



Subject **PERFORMANCE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA APRIL- June 2014**
Date: **25 SEPTEMBER 2014**
Author: **LOCAL POLICE COMMANDER**

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 data provided in the table and report is for information purposes to allow Board Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. It should be noted that the timing of this meeting of the Committee allows the reporting of preliminary Quarter 1 2014/15 statistics. There may be minor amendments between the information in this report and the final 2014/15 statistics – for example due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, road crashes or incidents. **It would not therefore be accurate or appropriate to refer to, quote or use the data in this report as either Qtr 1 or official statistics.** 5 year average figures are not available for all measures. For Road Traffic Collision measures, the 3 year average will be used as 5 year averages are not available.
- 1.4 The format of this report has been updated to reflect the new Falkirk Local Policing Plan priorities (i.e. **Protecting People and Places, Dealing with Antisocial Behaviour, Violent Crime, Disrupting Organised Crime, Crimes of Dishonesty and Making Roads Safer**). There is also a further category of Cross Cutting Themes which are relevant to all the foregoing priorities.
- 1.5 Appendix 1a provides a table which shows the links for each new indicator to the relevant element of the Local Policing Plan which subject to approval will be reported on from the next meeting onwards. The colour coding on the previous table has been replaced with arrows which provide a visual representation of variations in performance. This is based on the format of a Covalent report which it is hoped will be the reporting tool once training has been undertaken. A key to the icons precedes the table.
- 1.6 There will be contextual information provided on current performance. 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 first quarter of 2014/15 sees the long-term trend of reducing crime rates continuing in crime groups 1 to 4 with a drop of 3.4% (48 crimes less) from the figure at this time last year. Reductions in the number of crimes of dishonesty (67 crimes less, down by 5.3%) and of damage to property (34 crimes less, down 8%) have contributed to the overall fall in groups 1 – 4 Crime. However, these are offset by an increase in serious violence (26 crimes more, up by 68.4%) accompanied by an increase in crimes of indecency (27 crimes more, up by 87.1%).
- 2.2 The performance indicators currently used in the table 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 39 new local plan indicators are shown as *italics* in the table. Where indicators link to more than one of the six policing priorities they have been collated under the heading of Cross Cutting Themes.
- 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. Thirty-five of the local plan indicators currently contain data which allow long term comparisons to be made. Of these, 17 show positive performance whilst 18 show reduced levels. Forty-two of the local plan indicators currently contain data which allow short term comparisons to be made. Of these, 27 show positive performance whilst 15 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 One of the objectives under the priority of **Protecting the Public** is to reduce the levels of **crimes of indecency**. These have increased significantly in the first quarter rising from 41 during the reporting period last year to 58 in this year. Last year's figure was particularly low compared with the preceding 4 years and this quarter's figures are now showing a level of consistency with long term average figures. Crimes are recorded according to the date they are **reported** regardless of when they occurred, and 20 (34.4%) of the crimes reported since 1 April 2014 occurred before that date. Levels of offending by individuals who are strangers to the victim remain very low.
- 2.6 Another objective under the preceding priority is to respond to **hate crimes and offences**. There has been a slight increase in reported hate crimes up from 66 to 64 for the current reporting period. The largest single characteristic of victims continues to be based on race with two thirds of all such crimes falling within this category. The rates for detecting offenders remains high at over 84.8% 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.

