



Agenda Item 4

Police Scotland – Falkirk Area Performance

Title: Police Scotland – Falkirk Area Performance
Meeting: Scrutiny Committee (External)
Date: 21 May 2021
Submitted By: Director of Corporate and Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the performance by Police Scotland from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the performance of Police Scotland and select a course of action from the following options:-
- (1) Approve the report and acknowledge progress by the organisation in meeting its priorities;**
 - (2) Request further information on specific aspects of the service provided; or**
 - (3) Request action with a follow-up report for future consideration.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Following the establishment of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013, local commanders are required to report on performance with regard to the local policing plan. The local police plan for the period 2017 – 2020 was considered and approved by Council on 6 December 2017. A new Plan will be submitted to Council in June 2021.
- 3.2 Section 45 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 sets out the role of the local authority with regard to the governance of Police Scotland, as follows :-
- A local authority may monitor and provide feedback to the local commander on the policing of its area, and (in particular) may provide to the local commander:-
 - (a) Its views on any matter concerning or connected to the policing of its area, and
 - (b) Any recommendations for the improvement of the policing of its area that it thinks fit.

- A local authority may provide feedback by reference to any local police plan in force for the area.
- A local commander must provide to the local authority:
 - (a) Reports on the carryout out of police functions in its area (including by reference to any local policing plan in force for the area),
 - (b) Statistical information in complaints made about the Police Service in, or the policing of, its area, and
 - (c) Other information about the policing of its area, as the local authority may reasonably require.

4. The Local Policing Priorities and Performance

4.1 The local policing plan sets out the local priorities and objectives for the Falkirk Council area, and is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The plan takes account of the following:

- The Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services;
- Strategic priorities set by Scottish Ministers;
- The Scottish Police Authority's Strategic Police Plan;
- The Chief Constable's Annual Police Plan, and
- Local context and need.

4.2 This report covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, and therefore covers the period in which the area and country was in lockdown for large periods. It highlights the performance of local policing across the Falkirk Council area, in accordance with the local policing plan, and the following local priorities:

- Responsive to the concerns of our communities;
- Enhancing our collective resilience to emerging threats;
- Protecting people most at risk of harm;
- Promoting confidence through our actions; and
- Road Safety and Road Crime.

4.3 The Police Plan sets out actions relating to each priority:-

Responsive to the Concerns of Our Communities

Areas of action within this priority include:

- Violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour;
- Acquisitive crime, and
- Hate crime

Enhancing Our Collective Resilience to Emerging Threats

Areas of action within this priority include:

- Serious organised crime;
- Drugs misuse;
- Counter terrorism; and
- Planning for emergencies.

Protecting People Most at Risk from Harm

People and groups supported within this priority include:

- Vulnerable people;
- Children and young people; and
- Victims of sexual crime and domestic abuse.

Promoting Confidence Through Our Actions

Area of action within this priority include:

- How police services are delivered;
- Engaging and involving local communities;
- Developing and supporting staff; and
- Future sustainability.

Road Safety and Road Crime

Area of action within this priority include:

- Collaboration with partners
- Local and national initiatives

- 4.4 The Local Policing Plan sets out how Police Scotland will be able to demonstrate that it is making a difference on each priority, through a number of success measures. Appendix 1 provides an introduction to the report, while Appendix 2 highlights key achievements and performance. The reports will be presented by a senior officer from Police Scotland. The following provides some brief performance highlights over the reporting period:

Responsive to the Concerns of Our Communities

- Tackling the harm and vulnerability caused by drugs, including drug dealing and drug related deaths.
 - Over the past 12 months, 127 drug warrants have been enforced at addresses across the Falkirk area, resulting in the recovery of a significant amount of Class A, B and C substances.

- Road safety
 - Local officers remain committed to ensuring the roads across Falkirk are safe.
 - A Week of Action was carried out in May 2020 to target a range of motoring offences, including speeding, driving whilst using a mobile phone and drink/drug driving. During the campaign, 95 drivers were warned and 3 fixed penalties for speeding were handed out.
 - Following on from the success of this initiative, further Weeks of Action were held in July and August.
- Anti-social behaviour and disorder
 - Police continue to work with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour, such as a Police Officer working full time and embedded in the Falkirk Street Safer initiative, and local School Based Officers who are deployed in secondary schools across Falkirk.
 - Police and partner organisations have responded to concerns about ASB in Falkirk Town Centre with 'Operation Christmas', and both the Zetland Park Regeneration Project and Community Projects Tryst are examples of good work being done on the ground.
 - There has been a reduction of housebreakings (including attempts) in the last 12 months, currently sitting at 195 in comparison to 404 in the previous year. This is mirrored by motor vehicle crime – now at 205 reports from 332 in the previous year.

Enhancing Our Collective Resilience to Emerging Threats

- Covid-19 Policing Response -- Police Scotland directed officers to follow a policy style which centred on the '4Es'
 - Engage: ask whether an individual is aware of the government request; establish individual circumstances and how quickly someone can comply.
 - Explain: the risks to public health, and to the NHS in line with government guidance.
 - Encourage: voluntary compliance.
 - Enforce: if faced with non-compliance and only as a last resort.
- Cyber Security
 - In October 2020, local officers collaborated with Multi Agency Contest Group and Forth Valley Voluntary Sector Group to raise awareness of cyber attacks, business security attacks and personal cyber security.

Protecting People Most at Risk from Harm

- Tackling domestic abuse is a priority not only locally but across Scotland. In Falkirk there is a dedicated team of officers who have one focus: tracing outstanding offenders for criminality associated with domestic abuse. Preventing domestic abuse remains a key priority, with actions including:
 - The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) provides a framework to share information about a partner's abusive past with a potential victim.
 - There are two main triggers for proposal: the Right to Ask and the Power to Tell.
 - Multi-agency awareness training on the scheme has been undertaken by our Domestic Abuse Unit in order to give partners who may come into contact with victims the confidence to make applications. There has not been an increasing trend in applications within the Forth Valley Division as in 2018 there were 165, in 2019 227 and in 2020 there were 271.
- A preventive and enforcement approach is adopted in tackling door step crime and bogus callers. The Crime Prevention Officer regularly engages with vulnerable and elderly groups to raise their awareness of fraudulent activities.
- Children & Young Persons
 - A development to the Early and Effective Intervention process has enabled a formal and informal process for child offenders, the former of which will be embedded in the Safeguarding Communities Reducing Offending.
 - An establishment of board of trustees has allowed for the overseeing of spending of football clubs, youth clubs and boxing clubs etc.
- Officers continue to handle concern calls, within the last 12 months, 1,142 Missing Person incidents were recorded which is a reduction from 1,729 in the previous year. This is expected to be caused by the pandemic.

