

Meeting	Authority Meeting
Date	24 March 2021
Location	Video Conference
Title of Paper	Chief Constable's Report
Presented By	Chief Constable Iain Livingstone QPM
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached:	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Authority with information relating to the Police Service, policing and the state of crime.

This report is submitted as a Standing Agenda Item.

1. BACKGROUND

The purpose of Police Scotland is 'to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland' and our focus is Keeping People Safe. This paper is intended to provide Members with an update on key activity and events.

2. TACKLING THREAT AND RISK

SERIOUS VIOLENCE INCLUDING HOMICIDE

Murders of Bennylyn and Jellica Burke – Dundee

On Friday 5 March 2021, Police Scotland officers attended an address in Troon Avenue, Dundee as part of an investigation into the disappearance of Bennylyn Burke and her two daughters, who had been reported missing to Avon and Somerset Police. Within the address, officers traced one of the missing children along with a 50 year old man. Extensive enquiries were carried out involving local officers, detectives from the Major Investigation Team and other specialist support. As a result, the 50 year old man was arrested and subsequently appeared at Dundee Sheriff Court where he was remanded in custody in respect of the murders of Bennylyn Burke and her daughter Jellica.

On Thursday 18 March, as a result of further enquiries by detectives and forensic experts, the bodies of two people were discovered concealed within the house in Troon Avenue. The police investigation at the scene remains complex and challenging, and will continue for a period of time.

This was a tragic and distressing incident, and our thoughts remain with the Burke family and friends at this difficult time. Police Scotland continues to support the family in conjunction with colleagues from Avon and Somerset Police.

Murder of Valerijs Litvins – Glasgow

On Sunday 7 March, a 45 year old Lithuanian man died within a flat in Burgher Street, Glasgow. Following initial enquiries and post mortem examination, a murder investigation commenced, overseen by detectives from the Major Investigation Team. As a result of the investigation, on Thursday 18 March, a 47 year old man was arrested and charged with murder. He subsequently appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court where he was remanded in custody.

DRUGS SUPPLY AND HARM

On Friday 5 March, officers from Police Scotland's Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit and Road Policing Unit recovered approximately 70 kilogrammes of cocaine with an estimated street value of £3.8 million. The recovery followed an intelligence led operation involving the stop of a vehicle travelling north on the M74, and further searches at properties in Clydebank and Glasgow. During the operation, a 36 year old man was arrested and appeared at Airdrie Sheriff Court in respect of drug supply offences, where he was remanded in custody.

As a result of subsequent investigations, a further two men and two women aged between 26 and 57, were arrested and charged, also in respect of drug supply offences.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME

As highlighted in recent Police Scotland Performance Reports, there has been a significant reduction in the number of fatalities and those seriously injured on the roads during the 2020/21 reporting period.

On Thursday 25 February, Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 was published. The Framework sets ambitious targets for reducing road casualties, including a 50% reduction in fatalities by 2030. Police Scotland will work closely with a range of partners to support this ambition. We continue to prioritise visibility on the road network to positively influence driver behaviour and enhance road safety throughout Scotland, in addition to carrying out enforcement activity against people who put themselves, or other road users, at risk.

On Wednesday 17 March, Road Policing officers and Safety Camera Units carried out a day of action across Scotland to tackle speeding motorists. In addition to enforcement activity, which resulted in the detection of over 580 speeding offences, the day of action provided an opportunity to reinforce casualty reduction messages and highlight the risks associated with speeding.

3. DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES**PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE****Get Consent Campaign**

On Friday 26 February, Police Scotland launched the 'Get Consent' Campaign, focusing on rape within established relationships, or

committed by someone known to the victim. With support from key partners, the campaign will run for a period of six weeks on a variety of platforms, and is designed to educate perpetrators and those who pose a risk of offending, through the simple message that irrespective of the circumstances, sex without consent is rape.

Naloxone – Test of Change

Police Scotland is committed to proactively tackling problem drug use in our communities through harm reduction, as we continue to target and pursue those organised crime groups who exploit vulnerable people and communities through the supply of controlled drugs. As previously reported, following careful consideration and consultation, we introduced a Test of Change for the carriage and use of Naloxone intra-nasal spray by officers. The Test of Change is designed to inform any future decision on whether Naloxone should be carried more widely by Police Scotland officers. On Monday 1 March, a custom training package commenced, which includes inputs from people with lived experience of Naloxone, as well as from the Scottish Drugs Forum. Carriage of Naloxone is voluntary, with each officer asked to make their individual decision having completed the bespoke training course.

On Tuesday 9 March, two officers who had completed their training only a few hours before, successfully administered Naloxone to reverse an opioid-related drug overdose in Glasgow. They stabilised the casualty until Scottish Ambulance Service clinicians attended and took over emergency medical care. This first administration is an early indication of the potential life-saving benefits from the police carriage of Naloxone. The Test of Change is in its early stages, and the carriage and use of Naloxone will continue to be monitored and assessed over the next six months. This assessment will be supported by independent evaluation carried out by a team of academics from Edinburgh Napier University.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Keep Safe Awareness Day

Since 2014, Police Scotland has worked in partnership with I Am Me Scotland, to establish a network of Keep Safe places. The initiative works with businesses and community resources, to provide safe havens in villages, towns and cities across Scotland for anyone who may feel lost, frightened, or who has been a victim of crime.

