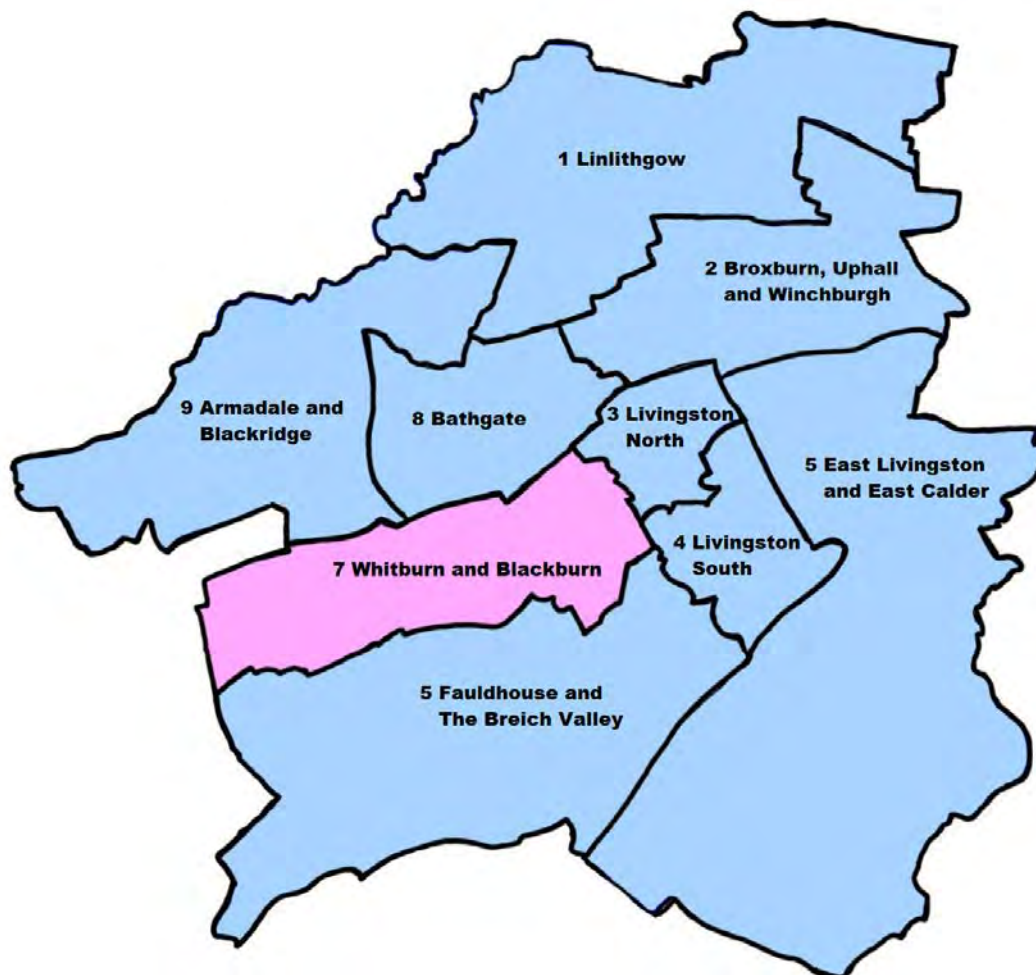




West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 7 Whitburn & Blackburn Multi Member Ward Report

Quarter 4– 2021/2022

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 March 2022

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 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.

Whitburn and Blackburn Community Engagement Priorities:

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

Whitburn & Blackburn Community Officers

PC Carol-Ann Wilson

PC Barrie Kennedy

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.

Foreword:

Covid update – Like all other public services there has been a significant impact of the Omicron variant with high level of Covid cases and requirement to self-isolate due to close contact.

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people**

Domestic abuse continues to be a focus with strong links with internal and external partners to encourage confidence to report and comprehensive victim support. Specialist detectives undertake professional investigations, pursue perpetrators and manage offenders.

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) aims to provide a way of sharing information about a partner's abusive past, with a potential victim. It gives people at risk of Domestic Abuse the information needed to make an informed decision on whether to continue the relationship. The scheme has two main triggers for disclosure – the **Right to Ask** and the **Power to Tell**.

