POLICE SCOTLAND

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

Community Council – Kirkcowan
Date of Meeting - 15/03/21
Officer Attending / Report Prepared By - PC V0130 Jamieson

Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting

None.

Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)

A cross section of incidents in the Kirkcowan CC area reported to Police since 15/02/2021 and until 15/03/2021.

The incidents reported each month are an accurate representation of what's reported to ourselves via our crime recording platforms on a monthly basis which is in turn shared with yourselves at each CC meeting.

It is respectfully requested that members and attendees of the Community Council report any incidents or concerns that they have, or that are reported to themselves, as and when they occur to Police Scotland. This should be done in the normal manner via attendance at Newton Stewart Police Station, via the 101 system, by using the 'Contact Us' form on the Police Scotland internet site or, in an emergency, by the 999 system. This creates an official record of the report, allowing it to be graded accurately, provides accountability and the best opportunity for any timely investigation required.

Significant Incidents / Occurrences - (Local / Divisional / National)

No significant issues within Kirkcowan CC area to report between 15.02.21 – 15.03.21.

Community Issues

New Area Commander – V Division Police Scotland

Chief Superintendent Carol McGuire is the new area commander for V Division, Police Scotland (Dumfries and Galloway) having replaced Chief Superintendent Linda Jones, who in turn has moved to a national role. Chief Superintendent McGuire originates from the Stranraer area and has 25 years Police service.

Bicycle Thefts

Due to recent and high value bicycle thefts from premises in other areas of Scotland (Forth Valley and Aviemore), and a further recent theft within V Division at Ae Village Cycles, Ae Village, Dumfries, Newton Stewart Community Police staff implemented a crime prevention initiative to forewarn local establishments.

Other local Bicycle shops throughout Galloway were also alerted.

Police Scotland seeking views on the use of Body Worn Video

Members of the public are being asked for their views on the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) by armed police officers when interacting with communities in Scotland.

BWV has been shown to have a positive impact on the safety of the public and the office wearing it, and all other armed police units in the UK are currently deployed with camera

The introduction of BWV will bring Police Scotland in line with these other forces and ensure best practice and evidence as well as increased transparency and accountability incidents.

The online survey, which opened for three weeks from February 1 2021, will allow memb of the public to engage and offer their opinions on the deployment of BWV in Scottish policing for the future.

The move follows Chief Constable Iain Livingstone's support for the deployment of BWV armed police officers as a "pressing, critical, ethical and operational imperative" and his commitment to focused and concise public engagement prior to rollout.

An initial roll-out of BWV will equip our armed police officers as soon as possible during t course of 2021. This deployment will also provide a valuable basis and learning for the consideration of a broader national plan to roll out BWV to police officers across Scotlan the future.

Assistant Chief Constable Kenny MacDonald, who is leading on the introduction of BWV said: "The Chief Constable has consistently expressed strong support for the greater deployment of body worn video by Police Scotland officers and staff.

"Armed policing remains an area of high risk and understandable public scrutiny and as such this roll-out will help improve transparency and accountability. The safety of our officers and staff as well as that of the public remains paramount in our decision to introduce this technology.

"While this is not new technology, and every other armed policing unit in the UK uses bo worn cameras, it is a significant introduction for Scottish policing and as such our public engagement survey is essential to ensuring people have a voice and it will help us gathe and address any ethical and community related concerns where possible."

Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority, said: "The use of body worn video i widespread across UK policing and the benefits to effective policing such as improved officer safety, reducing and resolving complaints against officers and an increase in earl guilty pleas, have been positively evaluated in the current limited use across Scotland.

"However, it is important that whenever new technology is adopted, that the implications fully considered through an extensive stakeholder consultation process. We welcome the launch of a public survey and would encourage as many people as possible to register th views. The SPA looks forward to considering all responses as part of our oversight of the implementation of BWV."

Link to survey: https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/police-scotlands-use-of-body-worn-video/

SCAM VACCINATIONS – CORONA VIRUS

"We have had a couple of instances reported to us now regarding fraudulent emails appearing to make appointments for NHS Corona Virus Vaccination Clinics.

There are links on the emails that will no doubt lead to information gathering and even possibly payment requests. These emails look very official but are not genuine. There are tell tale give aways regarding these emails including the fact often your name is not included at the start of the message and your email address is substituted for your name i.e Dear ……@gmail.com.

Police have contacted the NHS who confirm that any vaccine appointments will be made by letter.

Remember- appointments will not be made by email or text. The NHS will not make any charge and already have your details.

Information regarding the vaccine is available locally at-
http://www.nhsdg.co.uk/vaccines/ "

Prevent Suicide Dumfries & Galloway is a suicide prevention app aimed at users in Dumfries & Galloway.
It provides helpful info for those affected in any way by suicide, extensive contact details for services in the area as well as providing users with the ability to create their own safety plan.

Nineteen people died by suicide across Dumfries and Galloway during 2018, and twelve in 2019, and, as you know, there will be many more people who are either experiencing, or know someone who is having, thoughts of suicide.

I thought it might be important to alert everyone to this, given what we know about the effects this can have on others who are vulnerable. This app also provides practical guidance on what individuals can do to help someone they suspect may be feeling suicidal.

The app can be downloaded free on any smart phone.

LAUNCHING WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH #CSETHESIGNS

The Scottish Government is running a three week marketing campaign from 3 March 2021 to raise awareness of what child sexual exploitation (CSE) is, improve public understanding and empower those with concerns to act upon them.
This toolkit is designed to give stakeholders and partners such as yourself the tools to support and promote the campaign through your organisation's communications channels.

We want all children and young people in Scotland to grow up in a safe environment and to be protected from harm. CSE is a form of child sexual abuse and is happening to young people in Scotland today. Research has also shown that for many parents CSE is most commonly associated with the most
vulnerable young people in society, in particular vulnerable girls, and with organised forms of abuse such as trafficking and gangs. The reality is CSE can happen to any young person of any gender and family background. It can take place online and in the real world and can involve a one on one situation between an offender and a young person as well as organised networks and groups. We are all spending more time online for learning, working and socialising during the pandemic. This means that we are all at increased risk of harms that can occur online. The more parents and carers are aware about the dangers of child sexual exploitation – including the ways in which it can happen,
who it can affect and the behavioural warning signs that could indicate a child is at risk of abuse or already being affected – the more that can be done to protect young people. This campaign therefore sets out to make parents aware that CSE affects more young people in more ways than parents and carers currently realise, so the safest approach is for them to find out more.

- Child sexual exploitation is happening to girls and boys across Scotland
- It takes many forms and can happen online as well as offline
- It can take place on a one to one basis between a victim and an offender as well as in organised groups
- It can happen to young people from secure, loving homes as well as more vulnerable young people such as those in care
- We all have a role to play in helping to keep young people in Scotland safe
- For advice and support visit **csethesigns.scot**

The marketing campaign which is targeting parents and carers with a child/children aged between 11 and 17 will run from 3 March 2021.

Website

Our campaign website **csethesigns.scot** offers information and advice for both parents and young people on the themes of:

- The forms of CSE
- How to spot the warning signs and symptoms
- Common myths surrounding CSE
- Options for who you can contact if you're concerned or would like further advice
- Practical advice for staying safe online and offline
- Tips for parents on how to initiate a conversation with their child about CSE
- How to tell a healthy relationship from an unhealthy relationship if you are a young person

Matters brought to Police attention by Council

Response given to above points at the meeting

Further action to be taken regarding above points

Section Sergeant (Comments

Area Inspector (Comments)

Use overleaf if necessary