



**POLICE**  
SCOTLAND  
POILEAS ALBA

# E DIVISION

## South East Edinburgh Community Policing Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 4 – Dec 2022



# News and Updates

## Meet the team

This month we want to introduce you to the Community Team based at Howdenhall Police Station. Barry Mercer supervises an enthusiastic team of officers who have a wealth of experience. Constables Cairns, Wilson, Lisk, Flynn and Kelly are the team of 5 officers who regularly can be seen out and about on foot in the Liberton and Gilmerton areas.

Between them they have years of experience in Community Policing and have built up a wide network of local partners and agencies who all work together to improve the local area. The officers recognise the importance of working with the local residents and partners to make differences that will benefit as many people as possible. For example, PC Cairns has built up an excellent relationship with a number of departments in the council and they often tackle issues together, sharing their knowledge and experience. PC Cairns stated "Partnership working and community engagement is vital for community police work and we are proud to work with so many people in the area".

Each of the officers are allocated work for which they have responsibility and take the lead on. These include

- Being contacts for the Primary Schools, promoting road safety and pupil engagement
- Engagement with young people at the various youth clubs and groups in the area
- Working with staff and residents at the young person's units
- Tackling antisocial behaviour in hotspot areas

We are also welcoming PC Gillie to the team in January as she takes over the school link role from PC Swanston. PC Gillie will cover Liberton and Gracemount High Schools.

If you need to discuss any issues with the team please contact us via the details at the end of this newsletter.

## Community Engagement

The following is just an example of some of the community groups we have visited and some of the work we have been involved in over the last few months. We are committed to assisting and engaging with as many different sections of our community as possible and recognise the benefits this provides. If you have any events or requests to speak with community officers then please get in touch.

- We attended the 139 Braids Scout group meeting in the Fernieside area. It was great to speak to the leaders and scouts and hear about the fantastic work they have done in raising over £16,000 worth of items for the local food banks.
- We regularly visit youth clubs including the Valley Park Community Centre, Open All Hours and the Gracemount Leisure Centre. We also attended the Sciennes Christmas fair recently and it was great to see so many people there.
- Officers also attended at various places of worship including the Central Mosque, Edinburgh Synagogue and several Church of Scotland premises. As well as engaging with local leaders we provided information and advice on personal safety and home security.
- We have been carrying out ASB and anti-theft patrols with staff at Scotmid. Officers have been deployed in the Tollcross and Gracemount areas to detect and disrupt those involved in criminal behaviour.
- Helped with the James Gillespie's Primary School bike bus, ensuring that pupils who cycle to school can get there in a safe manner.

# News and Updates

## Local Partnership Working

In November, a day of action was organised by Local Partnership Officer, PC Gray, who worked with Hillcrest Futures in response to reported drug misuse within and around a premises.

Communal areas within the building were checked by a police dog, whilst officers went door to door to speak with residents. Intelligence was gathered that supported an informed and proactive approach to drug misuse in the area.

The Violent Offender Watch were also present, engaging with staff and residents and highlighting services that support people suffering with substance misuse. Officers provided advice and signposting for positive future steps to safeguard individuals. Change, Grow, Live also attended, and with their experience and knowledge of the issues addiction can cause were invaluable partners.

Your community team made a substantial donation of clothing to Bruntsfield Clothesline. This is a charity shop ran by Hillcrest Futures that provides homeless people in the community with clothes, helping them to stay warm during the winter months and preparing them for job interviews.



## Drug-related Deaths

We are committed to working with partners to reduce the number of drug-related deaths and near fatal overdoses in Scotland.

The Local Partnership Officers have been working with partner agencies, identifying those in your communities at risk through substance misuse and referring them on for urgent and bespoke support. We regularly contribute to meetings where the needs of individuals are discussed, and often attend home visits with housing officers and substance misuse workers.

## Drug and Alcohol Outreach Worker

The Partnership Officers are working with Cheryl Neill, the Places for People Housing manager and Change, Grow, Live as they launch a new Drug and Alcohol Outreach Worker for the SE. This project will deliver an assertive outreach worker who will seek to provide the catalyst to break the substance misuse cycle, improving health outcomes and quality of life whilst reducing harm and wider community impact.

This multi-agency approach will be supported by the Community Team and we will work together to identify those in most need of support. By offering specific support to those with addiction issues it is anticipated that this will have a positive effect on their living environment and provide improvements across the local community.

