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E DIVISION

South East Edinburgh Community Policing Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 3 – Oct 2022



News and Updates

Meet the Community Officers

This quarter we want to introduce you to PC Jenkins, Neilson, Wong and McKendrick. These officers are based at St Leonards Police Stations on Team 3.

“We care about our community and are passionate about building strong and long lasting relationships. We thrive on community engagement and we regularly visit schools, attend events, engage with community groups, and carry out foot and mobile patrols in the area.

We are a small yet diverse team, with a shared wealth of policing experience, which we use to tackle local issues. We are heavily involved in partnership working, and we often link in with other organisations to adopt a whole system approach when dealing with any issues we face.

We know how disruptive anti-social behaviour can be, and we spend a lot of our time tackling it. We work closely with our partners to identify those responsible, along with patterns of behaviour or hotspot locations. We then direct our attention to where it is most needed.

Each team member has responsibility for one or more of the local primary schools. We use the opportunity to make junior school children aware of how to keep safe and the role of the police.

We are keen to explore different ways to reach out to our communities and this includes talking to people during our patrols or attending events across the area. If you see us walking down the street, please stop and say hello. We promise we don't bite.”

South Initiative Team (SIT)

The South Initiative Team and Community Officers have been busy acting on information you have provided. Several drug warrants have been enforced resulting in a number of addresses being searched.

We have charged several individuals with drug related offences and removed from your community, £50,000 worth of cocaine, £2,000 worth of cannabis and £49,000 obtained through criminal means.

We have also been carrying out proactive, intelligence led patrols targeting those involved in criminality. Below are some of the positive results we have had

- Male stopped in his car and found to have an offensive weapon in his possession.
- Disqualified driver without insurance stopped driving his car and was subsequently arrested
- Vehicle stopped and the driver was wanted on warrant, in possession on cannabis and failed the roadside drugs test. He was arrested and report for these offences
- Driver of a car stopped and found to have cocaine and cannabis in his possession. He subsequently failed the roadside drugs test and was arrested and charged.

The above are some examples of local officers acting on information provided by you.

Any information obtained is assessed and anonymised before being passed out. Local community intelligence is vital to the work we do, so please tell us of any suspected drug dealing or criminal behaviour in your area.

News and Updates

Community Engagement

We believe it is important that we engage with all members of our community. Since our last newsletter we have.

- ❖ Met with members of the local Jewish community to discuss community concerns. Local community officers also went to the Synagogue during High Holy Days.
- ❖ Carried out regular engagement with the Islamic community at our local Mosques.
- ❖ Attended Morningside Parish Church to chat to attendees during their local coffee morning. We listened to concerns and provided crime prevention advice.
- ❖ Attended at local libraries and community centres so officers could chat to local people and offer crime prevention advice.
- ❖ Attended various community events including the Edinburgh Festival of Cycling and the Gilmerton Community Centre Summer Fair.
- ❖ Security marked in excess of 50 pedal cycles during our bike marking and security events at George Square Library and Cameron Toll.

Operation Summer City

Throughout the month of August Operation Summer City saw a significant number of officers, both local and from across Scotland being deployed into the City Centre for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Officers not only patrolled relevant areas to make sure people were kept safe and able to enjoy the city safely. We also used the opportunity to raise awareness about acquisitive crime and general crime prevention.

Overall the operation was a success and we can now enjoy some respite before we do it again for the Edinburgh Winter Wonderland.



Local Partnership Working

During July, one of your Local Partnership Officers, PC Gray, organised a week of action with Places for People Scotland to tackle antisocial behaviour and address residents' concerns.

During the week, PC Gray, Housing Officer Nikki Bethune and Housing Manager Cheryl Neill held stalls and surgeries in various streets across the Gilmerton area. It was great to see so many local residents out and engaging with us.

We were able to offer appropriate advice and take targeted action to the issues raised. These included fly tipping, neighbour parking disputes, antisocial behaviour and information about potential drug dealing/taking.

This approach allowed partners to tackle ASB and neighbour disputes in the area, making a real difference to residents and reinforced our commitment to partnership working.



Road Safety – Operation SlowTime

Over the course of the last three months, we have carried out proactive road safety work within the area at a minimum of 40 different locations. The road safety work has been in response to community complaints, identified areas of concern and ensuring children are kept safe walking and cycling to and from school. Our road safety work consisted of:

- ☞ Before and after school patrols
- ☞ Roadside speed checks
- ☞ General road safety stops
- ☞ Proactive moving checks of vehicles
- ☞ Operation Closepass (overtaking cyclists safety)
- ☞ Ensuring the safety of young people participating in the bike bus
- ☞ Security bike marking events
- ☞ Roadside breath tests
- ☞ Police cycle patrols
- ☞ Partnership working with our colleagues at Edinburgh City Council and in our Road Policing Unit.



As a result of our activity, we have reported over 40 offences (some motorists were charged with multiple offences) and engaged with well over 100 motorists, offering educational road safety advice on a variety of matters. Offences have ranged from driving without insurance, licence or MOT to speeding and drunk driving.

Sergeant Grant Robertson, South East Community Policing Team said “We remain committed to keeping your roads safe. We will continue to carry out proactive road safety work across the area alongside our partners. Whilst we acknowledge the majority of motorists drive responsibly, everybody has a part to play in keeping our roads safe. You can help by driving to the road speed, but importantly road conditions along with parking responsibly and considerately. Cyclists are vulnerable road users, so please give them plenty space when overtaking, at least 1.5 metres.

Cyclists should remember that all road restrictions also apply to them. This includes traffic lights on red. Please stop and wait, do not cycle past a traffic light on red. This is an offence and places you and other road users at unnecessary risk.”