Promoting Confidence Through Our Actions

- In order to maintain the support and cooperation of communities, local police continue to work hard to reaffirm public trust and confidence through its interactions with communities. Examples include Operation Alamo – Fireworks and Operation Christmas, where it aims to reassure the public and deter criminality.
- Officers in Falkirk have undertaken training to become involved in the Naloxone Test of Change programme which is an emergency, first aid response to opioid/opiate-related drug overdose situations. The pilot will last six months and allows trained officers to use Naloxone.

- Forth Valley Safer Communities has worked alongside with many organisations such as Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Regional Equality Centre and Rainbow Muslim Women's group to show methods of reporting to the police and the importance of doing so.

Road Safety and Road Crime

- A team made up of community police, local Councillors and the Falkirk Council combated safety concerns raised by locals of Blackness due to increase in traffic. A temporary resolution was successful and there is planning going ahead to find a permanent measure.
- Speeding
 - In the last 12 months, 915 speeding offences and 80 dangerous driving offences were detected in Falkirk.
 - Community Officers have been proactive in areas across Falkirk such as Grangemouth, Bo'ness and Braes to identify and address speeding. Further work is currently underway to identify other problem areas.

Public Satisfaction Survey January 2021 – March 2021

- Police Scotland conducted online surveys, with a random sample of people who contacted Police Scotland, in regard to satisfaction. Feedback demonstrated a generally high level of satisfaction, aside from the adequacy of progress reporting of cases, despite this, Falkirk fell slightly below national average.
- The breakdown of Violence, Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour offers an insight into the change in criminal behaviour over the last year, for example a notable decline in Robbery and Common Assault and an increase in crimes such as Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences. An understanding that the pandemic will have an influence has to be given.

5. Consultation

5.1 Nil.

6. Implications

Financial

6.1 Nil.

Resources

6.2 Nil.

Legal

6.3 Local authorities are able to scrutinise police performance under the terms of Section 45 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

- Risk**
- 6.4 If these services are not provided by Police Scotland then there is a risk to the safety of our communities.
- Equalities**
- 6.5 Nil.
- Sustainability/Environmental Impact**
- 6.6 Nil.
- Conclusions**
- 6.7 The committee is asked to consider the information presented in this report to ensure that Police Scotland is providing the services consistent with their agreed Strategic Plan.

Director of Corporate and Housing Services

Author Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager brian.pirie@falkirk.gov.uk
Date 12 May 2021

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Performance report from Police Scotland.

List of Background Papers:

No papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Police Performance Report



POLICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

APRIL 2020-MARCH 2021

ALAN GIBSON

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Contents

Background to this Report	page 3
 Local Policing Priority Updates:	
Responsive to the concerns of the community	pages 4-10
Enhancing our collective resilience to emerging threats	pages 11-13
Protecting people most at risk from harm	pages 14-16
Promoting confidence through our actions	pages 17-18
Road Safety and Road Crime	pages 19-20
 Public Satisfaction Survey	 pages 21-22
 Performance Figures April 2020 –March 2021	 pages 23-27

BACKGROUND TO THIS REPORT

As from April 2013, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 has required Police Scotland to produce and publish a Local Policing Plan (LPP) for each local authority area. The LPP clearly sets out the policing priorities for Falkirk.

Performance in relation to the identified policing priorities is monitored and reviewed internally on a weekly basis. Yearly reports are produced to allow scrutiny by Falkirk Council Scrutiny Committee. This report covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

In order to support effective scrutiny and determine whether our preventative approach is having a lasting positive impact, members of the Scrutiny Committee will consider information linked to the priorities outlined within this plan which includes:

- Responsive to the concerns of our communities
- Enhancing our collective resilience to emerging threats
- Protecting people most at risk from harm
- Promoting confidence through our actions
- Road Safety and Road Crime

This report will make reference to crime groupings. Groups 1 - 5 refer to an amalgamation of five crime groups. They are group 1 crimes which consist of violent crime; group 2 crimes which consist of sexual offences; group 3 crimes which include a wide range of dishonesty crimes; group 4 crimes which includes vandalism, fire-raising and malicious mischief and group 5 crimes which tend to relate to crimes identified as a result of Police pro-activity, such as drug offences.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data is sourced from Police Scotland internal systems and is correct as at 2 April 2021.

Readers should note that all data for 2019/20 and 2020/21 was refreshed when it was extracted at the start of April 2021. This means that the data for 2019/20 Q4 published in this report will differ from the data previously published for 2019/20 Q4 last October (2020). It usually takes between one and two quarters for the data to settle and for most of the natural revisions to take place.

RESPONSIVE TO THE CONCERNS OF OUR COMMUNITIES



RESPONSIVE TO THE CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

We will work to prevent antisocial behaviour, hate crime, violence and disorder and aim to prevent acquisitive crime

Our primary role continues to be keeping our communities safe by listening to the public and acting on local issues.

Our approach

Through the Falkirk Community Safety Partnership we will continue to prevent crime, reassure and protect our communities from harm.

Below are some examples of how our officers have responded to local issues that have been raised.

Falkirk Community Safety Partnership

The Falkirk Community Safety Partnership, Falkirk and District Community Safety Panel and the Forth Valley Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, have continued to work closely during the Covid 19 Pandemic to effectively address the change in demands across the partnership agenda brought about by working restrictions and changing or emerging thematic issues.

The Police Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) is part of a specific multi-agency working group formed by representative leads of all services with a remit to review and tactically address emerging issues. The LALO has taken forward the decisions made by the group, liaised with partners and made necessary referrals to each service in respect of antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, homelessness, crime and safety to ensure that the partnership achieves its aims as it would if it were normal business.

