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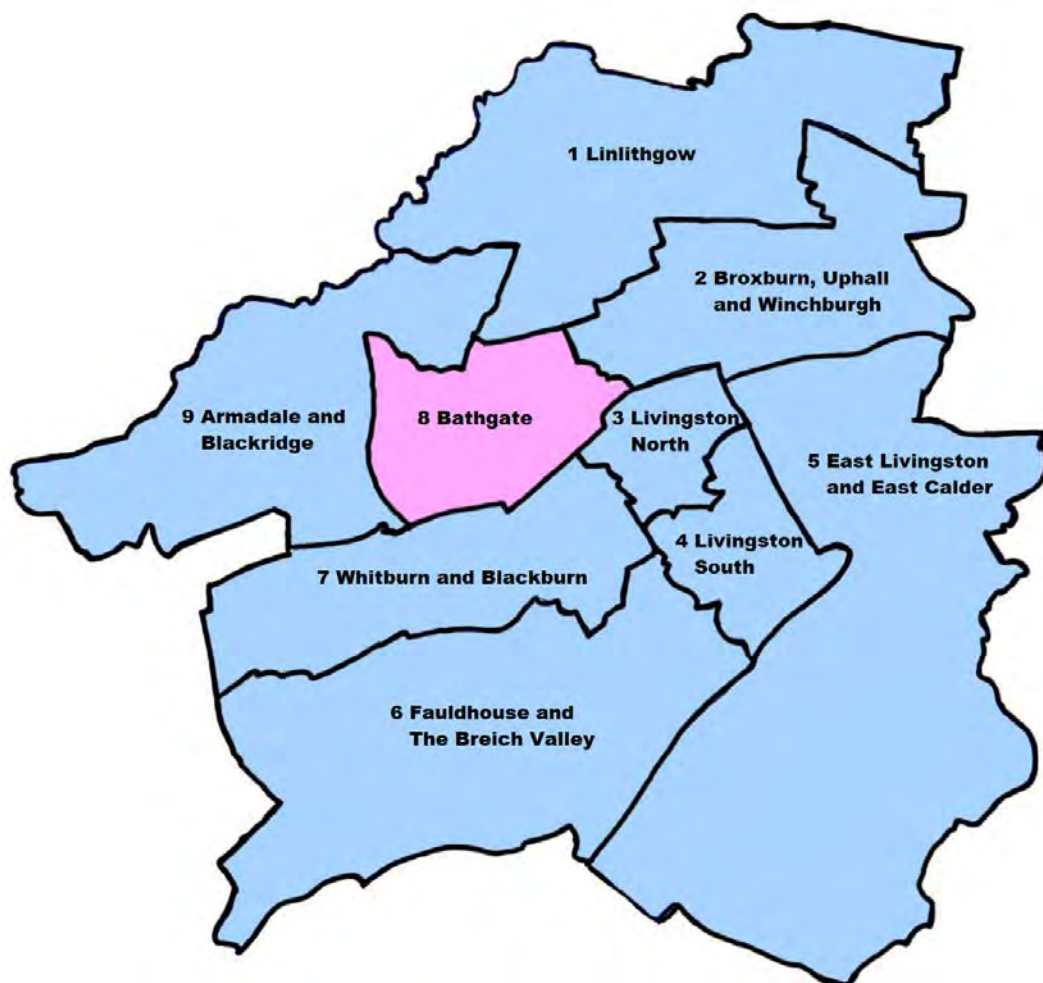
Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA



West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 8 Bathgate Multi Member Ward Report Quarter 2 – 2021/2022

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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 3rd October 2021.

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 2 2021/2022. 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
- Improving Road Safety
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

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

Bathgate Community Engagement Priorities:

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

Bathgate Community Officers

PC Sean Henderson

PC Francis Sinnet

Executive Summary:

Officers in West Lothian have been focused on 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. Although West Lothian has an increased number of domestic incidents reported, strong links have been established with both internal and external partners allowing increased confidence to report along with excellent support services for victims.