On Thursday 4 March 2021, Police Scotland and the charity 'I Am Me Scotland' celebrated the first Keep Safe Awareness Day, recognising the ongoing efforts in Scotland to create safe, supportive communities for

everyone, while aiming to encourage more premises to become Keep Safe places.

TACKLING CRIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Tackling Online Child Sexual Abuse

Protecting children is a key priority for Police Scotland. As previously reported, incidents of online child sexual abuse and exploitation continue to rise. Through engagement with Scottish Government, Police Scotland secured over £180,000 in additional funding, which has supported investigation and enforcement activity in respect of online offending, including digital forensic examination. In addition, we remain committed to prevention through campaigns such as 'Get Help or Get Caught', which targeted those who may pose a risk to children online, and signposted them to relevant support pathways.

In September 2020, Police Scotland established a national taskforce to enhance our continued efforts to tackle online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Since that time, proactivity and investigations have resulted in over 200 arrests. Significantly, over 350 children have been safeguarded through referral to partners or the initiation of multi-agency child protection measures.

SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONAL POLICING

Fleet Investment

Police Scotland has been awarded additional capital funding from the Scottish Government of £10m in the current financial year, which will be used to improve and modernise our vehicle fleet. The investment will enable us to deliver on our commitment to reduce the average age of our fleet, support operational policing, and accelerate the purchase of electric vehicles in support of our Fleet Strategy.

This additional funding is a significant step forward in providing appropriate investment in policing infrastructure, and will help to ensure officers and staff have the tools they need to do their jobs. Reform of policing in Scotland has brought many benefits to communities across the country at a much reduced cost to the public purse. This welcome investment, and the decision to eliminate policing's structural funding deficit, reflects the significant value which policing provides.

4. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT

On Monday 1 March 2021, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr and Assistant Chief Constable Pat Campbell provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Justice Sub-Committee on Policing in relation to the implications of EU Exit on policing in Scotland. The session provided an opportunity to highlight the significant planning and preparation which was undertaken by Police Scotland in conjunction with national and international partners. It also allowed for consideration and reflection on the operational environment which now exists, following the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union.

COSLA SCRUTINY CONVENER'S FORUM

On Thursday 4 March, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, accompanied by a number of senior officers from Police Scotland, attended the latest virtual meeting of the COSLA Police Scrutiny Convener's Forum, along with the Chair and Chief Executive of the Scottish Police Authority. The Forum consists of Local Authority Police Scrutiny Committee Conveners from across Scotland, and representatives from COSLA. Positive discussions focused on key strategic issues affecting our local communities including the response to COVID-19, concurrent risks and demands, and commercial sexual exploitation.

Local policing is at the heart of our relationship with citizens across Scotland, and we recognise the value which is derived from strong partnerships between Police Scotland and Local Authorities and locally elected members.

PUBLIC INQUIRY – DEATH OF SHEKU BAYOH

On Wednesday 10 March, the Public Inquiry into the death of Sheku Bayoh published a list of designated Core Participants in the Inquiry. Core Participants are designated by the Chair of the Inquiry, and may include an individual, group or organisation with a significant interest in it. The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland has been designated as one of the Core Participants and we will participate fully in the Public Inquiry in an open and transparent manner. Other Core Participants include the family of Sheku Bayoh, officers and retired officers from Police Scotland, and a number of bodies and institutions.

The death of Sheku Bayoh was, and remains, a terrible tragedy. It has had a traumatic impact on his family and friends, as well as affecting many people within policing, and the wider community of Kirkcaldy and

Scotland. As Chief Constable, I remain committed to supporting all those who have been affected by Sheku Bayoh's death throughout this time.

POLICE COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

On Thursday 11 March, accompanied by Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor, I attended the first meeting of the Ministerial Group in respect of Police Complaints and Investigations. Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, with representation from key stakeholders in the police complaint system, the Ministerial Group is part of the governance system developed to oversee progress following publication of the report by Dame Elish Angiolini on Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in relation to Policing.

As previously reported, Police Scotland is already acting to implement those recommendations which can be delivered without the need for wider systemic or legislative change. We will continue to actively engage with all relevant partners and stakeholders to consider and assess the implications of those recommendations which require systemic change, wider strategic planning, collaboration or legislative change.

POLICING GOVERNANCE ROUND TABLE

On Monday 15 March, accompanied by Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor, I attended the latest meeting of the Policing Governance Roundtable, hosted by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. This was the third Roundtable Meeting attended by stakeholders from Scottish Government, Scottish Police Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, Audit Scotland and the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner.

The meeting provided another valuable opportunity to discuss the governance of policing in Scotland with those involved in the wider policing system, a system which has been tested and continues to demonstrate resilience during the demands associated with COVID-19.

5. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL EVENTS

POLICING RESPONSE TO COVID-19 – OPERATION TALLA

Police Scotland continues to respond in a consistent and common sense manner to the policing challenges associated with the COVID-19 public health emergency. This demand remains significant, with over 2,500 interventions taking place on a weekly basis, including attendance at large numbers of illegal house gatherings, and the issuing of fixed penalty

notices. Officers have responded to the increased footfall in parks and other areas following recent improvements in the weather, and visible patrols continue on the road network to encourage compliance with travel regulations and reinforce the 'stay at home' message. We continue to maximise our visible presence in communities across Scotland through the temporary redeployment of over 200 officers to support Local Policing.

Lateral Flow Testing has been introduced for the 1,500 staff working in Police Scotland Control Rooms, and we continue to welcome the offer from local health boards of end of day surplus vaccines, which would otherwise be wasted, to public facing officers and staff.

PUBLIC GATHERINGS - GLASGOW

Across the weekend of Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 March, several thousand Rangers supporters in Glasgow congregated in mass gatherings. This was in clear contravention of the restrictions in place to counter the continuing public health crisis. Experienced officers, highly skilled in public order management, took appropriate steps to manage these challenging circumstances, to protect people and minimise disruption to communities. They did so with impartiality, professionalism and commitment to public service. During the gatherings, there were 28 arrests and seven fixed penalty notices issued, with police investigations continuing.

The strong relationship of trust policing has with our communities, underpinned by the principle of policing by consent, is vital to the critical role officers and staff play in supporting the public health imperative. In April 2020, I commissioned John Scott QC to lead additional, independent and expert scrutiny of our policing response. This resulted in the establishment of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) which has offered valuable insight and challenge throughout the last year. I have asked the IAG to consider the events of the weekend, having regard to the fundamental human rights principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, and to consider any relevant issues for the policing of future events over the coming months.

6. OUR PEOPLE

OPERATIONAL SAFETY AND FIRST AID TRAINING

On Monday 1 March, Police Scotland's revised Operational Safety and First Aid Recertification Training recommenced. The revised training programme, which was developed as part of the Your Safety Matters initiative, follows my commitment to introduce and enhance measures to

improve safety, including a review of officer safety training and equipment, and improved conflict resolution skills.

The course content and method of delivery has been adapted to meet COVID-19 health and safety requirements. It is designed to enhance officer safety, improve our operational response, and support public trust and confidence in policing.

PROBATIONER TRAINING PROGRAMME

In December 2020, Police Scotland launched a new Probationer Training Programme, designed to better prepare officers for current operational policing challenges, and support our commitment to improving physical and mental health. In response to one of the practical challenges associated with COVID-19, for the first time, probationer training staff have delivered virtual training to probationer constables who had been required to self-isolate. This approach has allowed officers to continue their training, using available technology to maximise opportunities for learning.

On Friday 12 March 2021, I attended a pass out parade at Police Scotland Headquarters, Tulliallan, of 123 probationary officers who had successfully completed their initial training course. I wish each officer success as they embark on the next stage of their career with Police Scotland, and thank them for their commitment to public service during these unprecedented times.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS SURVEY

On Tuesday 2 March, the first phase of the SPA and Police Scotland Wellbeing and Engagement Survey, 'Your Voice Matters', was launched. The survey is being conducted by Durham University Business School, who have significant experience and credibility in this field, having worked with over 30 police forces throughout the United Kingdom. An extensive and targeted communication campaign continues, in order to maximise awareness and participation by officers and staff.

It is vital that the voices of officers and staff are heard and that we understand what is going well, what must be improved and, as a service, what we can do better. I am fully committed to better understanding the experiences of our officers and staff, and to relentlessly improving how we enable and support them to discharge their duties, in the service of citizens and communities throughout Scotland.

RISE PROGRAMME

Over the last year, Police Scotland has developed the RISE Programme for under-represented Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse women officers and staff. RISE (Raise, Improve, Support, Empower) is a self-driven blended learning programme, designed to develop delegates' self-awareness and personal skills, through inputs from subject matter experts and the provision of one to one coaching. Delegates' line managers are also encouraged to attend development sessions to enhance their understanding of diversity and inclusion, and how they can effectively support BME colleagues.

On Tuesday 16 March, I participated in a virtual meeting with 15 RISE delegates and a number of programme co-ordinators. I was encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by delegates for the RISE Programme, which emphasised its undoubted value. The meeting also provided an opportunity for me to reiterate Police Scotland's commitment to fully and sustainably embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in the Service.

SWDF ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

On Monday 8 March, the Scottish Women's Development Forum (SWDF) held their Annual Awards ceremony. At the virtual ceremony, which was held on International Women's Day, I had the pleasure of welcoming family, friends, officers and staff from all over the country, who joined together to recognise and celebrate the success of women in policing in Scotland.

The SWDF continues to be a consistent and supportive voice as we strive to ensure that Police Scotland's culture is welcoming and inclusive, in order that our people can thrive, flourish and be fully representative of the communities we serve. I congratulate all the nominees and winners for their ongoing contribution to policing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the information contained in this report.