).   |
| (A); (D)  | We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others | (1); (2); (3); (4); (5); (6).   |
| (A)   | We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations                              | (1); (2).   |

## **7. Performance and Accountability**

The priorities in the plan are supported by a local performance framework which attaches performance indicators to each priority. Current performance is compared against short and long term trends if applicable and against any standards we are trying to achieve. The framework also allows reporting on progress against any actions which we are undertaking in order to achieve the planned outcomes of each priority.

This approach will help Falkirk Council and local police managers to measure progress and monitor activities, and to discuss key areas where resources should be focused. It should also encourage a greater understanding by members of the nature and level of police resourcing, and the need for considered and effective management of those resources to respond both to community needs and expectations and to wider policing issues.

The framework has been in use since 1 April 2013 which means that members of the Scrutiny Committee, which is the local scrutiny board for Falkirk Council, receive police reports in a format to which they are accustomed. We will, however, review the performance framework as part of the introduction of the new local policing plan.

Prior to the first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee following publication of the plan, we will present a document to members for their consideration which will identify the specific indicators which we have linked to each of the priorities in the plan.

The minutes of scrutiny board meetings, including the performance document, are published on Falkirk Council's website.

The concerns and priorities at an even more local level are described in plans for individual Multi Member Wards. A summary of problems and priority actions in each ward is shown at Appendix A.

These ward plans also contain descriptions of the activities which are planned to address the issues over a six-month period from their publication in April each year. At the end of that period an additional document will be published with information about how we have performed over those six months, along with details of activities planned for the next six months. This process will be repeated and this cycle of plan, do, report and plan again should give communities a clear view of what we have been doing, how well we have been doing it and what we intend to do next. The plans are available on the Community Policing section of the Police Scotland website at [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

The information available on the performance framework and from police management systems also helps local officers and managers to provide updates to representative bodies such as community councils and tenants associations. Requests for additional information to that supplied routinely will always receive a response.

Local media regularly carry articles about policing activity and successes, and attend meetings of the local scrutiny boards. This allows the information from performance reports to be shared within the public.

More extensive use of social media to direct people to information about policing performance will be an area targeted for improvement over the life of this plan.

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## **8. Local Scrutiny and Engagement**

In Falkirk, the council body which scrutinises police performance is the Scrutiny Committee. In relation to policing services, the role of the committee is to monitor the performance of the Police Service of Scotland against agreed outcomes, standards and targets as they relate to Falkirk.

The scope of the remit covers the contribution of policing to the achievement of the Single Outcome Agreement for Falkirk which confirms the close connection already identified between policing priorities and national and local outcome agreements.

The Committee does not confine its challenge to the information supplied to it but also seeks additional reports from local commanders in line with its scrutiny role.

Out with the formal scrutiny structure, local managers encourage elected members to contact them personally about local policing issues and service delivery. This approach is complemented by attendance of local officers at Community Council meetings and other local community forums to provide information and to answer questions.

Policing in Forth Valley has long had a strong community focus with engagement being done through the model of Police and Community Together (PACT). These principles will be carried forward into this policing plan with the aim of making engagement a continuous process. This will allow us to keep local priorities under review and to see what is and is not working in addressing them.

Councillors will have a particular interest in local ward priorities and actions and progress against these will be reported on a six-monthly cycle. At the same time, the review will identify planned actions against local priorities over the next six months. By these means, local managers will be able to report regularly to elected members who will be able to hold them to account for progress in resolving community concerns.

There is also a place for formal consultation which will be developed as reviews of the local policing plan and multi member ward plans are undertaken.

During the first year of operation of the new Police Service of Scotland, consultation was undertaken on a number of issues relating to changes in the delivery of services. The circumstances of reform meant that review of some functions was undertaken at considerable pace. This resulted in some key partners expressing the view that they did not have sufficient opportunity to fully engage with the consultation process. Police Scotland has taken account of feedback received from key partners such as local authorities that identified their expectations about consultation. Future reviews will be managed more in line with those expectations so as to benefit fully from the contributions from councils and elected members.

Social media offers an expanding means of community engagement and has been used both as a method of circulating community information and of seeking people's views.

Groups of people sharing characteristics such as common faith or nationality or sexual orientation have strong representation through the community advisers operating in

Forth Valley. These individuals not only provide a voice for the needs of different communities and groups but also act as in an advisory capacity in respect of the potential impact of policing plans, initiatives, operations and responses.

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## **9. Equalities**

The public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation (marriage and civil partnerships in relation to discrimination only).

