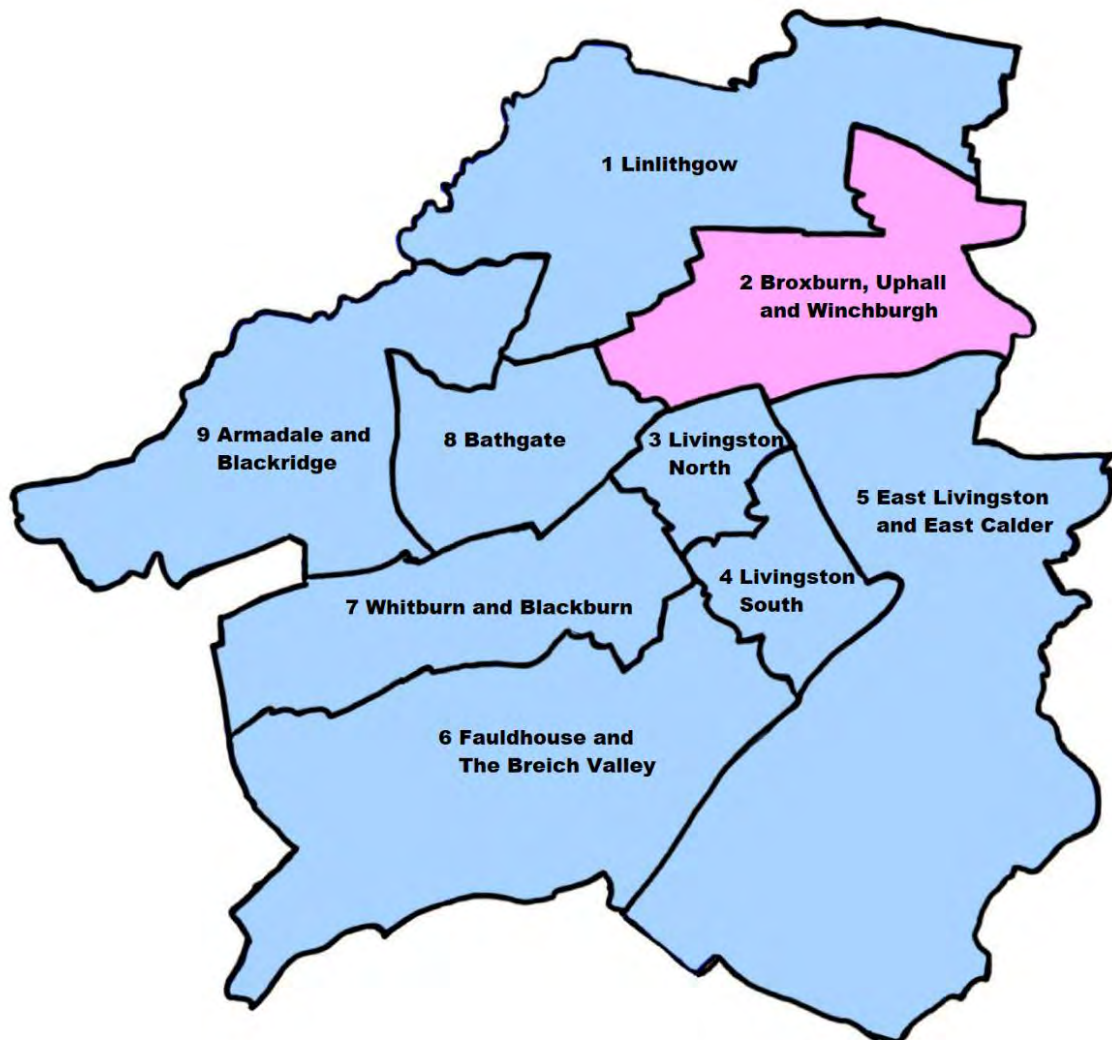




# West Lothian Area Command

## Lothian and Scottish Borders



### Ward 2 Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh Multi Member Ward Report Quarter 1 – 2023/2024

**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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

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

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	None.
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	Performance relative to the same period in 2021; set out in the report.
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger; we take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	None.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	None.
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	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 1 2023/24. The report references the police priorities within the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2023-2026, 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.

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 continues to be a priority for all West Lothian officers. By the end of Q1, there were 712 incidents reported, an increase of 11.8% from Q1 2023/24. This is 10.5% above the five year average. 56.6% of all domestic related calls did not result in a crime being recorded, this upward trend supports the working assumption of increased confidence in seeking support from police and third party services.

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) has two main approaches, the "Right to Ask" and the "Power to Tell". If appropriate, Information is disclosed to the person concerned so they are able to make informed decisions about their personal safety. During Q1, there was 83 applications, this quarterly figure is a 32% increase on the same period last year and highlights the success of DSDAS being specifically promoted during our recent domestic abuse Summer Campaign and commitment to educating on this and all forms of domestic abuse utilising ongoing social media messaging to keep people safe.

Also during April, Police Scotland launched its latest Hate Crime Campaign "Don't Feed Hate". This campaign targets people most at risk of committing hate crime. During this time, we asked people

to pause, reflect and find other outlets for their frustration, building an understanding of the causes of hate and the lasting impact it can have. #DontFeedHate

Our School Link Officers continue to provide Secondary Schools within West Lothian with Hate Crime inputs. During Q1, small groups of youths were involved in group work with officers in relation to the effects of Hate Crimes to both the victim, their friends/families and the wider community.

The carriage of Naloxone by frontline officers continued during Q1. During Q1, Naloxone has been administered by West Lothian police 10 times on 7 individuals with positive results and reflective of our Public Health approach to substance misuse.

