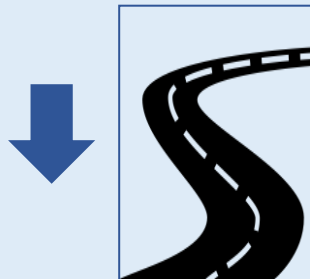


# Keeping People Safe in Argyll & Bute

Our Purpose:- To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland

## Road Safety & Road Crime


DRPU activity continues to focus on the priority routes; A82, A83 and A85.



Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr 3 last year, the total number of road casualties recorded YTD has reduced significantly from 175 to 68. Fatal road collisions have reduced from 8 to 4 and both serious and slight injuries have decreased from 77 to 28 and 89 to 35, respectively.

The significant reduction in road casualties has afforded officers the opportunity to be more proactive which has resulted in significant increases in the detection of insurance offences (+91) and careless driving offences (+61) while speeding offences continue to see a 13.6% reduction (-96) and dangerous driving offences have reduced by 45.6% (-36). Overall number of road traffic offences recorded has increased by 3.5% compared to Qtr 3 last year.

## Violence & Antisocial Behaviour



Overall violent crime is down 17.8% YTD. There has been a marginal increase in Group 1 crimes of violence with 72 crimes recorded YTD compared to 64 (+8) last year. Both serious assaults and robberies have increased slightly by 1 and 3 crimes respectively year on year. Two murders have also been recorded versus 0 last year. Both crimes were the result of disputes between males known to each other.


Approx. 64% of crimes of violence occurred in a private space and in the majority the victim knew the offender.

741 stop searches have been carried out YTD, which equates to 82 per month.

Public reported ASB increased by 47.4% YTD which equates to 1215 more incidents being recorded. This is largely due to a substantial increase in public nuisance incidents, most of which related to persons breaching Covid-19 guidelines. YTD ASB crimes reduced by 16% (n=237). Common assaults decreased by 19.8% (n=103), approx. 54% of all assaults occurred in a private space and 25% were domestic related. Crimes relating to breach of the peace and threatening & abusive behaviour have also seen a notable reduction of 18.9% (n=138).

The detection rate for violent crime overall is down slightly but remains high at 72.2%. Both murder crimes have been detected and the detection rate for serious assaults has increased to 100%. The detection rate for common assault remains relatively unchanged at 73.8%.

## Public Protection



Group 2 sexual crimes show an increase of 9.7% compared to last year, which equates to 15 more crimes being recorded. Rape crimes have reduced by 52% from 40 to 19. Indecent/sexual assaults have reduced from 61 to 57. Approx' 28% of all sexual crimes were non-recent reports (n=48). Crimes relating to indecent images/communication continue to rise - 34 to 78 YTD. 49 of the 78 involved children were aged 10 to 15 years. This trend is reflected nationally, and we continue to work with partners to raise awareness and develop interventions and advice.

83% of sexual crimes occurred in a private space, mainly residential

62% of sexual crimes were committed by persons known to the victim

The detection rate for Group 2 sexual crime has reduced to 46.2% from 53.2% last year. The detection rate for rape crime has increased from 55% last year to 63.2%.



At the end of Qtr 3 there were 82 missing person reports recorded within Argyll & Bute which equates to around 19 per month.

Compared to figures recorded at the end of Qtr 3 last year, domestic abuse incidents in Argyll and Bute show a marginal increase of 2.8% from 502 to 516, while the number of crimes have reduced by 19.5% from 395 to 318.

YTD the number of incidents recorded where an Adult / Child Concern has been raised has decreased by 6.4% (n=145). Adult concerns (inc. Domestic Abuse) have increased from 1152 to 1225 and child concerns have decreased by 6% (n=94).

At the end of Qtr 3, user satisfaction results show that levels of public confidence in Argyll & West Dunbartonshire remain high at 73%. Furthermore, figures also indicate 85% of persons were satisfied with how police dealt with their incident.

YTD there have been 90 complaints about the Police recorded within Argyll & Bute, which is an increase from 62 in the same period last year.

## Argyll & Bute

**Local Policing Plan (2020 – 2023)**  
**Quarterly Report (Qtr 3 – 2020/21)**

## Major Crime & Terrorism



Across Argyll & West Dunbartonshire 45 persons linked to serious and organised crime have been arrested and £775,808 seized under POCA.

Drug possession charges have increased by 10.6% from 338 to 374. Detections for drugs supply have reduced by 29.8% from 47 at the end of Qtr 3 last year to 33 this year.



