

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2005 SAFER STREETS STRATHCLYDE POLICE REPORT

#### Report by Superintendent Elizabeth Weir Operations Commander 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 Due to a National change in the method by which crimes were recorded in April 2004 there has been a dramatic increase in crime figures throughout Strathclyde Police area.
- 2.1.2 The following crime statistics relate the area of East Ayrshire Beat 40 which relates to Hurlford, Crookedholm, Moscow, Galston, Newmilns, Darvel and Preistland.
- 2.1.3 They cover the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 January 2005.

	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Vandalism	Drugs possession
April 2003- Jan 2004	33	12	17	32	85	36
April 2004 – Jan 2005	20	8	21	38	204	63
Drug 'supplying offences' reported to the Procurator Fiscal rose from 7 to 19.						

### **3. DISORDER OVERVIEW**

- 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 rose from 119 to 193 over the specified period.
- 3.1.3** The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Irvine Valley area is currently running at 69%.
- 3.1.4** Weekend action plans for the preceding period have addressed general disorder in local 'hotspots'. These areas are identified as those which generate most complaints by the public, and can vary from week to week. Different strategies are used to combat particular problems, and some examples are given below.

### **PRO-ACTIVITY**

- 4.1.1** During the period, weekend pro-activity has concentrated on youth and alcohol-related complaints and disorder.  
To that end, stop/searches have been regularly carried out, and a number of persons reported for possession of offensive weapons, mainly knives.
- 4.1.2** As part of a strategy to combat underage drinking, offsale premises in particular have been regularly visited. Licensees have been charged with selling to juveniles, but an emerging problem is where adults act as agents in the purchase of alcohol for minors. This is being addressed. We have also reported numerous persons for street drinking, and large quantities of alcohol have been seized.
- 4.1.3** Several drugs operations have been successfully carried out by local officers and plain clothes units from elsewhere, as evidenced by the increase in detection's for supply. Drugs with a street value of several thousands of pounds have been recovered, including heroin, ecstasy, amphetamine and cannabis.
- 4.1.4** In November, a joint operation was mounted in Newmilns in conjunction with Lothian and Borders Police, and Customs and Excise officers, which resulted in the seizure of equipment used to manufacture counterfeit DVDs.

## **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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7 March 2005

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil.**

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