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

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

Issues of Anti-Social behaviour and youth disorder in and around McArthur Glen Designer Outlet have settled down during Q1 since the reinstatement of the youth workers and the continuation of local police patrols. Officers will continue to monitor the situation throughout the Q2 summer holidays.

Towards the end of April, police received multiple calls in relation to a disturbance at an address in the East side of West Lothian where a male was reported to have been stabbed. Due to the quick response of officers, 7 local individuals were arrested & reported to COPFS for numerous violence-related offences and measures put in place to protect the complainers.

Gateway checks continued during Q1 with Community officers travelling throughout the county on public transport, engaging with the public, local youths and bus drivers. No issues were identified.

Similar to other areas within J Division, ASB caused by off-road bikes continue to be an issue throughout West Lothian. During the quarter, local officers conducted off-road vehicle patrols and letter drops in local hotspots. The Greendykes Bing continues to be a particular area of focus. During one patrol of the bing, officers engaged with individuals who had attended at the Bing with the intention of utilising the area on off-road bikes. Due to this positive interaction and education, the individuals departed the area. We have also visited nearby garages in Broxburn, Winchburgh and the wider area to give advice around selling of items to off-road bikers and the importance of reporting to police. Sergeant Brodie has similarly continued the social media campaign and messaging around this issues and continued to support and work with the local Bing Action group.

To support this work SelectaDNA training has commenced with Community Officers receiving this during Q1. SelectaDNA Tagging Spray can be aimed by officers at suspected illegal and off-road bikes. The DNA tagging spray marks the bikes, clothing and skin of any riders and passengers with uniquely-coded but invisible DNA that will provide forensic evidence to link them to this type of ASB or illegal acts.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

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

During the quarter, Community Officers in conjunction with WLC Trading Standards attended at various locations within the county in the 'Scam Van' providing information and advice in relation to Scammers. Advice to the community is that it is okay to shut the door on uninvited traders, No Cold Calling stickers are also available to members of the public from their local police stations.

As we have seen in previous quarters, theft of keyless vehicles have been on the increase over the last few years. During Q1, there was a slight increase in thefts of these types of vehicle compared to LYTD. Faraday pouches are recommended to owners of keyless vehicles, these pouches made with materials that block electromagnetic radiation. The pouch is designed to protect the key fobs,

smart phones and credit cards from being hacked, tracked or compromised by electromagnetic signals. A supply of these pouches are held within Community Safety, Livingston Police Station.

During Q1, we supported Neighbourhood Watch Scotland road shows within West Lothian, providing crime prevention advice and promoting our partnership working.

Furthermore, emails have been sent to the community councils in the ward area requesting that information on how to sign up to the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland site is shared. This is a remote method for not only Neighbourhood Watch crime prevention advice to be provided but also a mechanism for Police Scotland to share similar information when crime trends are emerging such as bogus workmen frequenting the area. It is well known that individuals use the power of Facebook or other social media sites to give out non-factual or blatantly false information which may concern vulnerable residents. By signing up to the NWS scheme residents can be assured that the information and advice provided is correct and up to date.

Police Scotland's Business Crime prevention Unit have been supporting the local community team in issuing advice to local businesses, particularly in East mains as well as retailers in Broxburn and we continue to work closely with this specialist department to support the local community.

- **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.

Officers Road Policing & J Division continue to support the National Road Safety 2023/2024 calendar. During Q1 2023/2024 this included the National 2 Wheels Campaign, Motorcycle Safety Campaign, Give Cycle Space Launch, the National Seatbelt Campaign and Child Safety Week.

Looking ahead to Q2 Road Policing activity during the summer will include Drink & Drug Drive Campaigns, Commercial Vehicle Week (focussing on goods vehicles and passenger carrying vehicles), and a Vulnerable Road User campaign in September.

Officers from Road Policing Division based in J Division recently completed additional training in the correct installation and fitment of child seats in vehicles, allowing them to provide additional guidance/advice to anyone transporting children.

Officers continue to attend in areas surrounding schools at drop off and pick up times after complaints from local residents. Drivers were given advice and guidance in the first instance with the understanding that enforcement would commence if the issue continued.

The community department have now obtained speed detection devices and officers have received the appropriate training. These officers have been carrying out ad-hoc high visibility speed detection patrols in areas previously identified by elected members via their constituents. In particular PCs Bell and Rosie have carried out a number of such initiatives within the ward and this activity will continue into Quarter 2.

- **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.

County Lines and Cuckooing inputs are continuing, arrangements are in the planning stage with NHS Lothian to deliver inputs with staff across West Lothian, enabling healthcare workers to identify persons at risk allowing early interventions. Although the county has not recorded any incidents, this training allows professionals to spot the signs early and prevent long-term harm to vulnerable individuals.

During Q1, our SOC Prevention Officer, initiated enquiries regarding wildlife crime within West Lothian. Although some enquiries are protracted and still ongoing, a conviction and a 4-figure fine was secured against an OCG nominal in relation to badger baiting and habitat destruction. Following on from this, partnership working commenced with SSPCA in relation to sick and ill puppies being sold to unsuspecting families within West Lothian. This investigation is ongoing.

During Q1, CID officers conducted a traffic stop on a prominent West Lothian OCG nominal. During this, an offensive weapon was seized along with monies suspected to be the proceeds of crime. The 27 year old driver was also arrested on suspicion of driving whilst under the influence of drugs and is to be reported to COPFS for numerous offences.

Although Q4 2022/23 or Q1 2023/24 figures have not been provided, previous figures are available through the following link, these can be filtered down to individual wards:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/road-traffic-collision-data/>

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/>

<https://www.scotland.police.uk>