

CRIME

Our Area of Focus: Violent Crime

Violent crime continues to be a concern for our communities and our officers have dealt with a number of violent offenders in the first quarter of this year. In April, a 24 year old woman was assaulted and found injured outside a property in Barrhead. Three males aged 19 and 21 were identified as being responsible, arrested and charged.

During this quarter, our community officers carried out proactive patrols, addressing community concerns in relation to disorder and violence. They identified and arrested a 26 year old male within the Barrhead area after he was found in possession of a knife within a public place.

Following reports of a 43 year old male having been assaulted and threatened in June, extensive investigation identified a 63 year old female and a 32 year old male as responsible, both were arrested and charged.

Our Area of Focus: Drug Supply and Manufacture

The first quarter of 2023-24 has seen some significant seizures of controlled substances. We continue to act upon intelligence and undertake proactive patrols which are a key part of our activity in reducing harm in our community.

In April, officers stopped the driver of a vehicle within the Local Authority area under misuse of drugs legislation. The 21 year old male driver was arrested for failing a roadside drug swipe and charged with road traffic offences and possession of controlled drugs.

In June we assisted officers from our Serious and Organised Crime Unit who had attended an address in the Barrhead area in order to execute a search warrant. A 36 year old male was arrested after significant drug and cash recoveries were made with a street value of approximately £10,000.

Our Area of Focus: Crimes of Dishonesty

Our focus remains on protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities. We continue to work with our partners in specialist departments such as Trading Standards and our Economic & Financial Investigation Unit to ensure a high quality approach to investigating these crimes as well as protection and support to victims, businesses and wider community. During this quarter, officers investigated a large scale fraud involving a Giffnock business being defrauded of monies to the value of over £100,000. Throughout the lengthy and complex investigation, the victim was supported by our specialist investigation unit as well as local policing. The collaboration between local and specialist officers with our partners in the banking industry and other UK Police Forces, saw the victim being refunded the funds. The victim was so pleased with the police investigation and professional conduct of all involved that he wrote to our Chief Constable praising them.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Our Area of Focus: Vulnerable Road Users

Police Scotland will work in partnership to influence driver and road user behaviour, reduce road casualties and detect and deter all types of criminality on our roads.

We work with a range of partners and specialist Road Policing Officers work within East Renfrewshire to target criminality on our roads. In April, a 30 year old male was charged with careless driving after being found driving in excess of the speed limit on the M77.

In May, a 34 year old male was charged with various road traffic offences after being observed by officers within the Clarkston area driving a vehicle in such a condition that it was dangerous to other road users.

Our Areas of Focus: Domestic Abuse— Adult Protection—Child Protection

In September 2022, East Renfrewshire was chosen to take part in a Custody Court pilot scheme whereby all key evidence in relation to domestic crimes would be presented to the Crown Prosecution & Fiscal Service at the very start of legal proceedings. This would allow evidence to be reviewed and outcomes reached much sooner in order to protect and support victims and witnesses and avoid delays. In this quarter, 90% of reported cases were concluded via this process meaning victims and witnesses did not have to endure giving evidence at court or being impacted by court attendance. The success of this pilot is now being measured with a view of it being rolled out nationally across all other areas.

Police Scotland's strategy to tackle violence against women and girls was presented to the SPA in Q4 and was subject to final approval in Q1. There are a number of proposals within the strategy and we continue to work together with our partners within East Renfrewshire Violence Against Women & Girls group to tackle this issue and create a society free from violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation.

Our Areas of Focus: Young People

Across our partnership approach we believe that it is important to understand the issues and root causes that impact on our young people. The establishment of a bespoke tactical group involving a range of partners including colleagues from Community Safety, Youth Services, Education and Health & Social Care Partnership has seen positive steps and activities being set up to address a variety of developmental and anti-social behaviour concerns. Our campus officers took part in a number of activities to support young people in their life choices and to discourage anti-social behaviour as they embarked on their summer holidays. Through this interaction and exposure to new and different challenges we aimed to build self-esteem, confidence and social skills. We continue on this theme into Q2 and the year ahead.



CONCLUSION

As the Local Policing Commander for East Renfrewshire, I am pleased to present the Cabinet Report for the 1st Quarter of the year 2023/24.

As outlined in this Cabinet Report, East Renfrewshire is maintaining its place as one of the safest places to work and live in Scotland. Our multi-agency approach will be key to delivering and maintaining this environment as we move forward into a restricted financial environment. I have great confidence that the foundations and building blocks already in place within East Renfrewshire will give us a strong basis to deliver the best possible service for the communities we serve. Thank you for your continued support.

Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland
Divisional Commander