

Introduction



As Local Police Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to provide this report on our performance and policing priorities for Q3 of the financial year 20201-2022.

As outlined in my last Q2 report, we prepared for the safe and secure delivery of COP26 with partners from around the world. That preparation took place locally, too, where we engaged with partners in East Renfrewshire to ensure the continued delivery of business-as-usual policing services to our communities. I am pleased to report that the climate summit passed safely and securely and East Renfrewshire residents should have experienced no change to accessing and using our services throughout what was the largest policing operation ever held in the UK.

Following the conclusion of COP26 we began working closely with local partners to prepare for the festive period. Planning for a Safe Winter Plan was supported by all partners following its proposal by the Chair of the Safe East Ren Group. I was pleased to see a reduction in anti-social behaviour during the period and note that no robberies were recorded – a crime type which has traditionally increased throughout that same period.

We are always monitoring our performance across all areas of policing in East Renfrewshire and assessments against our 5 year data have been of particular relevance due to the changing pattern of social activity and mobility caused by the pandemic and the resulting effect on crime patterns. We are conducting a measured review of any rise or drop in comparison to 2021 data to ensure a proportionate response with our victim-centred focus at the heart of it.

As with all partners, we continue to see an increase in contact from members of our communities experiencing mental health challenges. However, I am encouraged by local progress in our engagement with partners in support of our public health approach to policing. I look forward to reporting on the progress of this work as we move into Q4 and beyond and as we collaborate on this long term strategy.

Public Protection

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Sexual Offences)

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime)



Sexual Crimes
Up to the end of Q3 we have recorded a total of 68 sexual crimes, 17 fewer than for the same period last year and over 23% lower than the 5 year average figure of 88.8.

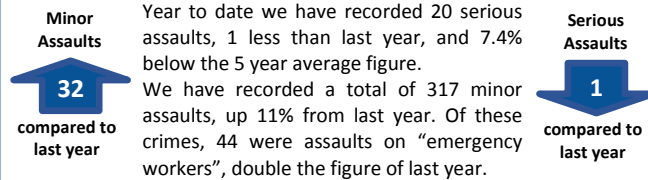
Violent Crime
The number of domestic abuse incidents we have attended year to date has remained static compared to last year and to the previous 5 year average.



East Renfrewshire Local Police Plan (2020-2023)

Quarterly Report (2021-22 Q3: Oct to Dec 2021)

Violent Crime



Local Policing Priority: Crime (Violent Crime)

Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety

Serious assaults have remained relatively static and while minor assaults have increased, these remain slightly below the 5 year average. Following data analysis, we have not identified any specific internal or external locations where proactive policing would deter this behaviour.

All incidents are scrutinised daily, particularly those which have the greatest impact on victims and communities, to ensure we identify and progress enquiries effectively utilising local and specialist resources.

As reported in Q2, we have seen a rise in assaults on emergency workers in East Renfrewshire and these exclusively relate to assaults on Police Officers. Data analysis highlights that this is part of a wider increase across Greater Glasgow Division and beyond. This may be due to an increase in recording and reporting and we continue to ensure our officers are supported and that any learning is captured. Training in officer safety techniques has also recommenced following a pause due to the pandemic.

Drug Dealing & Misuse

Local Policing Priority: Crime (Drug Supply & Manufacture)

Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety



A total of 23 drugs supply offences have been recorded so far this year, 6 more than last year and consistent with the 5 year average figure. The year to date number of offences recorded relating to possession of drugs is down 31%.

Following the drugs related death of a 49 year old man in Neilston in December 2019, subsequent and protracted enquiries were carried out by our local CID officers. On 24 November 2021, a 35 year old female was charged with being concerned in the supply of drugs linked to this death.

Acquisitive Crime



The year-to-date number of homes broken into (including attempts) is 63, up from 48 last year when COVID restrictions made a noticeable impact on these crimes. The figure of 63 remains 15% below the 5 year average figure of 74.2 crimes.

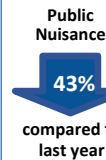


Local Policing Priority: Crime (Crimes of Dishonesty)

Fairer East Ren Plan: Reducing social isolation, loneliness & increasing safety

This year’s data has shown an increase in domestic house breakings compared to 2020, but a decrease on the previous 5 year average. We continue to work with divisional and organisational-wide colleagues to identify perpetrators who work across policing and local authority boundaries. We have captured forensic opportunities to support investigations, provided security advice to victims and alerted local residents via social media messaging and leaflet drops. We have received support from colleagues in specialist departments such as Roads Policing and our Dogs Branch to increase our visibility in the areas targeted and have also utilised officers on proactive plain clothes patrols. Following a report from an off-duty police officer of suspicious activity in the Barrhead area, our response officers apprehended two men for stealing copper. We have liaised with our BTP colleagues who are investigating a number of other similar crimes in the area.

Antisocial Behaviour & Disorder



We continue to see significant reductions in calls relating to antisocial behaviour compared to last year.

