

Dundee City Council Policy and Resources Committee

18 March 2013

Report by Superintendent Brian Weir,
Dundee Local Policing Area
Tayside Police Community Policing Division

**SUBJECT: POLICE AND FIRE REFORM:
LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT**

**OPERATIONAL REPORT PART 1
1 DECEMBER 2012 – 31 JANUARY 2013**

Report No.132 -2013

<p>Abstract: The attached report provides members with background operational information to the performance information submitted separately to provide context.</p>
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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that members note and question the operational report.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide some context to the information provided in relation to performance and to elaborate on some of the work which has taken place within the Dundee Local Policing Area.

3 PERFORMANCE

3.1 Crime

- 3.1.1** In December 2012 and January 2013, 37 serious violent crimes occurred in Dundee. Since April 2012 there have been 88 fewer serious violent crimes than the same period last year, which represents 88 fewer victims. This equates to a 36.7% reduction.

- 3.1.2** These results are encouraging, however, it should be remembered that the actions of violent criminals can significantly impact on these figures. For example previous experience has shown that one individual who seeks to finance his lifestyle through the commission of street robberies can significantly impact on the performance in this area. Tayside Police are currently working with Criminal Justice Social Work to identify how we can deal with violent offenders more effectively on their release from prison. A pilot initiative is being trialled in Perth which, if successful, will be rolled out to Dundee.

3.1.3 Dundee Officers are currently refreshing Operation Centresafe as it has been recognised that the dynamics of the night time economy are changing with more premises opening later and more people choosing to drink at home prior to coming into the city centre.

3.1.4 There has been a welcome reduction in crimes of Indecency (including Rape, Assault with intent to rape, Indecent Assault, etc) with crimes of this nature have fallen by 15.3% from 196 to 166 compared to last year – a reduction of 30 victims. The increase in detections from 54.1% to 73.5% is also welcomed.

3.1.5 The reported increase in domestic housebreaking has abated, however, the significant rise in this crime type since April 2012 means that at the end of January 2013 there were 88 more victims than this time last year. The reduction and investigation of domestic housebreaking remains a priority with CID, Community and Response Police Officers, Local Authority Community Wardens, Crime Analysts and the Community Safety Partnership all working together to detect and reduce this crime.

3.2 Drugs

3.2.1 There have been 7 drug related deaths recorded in December and January. The number of accidental overdoses and deaths attributed to Drug abuse remains a concern. We continue to work with partners within the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to identify suitable interventions to deal with problematic drug users.

3.3 Domestic Abuse

3.3.1 Domestic Abuse continues to be a high priority. Tayside Police has formed very strong links with Barnardos, Dundee Womens Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre and the Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership to ensure that those affected by domestic abuse are getting the best possible support and protection.

3.4 Road Policing

3.4.1 This time of year always presents challenges to motorists when having to cope with the weather and ever changing road conditions. During December and January police in Dundee recorded 312 minor collisions within the city, this is a slight reduction on last years total when 324 collisions were recorded.

3.4.2 Each month the Roads Policing Unit in Dundee run Operation Bandit which is a targeted Operation to deal with criminal use of the road network. This operation is often run in partnership with VOSA and Customs and Excise and allows all agencies to work together sharing knowledge and expertise.

4 NOTABLE EVENTS

4.1 The Festive Policing Campaign took place during December and January, the main objective of this campaign is to increase visible policing across Dundee.

Focus is given to retail areas and areas with a recognised night-time economy. Additional resources are committed to this initiative with the use of Special Constables and targeted use of officers who carry out non- front facing roles. This is an annual campaign and is shown to be effective in ensuring that there is no significant increase in crime during this busy period.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no staffing issues as a result of this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

8.1 This report does not have any impact on the environment.

9. SUMMARY

9.1 The attached report updates members regarding significant operational matters and gives context to the performance of the local policing area.

10. COMPLIANCE

Is the proposal;

(a) Human Rights Act 1998 compliant? YES

(b) Equality & Diversity compliant? YES