

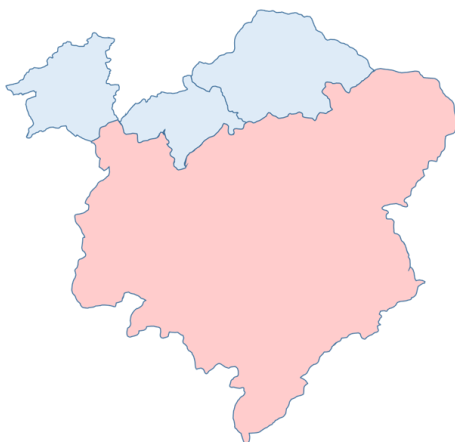
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for December 2020



The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Leaderdale & Melrose Multi Member Ward Policing Plan and the areas you have identified as priorities.

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official Crime statistics. Due to delayed reporting or recording of Crime, incidents or road accidents and the management of Crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.

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Figures for the whole Scottish Borders Area

(Data from 01/04/2020 – 21/12/2020)

	2019 /2020	2020 /2021	% Change	Local Area Commanders Comment
Total Crimes and Offences (Group 1-5)	2657	2532	-4.7	The detection rate for Group 1-5 is 55.1% compared to 56.6% at same time last year.
Group 1: Non Sexual Crime of Violence	69	97	40.6	The detection rate for Group 1 is 78.4% compared to 75.4% at same time last year.
Serious Assaults	30	38	26.7	The detection rate for Serious Assaults is 89.5% compared to 73.3% at same time last year.
Robberies	14	14	-	The detection rate for Robberies is 64.3% compared to 85.7% at same time last year.
Common Assaults	704	659	-6.4	The detection rate for Common Assaults is 74.8% compared to 72.4% at same time last year.
ASB (Incidents)	83	136	63.9	The 63.9% weekly increase in ASB incidents can be attributed to public nuisance calls related to COVID19.
Hate Crime	4	1	-75.0	The detection rate for Hate Crimes is 0% compared to 50% at the same time last year.
Group 2: Sexual Crime	170	219	28.8	The detection rate for Group 2 is 74.4% compared to 75.9% at same time last year.
Rape – Recorded Crime	46	32	-30.4	The detection rate for Rape is 68.8% compared to 76.1% at same time last year.
Domestic Abuse – Recorded Crime	15	14	-6.7	The detection rate for Domestic Abuse Crimes are 28.6% compared to 106.7% at same time last year.
Group 3: Crime of Dishonesty	1077	935	-13.2	The detection rate for Group 3 is 35.9% compared to 41.7% at same time last year.
Housebreakings – Domestic	80	33	-58.8	The detection rate for Domestic Housebreakings is 54.5% compared to 43.8% at same time last year.
Motor Vehicle Thefts	59	37	-37.3	The detection rate for Motor Vehicle Thefts is 67.6% compared to 67.8% at same time last year.



Community Sergeant Update

PS Stephen Granger

Through the month of December the Community Policing Team have been deployed in line with the Festive Policing Plan for the Scottish Borders.

This is aimed to target the local policing priorities during which is normally a busy time for all communities due to an increase in social events, shopping and car journeys. This increase in general activity results in higher alcohol consumption and historically leads to a subsequent increase in police incidents and crime over the festive period. Specifically in violence, domestic abuse, a rise in overall disorder and road traffic offences.

Although things are certainly different this year due to current restrictions the deployments have adapted as necessary to remain relevant. Tactics have included anti-violence foot and mobile patrols, road safety patrols, licenced premises inspections, proactive bail checks for known domestic offenders, retail foot patrols and youth patrols at 'hotspots' for anti-social behaviour.

This has been backed up with a social media messaging campaign and also engagement with schools prior to school break to detect any pre planned gatherings/parties given there has been no official festive school dances.

Supported by colleagues in the Scottish Borders Community Action Team and Response Policing this deployment will continue until 3rd January 2021.

The Take Five for Fraud Campaign is referenced in more detail later in this report. I think it is important to highlight that this is an area of concern particularly as all communities will find themselves spending more time at home given the current restrictions related to COVID-19. There has been a general local increase in the second half of this year in persons being the target of scams within their own homes particularly via telephone or email contact. Please be vigilant and encourage others to do likewise.

Any concerns related suspected fraudulent activity should be reported to Police via 101 or if it is an emergency 999.