We have a strong commitment to the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Survey results show that different communities have differing expectations and contrasting experiences of the service provided by the police. In addressing this, we will adopt an ethical approach based upon the core values of Integrity, Fairness and Respect and a commitment to human rights. The same principles will be applied in the decisions we make in delivering a policing service in Falkirk.

Police Scotland's equality and diversity outcomes have been developed in consultation with equality organisations and staff associations with representation from and across all protected groups to identify priority areas of business. As they are evidenced based, they will allow us to focus on specific areas for improvement and identify where we want to be as a service provider and employer.

- People better recognise Hate Crimes and incidents and feel confident reporting them.
- Individuals within and across protected groups feel safe and secure in their local community.
- Victims of gender-based violence are safer and are confident that the police are responsive to their needs.
- People from and across protected groups are meaningfully engaged by us, and their views contribute to service improvements.
- Everyone in Scotland is able to contact the police when they require our assistance, and this experience is positive.
- We have a workforce that is reflective of our communities, to increase trust and confidence in the police.
- We have a workplace where people feel valued and are encouraged to maximise their potential, to ensure the most efficient and effective service is delivered.

We value the diversity of our communities and will continue to improve our processes and functions to ensure that we fully support, and do not impact adversely on, minority groups and individuals.

We will strengthen community engagement and develop enhanced links with 'hard to reach' and vulnerable communities through means such as our independent community advisers who advise on the effect of our policies and service delivery on minority groups in the community

## **10. Local Contact Details**

**Contact details** – Falkirk Police Station, West Bridge Street, Falkirk FK1 5AP

**Telephone number** - Single Non Emergency Number 101

**E-mail** - For all non-emergency issues or enquiries relating to Police business, you can contact us via: [ForthValley@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ForthValley@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

This group email address is provided for you to discuss non-urgent local policing issues. It should not be used to report a crime or incident.

For information about your local Community Policing Team and other services that Police Scotland provides, please refer to the Force website at: [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

### **We are here to help**

We will continue to keep in touch with you to keep you updated on the ongoing work being carried out to tackle the issues that are affecting life for you in Stirling.

- If you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss, contact your local Community Policing Team.
- Dial 999 for an emergency that requires urgent police attention.
- For non-emergency contact, call 101, the Single Non Emergency Number
- If you have information about crime in your area and wish to provide it anonymously, call CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111

Service users who are deaf or have a hearing impairment can contact Police Scotland via TextRelay in an emergency on 18000 or non emergency on 18001 101.

## APPENDIX A - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND PRIORITIES

The **community consultation survey** carried out by community officers captured responses from 755 people across Falkirk, with between 80 and 95 persons being questioned in the 9 different wards. This was proportionate in terms of comparative population to the other two local authorities in Forth Valley Division.

The **top five problems** identified for Falkirk as a whole were youths causing annoyance; drugs; speeding; littering/fly tipping and antisocial behaviour (ASB). These can be related directly to priorities contained in the local policing plan – dealing with antisocial behaviour, disrupting organised crime, making roads safer, protecting people and places.

A separate **web survey** was also available to record people's **priorities for police action as opposed to identification of local problems**. There was not as large a response to this questionnaire, with a total of 171 individuals submitting responses.

Some of the issues identified as problems in the **community survey** were also identified in the **web survey** for priority actions (ASB, vandalism, drugs, housebreaking). Others which had not featured as significant problems in the community survey were however given high priority in the web survey as issues on which police should focus – violence/assaults, dangerous driving, serious organised crime; domestic abuse; bogus callers. All of these priority actions are also reflected in the policing plan priorities.

The table below shows how issues identified as problems or priority actions at ward level map to the priorities in the policing plan.

| Ward Problem               | Ward Priority Action    | Policing Plan Priority     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Speeding                   |                         | Making Roads Safer         |
| Parking                    |                         | Making Roads Safer         |
| Antisocial driving         |                         | Making Roads Safer         |
|                            | Dangerous driving       | Making Roads Safer         |
| Youths causing annoyance   |                         | Dealing with ASB           |
| Antisocial behaviour (ASB) | ASB                     | Dealing with ASB           |
| Littering/fly tipping      |                         | Protecting People & Places |
| Vandalism                  | Vandalism               | Protecting People & Places |
|                            | Domestic abuse          | Protecting People & Places |
|                            | Violence/assaults       | Violent Crime              |
| Drugs supply/misuse        | Drugs supply/misuse     | Serious Organised Crime    |
|                            | Serious organised crime | Serious Organised Crime    |
| Housebreaking              | Housebreaking           | Crimes of Dishonesty       |
| Theft                      |                         | Crimes of Dishonesty       |
| Theft of and from vehicles |                         | Crimes of Dishonesty       |
|                            | Bogus callers           | Crimes of Dishonesty       |