Addressing Covid 19 related safety issues (antisocial behaviour, wellbeing and housing needs) has been a focus for the partnership over the last year and collectively they have successfully managed to tackle and avoid highlighted service provision concerns across the agenda such as emergency/temporary housing stock availability through effective communication, early intervention and agreed operational parameters set by the working group.

Going forward, the partnership now looks to the near future as the situation normalises and traditional thematic issues re-emerge.

Officer embedded within Falkirk Council

Constable Iain Kyle has been working within the Conflict Resolution Service dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour complaints (ASB). PC Kyle is involved in the investigation and subsequent action in accordance with Falkirk Council agreed ASB procedures. This includes applications for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO), where required. In addition to this he is solely responsible for cases where persons have been convicted of Misuse of Drugs offences, production of controlled drugs, concerned in supply or possession with intent to supply, where these relate to Falkirk Council tenancies. These can involve the preparation of a case for legal action to recover the property. PC Kyle scrutinises court results for these types of convictions on behalf of Falkirk Council and for Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils for any convictions relevant to their area.

In ASB cases and drugs cases he ensures that the appropriate levels of support are provided to those affected including the perpetrators where relevant, making referrals to partner agencies.

Forth Ports – HGV Working Group

Grangemouth Port is one of the busiest Ports in Scotland with over 30% of the country's GDP passing through it.

In recent months there has been growing concerns raised by members in the public in relation to issues arising from the overnight parking of HGVs within the Grangemouth area.

In response to complaints a working group was established with representation from the local Community Policing Team. The lack of suitable overnight HGV parking facilities in the Grangemouth area is a recognised issue and one which is now being addressed through the group with the aim of providing a suitable overnight facility in the future. This should provide a long term solution to this problem.

Whilst this work is ongoing, haulage firms that use the port have been contacted directly by the local Community Policing Team to highlight concerns and discuss alternative solutions.

The most recent HGV Working Group meeting was held on 29th April 2021 and it has been confirmed that plans are in place for a HGV parking area to be created at Wholeflats Road, Grangemouth which will replace the existing temporary arrangement at Union Road Car Park. This arrangement is with a view to taking HGV's away from the town centre and in turn will hopefully reduce associated complaints with noise etc.

Various pieces of work are being undertaken in relation to this relocation including the introduction of a temporary weight restriction during evening hours within Grangemouth Town Centre. It is estimated that these restrictions will be in place in October 2021-December 2021. In addition, a height barrier will be introduced at the Union Road car park to physically prevent HGV use.

Introduction of additional street lighting and litter bins is being planned for the new Wholeflats Road location, however it should be noted that this will still be a temporary measure and will not be a dedicated HGV parking facility with toilets etc.

Drug Dealing

Drug dealing and misuse is recognised as a concern which has far reaching social, economic and health consequences. It impacts on individuals, families and communities fuelling anti-social behaviour, violence and acquisitive crime. Whilst recognised as a wide ranging issue requiring a multi-agency approach, local officers respond to concerns raised from a number of sources by developing intelligence leading to the execution of search warrants, recovery of drugs, confiscation of the proceeds of crime and the arrest of offenders.

When required, assistance is obtained from specialist resources, both regional and national to ensure successful and safe operations.

Through the Proceeds of Crime Legislation officers have recovered 9 street cash seizures amounting to £14,154.47 and a total recovery of £731,167.60 in assets have also been seized over the last year. (1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021)

In comparison, during the same period the previous year, street cash seizures amounted to £7090 and £929,792.14 worth of assets were seized.

Falkirk area Command alone has executed 127 drug warrants over the past year.

Below are examples of the work and the impact that officers have had over the past year. They highlight the action that local policing take when information regarding drug dealing activities is received:-

In August 2020 as a result of intelligence received, a male person was stopped by Proactive CID officers and £2280 of controlled drugs and £600 cash was recovered. A search of his home address resulted in the seizure of £24,000. The male was arrested for being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs.

In November 2020, police attended a Denny address due to a complaint received of a smell of cannabis. Despite there being little further information, officers from Larbert Community Policing Team recovered cannabis plants valued at £42,000 and stopped an operation which was believed to have been ongoing since 2018 and valued at a minimum of £50,000 per annum. Two adults were arrested and charged.

In November of 2020 the Community Policing Team from Larbert charged a 13 year old and a 15 year old with being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs. Enquiries enabled them to identify a number of other young people involved in taking controlled drugs and traced an adult who was dealing. Identifying these young people and disrupting the supply chain allowed us to implement safe-guarding measures and share information with other agencies to promote their welfare.

In January 2021 officers attended an address in Camelon in relation to concerns raised. The smell and constant noise was having a significant detrimental impact on the quality of life for local residents. Entry was forced and officers located a sophisticated set up with Cannabis supply totalling £72,000. These drugs were seized and ultimately removed from circulation.

A recovery of drugs was made after a call from the public in relation to potential street dealing. Officers traced a male and female at Bowhouse Road, Grangemouth and over 1300 pills were seized and sent to our laboratory for analysis.

Drug Related Deaths

Drug related deaths across Scotland continue to make the headlines. Falkirk is no exception. The most recent figures for Drug related deaths for Falkirk are Jan 2021 to March 2021 where Falkirk has 9 deaths reported. It should be noted that this figure may change following any lab results still to be received. Falkirk recorded 9 for the same period of time in 2020.

For Jan to Dec 2020 Falkirk recorded 36 deaths and for the same period the year before the total was 40 deaths

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & DISORDER

Antisocial Behaviour is another regular area of concern amongst the local community. Police Scotland recognises that individuals have the right to live in peace and safety, free from all aspects of antisocial and criminal behaviour, without fear of harassment and/or intimidation. Accordingly police in Falkirk are committed to effectively tackling and preventing antisocial behaviour in order to safeguard the future and wellbeing of our communities. Officers in Falkirk have been involved in number of initiatives and work with partners to engage with the Community in a positive and pro-active way.

Community Officers for Camelon and Tamfourhill continue to engage with 'Our Place, Camelon and Tamfourhill.' To address the needs of the local community, officers have been involved with Easter Carmuir regeneration who are securing funding to have the Multi-Use Games area moved to a more appropriate location to minimise Anti-Social Behaviour. Included in the proposal is a floodlit football pitch and new playparks.

