

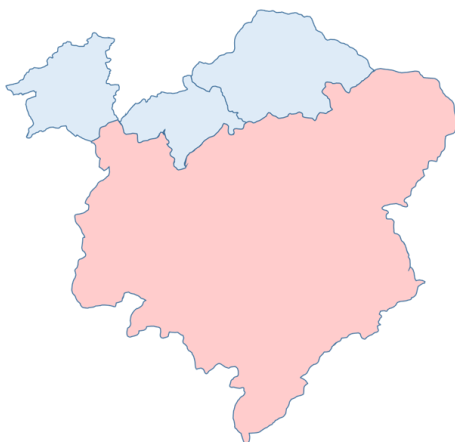
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for August 2021



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 – 28/08/2021)

	2020 /2021	2021 /2022	% Change	Local Area Commanders Comment
Total Crimes and Offences (Group 1-5)	1 370	1 566	14.3	The detection rate for Group 1-5 is 50.8% compared to 56.6% at same time last year.
Group 1: Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	70	75	7.1	The detection rate for Group 1 is 65.3% compared to 77.1 % at same time last year.
Serious Assaults	25	26	4.0	The detection rate for Serious Assaults is 69.2% compared to 92.0% at same time last year.
Robberies	10	3	-70.0	The detection rate for Robberies is 100% compared to 60.0% at same time last year.
Common Assaults	319	400	25.4	The detection rate for Common Assaults is 64.0% compared to 70.8% at same time last year.
ASB (Incidents)	3501	2575	-26.4	
Hate Crime – All incidents	38	58	52.6	The detection rate for Hate Crimes is 61.8% compared to 81.8% at the same time last year.
Group 2: Sexual Crimes	118	132	11.9	The detection rate for Group 2 is 61.4% compared to 68.6% at same time last year.
Rape – Recorded Crime	19	27	42.1	The detection rate for Rape is 63.0% compared to 78.9% at same time last year.
Domestic Abuse – All incidents	522	534	2.3	The detection rate for Domestic Abuse Crimes are 78.5% compared to 87.9% at same time last year.
Group 3: Crimes of Dishonesty	487	580	19.1	The detection rate for Group 3 is 29.5% compared to 39.8% at same time last year.
Housebreakings – Domestic	21	35	66.7	The detection rate for Domestic Housebreakings is 28.6% compared to 61.9% at same time last year.
Motor Vehicle Thefts	20	18	-10	The detection rate for Motor Vehicle Thefts is 33.3% compared to 75.0% at same time last year.

Community Sergeant Update

PS Stephen Granger



August has been another busy month which has seen a further expansion of the hospitality sector, extended licensing hours and larger organised events. Schools have also returned and next month will also see students returning to their universities.

Unfortunately the COVID case numbers that we are seeing at the moment is still a cause for concern given that in the last 7 days case numbers have roughly doubled. The safety of everyone is the most important factor and it is vital that we all remember the virus has not gone away and still poses a significant risk to public health and our return to a more normal way of life.

Even basic steps such as wearing face coverings on public transport, opening a window if you have someone in your house to make sure there is good ventilation can still make a big difference.

Please also remember it is still a requirement to wear face coverings in certain indoor public places, such as shops, public transport and when entering and moving about in hospitality settings.

Whilst on the hospitality and retail theme August has also seen a new law come into force in Scotland to provide specific protection for retail workers – it is called the Protection of Workers Act 2021.

It will make it an offence to assault or behave in a threatening or abusive way towards a retail worker. A 'retail worker' could be someone who works or volunteers in a shop, shopping centre or supermarket. They might be delivering groceries to a house or selling alcohol in a bar.

Assaulting, threatening or being abusive to a retail worker for enforcing age restriction laws e.g. IDing someone trying to buy alcohol, will become an aggravated charge - that means a person convicted may get a tougher penalty. Retail workers are an important part of the community, this new law is being introduced to give them greater protection.

Student Safety

Starting university or college can mean some significant life changes - making new friends, studying in a new town, going out to new places and living independently for the first time. However, some of these changes could also increase your risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Start out in the safest way possible, take some simple steps to protect yourself and your property, and above all keep safe.

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For more information or advice please follow the below link.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/campaigns/2020/student-safety/>

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 August 2021 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 152 mental health related calls, around 26 missing person enquiries and approximately 91 domestic related incidents.

Leaderdale and Melrose had 14 mental health related calls and 3 missing persons 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 08/08/21 report of assault Market Square Melrose. Enquires continuing.

