

West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 4 - Livingston South Multi Member Ward Report

Quarter 2 – 2022/2023

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 1st October 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 2021; 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 2022/2023. 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.

Livingston South Community Engagement Priorities

- Reducing antisocial behaviour
- Making our roads safer
- Tackling substance misuse

Livingston South and Craigshill Community Officers

PC Hayley Cunningham

PC Gillian Minshull

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.

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) has two main approaches. 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. The “Power to Tell” is when we receive information or intelligence about the safety of a person who may be at risk, this information is thereafter disclosed to the person concerned so they are able to make informed decisions about their personal safety. During Q2, there was 58 applications in the last Quarter (121 YTD), this is 17 more than the previous quarter and highlights the ongoing commitment to keeping people safe.

We had recorded 34 crimes under the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act 2018 by the end of Q2 – domestic offences relating to controlling and coercive behaviours. This shows better recording of this crime type and understanding amongst officers. Detection rate is at 76.5% which is expected to increase as many enquiries take time to collate all the necessary evidence.

During Q2, there were five individual missing person incidents pertaining to adults living with Dementia, the individuals concerned were traced safe and well. Since the implementation of

the protocol in 2020, West Lothian has dealt with 22 individuals who met the criteria. In September, we supported World Alzheimer's day, whilst using the opportunity to extensively promote this protocol in Social Media.

The ACAST mental health triage system is still widely utilised by officers when appropriate. By the end of Q2, this service was utilised 54 times providing support and advice to individuals suffering from a mental health crisis.

We know that Hate Crimes continue to be massively underreported, and we continue to work with external agencies to support reporting mechanisms, including remote, online and 3rd party reporting.

At the start of the educational year Sgt Brodie and the West Lothian Crime Prevention officer attended the Fresher's Fayre at West Lothian College in Livingston, there they promoted messages against Hate Crime, giving advice regarding student safety and a variety of other prevention materials. The students, family members and staff engaged particularly well with the officers and there is further work being planned with the college into Q3 including on 'Bystander' training.

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

We continue to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in its various forms with our partners.

During Q2, West Lothian Police worked alongside Lothian and Country buses and ran a 'decoy bus' initiative throughout the county. The initiative was instigated following a number of incidents of buses being vandalised in various towns throughout the county. During the initiative there were no incidents of vandalism to the decoy bus or any service buses, however during the initiative a number of youths were identified as being in possession of alcohol which was subsequently seized. Similar operations are being planned for Q3.

The anti-social behaviour use of off road vehicles continues to be a concern in a number of communities in the county. Local community officers have been carrying out letter drops in communities where regular reports occur in an attempt to establish the identity of those involved. Such information was provided to officers after an incident in Livingston which resulted in a 17 year old male being identified and charged..

During 2022, Police Scotland promoted the National Firearms Surrender Campaign which allowed members of the public to hand in unwanted or illegal firearms and ammunition anonymously, if required, without prosecution. To date, 23 firearms were surrendered to West Lothian Police Stations, this included Lethal, Imitation and Airsoft Weapons. Various types of ammunition were also surrendered, including cartridges, ball bearings and powders. Although firearm offences remain low, the removal of unwanted weapons from criminal availability will help to reduce the risk of harm to the public and our communities.

The 'It'll Cost You' proxy purchasing campaign continued in Q2 with the assistance of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV). The aim of this campaign was to raise awareness with off licence premises. To date, there has been no FPN tickets issued although premises staff are fully cited on the consequences should their business fail any future proxy purchase.

Following reports of youth anti-social behaviour at the Livingston shopping centres which is causing annoyance to customers, staff and nearby bus passengers – Community officers have been patrolling these areas regularly and engaging with the youths. One youth has been charged as a result and Sgt Brodie has held meetings and discussions with management from both facilities on how best to manage these issues.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

Dealing with Acquisitive Crime to protect people by reducing the impacts of theft on individuals and communities remains a priority.

