

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 1 FEBRUARY 2001

STRATHCLYDE POLICE SPOTLIGHT REPORT

Report by the Chief Inspector

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Local Committee of Spotlight activity and other crime trends.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Agreement was reached between the Council and the local Police Commanders to provide information on Spotlight and crime matters affecting local communities.

3. SAFER SCOTLAND/SPOTLIGHT

- 3.1 The Safer Scotland Initiative, the main focus of which was to crack down on violent crime, continued until 31 December 2000. Over the 3 months that the initiative was carried out, the levels of crime throughout the Cumnock and Doon Valley area were encouraging.
- 3.2 There have been 4 National Days of Activity since the last Local Committee meeting in November 2000.
- 3.3 On Friday 17 and Saturday 18 November 2000, offensive weapons, transport and hot-spots of disorder were the areas that Police resources focussed on.
- 3.4 On Friday 24 November 2000, a National Drug Enforcement Day was carried out, and on Friday 8 December 2000, alcohol abuse and underage drinking were targeted.
- 3.5 As previously intimated to the Local Committee, every community had dedicated patrols and once again on each occasion this resulted in a substantial amount of pro-active policing and low levels of recorded crime.
- 3.6 On 17 and 18 November 2000, only 16 crimes were recorded, of which 7 were pro-actively initiated (5 drug related and 2 persons resisting arrest).
- 3.7 On the Drugs Enforcement Day, 12 people were stopped and searched for drugs and 2 houses searched under Sheriff's Warrant.
- 3.8 Cannabis with a value of £500 was seized from a house in Muirkirk, and 5 persons, all local, were reported for numerous offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, including possession with intent to supply.

- 3.9** At a second house in Logan, heroin with a value of over £500 was also seized and a male and female reported for possession and supply charges under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- 3.10** Overall that weekend, 26 crimes were committed, of which 17 were as a result of pro-activity (13 Misuse of Drugs offences, one offensive weapon seized in Cumnock, and 2 Police assaults and one resisting arrest which resulted from a large-scale disturbance in Catrine).
- 3.11** On Friday 8 December 2000, particular attention was given to licensed premises, with 42 visits throughout the area. Again, crime levels were low as a consequence of Police activity, with only one male being reported for drinking in public in Mauchline and 12 confiscations of alcohol throughout the Cumnock and Doon Valley area.
- 3.12** Every weekend that was not assigned to the Safer Scotland Initiative was the subject of local Spotlights, particularly on disorder issues, and again every community was policed with high profile patrols.
- 3.13** A Christmas Spotlight Initiative, which started on Monday 4 December 2000 for one month, was carried out throughout the Cumnock and Doon Valley area. The objective of this was to patrol all communities on foot on a regular basis in fluorescent jackets in an effort not only to reduce crime, but to reduce the fear of crime, particularly amongst the vulnerable in our society. It would appear to have been successful, with crime down and many positive comments from the public regarding a visible Police presence on the streets.

4. CRIME TRENDS

- 4.1** Over the 3 month period of Safer Scotland, overall crime was reduced by 2% compared to the same period last year, however, but for the marked increase in vandalism, crime would have been substantially down. Overall:-
- housebreakings are down 23% - from 113 to 87;
 - vehicle crime down 12½% - from 64 to 56;
 - other dishonesties down 20% - from 130 to 103;
 - crimes of violence down 40% - from 162 to 97; and
 - vandalism up 52% - from 123 to 186.
- 4.2** Street disorder related issues, which were constantly targeted, are also substantially down with a 30% reduction over the last 3 months.
- 4.3** The detection rate up to the end of November is 54.5%, some 8% above the Force average.

5. PRO-ACTIVITY

- 5.1** During the first 9 months of the year, Officers based in the area searched 489 persons for drugs and 3,288 persons for offensive weapons. They also visited licensed premises on 1,612 occasions.

5.2 During the first 8 months they also dealt with 775 offences, of which 446 were disorder related and 553 detected road traffic offences.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The Local Committee are asked to note the report.

Chief Inspector Hugh McKnight
Strathclyde Police

15 January 2001

HMCK/SR

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Chief Inspector Hugh McKnight, Strathclyde Police Office, Ayr Road, Cumnock, on telephone number (01290) 420755.

AGENDA