

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE -15 NOVEMBER 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 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:

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

- 3.1.1 The mission statement of Safer Scotland is: '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 are:

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

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

3.1.5 The results of local initiatives will be reported to future committees.

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

3.2.1	Housebreaking	Vehicle Crime	Drugs
April 1999-Sept.1999	49	37	29
April 2000 - Sept. 2000	55	56	17

3.2.2 During the period compared the number of persons charged with 'supplying offences' has decreased from 6 to 5.

3.2.3 Fly tipping and litter offences - over the past 12 months there have been no prosecutions within the committee area. There have been two investigated incident of fly tipping in the local committee area. Evidence was available, registration number of vehicle and evidence of ownership of the property dumped, regarding possible offenders, who have been interviewed, but there was insufficient evidence to report the matter to the Procurator Fiscal.

3.3 **Pro Active Initiative**

3.3.1 Along with the Council's Community Safety Officer 5 bids have been prepared and submitted to the Scottish Executive Community Safety Challenge Bid which include bids for outreach workers, drugs and alcohol intervention initiatives and personal safety, crime reduction and the fear of crime initiatives. The results of these bids will not be known until April 2001.

3.3.2 A number of personal safety and confrontation management talks have been delivered to numerous groups throughout East Ayrshire.

3.3.3 Along with T.Merry (Social Inclusion Partnership Team) an outline bid has been drawn up for an addiction help line.

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
30 October 2000
WS/HM/JS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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AGENDA