- 2.7 The number of **domestic abuse incidents** (432) shows a slight increase against the same period last year (428). This issue has been given particular emphasis within Forth Valley Division and measures including intervention, enforcement and target profiling have been applied successfully.
- 2.8 The long-term downward trend in crimes and offences involving **anti-social behaviour, disorder and vandalism** has continued over the reporting period. There was a significant decrease of just over 24.1% (-710) in incidents of disorder from the previous year, and a similar picture with vandalism which showed reductions of about 7.8% (-30).
- 2.9 In respect of **violent crime**, there was a rise (+26) in the number of serious assaults which goes against the longer term trend seen to date of steady reductions in this type of crime. The number of attempted murders has risen from 3 to 6. Minor assaults showed a slight increase between April - June, up 2% (+9) from last year's 5 year low. Overall this category is following a downward trend as the current level is still 14.1% lower than the 5 year average. Detection rates in all of these categories remain at high levels. In the majority of assaults no weapon was used. The number of robberies from April to June 2014 (8) remained static on the previous year's figure and overall this crime type remains a rare incident. Most robberies involve the taking of items such as mobile phones and small sums of money and are carried out by way of threat of violence rather than acts of violence.
- 2.10 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 (45 to 64) which is in line with recent upward trends taking performance back towards the levels seen in previous years.
- 2.11 **Crimes of dishonesty (group 3)** shows an overall reduction of 5.3% against the same period last year and is at its lowest level seen in the preceding 5 years. One of the most significant increases has been in thefts by housebreaking, but this can be attributed to a large increase in crimes involving thefts from sheds and garages rather than break-ins to houses. Reports of theft by shoplifting have reduced by 25.4% (-51) against the previous year and remains in line with figures seen in previous years. The detection rate for acquisitive crime stands at 42.3% and remains higher than the national rate currently at 36.5%
- 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 injury road collisions has reduced (65 to 52) and people killed or seriously injured has remained static (9) both are below the three year averages. 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 12 which is a reduction of 7 complaints to those recorded in the last report for the end of March 2014. There were a total of 19 allegations contained within the 12 complaints, of

which 16 were in relation to the actions of staff whilst on duty, 1 for off-duty incidents and 2 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 results of the **service user survey** shown in section 49 of the table relate to Forth Valley Division as a whole, although it is anticipated that future figures will be broken down to local authority areas. There is generally a high level of satisfaction with the various elements of service delivery.

3. RISKS AND THREATS

- 3.1 Some of the risks and threats which continue to present are:
- Metal theft – although this has seen a drop locally
 - Skimming devices in Automated Teller Machines
 - Bogus collection/theft of "charity" clothing –although sporadic
 - Child neglect (including the level of care and hygiene in the home)
 - Local impact of serious organised crime groups viz Operation Flameberry
 - Lack of awareness surrounding so called "legal highs".

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

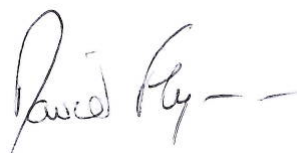
- 3.2 No significant new operational issues emerged during the last reporting period.
- 3.3 During the current reporting period, officers from a national unit worked with local officers on **Operation RAC** which targeted the crime of Theft by Housebreaking, but also extended into other crimes of dishonesty. These categories of dishonesties accounted for about half of all detections under the operation to date. There were also successes in charging individuals involved in violent or threatening behaviour, in misusing drugs and in the commission of other offences including vandalism. Officers also detected a significant number of road traffic offences including three disqualified drivers.

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 The division has made a significant contribution to the resourcing of the Queens Baton Relay and the Commonwealth Games during the reporting period. Although leave was restricted and rest days reduced during this period, the impact of contributing to the successful delivery of these unprecedented events will result in abstractions over the forthcoming period as officers are reallocated rest days and utilise their annual leave allowance.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendices in relation to updates regarding Armed Policing, Traffic Wardens and the Impact of the Commonwealth Games 2014 are attached for the information of the board members.
- 5.2 Appendix 1a – KPI Table Showing Links to Falkirk Local Policing Plan 2014-17
- 5.3 Appendix 2 – Falkirk Policing Performance Scrutiny Board Report (new style)
- 5.4 Appendix 3 - Falkirk Policing Performance Scrutiny Board Report (old style)
- 5.5 Appendix 4 – Road Collisions Statistics – Falkirk Area Command
- 5.6 Appendix 5 – Road Collision Mapping – Falkirk Area Command
- 5.7 Appendix 6 – Armed Policing
- 5.8 Appendix 7 – Traffic Wardens
- 5.9 Appendix 8 – Impact of the Commonwealth Games 2014



.....
LOCAL COMMANDER, FORTH VALLEY DIVISION

Date: 11September 2014

Contact Name: PC Amy McGregor (01324 678855)