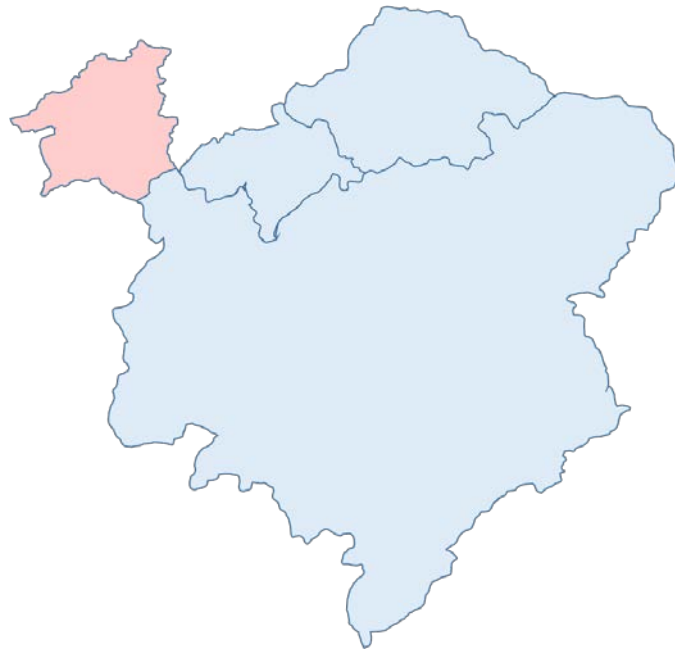




West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 9 Armadale & Blackridge Multi Member Ward Report

Quarter 3 – 2020/2021

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31st December 2020.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance relative to the same period in 2020; set out in the report.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger; we take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Introduction:

This document is intended to provide a summary of the performance of West Lothian Area Command for the reporting period of Quarter 3 2020/2021. The report references the police priorities within the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2020-2023, namely:

- Protecting The Most Vulnerable People
- Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Acquisitive Crime
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

Armadale and Blackridge Community Engagement Priorities:

- Violence, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Road Safety

Armadale and Blackridge Community Officers

PC Iain Law

PC Francis Sinnet

Executive Summary:

Officers in West Lothian have been focused to delivering, with our key partners, our Local Policing Priorities, and meeting our commitment to Keep People Safe.

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people** – Domestic abuse crimes is an area of focus in terms of providing confidence to report, undertaking professional investigations, providing victim support, pursuing perpetrators and managing offenders. An investment of additional resources in these areas has increased solvency in respect of domestic crimes. Due to Covid-19, there has been an increase in domestic incidents reported due to persons being restricted within households where they would not normally be. Tackling criminality that poses the greatest threat and risk is, and will always be, a priority for officers in West Lothian.

Given the restrictions imposed and the limitations of face-to-face interactions, social media posts have been used to engage with the local community highlighting issues and raising awareness. The posts have received a high level of positive local engagement.

Visits to the local young person's residential care homes are being carried out to engage with "cared for children" and build positive relationships. Visits have been well received by staff and young people and it is envisaged that this approach will improve safety through these positive relationships.

Officers have been establishing links with external agencies who can provide invaluable support to the most vulnerable in our community. The aim of this is to increase awareness of these agencies to enable us to signpost vulnerable people we engage with to the best placed organisation with an emphasis on police referrals.

This will allow us to provide support to members of the community who would otherwise turn to a life of criminality and carrying out a positive intervention that will reduce crime, break the cycle of behaviour and improve the life of the vulnerable person and the community they live in.

Interaction with the elderly in the community has been limited due to the COVID 19 restrictions, however officers continue to respond to "concern for" calls in relation to mental health, juvenile and elderly concerns.

- **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social behaviour** - The number of reported incidents has increased compared to the 2019/20 period. Due to personal pressures of Lockdown, new ASB factors have become evident. Tolerance levels are still low and showing a lack of patience with continued restrictions. West Lothian continues to engage with the public and utilise the 4 E's – Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. Officers have continued paying extra attention to public space disorder and engage with partners to address youth-related disorder. Anti-social behaviour incidents are monitored by the Community Safety Partnership, based at the West Lothian Civic Centre, assisting support from Community Officers if appropriate.

Officers continue to respond to ASB calls dealing robustly with any criminality. CPT Officers are in constant contact with WLC Housing and SNT sharing information regarding problem tenancies and working together to resolve ASB issues.

There has been one request for information to support an ASBO application completed and case being prepared for legal process.

Ongoing work with WLYAP (West Lothian Youth Action Project) and foot patrols being carried out when possible to show high visibility police presence in problem areas to address youth disorder / ASB.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime** and working to Protect People by reducing the impact (both financial and personal) that it has on our community's remains a priority for West Lothian. The number of reported Crimes of Dishonesty had dropped including a reduction in Domestic Housebreakings. The "Shut out Scammers" campaign continued into Q3, albeit mainly through Social Media platforms, alongside the International Safer Internet Day which provided advice on internet safety, online frauds and cybercrime.

With more people staying at home more often there is a greater awareness in communities of suspicious behaviour. Officers carry out high visibility patrols where possible to vulnerable business and domestic premises to deter acquisitive crime.

- **Improving Road Safety** is always a priority for every local authority and officers in the West Lothian area collaborate with partners to educate the public to prevent incidents from occurring. During Q3, Roads Policing officers actively partook in the national speed, seat belt and mobile phone campaign alongside the Festive Drink and Drive campaign, resulting in numerous offences detected. Despite Covid-19 restrictions, YTD, there was an increase of 12.77% in driving offences although a significant reduction in overall road traffic casualties by 42%.

Our road Policing units continue to monitor and target areas of concern raised by residents and elected members.

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime** by Reducing Drug supply, Production and Cultivation linked to Organised Crime is a policing priority for the West Lothian local authority area and the wider Lothian & Scottish Borders (J) Division of Police Scotland. During Q3, 13 MDA Warrants were issued and executed at various addresses within West Lothian, resulting in a significant volume of drugs, paraphernalia and cash seizures being made.

Officers continue to engage with members of the public to obtain and submit intelligence in relation to serious and organised crime. Areas of reported drug dealing being given attention where possible to glean further intelligence and carry out interventions.

Reporting Period April – December 2020			
Armadale & Blackridge	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Robbery	3	3	0.0%
Serious Assault	12	3	300%
Sexual Crimes	20	30	-50.0%
Housebreaking dwelling	3	10	-70.0%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	11	3	266.0%
Housebreaking Other Premises	2	7	-71.4%
Theft of motor vehicle	15	17	-11.7%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	16	16	0.0%
Vandalism	89	95	-6.3%
Total drugs supply	7	8	-12.5%
Possession of Drugs	34	30	13.3%
Common Assault	109	89	22.4%
Common Assault - emergency worker	10	6	66.6%
Total Crimes and Offences	1218	1174	3.74%

Through local engagement we will continue to work with communities and partners to deliver a quality service which responds to their needs.

Together we can increase community resilience and prevent crime.