

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 14 SEPTEMBER 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 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 2005 to 31 July 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 2004- July 2004	63	2	0	2	10	29
April 2005 – July 2005	60	1	2	2	15	20

- 2.1.3 Through high visibility policing and good work from various departments within the police there has been an overall reduction in the number of housebreakings within the Irvine Valley area. Unfortunately there has been a slight increase in vehicle related crime. Drugs detections still remain at a high level. These detections are as a direct result of proactive work by the police.

- 2.1.4 The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Irvine Valley area is currently running at 63%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.
- 2.1.5 The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2005 – 2006 focuses 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 fell from 92 to 59 within the designated period. This decrease is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the Irvine Valley area.
- 3.1.3 Vandalism fell from 89 to 87 within the designated period.
- 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.
- 3.1.6 The Antisocial Behaviour Unit and police coordinator have been working at a pace gathering information and intelligence. They are presently pursuing Anti Social Behaviour Orders (looking at 4 males from the Hurlford area).

### **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 and these have resulted in areas quietening down.

- 4.1.2** Police in the Irvine Valley have also made a number of notable arrests for such crimes as heroin dealing and other drug offences, serious assault and sneak-in thefts. A number of persons have also been reported for carrying knives and other offensive weapons. Since the introduction of electronic tagging for certain offenders, arrests have been made for breach of curfew. It is hoped that more use will be made of this by the courts in the future.
- 4.1.3** As you are no doubt aware, there is an increasing public concern over anti social behaviour and in particular the problems, which are caused by under-age and excessive consumption of alcohol. East Ayrshire Licensing board, East Ayrshire council, Strathclyde Police and other Community Planning partners are committed to addressing this problem and minimising the impact on the communities within East Ayrshire. It is recognised that many licence holders are being pro-active in this area and operating in a responsible manner. It can therefore be seen that a number of parties are already working in partnership. At the meeting of the East Ayrshire Licensing board in March 2005 it was decided that a further step forward would be for all Off-Sales licence holders to sign up to a voluntary code of conduct. Community Police and Trading standards officers have visited each off-sales premises and premises are now participating in the scheme almost without exception. The code covers issues such as: - no proof/no sale, proof of age, staff training, record keeping, irresponsible promotions and best practice.
- 4.1.4** The Road Safety Action Plan is now up and running with the aim of influencing driver behaviour, reducing the number of road traffic accidents/fatalities/injuries and to allay fears of the community regarding speeding drivers. All community police officers are now trained in the use of hand held speed detectors and have already been out using these devices in the recognised areas in East Ayrshire where speeding is reported by various community groups or individuals.
- 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 East Ayrshire. A new summer initiative named street sport express was launched by Leisure Development Services has had a considerable impact in all areas of East Ayrshire. The idea is a simple one, fill a vehicle with trained workers and leisure equipment, advertise where you will be and turn up for a game of whatever suits. This will be considered through the summer months and Community Police are liaising with Leisure Services to maintain a related programme of diversion to capture the interest of young people through the winter 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.

Superintendent Elizabeth Weir  
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### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil.**

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