Constable Graeme Fox continued his project with Tryst Golf Club. The club have long suffered acts of vandalism and minor theft on account of their location between two large areas of housing. Constable Fox intends a multi-pronged approach designed to improve the club's wellbeing moving forward. Tasking includes: building in crime prevention with some course redesign including the felling of trees, the club reaching out to local young people to encourage membership, police attending local schools to provide inputs on civic behaviour and the forward planning for regular police patrols at the start of school holidays. It's all designed to encourage better community ownership of the club by young people.

Falkirk Area Command- Youth Worker Engagement

Due to current COVID19 restrictions local youths have not been able to attend youth clubs and other diversionary activities. In order to establish where young people are congregating, in the absence of such clubs, a mapping exercise was undertaken by Falkirk Council Youth Development Workers. Local police teams engaged with the workers and shared their knowledge of new and emerging problematic areas to assist with the street work and mapping being undertaken by their workers.

Local policing teams will continue to liaise with the youth workers as their work develops.

More recently, Youth Workers have recommenced patrols in the command area. Building on the earlier mapping work that has been carried out arrangements have been put in place to facilitate the flow of information regards emerging trends in youth disorder. This will allow for the appropriate resources to be deployed to the hotspot areas that are current and not simply historical.



Zetland Park Regeneration Project

Our involvement in the park development evolved through an increase in anti-social behaviour and youth disorder and reported concerns from local residents. Large groups of youths were gathering in the Park with upwards of 50 being reported on occasions.

It was established that a partnership approach with the Regeneration Project would assist with the immediate need to resolve these problems and ensure that we were involved in any future developments that may impact on any activity that had already been carried. The aim is to address anti-social behaviour and encourage responsible use of the green space.

The Grangemouth Community Team continue have a close relationship with the project team developing the park. In recent months, and in response to increased anti-social behaviour at the park and other green spaces in the town, officers have been joined by specialist departments such as the Mounted Section and have carried out joint patrols with Falkirk Council Staff and officers from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Unfortunately Covid-19 has delayed the delivery of the Regeneration Projects activity plan which has in turn impacted on our involvement. However the Grangemouth Community Team has been in regular contact with the Regeneration Park Project around the development work at the children's park and the new bike pump track that is under construction.

Following discussions around mobile CCTV systems, the regeneration park have now secured funding to have a device installed at the park.

Community Officers are currently liaising with the Regeneration Project with regards to creating some diversionary activity at the new bike track which may involve input from Grangemouth High School Art Department.

Crime Prevention

Community Officers carried out bike security marking and offered crime prevention advice to pupils and residents living nearby Braes and Grangemouth High School. Over this period of activity a total of 56 were security marked using tamper proof stickers. Further bike marking events are being planned at Zetland Park and Bo'ness Academy in the coming months.

Falkirk Town Centre



Falkirk Community officers ran Operation Christmas over the festive period. This was a high visibility policing operation in Falkirk Town Centre to detect and deter acquisitive crime and involved numerous officers from community and response policing working in collaboration with Falkirk Safer Streets initiative (local BID, Council, Street Pastors, Safe Base, Howgate shopping Centre and local CCTV). The operation consisted of high visibility foot patrols and engagement with partner agencies. Officers handed out various safety advice leaflets, purse bells, reflective safety stickers and bank card protectors.

PC Mackie, Crime Prevention Officer continued to support the victims of acquisitive crime and provided follow up contact with vulnerable victims to ensure they were fully supported. In addition he has been involved in the following activities:

Hotel Refund Fraud: Involved circulating information to hotels within our area highlighting criminals using distraction techniques to carry out refund frauds. As a result staff at a hotel in Aberfoyle were alert to the scheme and contacted police and this subsequently resulted in the apprehension of two males from England who were committing this crime in various areas throughout Scotland.

Mandate Fraud: There has been an increase in this report type within the Forth Valley Division. This fraud generally targets businesses and can result in large financial losses. Several businesses reported being targeted by means of compromised computer system's (supplier's hacked, new accounts for invoices etc). Proactive engagement was undertaken with local businesses directly as well as statutory organisations such as local authorities (Economic Development teams / Business revenue / licensing / corporate fraud etc). Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) / Retailers against Crime (RAC) also highlighted this threat to local businesses, the financial sector, Supermarkets etc.

PC Paterson, Serious Organised Crime Interventions Officer, assisted when concerns were raised by First Bus that a male known locally to be involved in serious criminality was attempting to occupy unused land owned by First Bus to gain a foothold in Falkirk town centre. Working on intelligence gathered from partners, a proactive approach was taken, businesses were visited and advice/reassurance given. Security advice was also discussed with First Bus who quickly erected bollards to deter any persons trying to occupy land. This brought a swift conclusion to the plans of male in question and was to the benefit of First Bus and the local community.

Vehicle Crime & Housebreaking

In August 2020, a theft from a motor vehicle occurred in Grangemouth. Following investigation a male was arrested and charged with this offence and for two further Housebreakings the previous week in the same area. The total value stolen was £5,000.

Officers also detected a theft of quad bike worth £1250 from Grangemouth. The accused has been reported in relation to the matter.

The total number of recorded Housebreakings including attempts (dwelling and non-dwelling properties) in Falkirk has dropped significantly this year to 195 from 404 the previous year.

There has also been a drop in reported motor vehicle crime from 332 during the period of 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020 to 205 during the same period this year.

The restrictions over the last year have clearly influenced these figures with more people being at home resulting in the opportunities for housebreaking and vehicle crime being greatly reduced.

Community Engagement

PC Auld, Equality and Diversity officer, continued to engage with communities across Forth Valley working on projects and linking in with minority groups across our communities. Whilst this would normally be done in person, due to restrictions PC Auld's work focused more on social media engagement.



During the Hate Crime Awareness week in October, PC Auld produced a video which was circulated on social media. She also took part in Al Maassar meeting which focussed on hate crime. PC Auld has forged links with the Intergenerational National Network arranging teams meetings to focus on Public transport (Hate Crime Charter for Forth Valley and Hate Crime on Public transport will be discussed).

PC Auld continues in her work to raise awareness of diversity issues across our communities engaging with partner and 3rd party agencies and to provide advice and support to victims from minority groups.

ENHANCING OUR COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE TO EMERGING THREATS



Our Approach

We will continue to review emerging threats and seek the support of our communities to inform our intelligence requirements and develop our understanding of what is happening in our communities.

