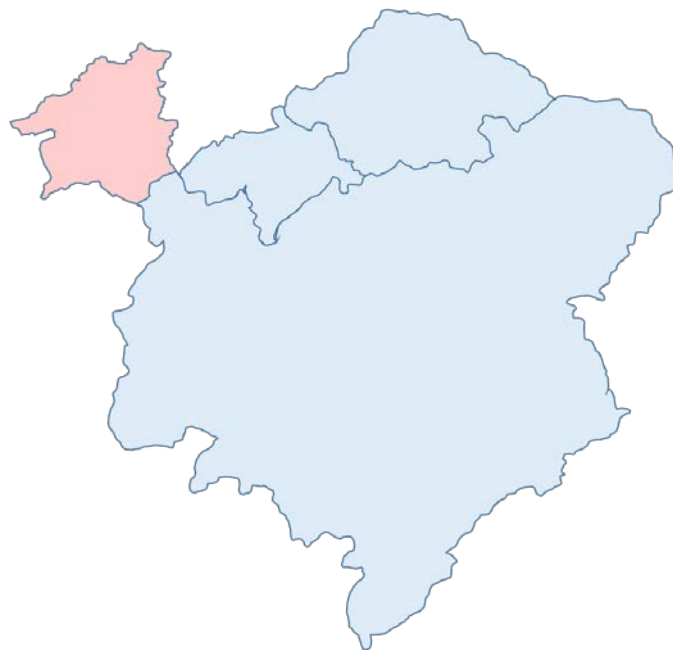


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West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 2 Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh Multi Member Ward Report
Quarter 3 – 2020/2021

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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.

Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Community Engagement Priorities:

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

Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Community Officers

PC Russell Rosie

PC Fiona Bell

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.

As a result of partnerships with financial institutions, several banks contacted the police to notify us of vulnerable customers attempting to withdraw large amounts of cash for bogus building repairs. This resulted in investigations being undertaken for fraud and prevented thousands of pounds being lost to

these scams. Through our social media posts we have also highlighted this issue and the increase in online and telephone frauds.

Interaction with the elderly in the community has been limited due to Covid 19 restrictions, however officers continue to respond to “concern for” calls in relation to mental health, adult and child protection. This also includes assessing the need for further partnership intervention to manage the overall risk.

- **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.

We are continuing to receive multiple calls in reporting possible breaches of Covid regulations with several persons provided with suitable advice and some issued with Covid tickets. Police are also linking in closely with WLC Environmental Health in dealing with business related Covid enquiries. Local officers continue to identify repeat problematic addresses and work with our partners within West Lothian Council, SFRS, Housing Associations and other third sector groups in addressing anti-social behaviour.

We continue to closely link in with WLYAP to address emerging ASB issues in the Broxburn and Uphall area.

There have been several requests to provide information to support the local authority in addressing continued ASB at problematic addresses.

- **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.

Following a series of break-ins to vehicles a male was arrested and charged with multiple thefts. This issue has been highlighted through social media to encourage the public not to leave valuables in their vehicles overnight. Can this also be reiterated through your various constituent contacts.

- **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%.

In response to the new 20MPH restrictions. Police Scotland remains firmly committed to reducing casualties on roads across West Lothian and officers routinely carry out speed checks to enforce speed limits. We prioritise those locations which represent the greatest risk. This could include sites of previous collisions where speed has been a factor.

Police Scotland will continue to monitor the 20 mph trial as it develops and through collaboration with our colleagues at West Lothian Council will take enforcement action where it is assessed as necessary and proportionate to the circumstances.

We continue to monitor the anti-social use of off road bikes in the area and will continue to work with the local community and landowners to address this issue.

- **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.

Local Policing Teams and specialist resources continue to disrupt drug dealing and production in the local area. Several drugs warrants have been executed in the ward area and persons reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Relevant disclosures are also provided to registered social landlords of the premises.

Reporting Period April – December 2020			
Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Robbery	1	3	-66.6%
Serious Assault	9	8	12.5%
Sexual Crimes	56	33	69.6%
Housebreaking dwelling	10	7	42.8%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	8	14	-42.8%
Housebreaking Other Premises	22	15	46.6%
Theft of motor vehicle	13	11	18.1%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	31	46	-32.6%
Vandalism	113	114	-0.8%
Total drugs supply	7	10	-30.0%
Possession of Drugs	61	41	48.7%
Common Assault	123	97	26.8%
Common Assault - emergency worker	8	7	14.2%
Total Crimes and Offences	1098	959	14.4%

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.