



Community Council Report

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Banff, Macduff and surrounding areas during the period 1 February 2020 to 29 February 2020.

The report aims to highlight emerging issues in your area, and to provide crime prevention advice and guidance to Community Council members and residents you represent. Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, help create safer communities and respond effectively to local concerns.

Community Policing Priorities

Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder:

A male has been charged in relation to being found in possession of a small quantity of controlled drugs in Banff. Another male has been found to be in possession of controlled drugs in Portsoy and has been cautioned and charged accordingly.

A male was stopped and search by officers in Banff and found to be in possession of an offensive weapon. A further male has also been reported for threatening and abusive behaviour.

A young female has been charged with assault following an incident in Banff. A young male has also been charged in relation to a wilful fire-raising in Banff.

Two Persons have been charged in relation to a vandalism to a commercial premises in Portsoy. Enquiries continue surrounding other allegations of vandalism.

Acquisitive Crime:

A male has been cautioned and charged in relation to two theft by shopliftings at two separate shops in the town. A few days later he was at it again and was arrested and kept in custody to appear at court. He was also found to be in possession of controlled drugs when arrested.

Unrelated to the above, two males have separately been charged and reported for two theft by shopliftings in Banff.

Enquiries continue surrounding other crimes of dishonesty.

Road Safety & road crime:

A driver has been reported regarding careless driving, driving without a valid MOT and failing to wear his seatbelt. Several motorists have been caught committing various Road Traffic Offences including 2 that were driving without an

MOT on the A98 and in Banff town centre respectively, 2 x Careless driving in Macduff and on the A98 and driving without Insurance on the A947.

A driver was also caught driving a motor vehicle without insurance and no MOT. Their partner will also be reported for allowing them to do so as the vehicle belonged to them.

A young male has been cautioned and charged with Culpable and Reckless Conduct in Banff, when he threw an item at a passing car.

Serious and Organised Crime:

We would encourage concerned members of the public to continue to furnish the Police with information regarding any suspicious activity or persons.

More 'ditch the dealer' leaflets have been delivered in and around addresses that are of interest to Police.

The public are reminded that they can call Police Scotland on 101, or if they wish to remain anonymous CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111, if they have any information regarding suspected drug dealing activity or any other type of criminality.

Community Engagement & Reassurance

A number of operations are being planned to tackle Road Traffic offences, anti-social behaviour, underage drinking and licensing offences. More details will be made available once these operations have concluded.

Introduction - Inspector Steven McDonald, Banff

I have newly taken over as the Banff & Buchan West Community Policing Team Inspector, replacing Inspector Colin Taylor who this month, retires after 30 years' service. His dedication to policing is commendable and I will strive to continue the good work done by him, wishing him all the luck in his retirement.

I guess then it's time to introduce myself. Over my service I've worked in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire, in a number of roles including Community Policing, CID, Intelligence and Serious Crime. Having enjoyed many a summer holiday at Banff Links Caravan Park and having familial links to the area, I am well aware how great a place this is to live and work and along with my team, I will continue to work hard to provide a high level of service you expect, addressing the issues that are important to you.

What allows us to address these issues however, is dependent on us knowing about them and it is vitally important that the public, including Community Councils and stakeholders tell us about the things going on in your area that affect you, for example anti-social behaviour in many forms, such as drug dealing, careless driving, vandalism and youth annoyance. Please do not assume we may already know about something and I encourage you to spread the word in your communities to contact the Police with anything you think we should know about that causes you concern. Please do not think that any piece of information is too trivial or that you may not wish to bother us. You never know what we do or do not already know and your piece of information may be the 'important piece of a jigsaw' we are looking to complete.

Lastly, I'd like to say that we do not work alone and I, along with the whole of Police Scotland, see real benefit in working together with our partners to get the best outcomes for the people we serve. I will continue to enhance our

partnership working with Community Groups, the Local Authority, Health and Fire & Rescue but to name a few and look forward to you as the public seeing real benefit from this.

I'm very much looking forward to the months ahead and to making my own contribution to keeping you safe.

Steven McDonald

Media Article from Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson, North East Divisional Commander- Reductions in crimes recorded across North East, published 24 February 2020

The North East continues to be one of the safest places to live in Scotland.

A reduction in numerous types of crime were recorded during the last Quarter 3 period compared to the previous year (April through to December end), including a decrease in crimes of dishonesty as a result of targeted proactivity being carried out across North East Police Division every day. In particular, there has been a further reduction in house-breakings (18% decrease from 649 to 532) and motor vehicle crime (down 16% from 753 to 628).

Serious assault and robberies have also decreased compared to the same period last year, with detection rates remaining high (over 90%) when compared to the national average. Numerous high-visibility operations have been launched in recent months to tackle violent crime to send a very clear message to offenders that it will not be tolerated.

The Police Scotland 2019-20 Quarter 3 Performance Report will be presented to the Scottish Police Authority's Policing Performance Committee on Thursday (27 February).

Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent Campbell Thomson said: "It is our commitment to ensure that the North East continues to be one of the safest and most welcoming areas of the country to live, work and visit, therefore the priorities that communities tell us matters to them the most is the driving force behind our activity.

"These figures serve as a benchmark for the rest of the year as our police officers, staff and special constables continue to identify and explore opportunities for innovative Policing whilst drawing on the support of national resources including Roads Policing, Operational Support and the Specialist Crime Division. Collaborative working with our public sector partners is also crucial and we are looking forward to the opening of Buchan House in Peterhead later this year. This project along with others in the pipeline are prime examples of building on the strong working relationship we already have with all our partners, both public and voluntary, to collectively deliver an enhanced service to the local community."

Total drug offences, in particular drug supply, have also increased – a welcome rise as officers continue to carry out enforcement activity every day to remove illegal substances from our communities, identify organised crime groups and tackle drug-related crime that impacts so significantly in communities. An operation launched to tackle 'cuckooing' in the Buchan Corner also continues, with 53 people reported within the first year resulting in sentences of more than 20 years.

The initiative, called Operation Corner, is designed to identify vulnerable people exploited by criminals. So far, 64% of people identified as victims have engaged with support services and this preventative work is now being progressed in both Aberdeen and Moray with partners.

Group 1 crimes (non-sexual crimes of violence) have increased however 264 of these crimes were recorded under the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 which was not accounted for last year. This new law is making a significant difference, with many victims of domestic abuse who may not have been identified before now gaining access to the support they need. Nationally there have been 1,313 crimes recorded against the new Act.

Chief Superintendent Thomson added: "I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the public and our partners for your support, which is very much appreciated. It is only with the support you give us and the information and intelligence you provide that we can collectively work together to ensure our communities remain safe places to live, work and visit."

For more information visit - www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/

Contact Us

Please also remember you can communicate with us using any of the following:

- ☎ 101 – Non emergency;
- ✉ Email - BanffDistrictCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk
- ☎ Twitter - @NorthEPolice
- ☎ Facebook – www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision
- ☎ Web – www.scotland.police.uk
- ☎ 999 – Emergency;
- ☎ 0800 555 111 – CrimeStoppers.

Constable Graeme Smith
Community Beat Officer
Banff and Buchan West Community Policing Team
Date: 29 February 2020