On 22/08/21 report of bus driver assault by a passenger on A68 near Leaderfoot. Enquiry ongoing.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 01/08/21 report of youths causing a disturbance at Gibson Park Melrose. Passing patrols to be carried out.

On 04/08/21 report of youths causing a disturbance outside properties in Annay Road Melrose. Passing patrols to be carried out.

On 05/08/21 report of disturbance East Port Melrose. No noise on police arrival.

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On 05/08/21 report of person under the influence at the public carpark Borders General Hospital. Police attended male conveyed to home address.

On 05/08/21 report of disturbance at the Borders General Hospital. Female charged and reported.

On 06/08/21 report of disturbance East Port, Melrose. No trace on police arrival.

On 08/08/21 report of disturbance at the Borders General Hospital. Male charged and reported.

On 08/08/21 report of disturbance East Port, Melrose. No trace on police arrival.

On 10/08/21 report of disturbance Borders General Hospital. Male arrested charged and reported.

On 11/08/21 report of youths gathering and playing music close to Chain Bridge Melrose. Police attended, area search no trace. Ongoing issue, extra attention and patrols will continue.

On 12/08/21 report of disturbance Borders General Hospital. Female arrested charged and held in custody to appear at court.

On 13/08/21 reports of disturbances East Port, Melrose. Occupant warned regarding noise levels.

On 14/08/21 reports of disturbances East Port, Melrose. Male perpetrator charged and reported.

On 23/08/2021 report of male causing disturbance within Borders General Hospital. Male made off prior to police arrival, enquiry ongoing to trace and charge male with abusive/threatening behaviour.

On 26/08/21 report of female causing a disturbance within a ward at Borders General Hospital. Police attended, female had made off but enquiry ongoing to trace/charge her with disrupting emergency workers.

Vandalism

On 12/08/2021 report of vandalism to gate of business premises in Market Square, Melrose. Enquiry ongoing.

On 13/08/21 report of vandalism to motor vehicle at Borders General Hospital. Enquiry ongoing.

On 18/08/21 report of vandalism to hay bales at a farm near to Earlston. Enquiry ongoing.

On 20/08/21 report of vandalism to a window at property in Stonyford, Lauder.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On 03/08/21 report of damage to pots and theft of garden items from property in St Dunstons Park, Melrose. Enquiry ongoing.

On 07/08/21 report of male in grounds of property in Abbey Street Melrose with intention of committing theft. Enquiry ongoing.

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On 10/08/21 report of theft Eildon Crescent Melrose. Enquires continuing.

On 13/08/21 and 14/08/21 report of theft of fuel from a petrol station in Earlston. Enquiry ongoing.

On 16/08/2021 report of theft from business premises in Market Square, Melrose. Enquiry ongoing.

On 27/08/21 theft of fuel from Lauder Petrol Station. Enquiry ongoing.

Theft by Housebreaking

On 07/08/2021 report of theft housebreaking at business premises in Tweedbank Industrial Estate with high value equipment stolen. Enquiry ongoing.



Improving road safety

Within the Selkirk Sheriff Court Jurisdiction there were 35 parking tickets issued in August.

On 02/08/2021 report of van driving wrong way along one-way street, Chiefswood Road, Melrose. Reporter spoken with and company of van driver advised for warning to be given. Insufficient evidence to progress charge by police.

On 05/08/21 A6091 near to Ravenswood Roundabout motorist charged with driving with non licence or insurance and vehicle seized.

On 12/08/2021, three drivers received a fine and points after exceeding the speed limit on the A68 south of Soutra hill Scottish borders.

On 14/08/2021, driver received a fine for having no MOT on the A68 Lauder.

On 15/08/2021 report of vehicles causing an obstruction on Abbotsferry Road, Tweedbank. Vehicles present due to an ongoing event nearby. Police attended-parking inconsiderate but no offences being committed.

On 25/08/21 report of serious road traffic collision on A68 at Oxton- serious injuries, driver will be charged in course for road traffic offences.