Through our dedicated partnership meeting structures, we will share information and work together to protect our communities from the risk and harm of emerging threats.

Below are some examples of the types of initiatives that we have been involved in:-

COVID-19



Falkirk Area Command area has remained responsive to the challenges posed by Covid-19 responding to communities concerns regards possible breaches of guidance in a timely and proportionate manner. In keeping with the theme of engage, explain, encourage and enforce officers have been responding to calls and carrying out proactive patrols in beauty spot areas.

Key areas focused on included the areas of Blackness, Muiravonside Country Park, The Helix and around the Canal network.



Our policing style is centred on the '4Es';

- Engage: ask whether an individual is aware of the government request; establish individual circumstances and how quickly someone can comply.
- Explain: the risks to public health, and to the NHS in line with government guidance.
- Encourage: voluntary compliance.
- Enforce: if faced with non-compliance and only as a last resort.

Community Teams across Falkirk are working in partnership with colleagues in licencing and Falkirk Council to monitor compliance of licenced premises operations as we come out of lockdown

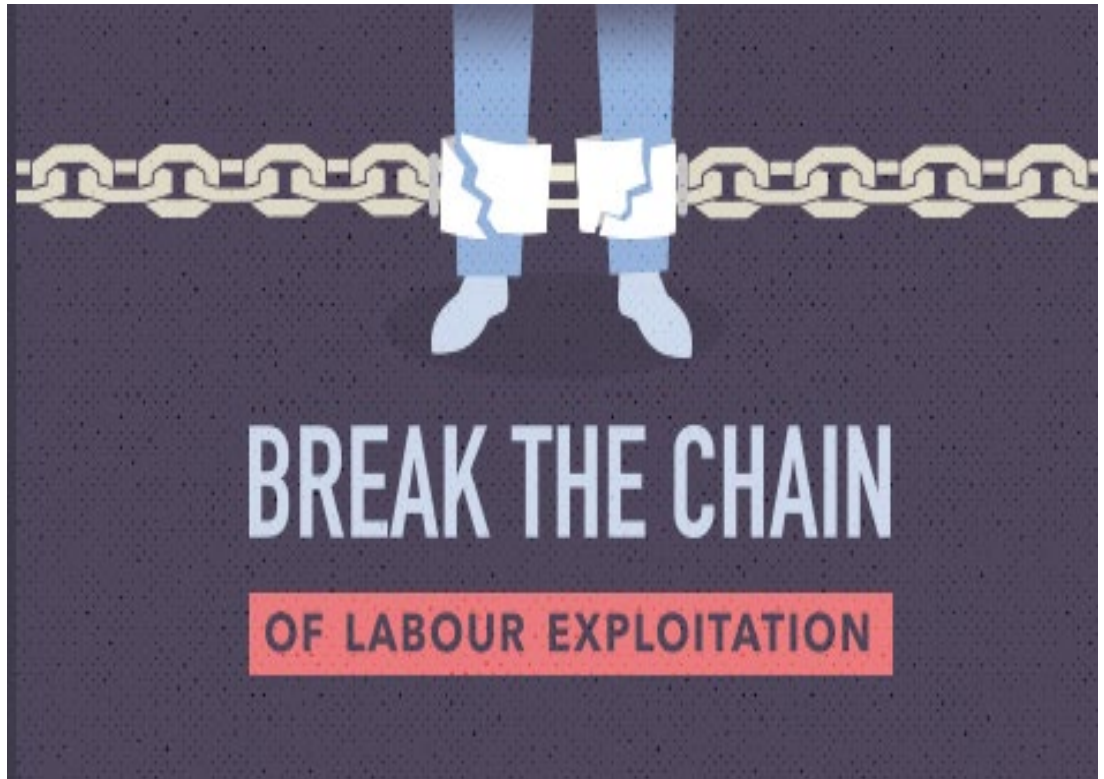
On 31st March 2021, Police Scotland launched a new public campaign to target labour exploitation which includes five weeks of TV advertising on STV and STV player.

The campaign is designed to target business owners, managers and employees together with members of the public. The goal is to build knowledge, increase intelligence and encourage reporting of labour exploitation.

Evidence suggests labour exploitation is happening in every community across Scotland.

Recently Officers in Falkirk, Grangemouth, Larbert Community

Teams and Pro-Active CID took part in an operation designed to target this area of policing where they attended a number of venues asking questions of employees and employers surrounding labour exploitation and domestic servitude. Officers were able to engage with individuals and carried out relevant checks. As a result one male was apprehended on behalf of immigration and another male was asked to leave premises where he was working.



Serious & Organised Crime

Serious Organised Crime Groups are known to be involved in various types of crime and are now finding new channels to exploit, whilst retaining a grip on traditional markets such as drug dealing.

Investigations were conducted in relation to thefts from Salvation Army clothing containers. This appeared to be an issue in multiple areas and was suspected of being carried out by members of a serious and organised crime group. Information was shared across policing areas and a bulletin was circulated which led to 2 males being apprehended who had recently carried out two thefts in the local area.

Counter Terrorism

PC Parsons (Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer) has started rolling out presentations to operational officers in Grangemouth regarding the role of Border Policing within Grangemouth Docks and the Grangemouth area. The presentations also looked at INEOS and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) sites within the Forth valley area to raise awareness of Counter Terrorism opportunities and what officers should be looking out for.

PC Parsons has also arranged and provided CONTEST Champion Training for partner agencies. He provided nominated members of their organisations an increased knowledge of Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare strands of the Governments Contest Strategy to help them prepare their own organisation for any terrorist incidents.

Cyber Security

In October 2020 PC Parsons set up a virtual cyber resilience input for members of our Multi Agency Contest Group and Forth Valley Voluntary Sector Group to raise awareness of cyber attacks, business cyber security and personal cyber security. This was done to increase awareness of these issues and help support those who have been working remotely from home during the pandemic. Members from our Cyber Security Team and the Cyber Resilience Co-Ordinator for the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations carried out the presentations which covered the use of the new platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. The need for backing up systems to prevent hacking and ransomware and the security of passwords were covered in the input.

As a result of the input, bespoke presentations are being developed for staff members from the Community Voluntary Sector.

