

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 30 JANUARY 2003

STRATHCLYDE POLICE SPOTLIGHT REPORT

Report by the Chief Inspector

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Local Committee of crime trends within their area.

2. SAFER SCOTLAND (4)

- 2.1 During the Safer Scotland Initiative which ran from October 2002 through to the end of December 2002, there were 28 Action Plans carried out throughout the Cumnock and Doon Valley area targeting youth disorder, vandalism and underage and public drinking.
- 2.2 There were 1,791 persons stopped and searched for offensive weapons, 295 persons stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and 777 visits to licensed premises carried out. There were 236 visits to standing complaints throughout the area relative to youth activity and vandalism.
- 2.3 As a consequence, overall recorded crime between October and December (provisional figures) fell by 27.6% from 734 crimes to 531. Crimes of violence fell by 14.8% from 135 crimes to 115 (in that category serious assaults fell by 10 from 22 to 12, a 45% reduction).
- 2.4 Vandalism fell by 28.5%, from 224 crimes to 160.
- 2.5 From a disorder perspective, breach of the peace offences fell by 13% from 138 to 120, while drinking in public offences rose by 290% from 10 to 39 over the three month period.
- 2.6 There was a 27.3% increase in the number of offensive weapons/knives that were seized, from 22 to 28.
- 2.7 Further, as a result of the continued presence of Police at standing complaints, there are only 4 such complaints outstanding throughout the Cumnock and Doon Valley area as of 31 December 2002.

3. CRIME TRENDS

- 3.1 Crime figures for the first 8 months of the year (April - November) show a decrease of 7.82% in the Cumnock Area Local Committee area from 1,445 crimes to 1,332. This is on top of 11.2% reduction for the same period last year:-
- crimes of violence, down 26.3% from 247 crimes to 182;
 - housebreakings and attempts thereat, down 23.2% from 224 to 172;
 - vehicle crime, up 85% from 134 crimes to 248;

- other dishonesties, down 24.5% from 338 crimes to 255;
- crimes of vandalism, down 19% from 410 crimes to 332; and
- drug offences, up 30.7% from 127 offences to 166.

3.2 Vandalism crime continues to be the major problem in this area, however, there has been a welcome reduction in such crime over November/December as resources have been pro-actively targeting those believed responsible.

3.3 Drugs supply offences have increased 65.5% to date from 29 to 48, with possession offences also up 14.3% from 98 offences to 112.

3.4 Serious assaults are down 73.8% from 42 to 11 in the Cumnock Area Local Committee area and down 64.5% in the Cumnock and Doon Valley area as a whole, from 62 to 22.

4. PRO-ACTIVITY

4.1 For the year to date (April - November), Officers based in Cumnock and Doon Valley have searched 814 persons for drugs. 4,796 persons have been searched for offensive weapons, and 1,701 visits to licensed premises have been carried out.

4.2 Over the same period, Officers dealt with 1,532 offences of which 429 were disorder related. This is a 13.7% reduction compared to the previous year, when there were 497 incidents of disorder.

4.3 Detection rates for Cumnock and Doon Valley area are 46% for crimes and 69.4% for all crimes and offences.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Local Committee are asked to note the report.

Chief Inspector Hugh McKnight
Strathclyde Police

13 January 2003

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.