Tackling serious and organised Crime

On 14th of August 2021 officers from the Scottish Borders executed a search warrant at an address in Kelso following numerous local Housebreakings. A male was traced within and arrested and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 20th of August 2021 officers stopped a vehicle in Hawick. Following a search of the vehicle £80 of Cannabis and 39 Street Diazepam were found within the vehicle. A female was charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal

On 25th of August 2021 officers from the Scottish Borders Community Action Team executed a drugs search warrant at an address in Hawick. Following a systematic search over 300 street Diazepam was recovered. A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

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On 27th of August 2021 officers in Galashiels stopped a vehicle, following a search of the vehicle a offensive weapon and a quantity of herbal cannabis were found within. The two male occupants of the vehicle were arrested and a report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 30th of August 2021 officers in Duns stopped a male in the street and had grounds to search him. Following a search they found in his possession an amount of Herbal Cannabis. The male was charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Campaigns

- Cyber Protect Campaign - encouraging people to regularly update software on their phones, tablets and computers.



- "Fearless" Campaign Supporting New Legislation to protect retail workers in Scotland.
<https://bit.ly/3p3bRgf>



- Body Worn Video Consultation
<http://ow.ly/kMGs50FceAA>



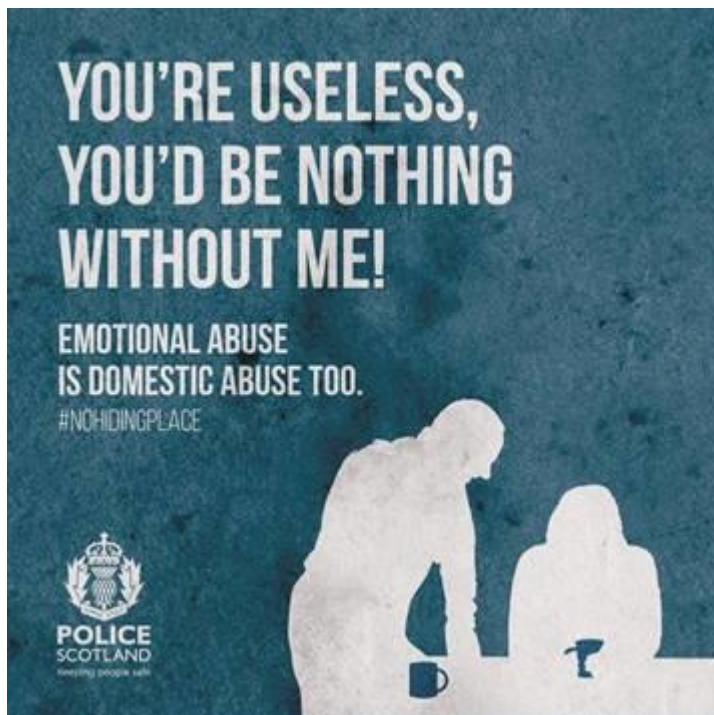
- Ongoing Divisional Domestic Abuse campaign
- Regular social media posts highlighting local (DAAS) and national helpline contact details and reporting mechanisms

e.g. “Are you – or someone you know - afraid of your partner or ex-partner? Know that you are not alone, that we believe you and that we can help. In the Scottish Borders, DAAS provides confidential information and support to anyone experiencing domestic abuse focussing on risk assessment and working with you to safety plan; DAAS will enable you to make informed choices about safety and provide support to help you recover and live a life free from harm/abuse. DAAS are available on 01835 825024 or daas@scotborders.gov.uk Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm.

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For further information on the range of services available in Scottish Borders visit <http://ow.ly/mzXp50FPzE2>

Outside office hours you can call the 24 Hour Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 027 1234 or visit <http://ow.ly/P3sh50FPzE3> in an emergency always call 999."



2. General Crime Prevention Activity

County Lines and Cuckooing Drug Dealing Inputs

- Inputs have been given to a wide range of staff from SBHA, Eildon Housing, Berwickshire Housing and Waverly Housing to increase awareness of and encourage reporting of County Lines and Cuckooing activities in their properties. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/about-the-charity/who-we-work-with/trusts-and-foundations/county-lines>

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County Lines and Cuckooing

What are County Lines?

- County Lines is a term used for organised drug-dealing networks, usually controlled by a person using a single telephone number or 'deal line'.
- They operate in major cities such as Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham, and distribute drugs across counties via 'runners'.
- Vulnerable children and adults are recruited as runners to transport drugs and cash all over the country, so that the criminals behind it can remain detached and less likely to be detected.

What is 'Cuckooing'?

- Criminals running County Lines will set up a base in a rural area or small town for a short time, taking over the home of a vulnerable person, 'cuckooing' them (named after the cuckoo's practice of taking over other birds' nests for its young).
- Victims of 'cuckooing' are often drug users but can include older people, those suffering from mental or physical health problems, female sex workers, single mums and those living in poverty. Victims may suffer from other forms of addiction, such as alcoholism.
- Some people may be forced to leave their homes, making themselves homeless and leaving the gangs free to sell drugs in their absence.



