



POLICE SCOTLAND

**SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY
POLICING TEAM
EDINBURGH DIVISION**



Community Newsletter
January - March 2024

Picture thanks to
Stenhouse Primary School

Our Local Police Plan 2023-26 outlines our local Divisional priorities and is accessible via [the Police Scotland website](#).

Your local priorities:

- Addressing violence
- Reducing drug harm and targeting supply
- Tackling housebreaking and crimes of theft and dishonesty
- Dealing with disorder and antisocial behaviour
- Making our roads safer

We will provide an update on each priority across the year - therefore each quarter we will provide an update regarding antisocial behaviour, plus one other priority.

This newsletter will focus on:

- **Dealing with disorder and antisocial behaviour**
- **Addressing violence**



Dealing with Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Operation Pillar is our co-ordinated response to antisocial behaviour (ASB) in South West Edinburgh. ASB issues include underage drinking, violence and general disorder. Our officers have been focusing uniform and plain clothes patrols at ASB ‘hotspots’ and also working with partners to prevent the causes. Our focus during this quarter has been in the Currie, Wester Hailes and Dalry areas.

Officers attend regularly at local high schools and take part in events and engage with young people to educate them about the impact antisocial behaviour has on the wider community.

Following recent reports of ASB in the Currie area, police officers have worked closely with Currie High School to deliver presentations regarding ASB to S2 and S3 pupils. There was good engagement from the pupils and there is a visible reduction in the problems in and around Currie.

In addition to this, officers have been working in partnership with Scottish Rugby and Cashback Scotland, including attending a rugby event during school holidays for young people at Wester Hailes Education Centre. The officers lead talks about ASB and also gave the young people a good insight into the role of a police officer in the local community.



Dealing with Disorder and Antisocial Behaviour

Dalry - joint action for ASB, drug use and violence

There was an increase in the number of ASB incidents reported in the Dalry area at the start of the year, including drug use, noise complaints and violence.

In February, police carried out a joint initiative over a 2-week period with the Community Improvement Partnership and Wheatley Housing Association to address the problems - with a focus around the Duff Street area. High visibility and plain clothes officers were deployed to reassure the local community, deter ASB, detect crime and explore the root causes of the issues in order to achieve longer-term solutions.

Police engaged with local residents to offer reassurance and provide advice regarding common stairs security. We identified vulnerable properties, liaised with housing to improve security to reduce persons entering common stairs to consume illegal drugs and cause disturbances.

This resulted in a number of arrests and recorded police warning for possession of drugs and disorder offences. Police continue to patrol this area with the CIP and there is a further joint initiative planned for the coming quarter.



Addressing violence

The latest available crime statistics for each ward are provided below. This relates to crime recorded last year compared to this year.

(‘This year’ = 01/04/23 – 21/03/24; ‘Last year’ = 01/04/22 – 21/03/23)

	Serious assault			Minor assault		
	This year	Last year	% change	This year	Last year	% change
Colinton / Fairmilehead	3	1	+200 % *	129	132	-2.3 %
Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart	2	13	-84.6 %	187	217	-13.8 %
Pentland Hills	12	12	-0.0 %	365	332	+9.9 %
Sighthill / Gorgie	25	25	-0.0 %	453	405	+11.9 %

Please note that the data within this newsletter has not been scrutinised to the standard required for formal public dissemination. As such, all statistics presented should be treated as a guide only.

Addressing violence

* The percentage rise in serious assaults in the Colinton / Fairmilehead Ward appears to be a significant change, however this should be viewed in the context of there being very low actual numbers, hence a small numerical change will cause a large % change. One of the crimes involved reckless driving, and the victim for another was a police officer. All three crimes were solved.

Further analysis of statistics:

- ▶ Overall serious assault in Edinburgh reduced this year, down by 5.8% compared to the previous year.
- ▶ 17.2% of all Edinburgh serious assaults this year occurred in the South West of Edinburgh, which is down compared to 19.7% last year.
- ▶ 19.3% of all Edinburgh minor assaults this year occurred in the South West of Edinburgh, which is down compared to 19.9% last year.
- ▶ Approximately 76% of all serious assaults in Edinburgh this year were solved.
- ▶ Approximately 61% of all minor assaults in Edinburgh this year were solved.
- ▶ This means the perpetrator was charged and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Addressing violence

Domestic abuse

During this quarter, the South West policing team ran a ‘fortnight of action’ targeting violence and domestic abuse. This saw a small team of dedicated officers allocated to gather key information to help trace domestic abuse perpetrators.

This resulted in multiple arrests, with a 70% reduction in unsolved domestic crimes, perpetrators presented before court and victims’ safety prioritised. Along with partners, we continuously strive to prevent violence and are resolute in pursuing those responsible.

Union Canal

In February, officers responded to an incident along the Union Canal at Slateford where somebody had been assaulted and pushed in to the canal.

Officers were quick to identify the person responsible for this and they were subsequently charged and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Officers have been conducting reassurance patrols along the canal path and will continue to do so.



Other local news

Water safety

On 14th February 2024, police carried out joint patrols with the Pentland Rangers at Harlaw and Threipmuir reservoirs to offer safety advice to the public, highlighting the dangers of walking on ice / entering icy waters.

Officers also identified graffiti found at Bonaly and Harlaw Reservoirs and enquiries are ongoing into this.



Winter Road Checks

Officers have been busy carrying out winter road checks. For example, on 4th January a road safety check was carried out on Biggar Road where several vehicles were stopped and checked. Advice was given to drivers and tickets issued for motoring offences.

In addition to this, officers have been out with the speed gun to detect offences and offer advice in order to make our roads safer.



Other local news

Coffee with a Cop has been set up at a number of venues in the Wester Hailes, Currie, Balerno, Saughton Park and Fountainbridge areas with more to follow soon. This has proved to be a great opportunity for local officers to chat with members of the community. Please look out for posters and social media messages and we look forward to seeing you at venues in the near future.



Officers attended an **inter-faith workshop** at Longstone Primary School where pupils got to learn about different faiths and the police gave them an input in relation to hate crime and were on hand to answer any questions the pupils had.



Coffee With A Cop

Your local Police Officers invite you to come and meet us and have Coffee with a Cop.

This is a chance to speak with your local Police Officers about absolutely anything that matters to YOU in your local community.



Outline Of Divisional Scrutiny Arrangements

On a quarterly basis the Divisional Commander attends and provides both a written and verbal report to [Edinburgh Council Culture and Communities Committee](#) , during which scrutiny is provided in terms of the Division's performance against the Local Policing Plan and other ongoing or emerging issues. Edinburgh Division Scrutiny Reports can be found [here](#). This meeting is also freely available / accessible to view live or retrospectively.

Members of Edinburgh Division's Senior Management Team routinely respond to queries received from Elected Representatives, including MPs and MSPs and constituents' concerns across a broad spectrum of topics.

From a locality perspective, the Area Commander in South West Edinburgh chairs a local Community Improvement Partnerships meeting monthly. This meeting brings together a range of partner agencies to focus on addressing local concerns through partnership solutions.

Accessible Performance Data

Police Scotland's Quarterly Performance Report for the Scottish Police Authority, and performance statistics by council and Policing Division, can be accessed via: www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/ (Edinburgh Division's performance data can be found on the 'Data Div6' tabs).

Recorded and detected crime data at Multi-Member Ward level can be found via:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/>

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/road-traffic-collision-data/>

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/stop-and-search/data-publication/>



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Keeping people safe



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