In total 181 cyber-enabled crimes had been recorded within Argyll & Bute at the end of Qtr 3 which is significant increase from 50 in same period last year. 64 crimes related to online fraud, 48 to threatening messages sent via social media, 59 to indecent communication / images, 5 to extortion and 3 to breach of bail. In around a third of all cyber enabled crimes the victim knew the offender. To date 46 crimes have been detected.

## Acquisitive Crime



Vehicle crime reduced by 31%



Housebreaking No Change

The total number of acquisitive crimes recorded in A&B is down 14.6% on the same period last year. Fraud crimes have shown a concerning rise with 131 crimes recorded YTD compared to 66 last year. Social engineering frauds, online marketplace frauds and bank account takeovers have seen the biggest increase. It is highly likely this has been influenced by Covid-19 lockdown restrictions and resultant increase in online activity. Housebreaking crimes have remained consistent compared to the previous year with 68 reported YTD, while vehicle crimes have reduced by 31% (n=15).



The number of bogus crimes in A&B have increased from 17 last year to 49 this year. Most crimes recorded related to social engineering frauds involving bogus phone calls/emails and 1 related to a bogus salesperson.

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO REDUCE THE HARM CAUSED BY SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

We continue to work closely with the Argyll & Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to tackle substance misuse and the associated physical, mental and social harm this can cause.

Oban Police Station is a primary custody holding facility. We work with criminal justice and support staff to increase awareness, and signpost referral pathways, for people affected by drug and alcohol issues.

**ADULT PROTECTION**

There has been increase in adult concern calls which is often due to social isolation, unemployment and breakdown in relationships. This is particularly concerning given the current Covid-19 lockdown restrictions and is currently being looked at through the newly established Argyll & Bute Suicide Prevention Group, where police data is being shared to help focus the group on localised areas of concern. The group also aim to identify businesses and organisations where suicide prevention training can be offered to staff in the hope that this will increase community awareness of persons possibly in crisis and enable appropriate interventions to be taken and support put in place.