During Q2, Medics Against Violence, in partnership with Police provided further online ASC (Ask Support Care) online training sessions to major employers within West Lothian in conjunction with DAPDG. At the time of writing, over 100 individuals have been trained allowing additional support and guidance to be given to victims of crime, complementing the response from officers. All major employers in West Lothian have been made aware of this training and the uptake has been positive. Further training sessions are being planned.

As has been described in previous papers, our officers have had cause to deal with an increasing number of people who have been experiencing mental health crisis. With thanks to our partners in NHS Lothian, since 2020 we agreed protocols allowing operational officers to access the Acute Care and Support Team (ACAST) in West Lothian, a Mental Health Community Triage System. The ACAST system frees up capacity at A&E/Out of Hours, whilst ensuring that those people who met the criteria, receive the most appropriate support at

source. During this process, officers remain with the individuals ensuring support is provided throughout. In Q2, ACAST was utilised over 59 times by officers.

The Herbert protocol has been rolled out within West Lothian with officers being made aware of this initiative and the benefit of it. We have now part of the pilot scheme for the Autism Protocol which is a further development to ensure that police are focused on protecting vulnerable people.

- **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social behaviour**

Recent patterns relating to Anti-Social Behaviour continue with incidents of Vandalism and Fireraising - continue to fall following the 5 year average.

Through the work of the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership, (Police, SFRS, WLC SNT, Housing, WLYAP and Criminal Justice) we identify emerging trends, problematic areas, repeat ASB locations and establish strategies to deal with issues. This frequently involves joint visits and follow up disclosures to enable partner interventions, ASBO applications etc.

In identifying problematic areas, officers are tasked with high visibility patrols to provide reassurance to the local community. We have also ran a series of "pop-up" engagement events which allow communities the opportunity to approach and engage with officers about any concerns they have in their communities. Further "pop-up" events are planned over the next few months.

There continues to concerns raised about the use of off-road bikes in both urban and rural settings. This is an issue across the whole of Scotland. This is being assessed at the Community Safety Partnership to identify an overall partnership approach to address the issue. There has been a number of media requests to identify those responsible however there has been very little community intelligence coming through naming the persons involved.

There has been significant work with partners in relation to Bonfire season with SFRS taking the lead. This includes joint patrols between SFRS / Police and policing plan for the weeks running up to the 5th November and close links to various other WLC depts. And other agencies.

Since West Lothian schools returned after the summer break, School Link Officers have positively engaged with pupils at Whitburn, St Kents, St Margarets, Inveralmond and the Inclusion and Support services. These officers delivered various prevention inputs including knife crime, drugs and alcohol. The funding for these posts comes direct from each of the schools.

Police are working closely with WLC Housing and SNT in relation to several addresses in the ward area where there are repeat incidents of ASB. This has included joint intervention visits and disclosures to enable further action to be considered by the local authority under ASBO legislation.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

Dealing with Acquisitive Crime to Protect People by reducing the financial and personal pressure on individuals and communities remains a priority.

Recently, there has been numerous Housebreakings reported with various high powered vehicles stolen. Local and National resources have been investigating and a number of arrests have been made. We have utilised social media to highlight this type of crime and to share preventative messages.

Rural Crime - West Lothian Partnership against Rural Crime (WLPARC), in conjunction with Police Scotland and West Lothian PSYV, held an information event at Beecraigs Country

Park to highlight rural crime, partnership approaches and reporting methods in relation to suspicious activities within rural and urban areas. This was extremely well received and WLPARC will be developing their remit further over the coming months.

West Lothian Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV), have assisted in providing prevention advice across West Lothian. The young people completed 168 hours of voluntary work assisting in various activities including letter drops in relation to off-road bikes, inconsiderate parking, rural crime, delivering Keep Safe packs and working alongside WLPARC. An application process for new youth volunteers members has now closed with multiple applicants.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is increasing in numbers with 1400 members. Police Scotland continue to utilise social media to encourage members of the community to sign up for regular updates. <http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/>. Police Scotland provide regular updates for the online alerts, to highlight crime trends and local issues.

