

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 25 MAY 2005 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 Due to a National change in the method by which crimes were recorded in April 2004 there has been a dramatic increase on 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 March 2005.

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drugs Possession and Supply
April 2003- March 2004	73	34	14	20	35	49
April 2004 – March 2005	203	24	9	25	45	88

- 2.1.4** Through high visibility policing and good work from various departments within the police there has been an overall reduction in the number of housebreaking's within the Irvine Valley area. Unfortunately there has been a slight increase in vehicle related crime. There has been a considerable increase in detection's for drug related offences, this is as a direct result of proactive work by the police.
- 2.1.5** Violent crime is an area which has been affected by the Scottish Crime Recording Standards, ensuring that there is a more accurate reporting and recording of these crimes. Domestic violence had an impacted upon these figures. Due to a number of high profile campaigns, victims feel more confident in reporting instances of Domestic Violence. Whilst this is having an impact on crime figures it is a positive step forward.
- 2.1.6** The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Irvine Valley area is currently running at 68%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.
- 2.1.7** The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2005 – 2006 focus's on Violent Crime, Acquisitive Crime, Vandalism 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 rose from 150 to 231 within the designated period. This increase is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the Irvine Valley area.
- 3.1.3** Vandalism rose from 103 to 252 within the designated period. Vandalism is one of the areas most affected by the introduction of the National change in crime figures, as there is now more accurate reporting and recording of vandalism.
- 3.1.4** Targeted patrols are continuing to have a positive effect which is being complemented by the work carried out by out community officers in all schools, youth clubs and organisations. These inputs are designed to encourage Good Citizenship and Positive Behaviour, while discouraging disorder, drunkenness and vandalism.
- 3.1.5** 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.

4. PRO-ACTIVITY

- 4.1.1** Regular patrols on foot, by vehicle and pedal cycle have been carried out in the area allowing greater visibility throughout the area. Additional resources through overtime patrols by community constables, shift personnel and special constables have targeted the hotspots in response to community concerns relating to youths congregating and general disorder.
- 4.1.2** Good work has been done in local schools, with a variety of inputs from community officers. These have been designed to educate and promote responsible attitudes towards such issues as litter, vandalism and personal safety.
- 4.1.3** The police continue to focus on under age drinking and positive work has resulted in the license holders co-operating with the police and the community to reduce availability of alcohol to youngsters. This will have a direct impact on disorder and vandalism.
- 4.1.4** The police truancy initiative continues with the pupils causing most concern being referred to the Reporter to the Children's Panel.
- 4.1.5** Youth Diversion from crime forms a large part of the Community Safety Action Plan and considerable work has been done over the last months by Community Planning Partners to provide opportunities in the area. Superintendent Weir met with William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and representatives from Leisure Services and Community Services to set up a programme of youth activities through the summer months.

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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5 May 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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