During Q2, our Preventions and interventions Officer along with Community Officers held several Community Surgeries in Broxburn, Linlithgow, Bathgate and Armadale. During these surgeries, officers were on hand to provide home security advice with focus on practical and often inexpensive ways for communities to protect their homes. Vehicle security advice was also provided as well as through our social media accounts. Due to the positive feedback from communities and elected members, further surgeries are being considered.

Furthermore, with the darker nights closing in, the Rural Watch Scotland alert scheme is being utilised to encourage those living in our rural communities to report any suspicious activity witnessed in their area. As always, all suspicious activity can be reported via 101, the 'contact us' form on the Police Scotland internet page or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

During Q2, pro-active patrols (with both marked and unmarked vehicles used) continued at identified vulnerable premises, and pro-active team officers will continue to target recidivist offenders. When possible, our Community officers have also been carrying out high visibility patrols in both urban and rural areas within their community, working with partners and 3rd sector organisations to assist in the prevention of crime.

- **Improving Road Safety**

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

Sadly Q2 saw four fatalities in West Lothian. Extensive enquiries are also still ongoing into previous fatalities from 2021/22 which is unfortunately reducing abilities to engage with the usual speeding initiatives.

We will continue to support the Roads Policing campaign calendar during 2022/23. During Q2, we supported the Summer Drink Drug Drive, Commercial Vehicle Week and Vulnerable Road Users Week.

With school returning during Q2, local community officers visited a number of schools during drop off/collection times to assess inconsiderate parking. No offences were detected during visits however it is acknowledged that the volume of traffic around schools during peak times is high. Schools are encouraged to partake in the 'Parksmart' scheme which includes pupils from the schools providing educational advice in relation to inconsiderate parking/driving outside schools to parents and carers.

The local CBOs have attended various reports of parking complaints, particularly at schools in the area including Williamston primary school. They have offered advice to motorists as well as schools and organisations on how best to manage these issues.

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

Drugs supply has a close link to Organised Crime Groups (OCG), and is a blight on any community. We focus to those who bring harm to our communities, and particularly those who are involved in drugs supply, cultivation/production and the sale and distribution in particular, but not exclusively, of Class A drugs.

West Lothian Pro-active Crime Team continue to develop and carry out enforcement on members of organised crime groups based in West Lothian (Operation Wingman) that are involved in the supply of controlled drugs. By the end of Q2, Op Wingman removed over £643,769 worth of drugs from West Lothian streets, along with nearly £130,000 in cash along with numerous items linked to proceeds of crime.

Our divisional approach is now well established which introduces multi-agency engagement and recording of all Non-Fatal Overdoses. We send notification of any NFO to the local addiction services who ensure the individual is offered support. This programme is seeing an

increased engagement with local drug support groups and is allowing for intelligence streams around developing drug trends and potentially harmful products. By the end of Q2 we had referred 55 people for direct intervention via our Non-Fatal Drugs Overdose processes.

During Q2, Police Scotland Counter Terrorism Liaison officer delivered further Counter Terrorism and Prevent Awareness Training to new recruits at HMP Addiewell. ACT e-learning package has also been prepared and rolled out to staff based at Howden Park Centre with plans to complete face-to-face training once online training has been completed.

Two sessions of Postal Threats Training was delivered at ESC for Livingston COPFS staff during Q2. This training was completed by the Police Scotland Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer. Further sessions are currently in the planning.

Community officers have assisted in both local and national operations within their community utilising their knowledge of local trends to feed information and intelligence in order to target organised crime groups.

Please note: Police Scotland have recently migrated to a new data source as its single source of truth for our reporting requirements. During the transition it was identified that significant improvements could be made to the completeness and accuracy of our geo-spatial data. Over the last eight to nine months we have been developing, deploying and quality assuring a number of processes that would improve these data. We are now in the final stages of the transition process and working on the outputs required at MMW and datazone levels. We hope to launch revised products in the next couple of months. Subsequently, MMW figures will be unavailable until validity checks have been completed.