## Naloxone

In December, Edinburgh division began its roll out of Naloxone, which your community team will now be carrying in the form of a nasal spray. Police Scotland officers will be trained and equipped with Naloxone. But what is it and what does it do?

Naloxone is an emergency, first aid response to opioid/opiate-related drug overdose situations. It reverses the respiratory suppression caused by opioids, stimulating a person's breathing; it can buy someone enough time to allow ambulance clinicians to arrive and provide professional medical care.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December Naloxone was used for the first time in Edinburgh division, PC Gunderson, who had only received his personal issue Naloxone that day, was able to administer it as a first aid response and ensure the casualty was passed into the care of paramedics.

Over 500 Naloxone kits have been issued to officers in Edinburgh and more kits will be delivered in the coming months for the remaining officers.

# News and Updates

## Op Crackle

Bonfire Night was one of our busiest nights of the year and put significant demands on police and partner agencies. Op Crackle was our multi agency plan to tackle and reduce firework related calls and ASB. Amongst the partners we worked with were the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, City of Edinburgh Council, Places for People Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and Education services.

In the lead up to Bonfire Night, local community officers were involved in a number of early intervention tactics to reduce the amount of firework related calls in the South East area. We carried out

- Safety talks with the fire service at local high schools
- Early intervention and home visits to young people, highlighting the dangers of fireworks and that it was illegal to be in possession of fireworks if under 18
- Joint walkabouts with Social Landlords providing literature and advice to residents
- Positive engagement with young people at youth clubs
- Facilitated an organised trip for a group young people, allowing them to experience a positive bonfire night
- Retailer's visits reminding them of their obligations
- Assisted with an 8 week fire skills course which ran on the lead up to bonfire night
- Early spotting and dousing of bonfires
- Creation and promotion of dispersal zones



On bonfire night community officers, supported by response and specialist officers were deployed to Operation Crackle to reduce firework related calls and criminality. We maintained a high visibility presence across the SE area and enforced the disposal zones that had been granted in the Gracemount, Gilmerton and Moredun areas. There were small pockets of disorder in the area but with the advance work and having officers on the ground meant we were able to respond quickly. Overall calls to the SE were lower than 2022 and 17 dispersal orders were issued.



## Festive Drink/Drug Drive Campaign

During December and January your community team have been involved in road checks and high visibility patrols. They have been carrying out static and mobile patrols to ensure that all road users are driving safely and not putting themselves or any other person at risk.

Sergeant Paul Gray of the South East Community Team said "Road safety remains a priority for us, and we remain committed to identifying road users who do not drive within the confines of the law. Driving whilst under the influence of alcohol and other substances is dangerous and reckless, and can often contribute to serious or fatal collisions.

Remember, if you have been drinking alcohol you could still be over the limit the morning after. Don't risk it. If you know, or have suspicions, that someone is driving under the influence, please report it to Police Scotland immediately via 101 or 999 if it is ongoing. Help us to keep your roads safe this Christmas."

**#DontRiskIt**

# Local Partnership & Initiative fund awards

Over the past few months we have been delighted to help out several local groups with funding from the Local Partnership & Initiative fund. This fund is aimed at groups and organisations that focus on community empowerment, engagement and collaboration.

The Valley Park Community Centre is run in partnership with Dunedin Canmore Youth Project and the council. The centre has an excellent reputation within the local community and is very proactive in its engagement with the local youths. The currently run a Monday and Tuesday evening youth club and are looking at increasing this with additional days.

To assist the youth club we were awarded funds to purchase equipment for them. Working in partnership with youth development officer, David Aitchison, footballs, boxing gloves, punch bags, guitars, air fryers and kitchen grills were bought. The sports items will assist by providing more options for those who use the club. The kitchen items will help to promote a healthy lifestyle and cooking skills.

This award was also supported by South East Community Alcohol Partnership who also donated an extra £250.00 towards the items.

Community Police will continue to work with the club and this has created an excellent opportunity to establish better partnership working, increased engagement with young people in the area and improve community wellbeing. We will continue our partnership led approach to tackle antisocial behaviour, promote personal responsibility by providing a variety of diversionary activities.

With another award from the Local Partnership & Initiative fund we were able to provide equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh Schemes running at Liberton and Gracemount High Schools. Both of these groups are growing in numbers and we were able to provide fresh equipment to replace some older kit as well as new rucksacks, compasses and shelters. The leaders of both groups were delighted and stated that they would be used for many more groups who complete the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in years to come.

