

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK NORTH AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE – 19 SEPTEMBER 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 :

- 3.1.1 **Safer Street** has been running since 1 February 2000 and between then and 31 July 2000. The following are totals for the whole of 'U' Division:

Total Persons Searched	11084
Total persons reported for possession of knives or other weapons	281
Total licensed premise visits	5010

3.1.2 **Safer Streets: Monday 24 July 2000 (Kilmarnock area)**

No of persons searched	Male	16 & over	13
	Male	Under 16	9
	Female	16 & over	2
	Female	16 & under	1
There was 1 person arrested for possession of a knife.			

A 50 year old male was arrested after a disturbance in a Kilmarnock park whereby he had possession of a kitchen knife. This was not in the local committee area.

3.1.3 Safer Streets: Wednesday 26 July 2000 (Kilmarnock area)

No of persons searched	Male	16 & over	15
	Male	Under 16	6
	Female	16 & over	0
	Female	Under 16	0

A 29 year old male was arrested in possession of a kitchen knife in a dwellinghouse garden. This was not in the local committee area.

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

3.2.1		Housebreaking	Vehicle Crime	Drugs
	April 1999 – July 1999	192	107	89
	April 2000 – July 2000	131	109	52

3.2.2 During the period compared the number of persons charged with 'supplying offences' has decreased from 27 to 16.

3.2.3 The present detection rate for housebreaking is 29.8% compared to the previous year figure of 20.3% and the present Force level of 22.6%. Housebreaking has fallen by 31% compared to a Force fall of 10.3% on the dates given.

3.2.4 The present detection rate for vehicle crime is 15.6% compared to the previous year figure of 18.7% and a Force figure of 21.2%. There has been a 1.9% increase in vehicle crime compared to a Force decline of 18%.

3.3 Pro Active Initiative

3.3.1 A very successful window etching day was held within the car park of Council Headquarters on Wednesday 26 July 2000. Over 50 vehicles had their registration number etched onto the windows by Autoglass, free of charge, which is a great aid to identification if the vehicle is stolen. Approximately 20 pedal cycles were also marked with their postcode by the Community Safety Department of Kilmarnock Police Office.

3.3.2 A successful bid to the Chief Constable's Community Safety Challenge Fund has resulted in 5000 information cards being printed for youngsters attending Kilmarnock Football Club matches. The cards will assist in trying to reduce anti social behaviour in and around the ground during matches. This was a joint initiative between Strathclyde Police, Kilmarnock Football Club and East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum.

3.3.3 The remainder of the bid money will be used to produce crime prevention information cards for the 'older person' in a joint initiative between Strathclyde Police, East Ayrshire Elderly Forum and East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum. It is hoped that these will be printed around the beginning of September.

- 3.3.4 Initial discussions have taken place with Strathclyde Police, East Ayrshire Education Department, East Ayrshire Leisure and Recreation Department and Kilmarnock Football Club regarding the production of an interactive video dealing with drug and alcohol abuse for issues to schools throughout East Ayrshire. This is possible due to our third successful bid to Scotland Against Drugs for challenge fund finance.
- 3.3.5 The recent Schoolwatch Spotlight has just finished with 11 incidents of vandalism or housebreaking being reported at school premises. Of these none were in the local committee area.

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
21 August 2000
WS/HM/JS

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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AGENDA