The **Right to Ask** is open to anyone who has concerns about a new partner's abusive past or has concerns about another person's new partner. An example of this would be a parent concerned about their child's new partner.

The **Power to Tell** is when we receive information or intelligence about the safety of a person who may be at risk.

To make an application members of the public can go “online” to www.scotland.police.co.uk or search for “Right to Ask” which populates the “Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland” website containing the application form.

We have been seeking the assistance of large employers in West Lothian in providing domestic abuse and hate crime awareness sessions and further looking to develop this to include “third party reporting”. This allows victims or witnesses of hate crime the opportunity to report incidents at a reporting centre and the details are then forwarded to the police. Details can be found on Police Scotland website searching under “Third Party Reporting”.

We continue to develop the “No Agenda” scheme which involves connecting with students at West Lothian College and Residential Care Homes to be visible and approachable, building relationships and normalising contact with the Police as part of their community.

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

Recent patterns relating to Anti-Social Behaviour continue with incidents of Vandalism and Fireraising continuing to decrease. Through the Community Safety Partnership, we have been leading on an initiative to address the illegal use of off-road bikes and wilful fire raising ensuring that all relevant partners are aware of processes to deal with these issues as they arise. As a result we have received several pieces of intelligence through Crimestoppers regarding off road bikes and ASB resulting in follow up enquiries and persons being charged.

We continue our weekly Community Safety Partnership meetings where partners identify emerging trends, problematic areas, repeat ASB locations and establish strategies to deal with them.

We have also delivered a Violence reduction input to Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and plans are in place to take this into further schools through the school campus officers.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

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

There has been an overall decrease in acquisitive crime over the 5 year average. This includes Domestic and Business Housebreakings, thefts from and of vehicles and common theft. The vast majority of these types of crimes are investigated by specialist detectives, with a focus on ensuring that all forensic opportunities are explored. We continue to utilise social media to highlight these types of crimes and to share preventative messages.

Construction Watch was launched during the quarter and has been set up in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Alert Scheme. The construction industry is highly susceptible to acquisitive crime and this scheme is designed to raise awareness of crime trends and offer crime prevention advice in an efficient way to the Construction Industry.

Rural Crime - West Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (WLPARC), in conjunction with Police Scotland continue to develop their membership to highlight rural crime, partnership approaches, reporting methods in relation to suspicious activities within rural and urban areas and sharing of prevention messages.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is increasing in numbers with 1600 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.

- **Improving Road Safety**

Officers in the West Lothian area work closely with partners in the local authority to address road safety issues and educate the public to prevent incidents from occurring.

During Q4, Roads Policing officers continued with Local and National Campaigns including the national speeding, mobile phone and commercial vehicle campaigns.

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.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, the young drivers safety event, West Drive will not take place in the academic year 2021- 2022, however we are hopeful that this will be in place for next year.

- **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.

West Lothian Pro-Active Unit have been targeting organised crime groups. Through the use of intelligence, the unit identify targets who are involved and profit from the supply of controlled drugs. In the last 6 months the unit have recovered £405,000.00 worth of drugs, £161,000.00 in cash and have seized approximately £65,000.00 worth of property that had been purchased through illegal proceeds of crime

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. This can be reported to the police via 101 or anonymously via the charity "Crimestoppers" on 0800 111 555.

April 2021 - March 2022			
Whitburn and Blackburn	Recorded		
Crime Type	YTD	LYTD	% Diff
Total Crimes and Offences	1,990	1,940	2.58%
Common Assault	305	306	-0.33%
Common Assault - emergency worker	19	110	-82.73%
Robbery	3	5	-40.00%
Serious Assault	11	16	-31.25%
Sexual Crimes	97	67	44.78%
Housebreaking dwelling	9	17	-47.06%
Housebreaking non-dwelling (sheds/garages)	4	7	-42.86%
Housebreaking Other Premises	10	11	-9.09%
Theft from motor vehicle (OLP)	6	9	-33.33%
Theft of motor vehicle	42	31	35.48%
Total drugs supply	12	12	0.00%
Possession of Drugs	66	90	-26.67%
Vandalism	237	182	30.22%

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.