Finally, we also donated 80 sets of bike lights to Craigour, St Katherines, Gracemount, Liberton, St Peters, Sciennes, Prestonfield and Bruntfield Primary Schools. Staff at the schools were delighted to give these to pupils who use their bikes to get to school, ensuring that they can Be Bright and Be Seen.



# Community Alcohol Partnership

December marks the one year anniversary of the SE Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP). This partnership lead initiative primarily focuses on the dangers of underage drinking, providing appropriate education and information on the topic. We have been working on reducing youth ASB associated with alcohol consumption, improving alcohol education for young people and developing a responsible retailing ethos which embraces the Challenge 25 scheme. Here are some of the CAP work we have been involved in over the past few months.

Movies and Mocktails night. Promoting non-alcoholic drinks to young people whilst providing information on personal safety and how alcohol affects someone under 18. This was followed up by a showing of "Smashed" – an interactive drama presentation where the young people present dictate the story by making choices as the film progresses.

Working with the Alcohol Education Trust to deliver inputs to high school pupils at James Gillespies, St Thomas, Liberton and Gracemount High Schools. These sessions are interactive and encourage debate between the young people. With awards from the CAP we have been able to purchase additional educational items. We have also provided packages for parents and carers to inform them about the dangers of underage drinking and how to address any concerns.

Over the Halloween period and in the run up to Christmas we have been working with local retailers to ensure they know their obligations as alcohol license holders. We have been giving advice on "Proxy Purchasing" and what to look out for. It is a criminal offence to buy alcohol for those under 18.

The pupils at Liberton High School designed posters showing the dangers of underage drinking. Two of the posters have been turned into 3ft high bollard covers that are displayed across the area so please look out for them.

As we move into the New Year we will continue the CAP and looking to further enhance our partnership working so please check out our Twitter page for updates.



# Seasonal Advice

## Winter Road Safety Advice

As we enter the winter months, our roads become increasingly dangerous. December has already brought us snowfall and freezing temperatures, which has contributed to testing driving conditions. **Remember, stopping distances can be up to 10 times longer in the ice!**

Here are some important tips to help keep yourself and others safe throughout the winter months:

- Plan for delays and allow more time for your journey
- Favour main roads that are more likely to have been cleared/gritted
- Windscreens can get increasingly dirty in the winter – ensure your screen wash is topped up and carry an emergency supply. Use an appropriate additive in your screen wash to avoid it freezing
- Clear all windows and lights of ice/snow, ensuring you can see properly and that other road users can see you
- In snowy conditions, clear all snow from your vehicle
- Make sure your vehicle is fuelled. Breaking down in the winter months is a lot more hazardous than in the summer.
- In icy/snowy conditions, drive slowly in a higher gear, and avoid heavy braking or accelerating.

Pack a winter survival kit for emergencies, including warm clothing, phone charger, snow shovel, first aid kit and a torch.

## Be Bright Be Seen

Now that the darker nights are upon us, it is important that all road users safeguard themselves by following the below guidance:

### When walking:

- Make sure you can be seen - use reflective or bright accessories
- Use safe crossing points

### When using a bicycle on roads:

- It's the law to use front and rear lights and reflectors
- We encourage you to use high visibility accessories
- Remember that cycling is not allowed on pavements, unless blue circular shared use signs are displayed.

### When driving:

- Look out for all road users
- Give plenty of space to cyclists
- Make sure all your lights are working
- Obey speed limits, take note of 20mph speed limits
- Clear windscreen and windows before starting your journey



PC Kelly attended the launch of this campaign in the Meadows. He handed out lights, reflective bands and rucksack covers to those passing by reminding them of the importance being bright and being seen!

# Goodbye 2022, Hello 2023

## Looking Ahead

All at the SE Community Policing Team would like to wish our local community a safe and prosperous 2023.

Remember if you are going out to celebrate at this time of year please ensure you, keep in the company of friends, have your mobile phone and a plan on how to get home. If you are drinking alcohol please moderate your intake and make informed decisions.

As we move into 2023 please check for updates on our social media pages and if you need to contact the team then the details are at the end of this newsletter.







# 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

**5 Community Officers dedicated to community issues in the Liberton and Gilmerton wards of South East Edinburgh**

**1 School Link Officers**

**2 Local Partnership Officers**

**A proactive, plain-clothes South Initiative Team.**

### Contact Us:



101 for non emergencies



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