

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 30th January 2007 SAFER STREETS STRATHCLYDE POLICE REPORT

Report by Superintendent Elizabeth Weir
Sub Divisional Officer
East Ayrshire

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Local Committee Members of Crime Figures and Police activity within their area. Community Constables will continue to report to their respective Community Councils with more detailed information. This meeting will also provide an opportunity for members to provide feedback to Strathclyde Police on areas of concern and to have these concerns addressed.

2. CRIME TRENDS

- 2.1.1 The following crime statistics relate the area of East Ayrshire Beat 40 which relates to Hurlford, Crookedholm, Moscow, Galston, Newmilns, Darvel and Preistland.

- 2.1.2 They cover the period from 1 April to 30 November 2005/2006.

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drugs	
						Possession	Supply
April 2005 - Nov 2005	109	9	6	7	28	27	22
April 2006 – Nov 2006	126	37	10	22	47	33	20

- 2.1.3 Crimes of violence show an increase this reporting period however this should be measured against a 25% drop in violent crime in 2005/06. There has been an overall increase in the number of housebreakings within the Irvine Valley area and work is ongoing to detect all those responsible with some measure of success to date. There has also been an increase in vehicle related crime. Drugs detections for possession have increased and further police activity will be carried out in respect of suppliers. Information in

respect of any criminal behaviour should be passed to local community officers as soon as possible.

- 2.1.4 The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Irvine Valley area is currently running at 66%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.
- 2.1.5 The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2005 – 2006 focuses on Violent Crime, Domestic Violence, Child Protection and Anti Social behaviour. Efforts over the next year will impact positively on the above figures.

3. OVERVIEW ON ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 3.1.1 Disorder offences, defined by the Scottish Executive as Breach of the Peace, Urinating in Public, Drunk and Incapable and Consumption of Alcohol in a Public Place.
- 3.1.2 Disorder offences increased from 120 to 290 within the designated period. This is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the Irvine Valley area and the 133 detections of street drinking.
- 3.1.3 Vandalism increased from 168 to 226 within the designated period. Education in schools in relation to vandalism has included some projects such as Vamoose to Vandalism.
- 3.1.4 Partnership working is producing results on a number of fronts, and recent collaboration on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts is having a positive impact throughout the valley. There have been 6 Parental Letters of Concern issued in the Gilfoot area of Newmilns and there are Currently 8 ABC's in force, 1 in Darvel and 7 in the Galston area. There is also 1 ASBO in force in the Darvel area.
- 3.1.5 The Antisocial Behaviour Unit and police coordinators continue to gather information and intelligence with a view to pursuing further Anti Social Behaviour Orders. Restorative Justice Warnings are also on the increase, and all community officers will soon be trained in the use of this procedure, which is shown to have a positive impact on first offenders.
- 3.1.6 There have been 26 Parent Alert letters issued in the Irvine Valley area as a result of contact cards submitted by Operational Officers and Community Officers.

4 PROACTIVITY

- 4.1.1 There have been considerable resources deployed in the Irvine Valley in the last three months and this has had a real impact in reducing levels of disorder in the areas of concern. Police have continued working closely with

Stagecoach, monitoring hotspots on bus routes, and searching for alcohol and weapons. There has been no recurrence of previous problems, and the extra attention has discouraged migration of troublemakers from other areas up the Irvine Valley and congregation particularly in Darvel. Focused efforts of community police in targeting street drinking in all areas, but particularly Galston has had a positive impact. Noticeably, seizures of alcohol have dropped in recent weeks, indicating that supervision of off sales premises and regular checks of areas where children are suspected of drinking alcohol is having a positive effect.

- 4.1.2** Local Community officers continue to provide and support youth diversion activities in their areas. This includes work in local schools, youth clubs and other venues, together with financial support for independent groups through the Community Wellbeing Fund. The Youth Express Bus has been used in the Irvine Valley very successfully to date, and it will become a regular feature in plans for this year. These measures have been shown to increase beneficial police/youth contact, and influence behaviour both in the short and long term.
- 4.1.3** Focussed initiatives will be made in coming weeks to target violent offenders; housebreakers; outstanding warrants and drug suppliers to get a strong message out to criminals and prevent crime and improve detection rates.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1.1** It is recommended that the Committee: -
- i) Identify any local problems which may be addressed by local officers; and
 - ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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