Calls classified as “Public Nuisance” are down by 43%, “Noise” complaints down by 14% and “Neighbour Disputes” down by 12% compared to 2020-21 figures.



Local Policing Priority – Crime (Disorder and Antisocial behaviour)

Fairer East Ren Plan—Reducing social isolation, loneliness and increasing safety



Our continued collaboration with our partners in identifying opportunities to tackle all forms of anti-social behaviour is making a positive impact. We are seeing a reduction in this crime type following an increase regarding young people in our open spaces during Q4. This appeared to be largely attributable to the festive lockdown of 2020. Following instances of minor anti-social behaviour and criminal damage experienced during last year’s Bonfire Night celebrations, we will be working closely with all relevant local partners to review our collective response for similar events in 2022. We continue to work with partners on a weekly basis at ERC’s GRIP Meeting, to share appropriate information and act in relation to residents who continually engage in this type of behaviour. We hope to report on some notable successes in this area in next quarter’s report.

CRIME

Our Area of Focus: Violent Crime

Whilst crimes involving serious violence are thankfully not frequent in our local authority area, a crime of particular note occurred on 18 October in Barrhead when a 30 year old man was seriously assaulted in his home and his car subsequently set on fire. Following swift enquiry by local Response and CID officers, a 24 year old man was traced and charged with these crimes.

Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture

On 06 October, we assisted officers from the Metropolitan Police, who attended an address in the Clarkston area in relation to a drug recovery in Kent the previous month, where dealer quantities of cocaine and cannabis were recovered. During the search of a male's vehicle at this address, paperwork was identified relating to a storage container in the Lanarkshire area. Officers attended this location where further drugs, including heroin and cocaine were recovered, with an estimated street value in excess of £1.5 million.

Our Area of Focus: Missing People

We continue to see good uptake of the Herbert Protocol in East Renfrewshire. Families /carers of a person suffering for a dementia related condition can complete a form in short time with a range of useful information which then saves Police crucial time and supports families at point of distress, when a missing episode occurs. In an unrelated missing episode in October, following extensive enquiry, we traced a missing 62 year old male with mental health issues and learning difficulties to London, subsequently tracking him on his return to East Renfrewshire and returning him to secure accommodation in the Glasgow area, where staff are caring for him.

Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty We continue to see good use of our Banking Protocol locally, which supports vulnerable people within our communities who may be susceptible to crimes of fraud. Such crimes have been increasing across the UK over recent years. On 05 October 2021 our Response Officers attended the report from concerned staff at a local bank regarding a potentially vulnerable female customer who was seeking to withdraw an unusually large amount of cash for her from her account. Whilst on this occasion, it was established with the female's family that there was a valid reason for her withdrawing this amount of money, this nevertheless shows that the protocol is being well used locally, with proportionate policing responses being applied.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

On 12 December a female cyclist was struck by a car on Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, falling off her bicycle and sustaining injuries. The offending driver failed to stop and drove off from the scene. The cyclist was initially unable to move, although she was conscious and breathing. Paramedics attended and our Response Officers spoke to witnesses at the scene. After being seen by Paramedics, our officers took the female home and on reviewing public space CCTV, established a positive line of enquiry. Later that day, the driver of the vehicle was successfully traced and charged under Sections 3 and 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. As part of the Safe East Ren Winter Plan, our Local Problem Solving Team Officers also carried out a number of road checks at areas identified by data and by our residents and partners, as being of concern.

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable People—Mental Health

Following an approach to East Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, funding was secured to deliver enhanced Mental Health Awareness Training to our response officers, who provide our 24/7 emergency response. This training will be delivered in Q1-Q2 2022-23 and will help officers identify individuals who may be in crisis and help direct them to locally delivered support services, which may assist. This work will also support ERC's work in relation to tackling instances of Near Fatal Overdose in our communities.

Our Areas of Focus: Domestic Abuse— Adult Protection

On 15 November, our Response officers were swiftly deployed to an incident in Rouken Glen Park, Giffnock, where a lone female had reported being followed and then approached by a male, who stated he liked how she looked and asked if she had a boyfriend. Following a thorough search, of the park the male was traced nearby, arrested and later charged with a contravention of S.38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (S) Act. The female was updated on the response provided and provided with appropriate support and advice.

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

Following COP26, our Campus Officers commenced their scheduled inputs to High School pupils across East Renfrewshire in relation to 'No Knives Better Lives' and Hate Crimes. This work supports our Education Authorities ethos of valuing differences and promoting safe and secure learning environments for all our young people to thrive.



CONCLUSION

As the Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 3rd Quarter of the year.

As I write this report we have just emerged from another spike in COVID cases across the country from the Omicron variant, which have also impacted on local and national policing resources. Quarter 4 of the 2021-22 financial year will undoubtedly provide further challenges as restrictions are eased and we move into the Spring period and hopefully improved weather.

I continue to be assured by the many examples of collaborative working and collective problem solving which are evidenced across our partnerships in East Renfrewshire that we will remain well placed to deal with these and our local, Divisional and national policing teams will continue to work hard to provide appropriate support.

Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland
Divisional Commander