Due to our usual methods of engagement being curtailed by Covid restrictions and an increase in online fraud, Crime Prevention Officer PC Bryan Mackie contacted the organisers of the open air cinema at Falkirk Stadium and arranged for a Police Scotland crime prevention message to be run before films in December to reach a wider audience.

Wildlife Crime

PC Robertson is aware of recent deer attacks in the Falkirk area and sightings of dogs chasing deer. To address the ongoing issues, she is working with Falkirk Rangers and the SSPCA regarding ongoing incidents and sharing information.

PROTECTING PEOPLE MOST AT RISK FROM HARM



Priority – Protecting people most at risk from harm

Our Approach

We will regularly review our partnership approach; ensuring that we deliver services to vulnerable people in a co-ordinated, professional and sensitive manner. We will continue to share information to identify those most at risk of harm at the earliest opportunity and seek to safeguard these individuals.

DSDAS (Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland)

The DSDAS is still one of the most significant tools which can be used by Police Scotland to safeguard victims from serial domestic abuse offenders. There have been year on year increases in DSDAS application's within Forth Valley Division (2018 - **165**; 2019 - **227**; 2020 - **271**). This trend is in part due to the pro-active work of Police and partner support agencies within the Division.

Most applications are 'Power to Tell' applications based upon the information held on police systems being disclosed to potential victims. (In 2020 76% of DSDAS were Power to Tell). The majority of the DSDAS raised and delivered are within Falkirk local area command.

The Power to Tell applications are predominantly proactively identified by the DALO (Domestic Abuse Liaison Officers) who attempt to make contact with all victims following a domestic Vulnerable Person Database report (VPD) having been raised. Furthermore staff within the Concern Hub in Forth Valley have also been tasked to ensure they identify any opportunities to submit a DSDAS when they process VPD's (domestic and non-domestic related) and note that an individual is in a relationship with a domestic abuse offender. Discussions held at monthly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) meetings also result in actions being raised for partner agencies (Social Work / Women's Aid) to submit a DSDAS application as a safeguarding tool.

There have been recent examples of victims who have previously experienced domestic abuse or received a DSDAS disclosure in the past, utilising the scheme to check out their new partner (The Right to Ask), which is a testament to the success of the scheme.

Unfortunately due to the impact of Covid, the most recent up to date figures for DSDAS are not currently available however this is a pro-active area of work with police continuing to provide these disclosures throughout the pandemic.

DOOR STEP CRIME AND BOGUS CALLERS

OFFICIAL

A male was identified for a bogus workman type fraud that occurred in Falkirk. An elderly complainer was targeted with the value of the fraud being over £8000. The male has been identified for similar offences, and a warrant has been craved for his arrest.



Between July and September 2020 another male and a female committed 3 bogus worker fraud's targeting individual elderly female residents totalling £2,950. Both individuals were reported for the offences and given specific bail conditions to prevent re-offending. The male involved has also been reported for a further 4 similar offences.

Children & Young Persons

In December 2020, Constables Graeme Brown and Iain O'Donnell continued their initiative to bring a suite of diversionary options for child offenders into the Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) process. The Options were created using the money a local business has pledged annually and saw the creation of a board of trustees to oversee the spending on football clubs, youth clubs and boxing clubs etc. With this came a new idea to create a formal and informal referral process. The informal process will be managed by the trusts appointees where the formal process will be embedded with Safeguarding Communities Reducing Offending (SACRO) through the EEI process.

To effect this most recent change Graeme and Iain are arranging a multi-agency meeting to have the partners discuss how best to introduce the formal referral process which is anticipated to be included as a formal SACRO option.

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV)

The Police Scotland youth Volunteers was first established in Glasgow 2013 in order to assist with the Commonwealth games and has since expanded rapidly. There are now 43 groups all across Scotland and consists of a mix of youth volunteers, adult volunteers and Police Officers. Each group is community focused and the volunteers assist local events and initiatives. Together they aim to:-

- Promote a practical understanding of Policing
- Encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship
- Support local policing priorities
- Inspire young people to participate in their community

PC Bleakley, PSYV Coordinator has had several virtual meetings with the Falkirk PSYV group since it started at the end of September 2020. The focus has been on cyber resilience and mental wellbeing during these sessions, conscious of the impact that COVID has had on young people. This was achieved through inputs using materials from Safer Internet Day and a guest speaker from the charity Outside the Box, who pulled together peer support initiatives. They have covered topics such as online safety, corporate parenting and had inputs from the Royal Navy and the Permission to Dream project as well as having some lighter nights and completing a quiz or sharing volunteering experiences.

Darker Nights Initiative

The PSYV group had their first deployment in October 2020. The areas of Bainsford, Camelon and Grangemouth were visited by Police – areas which were showing as most prevalent for thefts in an effort to provide some advice and prevention. Crime Prevention Leaflets were handed out during this campaign to the most vulnerable members of our community.



Vulnerable Persons

Policing has been changing for some time in relation to the types of calls that officers are attending with a general increase in concern type calls. Whilst Missing person calls for the last year have reduced, it's fair to assume that covid has had an impact on this year's figures.

Officers engaged in concern calls can find themselves dealing with that particular call for a large proportion of their shift. This is often due to officers having to take vulnerable members of the public to hospital for assessment where they wait with the person to ensure their safety until they are seen by medical staff and placed into their care.

The impact on resources cannot be underestimated and whilst it's the duty of officers to respond to all calls and protect members of the public, more often than not the solution to the root cause of the vulnerability sits with another agency to resolve.

Between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021, Police in Falkirk recorded 1,142 Missing Person incidents, compared with 1,729 from the previous year.

PROMOTING CONFIDENCE THROUGH OUR ACTIONS



**PROMOTING
CONFIDENCE
THROUGH OUR
ACTIONS**

**We will deliver our service by
engaging communities and
developing and supporting our staff
to ensure sustainability for the future**

Using our internal governance framework, we will consider the continued effectiveness of our approach and drive continuous improvement.

OPERATION ALAMO - FIREWORKS

Operation ALAMO focused on managing and mitigating the threat, risk and harm presented in the period around Bonfire Night and Halloween throughout Forth Valley Division. In the run up to the Operation engagement activity was carried out by local policing teams in the area and school based officers during October.

