



"Keeping People Safe"

Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum – 19th August 2014 Police Report

Inspector Carol Wood

Detailed below is an update on performance, activities and issues across the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum ward areas for the period up to 31 July 2014.

Performance in the Teviot & Liddesdale Area

Crimes Groups 1 to 5 (Ref: Measuring Our Performance)						
Area	This year to date			Last year to date		
	Rec.	Sol.	% Sol	Rec.	Sol.	% Sol
Teviot & Liddesdale Ward	195	102	52.31%	228	140	61.40%
Scottish Borders	1022	547	53.52%	1091	605	55.45%

These figures show that the Teviot & Liddesdale Wards recorded a 14% reduction in reported crime compared to the same period last year with a 9.09% decrease in solvency over the same timescale. Whilst I would like to have seen a more positive solvency rate, we cannot overlook the fact that there have been 33 fewer crimes recorded. This indicates there are fewer victims of crime, which can only be a good thing.

NB: The above statistics are as recorded on 31st July 2014. There will be slight variations throughout the year due to the recording mechanism in that some crimes reported in July may not be detected until weeks or months later and similarly, there will be detected crimes in the July figure that were reported earlier in the year. It will not be until the end of the reporting year that the accurate crime figures will be officially published.

There is no doubt July 2014 has been a challenging month for Police Scotland with a number of officers abstracted from their areas to provide security and policing arrangements for the Commonwealth Games. That said there remained strong resilience with local officers due to the restrictions on annual leave and significant local planning to ensure there was no detriment to local policing services.

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The combined Ward Plan Priorities are:

Anti Social Behaviour – Groups of Youths and Dog Fouling

- There are currently 25 individuals at various stages of the anti social behaviour process.
- During July there were four Anti Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Tickets issued.
- Targeted patrols by our Community Officers continue in areas where dog fouling has previously been identified and there were two fixed penalty notices issued in relation to this during July.

Tackling Substance Misuse – Underage Drinking

- There were 37 stop and searches carried out during July 2014, which resulted in five seizures of alcohol from underage drinkers.
- Nine items of drugs were recovered through 'street searches' during the same time period. This is a priority area for us but we will always adopt a targeted, intelligence led approach.

Rural Theft

- There was a break-in to a business premises in Newcastleton at the end of July where some hand held radios, a laptop and power tools were stolen. Our Community Investigation Unit who are a dedicated group of officers dedicated to carrying out enquiries into domestic and business break-ins, are investigating this report.
- During July we highlighted that there has been an increase in the amount of incidents being reported where horses in fields have had their manes or their tails pleated. Messages have been issued through social media for horse owners to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity near to their horses or land.
- Community Officers will continue to visit itinerant scrap metal dealers along with internal and external partners to establish if any criminal activity is taking place. We liaise closely with neighbouring forces, sharing information to assist in tackling rural crimes, particularly in relation to travelling criminals.

Making Our Roads Safer – Speeding and Inconsiderate Driving

- We carried out 17 road checks throughout both ward areas during July.
- Three conditional offers were issued to motorists for speeding offences and one conditional offer was given for driving whilst using a mobile phone. Numerous warnings were also administered to other drivers who weren't going quite fast enough to get a ticket.
- There were four warnings administered for the anti social use of a vehicle during July. This is an area we are looking to make progress in and through liaison with our roads policing officers, particular attention will be given to Hawick over the next few weeks due to a number of complaints we have received relating to this area. I would encourage members of the public to phone in to report any incidents they witness and note down registration numbers when possible, which would assist with follow-up police enquiries.

Other Incidents of Note

Although the incident happened in June, I would like to mention the assault and robbery of an elderly resident of Hawick. This was an awful incident and due to the quick actions and alertness of a member of the public, the male responsible was quickly identified, detained, charged and kept for court. Thankfully incidents of this type are rare within our area and it is re-assuring to know we can rely on the public to assist with enquiries into serious matters.

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As a result of some pro-active enquiry carried out by your community officer in Newcastleton and information provided by the local community, a substantial cannabis farm was located in a remote location near to the village. Two persons have been charged with supply of class B drugs. Those involved in this cultivation had links to serious and organised crime in the Manchester area. The success of this recovery is down to the positive relationship our local officer has with his community and the confidence they have in coming forward to report their suspicions. The value of this recovery is anywhere between £17000 and £50000. This was an excellent result and our thanks go out the local community for their assistance.

A pro-active multi-agency intervention was carried out in a particular area of Burnfoot where a number of calls had been received and some residents were being subjected to anti social behaviour. The police, ASB unit and the registered social landlord spoke with a number of residents, gave out advice leaflets and also spoke with groups of youths, highlighting to them the effect their behaviour had on their community. This type of intervention is something that we have employed on a number of occasions and highlights the positives of multi agency working. It gives members of the community confidence to report matters and explains how the process works.

Policing Plans

Your Multi Member Ward plans can be accessed via the Police Scotland website through the following links:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/scottish-borders/hawick-and-denholm/>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/scottish-borders/hawick-and-hermitage/>

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this report please feel free to contact me.

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