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Rural

- Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) - the partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year. A launch event will be held at Kelso Ram Sales on 10th September.



HELP US TARGET THIEVES AND POTENTIAL THIEVES IN YOUR AREA

- ALWAYS contact Police Scotland IMMEDIATELY if you see suspicious activity on or near your property
- Use 999 if ongoing (e.g. if persons are still on your property, are threatening or a crime is in progress)
- Otherwise call the 101 non-emergency number
- CONSIDER YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY - DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK BY CONFRONTING INTRUDERS
- You can also report to us on-line <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>
- Or report anonymously through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

WHAT INFORMATION DO WE NEED?

ANY information you can provide may help us create the connection to criminal activity including:

- ✓ Registration number or partial registration number
- ✓ Photograph or description of a suspicious vehicle (e.g. colour / make / model / any signage)
- ✓ If the vehicle has left - what direction was it going?
- ✓ How many people were in the vehicle and any descriptions?
- ✓ If they spoke to you what did they give as a reason for being on your property?



SCOTISH BORDERS PARTNERSHIP AGAINST RURAL CRIME

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Horse Tack Security Marking is being offered across the region in partnership with the British Horse Society Scotland



SBPARC
SCOTTISH BORDERS PARTNERSHIP
AGAINST RURAL CRIME

POLICE SCOTLAND
Protecting people and places

Horse Tack Security Marking

Although the Scottish Borders remain a safe place to live and work, thefts of Horse Tack and associated equipment do occur.

As part of our wider rural crime prevention strategy, the Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime is offering a FREE Tack Marking Service as well as general rural Crime Prevention Advice across the Scottish Borders.



Please contact us if

- You would like us to visit your premises
- You can suggest local equine events for us to attend

PC Nick Walker
Kelso Police Station
nicholas.walker@scotland.pnn.police.uk



The British Horse Society
Scotland

- We continued to distribute free Selecta DNA forensic marking kits & signs and crime prevention advice to farmers and rural business. These can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the [Contact Us Form](#) on the Police Scotland Website.



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No Cold Calling Zones

- A refresh of the existing zone at Bennecourt Drive in Coldstream has been completed (new road signs and house packs).
- A refresh of the existing zone at Swinton is underway (new road signs and house packs).
- Information has been provided to Innerleithen Community Council re. Setting up a new zone.
- Any community organisation wishing to refresh their zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or interested in setting up a new zone should contact their local community policing team <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>



Redeployable CCTV

- Cameras continue to be deployed in Jedburgh and Eyemouth in response to youth-related ASB

CAT Update:

Throughout August SBCAT have undertaken a range of activities in line with their monthly tasking identified through the Scottish Borders Community Action Team Strategic Oversight Tasking Group.



ASB – SBCAT have targeted youth ASB in Peebles, Kelso and Hawick throughout August resulting in a number of alcohol seizures and 1 adult being reported to the Procurator Fiscal following being identified as being as supplying alcohol to youths. SBCAT have further made use of the new Scottish Borders Quad bikes to undertake patrols around rural location where youth ASB has been reported. A number of youths were further identified through the youth warning system with letters being sent to their parents in an effort to inform parents of their children's potential involvement in ASB. Officers have further engaged in patrols in the Jedburgh area where a spate of vandalism occurred to the public toilets, patrols were undertaken to coincide with the placement of a mobile ASB camera in the area.

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Road Safety – SBCAT continue to undertake road checks across the region along with undertaking speed enforcement outside local schools and areas identified as having an accident casualty profile. Officers have further undertook regular patrols in regards to parking restriction enforcement including in the areas of Innerleithen and Galashiels where problems areas have been identified by the public.

Drugs – SBCAT officers continue to undertake intelligence led stop and searches of those suspected to be involved in the supply of controlled drugs, relying on information provided by local communities. SBCAT officers further executed a MDA warrant in Hawick resulting in the recovery of both Class B and C drugs from the property and enquires are ongoing in relation to the recovery.

SBCAT officers have further been assisting with enquiries in Walkerburn following a number of reported suspected fire-raising in the area. Following a further report in the last week of August SBCAT officers reported a 29 year old male for 5 separate counts of Fire-Raising.

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 **CRIMESTOPPERS** on **0800 555111**.

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

LeaderdaleMelroseCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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.



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