

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE - 29 MAY 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 **Crime Trends** (all figures relate to the Local Committee area)

3.1.1	Housebreaking	Vehicle Crime	Drugs
April 1999 - Feb. 2000	535	333	176
April 2000 - Feb. 2001	458	447	138

- 3.1.1 The increase in vehicle related crime refers to vehicle left unattended within the area. Owners are being reminded not to leave valuables in view and to use security devices whenever possible.

- 3.1.2 During the period compared the number of persons charged with 'supplying offences' has decreased from 82 to 58.

**3.2 Pro Active Initiative**

- 3.2.1 An Experiential Learning Day was held in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock on 24 April 2001, run by the members of Kilmarnock and Loudoun Crime Prevention Panel. All secondary schools in the area were invited to send along a representation from their first year (40 pupils) to either a morning or afternoon session. Various organisations including Road Safety, Fire Service, Police and Prison Service were in attendance to discuss issues raised.

- 3.2.2 On Wednesday 25 April 2001 Kilmarnock and Loudoun Crime Prevention Panel launched their 'Vandalism 2001' Initiative aimed at reducing litter and vandalism within the area of schools.

3.2.3 At a recent Child Minders conference at Kilmarnock College inputs were delivered on the topic of 'Danger Strangers' regarding child safety.

### **3.3 'Know the Score'**

3.1 On Monday 14 May 2001 the Scottish Police Service, British Transport Police and the Scottish Drugs Enforcement Agency launched a major drug campaign under the 'Safer Scotland' banner.

3.2 Also involved in the steering group for the campaign are the Scottish Executive, CoSLA, Scotland Against Drugs, the Scottish Drugs Forum, Scottish Prison Service, Crown Office, Crimestoppers, Scottish Local Authority Community Safety Forum, Drug Action Teams and Customs and Excise.

3.3 The initiative will attempt to give equal focus to the education, harm reduction, diversion and treatment of the drug strategy.

3.4 The enforcement phase started on 1 April 2001 and already dealers and large amounts of drugs have been removed from the streets of Scotland.

3:5 However, there is more to the initiative than enforcement. It is hoped that the other partners will take the lead and take the opportunity to raise public awareness of all areas of the drugs debate. From providing accurate and relevant information to young people to assist them in making the right lifestyle choices to detailing the treatment, care and support services that exist to enable those people who find themselves in trouble, whether through addiction or because of financial hardship, to turn their lives round and return to mainstream society .

3.6 Seizure of drugs in areas outwith your local communities can have an effect on your community. Drugs are moved all over the country and a large seizure in Glasgow can have a result in the quantity of drugs available on the street of East Ayrshire.

## **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  
15 May 2001  
WS/HM/JS

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil.**

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**AGENDA**