

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE -19 APRIL 2000**

**OPERATION SPOTLIGHT**

**Report by Director of Community Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Members of the nature and results of "Spotlight" operations, localised crime figures and ongoing initiatives over the preceding 6 week period, and to advise of forthcoming initiatives.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members previously agreed to make "Spotlight". a standing item on the Committee's agenda. To improve the local interest of this report, several topical areas of specific local interest will now be included.

**3. DISCUSSION**

**3.1 Operation Spotlight :**

**3.1.1 Safer Streets: Monday 6 March 2000**

|   |        |            |    |
|---|--------|------------|----|
| No of persons searched                              | Male   | 16 & over  | 17 |
|   | Male   | Under 16   | 03 |
|   | Female | 16 & over  | 03 |
|   | Female | 16 & under | 0  |
| There were no weapons seized during these searches. |        |            |    |

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| No of licensed premises visited | 27 |
| There were no offences detected |    |

**3.1.2 Offensive Weapons: Saturday 11 March 2000**

|   |        |            |    |
|---|--------|------------|----|
| No of persons searched                              | Male   | 16 & over  | 32 |
|   | Male   | Under 16   | 14 |
|   | Female | 16 & over  | 5  |
|   | Female | 16 & under | 8  |
| There were no weapons seized during these searches. |        |            |    |

At approximately 11.15 a.m. a 20 year old male was arrested for warrants and being searched was found in possession of a 5" kitchen knife. This apprehension was not in the Irvine Valley area.

### 3.1.3 Licensed Premises: Friday 24 March 2000

|   |        |            |    |
|---|--------|------------|----|
| No of persons searched                                  | Male   | 16 & over  | 65 |
|   | Male   | Under 16   | 22 |
|   | Female | 16 & over  | 12 |
|   | Female | 16 & under | 8  |
| There were 2 persons charged with possession of knives. |        |            |    |

At 3 p.m. a 31 year old male was found in possession of a 6" kitchen knife. At 10.45 p.m. an 18 year old male was found in possession of a 3" lock knife. These offences were not within the Irvine Valley area.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| No of licensed premises visited                      | 33 |
| There was one licence holder charged with an offence |    |

An off-sales licence holder and a staff member have been charged with selling alcohol to two 16 year old males. This did not occur in the Irvine Valley area.

### 3.2 Crime Trends (all figures relate to the Local Committee area)

|       |                            |               |               |       |
|-------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| 3.2.1 |                            | Housebreaking | Vehicle Crime | Drugs |
|       | April 1998- February 1999  | 189           | 108           | 37    |
|       | April 1999 - February 2000 | 107           | 74            | 56    |

3.2.2 The increase in drug related offences is due to the pro active policing methods being employed and also the quantity and quality of information being received from the public. During the period compared the number of persons charged with 'supplying offences' has increased from 6 to 18, an increase of 300%.

### 3.3 Pro Active Initiative

3.3.1 The Community Involvement Branch along with the Health and Safety Department of East Ayrshire Council recently held a Personal Safety and Shop Security Seminar in Kilmarnock for volunteers working in Charity Shops.

3.3.2 A successful Security Products Day was held in the Howard Park Hotel in March with over 150 people attending.

## 4. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 "Spotlight" operations are designed to combat local concerns and problems. The involvement of Members and the local community is essential to the success of the "Spotlight" philosophy.

5.2 Sergeant Hugh Mitchell, Police Liaison Officer, can be contacted at 01563 576512 if you wish to discuss any matter with him.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 It is recommended that Committee: -

- i) identify any local problems which may be addressed by a "Spotlight" operation; and
- ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services

03 April 2000

WS/HM/JS

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil.**

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