

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2001

**SAFER STREETS
POLICING REPORT
'U' DIVISION**

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the nature and results of policing issues, 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. However, 'Spotlight' now falls under the '**Safer Streets**' banner and it is no longer appropriate to classify all policing operations under 'Spotlight'. A 'Spotlight' report will only be included in future where a Force or local 'Spotlight' has taken place. 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 2000 -- Sept .2000	255	216	63
April 2001 – Sept. 2001	237	195	148

- 3.1.2 The number of persons charged with 'supplying offences' has increased from 22 to 71 as a result of a more pro-active approach (see 'Know the Score' below).

3.2 Pro Active Initiative

- 3.2.1 The Community Safety Department has taken delivery of a single deck bus from Stagecoach. It is fitted with Hi-Fi, TV and will be taken to schools and areas where youths congregate to reinforce the anti vandalism message through an 'UP2U' theme which will assist children in making a choice.

4. OPERATION SPOTLIGHT

- 4.1 'U' Division took part in a force 'Spotlight' under the 'Safer Streets' initiative on Friday 5 October 2001. A total of 421 persons were searched for weapons. One knife, a razor and a baseball bat were among items recovered which resulted in 6 persons being reported for possession of offensive weapons. A total of 240 licensed premises were visited.

5. KNOW THE SCORE

- 5.1 The safer Scotland 'Know the Score' drugs campaign lasted from 1 April to 31 August 2001. During the campaign, which lasted 153 days, Scottish Forces recovered a staggering amount of controlled drugs bound for Scottish communities. The seizures included over 70 kilos of heroin, 540 kilos of cannabis and 150,000 ecstasy tablets.
- 5.2 During this period, 248 persons were reported for drug offences in the former Kilmarnock and Loudoun area, with 84 of that total being reported for dealing, compared with 122 cases reported for the same period the previous year, 27 of which were dealing.
- 5.3 'U' Division used West Sound Radio to broadcast police interviews on anti-drug themes, reaching an estimated audience of 250,000 people. Drug talks were given to diverse audiences such as licensees, business people, councillors and parents and children.

6. FINANCIAL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Policing in East Ayrshire is designed to combat local concerns and problems. The involvement of Members and the local community is essential to reducing crime and the fear of crime.
- 7.2 Sergeant James Richmond has taken over from Sgt. Hugh Mitchell as Police Liaison Officer. Sgt. Richmond can be contacted at 01563 576512 if you wish to discuss any matter with him.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 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
25 October 2001
WS/HM/JS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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AGENDA