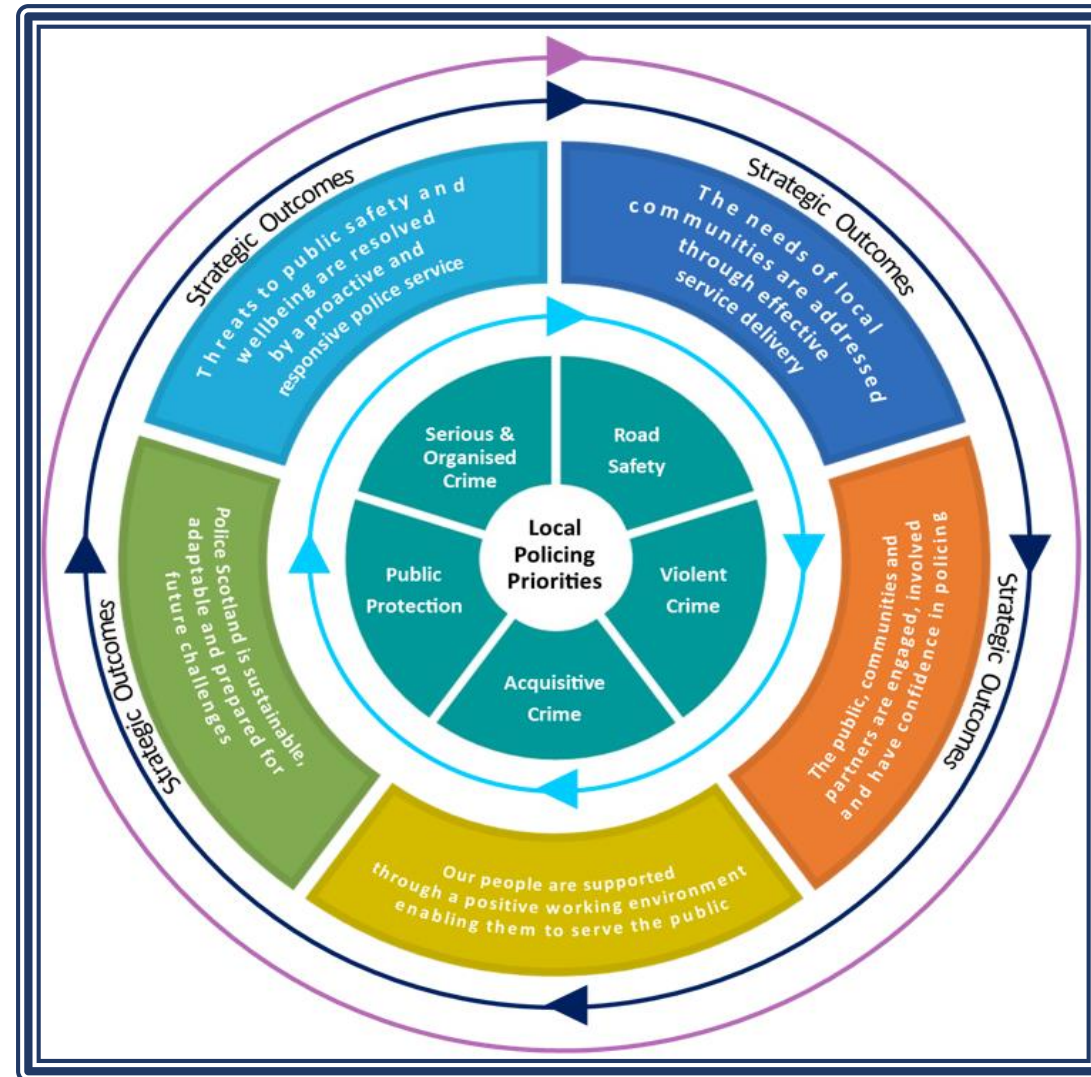
**FRAUD PREVENTION**

Partnership activity is ongoing in relation to fraud which can cause enormous harm within communities, particularly to those who are most vulnerable.

It is recognised that older adults are the least likely age group to report fraud. To combat fraud in older age groups, Police Scotland, Trading Standards, Third Sector Interface and HSCP have worked together in providing a "Cared for at Home" network which utilises the assistance of over 2,000 carers, befrienders and those carrying out repairs who have face to face contact with our older and vulnerable communities.

Carers are provided with real time "alerts" by Police Scotland and Trading Standards where there are local frauds or bogus activity and will pass this awareness on to their clients during face to face visits.

Funding is currently being sought for call blockers which will help prevent telephone fraud which have increased during Covid-19 due to people being at home and being more isolated. This will be a step forward in providing community reassurance and Police and Trading standards will be working together to install the devices for vulnerable people across Argyll and Bute.



**LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE CHANGE**

Police Scotland is participating in the Local Authority Climate Change Group to support sustainability opportunities and environmental initiatives. The group met for the first time in November with a number of initiatives discussed and ways of sharing information across partners and into local communities agreed. Future meetings are planned with a view to creating an action plan for sustainability that all partners can contribute to.

**POLICING COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS**

Police across Argyll & Bute continue to respond to reports and concerns across the area with regards to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Each area has a patrol matrix which is used to inform staff of any potential risk or increased threat. In particular increased patrol time has been spent at the ferry ports at Kennacraig and Oban in an effort to provide public reassurance, deter any unlawful travel to the Tier 3 island communities and assist Cal Mac staff where they have cause to challenge any persons boarding the ferries.

Planning is underway to prepare for the expected increase in visitor numbers to the area when Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed. We continue to work closely with colleagues in neighbouring divisions as well as partners involved in the management of the National Park, to develop a multi-agency response. This is supported by the work of the Rural Crime Forum where plans are being developed and information shared in relation to good practice which was found to be effective last summer.

**THE LITTLE THINGS MATTERS**

Further funding has been secured from the Police 'Little Things Matters' budget to assist in buying a number of items that would help officers across Argyll & Bute to carry out their roles more effectively, whilst also taking into consideration their overall wellbeing.

**SPECIALLY TRAINED OFFICERS**

Officers across the islands of Bute, Mull, Tiree and Islay have been trained in the use of Tasers, enhancing public and officer safety. Taser trained officers are also deployed from Dunoon, and preparation is underway to train and equip officers in Campbeltown and Lochgilphead.

**WELLBEING CHAMPIONS**

A number of officers and staff members have now been trained as Wellbeing Champions to offer support throughout the division. All Wellbeing Champions are available to talk to members of Police Scotland, offer support and also signpost them to other support networks and organisations with a wide range of issues that persons may encounter. The service that they provide is confidential and has previously proved to be beneficial to those that have approached a Wellbeing Champion for advice and support. Currently there are 5 Wellbeing Champions allocated across the division.