

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE V ALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE - 7 FEBRUARY 2001

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 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 SAFER SCOTLAND:

SAFER SCOTLAND CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED ON 5 OCTOBER 2000 - the Scottish Police Service united resources during- a planned and sustained nationwide policing operation to counteract violent crime. The campaign was called 'Safer Scotland' and was ongoing for three months between October and December 2000.

- 3.1.1 The mission statement of Safer Scotland was: 'To make our communities safer by reducing violent crime and the fear of crime wherever it exists in Scotland.'

- 3.1.2 The main objectives of the campaign were:

- To reduce violent crime
- To reduce the fear of crime
- To, challenge violence wherever it occurs in Scotland

- 3.1.3 The campaign focused on Hot Spots -areas of local concern; alcohol abuse; offensive weapons; robbery; licensed premises and transport. Policing methods used included high profiling policing, proactive policing and intelligence led initiatives.

- 3.1.4 The results of local initiatives are as follows (figures relate to the local area committee):

3.1.5 Crimes of violence have increased for the period April -November 1999/2000 from 32 to 44 incidents. Robberies have fallen 20%, serious assaults fell by 9% and seizure of weapons has risen 75%. This increase in weapons seized is as a direct result of increased stop and search activity.

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

3.2.1	Housebreaking	Vehicle Crime	Drugs
April 1999- Nov. 1999	73	56	39
April 2000- Nov. 2000	64	64	18

3.2.2 With regards to vehicle crime owners are being reminded not to leave valuables in view and to use security devices whenever possible. During the period compared the number of persons charged with 'supplying offences' has decreased from 10 to 5.

3.3 **Pro Active Initiative**

3.3.1 The Community Safety Department at Kilmarnock distributed security and personal safety information advice to all licensed premises in East Ayrshire over the festive season.

3.3.2 Crime prevention leaflet drops took place at Asda and Safeway car parks advising vehicle owners on car security.

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
18 January 2001
WS/HM/JS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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