By ward, the top five problems and priority actions were:

**Boness & Blackness:**

Problems – Speeding; drugs; litter/fly tipping; youths causing annoyance; ASB

Actions – drugs; violence; housebreaking; ASB; dangerous driving

**Bonnybridge and Larbert:**

Problems – youths causing annoyance; speeding; litter/fly tipping; parking; ASB

Actions – ASB; violence; housebreaking; vandalism; drugs

**Carse, Kinnaird & Tryst:**

Problems – youths causing annoyance; drugs; ASB; vandalism; litter/fly tipping

Actions – violence; ASB; housebreaking; drugs; dangerous driving

**Denny & Banknock:**

Problems – speeding; antisocial driving; drugs; youths causing annoyance; litter/fly tipping

Actions – drugs; ASB; housebreaking; violence; dangerous driving;

**Falkirk North:**

Problems – drugs; speeding; litter/fly tipping; youths causing annoyance; ASB

Actions – violence; drugs; ASB; housebreaking; dangerous driving

**Falkirk South:**

Problems – drugs; parking; youths causing annoyance; speeding; litter/fly tipping

Actions – violence; housebreaking; drugs; bogus callers; serious organised crime

**Grangemouth:**

Problems – youths causing annoyance; ASB; drugs; theft; housebreaking

Actions – ASB; violence; drugs; domestic abuse; dangerous driving;

**Lower Braes:**

Problems – litter/fly tipping; antisocial driving; speeding; youths causing annoyance; parking

Actions – housebreaking; drugs; violence; ASB; bogus callers

**Upper Braes:**

Problems – speeding; youths causing annoyance; litter/fly tipping; parking; antisocial driving

Actions – ASB; violence; drugs; housebreaking; dangerous driving

These results helped shape the priorities in the plan along with the outcome of other consultation through community groups and representatives and partner organisations and with elected members. Analysis of crime and incident data was also used as evidence as was the local knowledge and experience of police managers and staff.

## **APPENDIX B – PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

### **LOCAL POLICING PLANS – PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

Police Scotland works with many other organizations and agencies to deliver the outcomes from priorities in the Falkirk Local Policing Plan.

#### **All Priorities**

- Falkirk Tactical Tasking & Coordinating Group (TT&CG)
- Falkirk Community Safety Partnership

#### **Protecting People**

- Forth Valley Multi Agency Assessment Screening Hub (FV MAASH) and Forth Valley Public Protection Service (FV PPS)
- Forth Valley Inter Agency Young Runaways
- Central (Forth Valley) E-Safety Partnership
- Internet Safety Action Group
- Forth Valley Whole System Approach (WSA) Management Group
- Forth Valley 'Getting It Right For Every Child' Group (FV GIRFEC Group)
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements Strategic Oversight Group (MAPPA SOG)
- Forth Valley Criminal Justice Service Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (FVCJS DA)
- Appropriate Adult Steering Group (AA Steering Group)
- Forth Valley Adult Support and Protection Group (FV ASP Group)
- Forth Valley Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (FVADP)
- Falkirk Child and Public Protection Groups
- Major Incident Control Committee (MICC)
- Early and Effective Intervention Groups – members - Police/ Education/ Social Work / Safeguarding Communities Reducing Offending (SACRO) / Community Learning & Development / Young Carers .
- Safebase – night-time economy safe shelter - Police / Ambulance / Falkirk Town centre management / Licensed premises / Street pastors / British Red Cross / Signpost / Falkirk Council
- Falkirk & District Community Safety Panel
- Age Scotland
- Women's Aid.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Multi Agency Hate Response Strategy (MAHRS).

- Forth Valley National Health Service
- Falkirk Domestic Abuse Forum
- Street Pastors
- Barnardos

### **Protecting Places**

- Night Noise Team
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Falkirk Council Corporate and Neighbourhood Services
- Falkirk Council Environmental Services

### **Dealing with Antisocial Behaviour**

- Falkirk Investigation Response and Support Team (FIRST)
- Registered Social Landlords
- Conflict Resolution Services

### **Violent Crime**

- Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating Group (MATAC)
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

### **Disrupting Organised Crime**

- Scottish Business Resilience Centre
- Local authority SOC officer
- Registered Social Landlords

### **Crimes of Dishonesty**

- Scottish Business Resilience Centre
- Retailers Against Crime Scotland

### **Making Roads Safer**

- Road Safety Partnership
- Falkirk & District Community Safety Panel
- Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership
- Falkirk Community Trust
- Local Authorities' Roads Engineering Departments
- Transport Scotland (trunk roads)
- Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency - DVSA (formerly VOSA).
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

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