I hope that you all had an enjoyable festive season and want to take the opportunity to wish you and your families the best for the New Year.

Local Policing Priorities

1. Protecting most vulnerable
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime



Protecting most vulnerable

In December 2020 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 149 mental health related calls, around 18 missing person enquiries and approximately 99 Domestic related incidents.

Leaderdale and Melrose district had 14 mental health related calls and 7 missing person enquiries. Due to GDPR and protection of victims/subjects involved, we are unable to share any more specific information in relation to these type of call within this report.

Police Scotland work in collaboration with key partners to assist the most vulnerable within the communities and to provide support.



Reducing violence and ASB

Assault

On 21/12/2020 female reporting she was assaulted by a female known to her in East Port, Melrose. Minor injury and enquiry is ongoing.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 05/12/2020 a report of drunk and abusive youths in Melrose. Police attended, no trace of youths.

On 08/12/2020 a report of youths in vehicles and loud music in Gattonside. Police attended, spoke to persons and advised them accordingly.

On 11/12/2020 a report of youths congregating in woodland behind Broomilees Road, Darnick. Police attended, no youths but alcohol was found and poured away by police. Youths then traced and taken home to parents where the situation was explained.

On 12/12/2020 a report of youths causing a disturbance near to Dingleton Apartments, Melrose. No youths present on police arrival.

On 12/12/2020 a male was charged with urinating in public in the High Street, Melrose.

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On 18/12/2020 police were on licenced premises visits when they observed 10-15 people in a beer garden pushing each other and being on tables. Several people spoken to by Police, no complaints. Incident at a Licenced Premises form submitted.

On 24/12/2020 report of persons fighting in Abbey Street Melrose. Police attended, group of youths dispersed. No evidence of criminality.

Vandalism

On the 30/11/2020 report of window being damaged in Eildon Crescent Melrose. Enquires continuing.

On the 03/12/2020 report of hand sanitation station being destroyed at Abbotsford House, Melrose Public Area. Enquires continuing.



Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On the 01/12/2020 report of Theft of Fuel (Drive Off) from a local fuel station in Earlston. Enquires continuing.

On the 09/12/2020 report of vehicle parked on Dingleton Road, Melrose being entered by force and items stolen from within. Enquires Continuing.

On the 15/12/2020 report of a house at Charlesfield Place, Darnick being entered without the owner's consent owner has returned home and disturbed two males who have made off empty handed. Enquires continuing.



On 22/12/2020 report of theft of purse from within the Borders General Hospital. Enquiry ongoing.

Improving road safety

On 08/12/2020 a driver was offered a conditional offer for driving on the A6091 near to Melrose with no MOT.

On 11/12/2020 a driver was charged with no insurance between Melrose and Bowden.

On 11/12/2020 a driver was offered a conditional offer on the High Street, Melrose for careless driving.

On 13/12/2020 a driver was offered a conditional offer in Tweedbank for careless driving.

On 15/12/2020 a male was arrested for road traffic offences and theft near to the Ravenswood Roundabout, Earlston.

On 16/12/2020 a driver was issued a conditional offer for speeding on the A6091, Melrose Bypass.



Tackling serious and organised Crime

DRUGS

Three cannabis cultivations were discovered by police, one was found to have 24 mature plants.

2 x suspected drug deaths were investigated and linked Misuse of Drugs Act searches carried out.

HARE COURSING

A known family were found in circumstances to suggest hare coursing in the Chirnside area. Although there was not enough evidence to pursue this they were all given COVID fixed penalty notices for travelling from Tier 3 to Tier 2. All opportunities to disrupt and detect this group will be taken.

MADE FROM CRIME CAMPAIGN

A divisional campaign in relation to Serious and Organised Crime, called “Made from Crime” will be running throughout December. The campaign tackles the risk and harm caused by Serious and Organised Crime Groups in relation to unexplained wealth highlighting making money from illegal sources.

The campaign covers all aspects of Serious Organised Crime in a ‘4D’ approach in the following way:

Divert – by raising awareness and increasing reporting opportunities we are preventing people from becoming involved in Serious Organised Crime and they can also see the consequences through positive reporting of the successes.

Deter – reducing illicit trade and encouraging businesses to protect themselves.

Disrupt – maximise the use of Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), Financial Investigation and partners to affect criminal lifestyles.

Detect – prosecute offenders in an enforcement phase.