During Q2, our Prevention and Intervention Officer conducted 7 Crime Prevention Surveys to victims of crime providing advice and guidance on keeping themselves and their property safe. Officers have also been working in conjunction with the WLPARC to share information and identify prevention opportunities.

- **Improving Road Safety**

Road safety is a priority for the police and local authority. Officers in West Lothian work in partnership with the council address road safety issues and educate the public to prevent incidents from occurring.

Officers in the West Lothian area work closely with partners to prevent collisions from occurring. During Q2, Roads Policing officers continued with Local and National Campaigns including National Motorcycle Safety Campaign, National Speeding Campaign and National Drug Driving Campaign. Preparations have also commenced for the yearly festive Drink Drive Campaign.

Between July and September 2021, Road policing officers undertook proactive speed checks in 27 locations, resulting in 32 offences detected, including 41 warnings in relation to manner of driving and construction and use defects.

Consultation is continuing with partner agencies regarding the delivery of Westdrive 2021, however due to Covid restrictions, final decisions are still to be made as to what format this may take.

In relation to 20 mph speed limits, Police Scotland will continue to monitor this trial with WLC. Such limits should be 'self-enforcing' and sustainable, either as a result of the current road layout, existing vehicle speed data or through the addition of appropriate physical speed reduction measures. Deployment of resources must prioritise sites which represent the greatest risk and should only be undertaken where considered necessary and in the interests of casualty reduction.

There is no data around pre/post 20 mph in relation to accident statistics or enforcement, however Roads Policing officers work closely with the highways department to identify "hotspots" for them to consider road engineering solutions to improve safety.

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

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 Division of Police Scotland.

During Q2, 25 General evidence / Misuse of Drugs Act Warrants were executed which resulted in multiple drugs seizures and a substantial amount of money recovered. Seized cash usually forms part of criminal cases and further investigation under Proceeds of Crime legislation to disrupt organised crime. If applicable, police will disclose information with registered social landlords in relation to MDA enforcement action at their properties to enable follow up in relation to breaches of tenancies.

Operation Phantom (OCG disruption) executed simultaneous warrants at two West Lothian addresses in relation to the supply of controlled drugs. During this, two West Lothian males were arrested and charged with MDA offences. Nearly £37,000 worth of drugs were seized along with a quantity of cash.

Any drug supply/possession offences are due to proactive police work which is greatly assisted by intelligence from local residents. This can be reported to the police via 101 or anonymously via the charity "Crimestoppers" on 0800 111 555.

During Q2, officers working on Operation Hutchen commenced an enquiry into recent Transit van thefts in both Lothian and Scottish Borders and Forth Valley Divisions. During this enquiry, a 26 year old male was identified as being responsible. This was due to excellent forensic work by detectives and resulted in him being reported for 24 vehicle related offences.

We continue to focus our activity on disrupting Organised Crime groups, particularly referencing drugs supply, larger scale cultivations and class A drugs.

We continue to develop drugs intelligence from the local community. Drugs enforcement requires information from sources to build a picture and fill in the pieces of the jigsaw and the use of community intelligence in this cannot be underestimated.

Reporting Period April 2021 – September 2021			
Bathgate	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Robbery	8	5	+60.0%
Serious Assault	12	7	+71.4%
Sexual Crimes	56	27	+107.4%
Housebreaking dwelling	12	9	+33.3%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	1	5	-80.0%
Housebreaking Other Premises	5	7	-28.5%
Theft of motor vehicle	9	19	-52.6%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	15	7	+114.2%
Vandalism	95	109	-12.8%
Total drugs supply	6	5	+20.0%
Possession of Drugs	43	27	+59.2%
Common Assault	158	146	+8.2%
Common Assault - emergency worker	11	13	-15.3%
Total Crimes and Other Offences	1221	1089	+12.1%

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.