Bonfire Night – Operation Crackle

As we move into Halloween and Bonfire season we have already started preparations alongside partner agencies. We have an established and effective plan which will be put into motion to ensure our communities are kept safe.

We will be carrying out a wide range of preventative work in the run up and additional police officers will be deployed during the key times to make sure everyone is kept safe. Our preventative work includes:

- school talks alongside Scottish Fire and Rescue
- retail visits
- spotter patrols
- joint working with housing associations
- engagement with young people to encourage responsible behaviour
- liaising with community groups

Below is some useful advice to keep you, your communities and children safe:

- ✓ Do not allow your children or young people to handle, purchase or set off fireworks.
- ✓ Have a conversation with children and young people under your care about who they associate with and being involved in antisocial behaviour or disorder.
- ✓ Report to the police or CrimeStoppers any anti-social behaviour or disorder you witness or become aware of.
- ✓ Dispose of your rubbish appropriately leading up to and around 5th November, and do not leave wheelie bins outside unless waiting for an uplift.
- ✓ Report any material or waste build up to the City of Edinburgh Council
- ✓ Report any unauthorised fireworks sellers to the Police or CrimeStoppers
- ✓ Report any known unauthorised bonfires or firework displays by calling:

- City of Edinburgh Council t: 0131 200 2000
- Police Scotland t: 101
- CrimeStoppers, t: 0800 555 111

Home Security Advice

As we are approaching the busy festive period and experiencing darker nights, it is a good time to review security of your home. Things to consider, do you keep your keys in sight of a window? If you have an alarm do you use it every time you go out or is it zoned? Have you recorded all of the serial numbers for your electrical equipment?

The following tips could help prevent you and your house from being targeted by opportunistic criminals:

- Ensure your locks are tested to British Standard or meets the needs of your insurance company. Keep doors and windows locked, especially if out of view and/or on the ground level.
- Keep car keys secure and hidden at all times.
- If you are out whilst it is dark, consider fitting light timers or leaving a light on. Fit and use outside security lights, either motion sensor or dusk to dawn – this comes on automatically when it is dark.
- Window locks should be fitted where appropriate and used all the time. Do not leave the key in the lock.
- Mark all the electrical equipment with an ultraviolet marker pen.
- At the front of the house hedges or trees should be trimmed or cropped so as not to provide cover for thieves.
- Laptop computers and mobile phones should be locked away or removed from view. Add tracking software to smart phones, laptops and Ipads to aid in the recovery of these items.
- Consider investing in a safe or strong box for storage of cash and valuables. A safe should be securely fixed to the fabric of the building and should only be used for short-term storage of cash.
- Consider installing an intruder alarm system. The alarm should always be activated when going out, even if only for an hour.
- Secure your shed and outbuildings. We recommend Secure by Design products. Consider the use of a shed alarm; these can be purchased at a number of police stations or online.
- Don't leave tools or objects in the garden as these can be used by the thieves to force entry into your home.
- Consider joining Neighbourhood Watch Scotland.
- If you have a bicycle, use a gold secure padlock when left unattended. If you store your bike in the shed we recommend using a ground anchor.
- We do not recommend you buy goods or services from any doorstep callers. Politely say no and close the door.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously near to your premises please contact the police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of any person(s) or vehicle involved. **Please call 999 if an emergency and urgent police assistance is required or 101 to report the matter to the police.**

News and Updates

Off Road Motor Bikes

Residents will likely be aware of reports of antisocial behaviour involving off road motorbike, along with motorcycle thefts. Operation Soteria was our multi-agency response to tackling these issues.

The Operation was multi-themed in nature, underpinned by crime prevention activities, proactive patrols by specially trained local officers and the active targeting of offenders.

The operation saw a number of offenders being identified and reported to the procurator fiscal and a reduction of reported incidents. Since June, city wide enquiries have led to the arrest of 35 individuals with significant links to motorcycle crime and the execution of five warrants. We have recovered 131 motorcycles, with a value in excess of £600,000. We know however there is further work to be done and we need your help.

If you are aware of anyone in your street who is riding an off road motorbike in a public place, let us know. Aside from the obvious safety concerns, it is illegal. You can report to us via 101, using our online reporting form or telephoning CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

Looking Ahead

During December we will be involved with Operation Winter City which is predominately based in the City Centre area. Local officers will be patrolling the area to make sure those enjoying the festive activities are kept safe.

As residents start their Christmas shopping, we would encourage you to take steps to protect your belongings. Be aware of fake products and emails advertising a win or discounts. Keep your valuables safe when carrying them about. Don't leave any shopping bags unattended.

Park in busy well-lit areas and keep belongings out of view within your car. Plan any nights out – stick with friends and know how you are getting home. For more information go to the Police Scotland web page and search 'Festival Safety'.

December will see the launch of our festive road safety campaign. There will be a heightened presence across the area. Various activities are being planned which focus on speed checks, roadside breath tests and general road safety.

To keep up to date with updates and forthcoming plans, follow us on twitter @EdinPoISE



The team out in the community





E DIVISION

About Us



Local Area Commander:

Chief Inspector Murray Tait

SE Edinburgh Community Policing Team:

Inspector Carlyn Simpson

Sergeant Barry Mercer

Sergeant Grant Robertson

8 Community Officers dedicated to community issues in the Southside/Newington and Meadows/Morningside wards of South East Edinburgh

2 School Link Officers

2 Local Partnership Officers

A proactive, plain-clothes South Initiative Team.

Contact Us:



101 for non emergencies



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@EdinPoISE



Edinburgh Police Division



www.scotland.police.uk