This piece of work being more pertinent this year due to COVID19 restrictions limiting the number of organised bonfire events in the local area.

Naloxone Test of Change

The Naloxone Test of Change programme has been approved at Senior Leadership Board in November 2020 and is one of the most significant pilots to be carried out in modern Scottish Policing.

Naloxone is an emergency, first aid response to opioid/opiate-related drug overdose situations. It reverses the respiratory suppression caused by opioids, stimulating a person's breathing; it can buy someone enough time to allow ambulance clinicians to arrive and provide professional medical care.

The Police Scotland pilot will only involve the carriage and use of intra-nasal Naloxone sprays.

Training began in early March 2021 for officers in Falkirk and Glasgow.

The pilot will last for six months following the final training session. Officers who have opted to participate will be issued with a personal supply of Naloxone on completion of their training, and be able to carry and use the sprays from that point.



The Division have trained a number of front line officers who will participate in the Test of Change.

To date, there has been 1 administration of Naloxone within the Falkirk area. A successful outcome for the subject who was thereafter attended to by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

New Breath Kits

The new Drager Breath Test Screening Device went live within Forth Valley division on 19th December 2020.

Unique to this new device, it has the ability to capture statistical data of the perpetrator, location and many other pieces of information which assists in the planning of national and local policing operations.

Forth Valley Safer Communities

The divisional department donated a tablet to Forth Valley Sensory Centre for them to use as part of their new Tech Hub. The tablet provided the centre with a dedicated device that can be used to demonstrate to users how to contact emergency services. As part of the training the sensory centre also built in inputs to show service users how to access police by phone including the text service for those who have hearing difficulties (contact Scotland).

PC Auld – Equality and Diversity officer and PC Parsons – Counter Terrorism Liaison officer, provided Third Party Reporting Centre Training for the Regional Equality Centre, Sensory Centre and Rainbow Muslim Women's group. It is hoped this will help to raise awareness of third Party reporting and Hate Crime reporting issues within the division and encourage members of the public to report any issues they encounter direct to the police.

PC Hamilton - Virtual Community Officer has been working in partnership with local agencies during the pandemic to increase the coverage of messages for the public. Mobile Covid Testing communications from NHS partners and detail on their Trauma Informed campaign have featured. Crime prevention is also a large part of the work undertaken and communications to highlight the Winter Wonderland fraud scheme to members of the public will hopefully have prevented a rise in victims.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME



ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

We will aim to reduce casualties and crime on our roads through collaboration with our partners

Our Approach

We will assist our partners to provide education for all road users and will share information so that analysis can identify locations where physical improvements can be made to promote road safety. Our Roads Policing Unit will support us in taking part in national and local campaigns to improve road safety to reduce casualties.

Road Safety/Parking Issues

Like many areas during the post Covid lockdown period, the small village of Blackness has seen a significant increase in vehicular traffic, leading to increased complaints from local residents and concerns regards their safety on the roads.

The community policing team increased their patrols in the area and liaised with local Councillors and Falkirk Council regards the deployment of cones as a temporary solution to assist with the problem.

A further working group was instigated by the Community Council involving representation from Falkirk Council, Historic Scotland and the Local Policing Team.

Planning process is now underway to introduce more permanent measures such as double yellow lines – this is being progressed by Falkirk Council.

Speeding

Following a successful Week of Action earlier in the year, Community Officers across the Falkirk Command Area Teams used feedback from social media channels, elected members and the local community to assist with targeting specific location through further days of action in June, July and August. This activity resulted in a further 209 drivers being warned regards their speed and a number of conditional offers of fixed penalty being issued.

Officer's spoke with drivers; aiming to highlight the dangers of speeding and informing them of the risks and consequences that driving above the limit can have through education and enforcement.

OFFICIAL

In response to complaints around road safety and vehicles speeding along Central Avenue, Grangemouth around school time, the local policing team engaged with the local Primary School and carried out a number of speed checks.

Further engagement will now be carried out with the school as it was identified during the activity that there were issues around children crossing behind parked cars and a lack of designated crossing points.

In response to community concerns regards speeding at various location, dedicated speed checks were undertaken by Community officers in the Grangemouth, Bo'ness and Braes areas.

In one week of activity 36 drivers were warned regards their speeding on roads that had been highlighted by the local community as being a concern. This activity will continue in the coming months with locations being identified through research on police systems and in liaison with community groups and members of the public.

Community Officers recently carried out patrols in Nicolson Road Rumford to address local concerns that motorists are not obeying the rules as indicated by road signs.



Despite Covid restrictions officers have detected 915 speeding offences and 80 dangerous driving offences in the Falkirk area between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021.

Public Satisfaction Survey January 2021 - March 2021

In January 2020, a redesigned and refreshed approach to understanding public experience with Police Scotland services was launched. Monthly telephone surveys, previously known as ‘user satisfaction surveys’, are now conducted by an external agency, Progressive Partnership Ltd. Monthly, a random sample of people who have contacted Police Scotland to report an incident and crime are contacted to share their opinion about the service they have received.

In May 2020 the telephone survey was been replaced with an online survey. Our partners, Progressive LTD, have shut their offices in line with current Government advice and thus unable to conduct telephone fieldwork. Instead, an online survey is distributed to the sample of potential participants via SMS.

		C Division	Force total
Q1: You contacted the police using [CONTACT METHOD FROM SAMPLE]. How easy was it to contact them? (% Easy and Very Easy)	Jan-21	74%	81%
	Feb-21	86%	84%
	Mar-21	89%	87%
	YTD	83%	84%

		C Division	Force total
Q2: During the initial contact, how satisfied are you with the way you were treated by a staff member on the [CONTACT METHOD FROM SAMPLE]? (% Satisfied & Very satisfied)	Jan-21	91%	89%
	Feb-21	86%	86%
	Mar-21	80%	85%
	YTD	86%	87%

		C Division	Force total
Q3: Did you feel staff properly understood what you needed? (% Yes)	Jan-21	86%	90%
	Feb-21	85%	86%
	Mar-21	83%	87%
	YTD	85%	88%

OFFICIAL

Q4: Do you feel that the police provided the appropriate response to the incident you reported? (% yes)			C Division	Force total
	Jan-21		66%	70%
	Feb-21		87%	87%
	Mar-21		56%	67%
	YTD		70%	75%