Trading Standards have been approached to take part, this would be particularly relevant for counterfeit goods, especially if there appears to be evidence of people using online selling (Facebook marketplace etc). The message is shared through social media and uses the Crimestoppers information for anonymous reporting.

FRAUDS AND SCAMS

In December Police Scotland launched a national campaign Take Five to Stop Fraud, which encourages members of the public and businesses to follow straightforward and impartial advice – Stop, Challenge and Protect - aimed at reducing the chances of becoming a victim of financial fraud. This includes online fraud, email deception as well as phone-based and social media scams.

Campaigns



Take Five for Fraud

Cases of criminals exploiting unsuspecting people and persuading them to part with money or personal information are continuing to rise. Our officers and staff should be just as aware as members of the public as criminals are becoming more sophisticated and convincing in their methods, and taking advantage of advances in technology. They will often conduct extensive research on potential victims to make themselves appear legitimate.

Latest Scottish Government figures show that in 2019-20, fraud increased by 23% and since 2010-11 has gone up by 33%. In the last year (2019-20) there were 11,939 crimes of fraud recorded in Scotland - including many committed online, as fraudsters use the internet more and more to target victims.

Throughout the campaign, officers, staff members of the public and business will be encouraged to Take Five – and following this straightforward and impartial advice:

- Stop - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- Challenge - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- Protect - Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Police Scotland.

DCC Malcolm Graham said: "Fraud, in any form, is a despicable and cowardly crime with, often anonymous criminals targeting the most vulnerable people in our communities. We know these faceless crooks will take any opportunity to exploit any situation to their own nefarious advantage.

"We are well aware that fraud continues to rise and want to take the opportunity to warn the public and businesses take a few steps to protect themselves and remain vigilant.

"Our advice is clear and the officer, staff, the public and businesses should be aware that a telephone call, email or text may not be from the person or organisation it appears to come from. Never click on a link from an unsolicited email or text, and remember that banks, police or other legitimate organisations will never ask you for personal banking information or ask you to move funds to a different account.

"With people spending more and more of their time in the cyber and digital space and the growth of the internet has seen otherwise traditional crimes, such as fraud, being carried out online. Our ambitious Cyber Strategy, published in September, sets a clear direction for how we will tackle the threat, risk and harm from digitally-enabled crimes including fraud."

Cabinet Secretary for Justice Humza Yousaf said: "While levels of crime including those involving robbery, housebreaking and theft have fallen over the last decade, reported cases of fraud have risen by a third over the same period, at a time when we have all increased our use of online and mobile technologies.

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“While levels of crime including those involving robbery, housebreaking and theft have fallen over the last decade, reported cases of fraud have risen by a third over the same period, at a time when we have all increased our use of online and mobile technologies.

“During 2020 we have seen unscrupulous individuals using the lockdown and on-going restrictions as an opportunity to target some of our most vulnerable citizens and exploit businesses. Such criminal behaviour is absolutely abhorrent and the Scottish Government is working with police and other partners to pursue those who cause harm and misery to our communities and to support people to stay safe.

“As we enter the festive season, I welcome Police Scotland’s timely campaign urging people to ‘stop, challenge and protect’ in order to help households, businesses and communities to keep themselves safe and secure this Christmas and into 2021. In addition anyone can sign up to receive trusted alerts and advice from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, on a range of safety and security issues targeted to their local area.”

CAT Update:

Anti-Social Behaviour –

During December the CAT have completed mobile and foot patrols of youth hotspot areas including Peebles, Hawick and Eyemouth, with a total of 14 alcohol seizures and other offences detected. Several ASB warning letters have been sent to parents of youths involved.



DRUGS - CAT have executed a number of drugs warrants in Hawick, Duns and Peebles, with class A and B drugs being recovered with a total value of £14,780. This has included a large cannabis cultivation in Peebles, class A drugs from a business premise in Hawick and class B drugs from houses in Duns.

FESTIVE - CAT have been carrying out targeted patrols due to the festive season, including looking at road safety, acquisitive crime patrols and licensed premise visits.

Feedback from a meeting/contacting your Community Policing Team

Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or alternatively anonymously by calling **CRIME REPORTIMESTOPPERS** on **0800 555111**.

Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact:

LeaderdaleMelroseCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk



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We will endeavour to provide you with this information,
however some information is sensitive and as an
organisation we have to ensure compliance with GDPR.