

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 9 NOVEMBER 2000

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 On Thursday 5 October 2000, Chief Constable John Orr launched the Safer Scotland Campaign at the National Stadium, Hampden, Glasgow. This initiative which is an extension of Strathclyde Police's Spotlight on Safer Streets, will run throughout Scotland for 3 months until the end of December.
- 3.2 The main focus of this campaign is to crack down on violent crime. There are 5 days of national activity, targeting offensive weapons, hot spots, alcohol abuse, retail crime and transport. Within the Strathclyde area, these days of activity will be conducted very much along the lines of the Spotlight campaign.
- 3.3 On 15/16 September 2000, there was a Spotlight on offensive weapons throughout the Cumnock and Doon Valley area. Over the 2 days, 152 persons were searched, with no weapons found. There were no crimes of violence recorded during the hours of the Spotlight, however, one male was reported for possession of cannabis, one male for drinking in public and 5 warrants executed.
- 3.4 Between 20-23 September 2000, there was a local Spotlight in New Cumnock targeting individuals who were riding unroadworthy motor cycles without proper documentation. This resulted in a 14 year old youth and a 37 year old man being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for various road traffic offences.
- 3.5 On Friday 6 and Saturday 7 October 2000, the first national activity day under the Safer Scotland banner was carried out, again targeting offensive weapons.

3.6 Every community within the Cumnock and Doon Valley area had a dedicated double manned vehicle for the duration of the initiative. This strategy allowed Officers to be more pro-active and, as a consequence, 252 persons were searched, with one knife being recovered. 122 visits to licensed premises were carried out, and all standing complaints received regular attention.

- In Muirkirk, one male was reported for a breach of the peace and vandalism, and another male reported for drinking in public.
- In Drongan, one male was reported for a breach of the peace and urinating, and another male for drinking in public.
- In Dalrymple, one male was reported for breach of the peace and assault.
- In Dalmellington, one male was reported for similar offences.
- In Auchinleck, one male was reported for possession of a knife.
- In Cumnock, a 15 year old youth was reported for disqualified driving and driving under the influence of drugs.

3.7 On Friday 13 October, a local Spotlight in Cumnock, particularly the Barshare and Netherthird areas, was carried out tackling vandalism, disorder, litter and street drinking.

3.8 On Saturday 14 October, another local initiative under the Safer Scotland umbrella was carried out in the Dalmellington and Bellsbank areas, addressing disorder, hot-spots and street violence. Results of both these initiatives will be verbally updated at the meeting.

4. CRIME TRENDS

4.1 Half yearly crime figure for the Cumnock and Doon Valley area reveal an increase of 20% from 1,320 crimes to 1,590. These figures include a 76% rise in drug related offences. Crimes of violence have increased 6% from 91 to 97, while crimes of dishonesty are up 28% from 718 crimes to 920.

4.2 The detection rate for this period is almost 56%, some 12% above the Force average.

5. PRO-ACTIVITY

5.1 During the first 6 months, Officers based in the area searched 312 persons for drugs and 1,459 persons for offensive weapons. They also visited licensed premises on 607 occasions.

5.2 During the time period, local Officers dealt with 601 offences, of which 334 were disorder related, as well as 413 detected road traffic offences.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The Committee are asked to note the report.

Chief Inspector Hugh McKnight
Strathclyde Police

19 October 2000

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