Q5: Do you feel you were adequately informed about the progress made with what you reported? (% Yes))			C Division	Force total
	Jan-21		68%	61%
	Feb-21		66%	60%
	Mar-21		43%	58%
	YTD		59%	60%

Q6: How satisfied are you with the way you were treated by the officers who attended the incident? (% Satisfied & Very Satisfied)			C Division	Force total
	Jan-21		86%	85%
	Feb-21		87%	83%
	Mar-21		72%	81%
	YTD		82%	83%

Q7: Based on your overall experience, how satisfied are you with Police Scotland? (% Satisfied & Very Satisfied)			C Division	Force total
	Jan-21		75%	75%
	Feb-21		70%	74%
	Mar-21		58%	71%
	YTD		68%	73%

OFFICIAL

**LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD - Falkirk
March 2021**

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour					
		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Victims	% Change
1	Total No Group1: Crimes of Violence	267	265	2 more	0.8%
(Context)					
2	Murder	3	3	same number	0.0%
(Context)					
3	Attempted Murder	5	7	2 fewer	-28.6%
(Context)					
4	Culpable Homicide (common law)	2	0	2 more	-
(Context)					
5	Culpable Homicide (other)	2	1	1 more	100.0%
(Context)					
6	Serious Assault detection rate	85.7%	85.4%		0.3%
(Context)					
7	Serious Assault	91	96	5 fewer	-5.2%
(Context)					
8	Robbery detection rate	80.4%	75.9%		4.5%
(Context)					
9	Robbery	46	54	8 fewer	-14.8%
(Context)					
10	Common assault detection rate	77.3%	73.6%		3.7%
(Context)					
11	Common assault	1,697	1,904	207 fewer	-10.9%
(Context)					
12	Number of complaints regarding disorder	0	0	None	-
Disorder data currently unavailable <i>"Incident data at council and MMW levels has been paused during transition from ScOMIS to SEBP which will provide an improved data source and enhanced view of this data. Testing is ongoing and timelines for reinstating incident reporting at these levels will be disseminated as soon as possible."</i>					

**LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD - Falkirk
March 2021**

Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour (continued)					
		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Victims	% Change
13	Number of Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to the Police	2,182	2,082		4.8%
(Context)					
14	Total Crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents	1,328	1,482		-10.4%
(Context)					
15	Percentage of Domestic Incidents that result in a crime being recorded	39.6%	44.6%		-5.0%
(Context)					
16	Total crimes and offences in domestic abuse incidents detection rate	73.3%	69.9%		3.4%
(Context)					
17	Total Detections for Domestic Bail Offences	116	98		18.4%
(Context)					
18	Ensure 95% of domestic abuse initial bail checks are conducted within a prescribed timeframe (24hrs)	86.6%	-		-
(Context)					
19	Hate Crime and offences detection rate	77.0%	82.9%		-5.9%
(Context)					
Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour - Stop and Searches					
		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021 Positive	Victims	% Change
20	Number of stop and searches conducted (total)	947	438		
On the 11th May 2017 Police Scotland adopted a new code of practice on the use of stop and search. At this time the use of non-statutory (Consensual) search ceased. Further information on Police Scotland's use of stop and search and on the code of practice is available on the Police Scotland Website.					
(Context)					

OFFICIAL

**LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD - Falkirk
March 2021**

Additional Identified Local Priorities					
		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Victims	% Change
21	Number of detections for drugs supply, drugs productions, drugs cultivation	152	126		20.6%
(Context)					
22	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts) detection rate	34.4%	31.2%		3.2%
(Context)					
23	Theft by housebreaking (including attempts)	195	404	209 fewer	-51.7%
(Context)					
24	Theft by shoplifting detection rate	70.9%	72.3%		-1.4%
(Context)					
25	Theft by shoplifting	594	834	240 fewer	-28.8%
(Context)					
26	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief detection rate	32.0%	34.4%		-2.4%
(Context)					
27	Vandalism & Malicious Mischief	1,135	1,280	145 fewer	-11.3%
(Context)					
28	Number of detections for Consuming Alcohol in a designated place (where appropriate byelaws exist)	73	40		82.5%
(Context)					
Public Protection					
		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Victims	% Change
29	Number of Sexual Crimes	295	457	162 fewer	-35.4%
(Context)					
30	Sexual Crimes detection rate	68.8%	48.4%		20.4%
(Context)					
31	Rape detection rate	54.2%	44.8%		9.4%
(Context)					

**LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD - Falkirk
March 2021**

Road Traffic Casualty Statistics				
	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Victims	% Change
People Killed	2	2	same number	0.0%
People Seriously injured	26	34	8 fewer	-23.5%
People Slightly Injured	55	124	69 fewer	-55.6%
(Context)				
Children (aged<16) Killed	0	0	None	-
Children (aged<16) Seriously Injured	3	6	3 fewer	-50.0%
(Context)				

Road Safety & Road Crime - Detected					
		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Victims	% Change
32	Dangerous driving	80	59		35.6%
(Context)					
33	Speeding	915	699		30.9%
(Context)					
34	Disqualified driving	31	40		-22.5%
(Context)					
35	Driving Licence	156	126		23.8%
(Context)					
36	Insurance	398	294		35.4%
(Context)					
37	Seat Belts	34	38		-10.5%
(Context)					
38	Mobile Phone	40	38		5.3%
(Context)					

OFFICIAL

**LOCAL AUTHORITY SCRUTINY BOARD - Falkirk
March 2021**

Public Confidence					
		Apr 2020 - Mar 2021			
		Number of Complaints about the Police	Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents		
39	Complaints received about the Police	192	42.7		
(Context)					
		On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations
40	Total Allegations Recorded	203	0	88	291
Context: The complaints received are the total complaints about the Police received and lodged on our system. One complaint about the Police can have several allegation contained within, similar to one crime report having several charges contained within.					

Public Confidence comparison to previous year					
		Apr 2019 - Mar 2020			
		Number of Complaints about the Police		Number of Complaints per 10,000 Police Incidents	
41	Complaints received about the Police	196		37.8	
(Context)					
		On Duty Allegations	Off Duty Allegations	Quality of Service Allegations	Total Number of Allegations
42	Total Allegations Recorded	208	0	82	290
(Context)					