

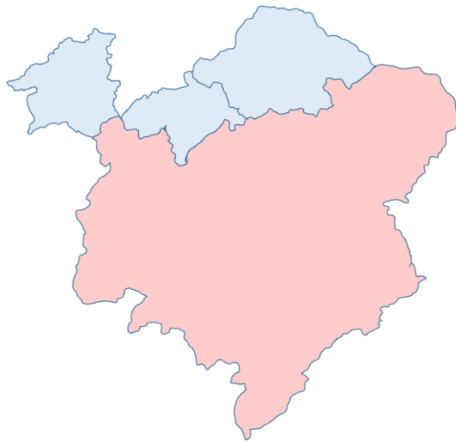
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## **Scottish Borders Area Command**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils  
Multi Member Ward Report for March 2024



**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 crimes, 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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## North Area Community Policing News – PS James Harrison



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As you can see from the top picture here, the new youth shelter at Peebles has now been constructed and will hopefully provide younger persons a safe place to congregate. It is by engaging positively with younger people that we will help reduce antisocial behaviour, so projects like this are immensely important, along with the work the various youth workers, clubs and hubs do around the Borders. It is important to remember that not all younger persons are causing problems, and a group of boisterous teenagers is not necessarily a police matter.

Sadly, there are always a few who, for whatever reason, cause genuine antisocial behaviour problems within their community. I am aware of some recent antisocial behaviour in our area, and we are taking steps to address these issues. Where possible please provide accurate descriptions and / or names when reporting antisocial behaviour.

The second photo shows us at Galashiels Interchange with British Transport Police and Neighbourhood Watch as part of the Stay Safe Get On Board campaign recently, where BTP and NW travelled the length of the country visiting train stations and promoting crime prevention. Neighbourhood Watch can bring several benefits to your local community and help prevent crime, and it may also be a good way to help tackle antisocial behaviour. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

The below link gives access to the latest Police document for the Scrutiny Panel for the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board, which sits every quarter at Scottish Borders Council.

[Item No. 5 a - Scottish Borders Scrutiny April - Sept.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Once you click into this link, please scroll down to read the full report. It provides progress and updates on service matters from Police Scotland and also contains an input from Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher.

## 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 March 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around \*\* mental health related calls, around \*\* missing person enquiries and approximately \*\* domestic related incidents.*

*Leaderdale & Melrose had \*\* mental health related calls and \* 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*

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## **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour**

### **Assaults**

On 04/03/2024 report of an assault in hospital, Melrose. Crime report submitted for assault.

On 17/03/2024 report of an assault having taken place in the early hours of the morning after returning home from a night out. Statements noted and suspect cautioned and charged.

On 22/03/2024 report of an assault in Halcombe Crescent, Earlston. Crime report submitted for assault.

On 23/03/2024 report of an assault in Carlin Court, Tweedbank. Crime report submitted form assault. No injuries.

On 24/04/2024 report of an assault in a Licensed premises in Melrose. Complainer still to be seen at home address.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

On 01/03/2024 report of 14-year-old female becoming aggressive within the A&E department of the BGH. Staff spoken to by police, no requirement to attend.

On 02/03/2024 report of a disturbance at an address in Earlston. On police attendance, found to be a family argument, no complaints made. Advice given.

On 04/03/2024 report of a male causing disturbance in Hospital, Melrose, male taken home and left in care of family.

On 07/03/2024 report of kids screaming and shouting in a park. Police attended and found three females doing TikTok videos.

On 09/03/2024 report of a female causing a nuisance in hospital, Melrose. One female removed and taken home.

On 11/03/2024 report of group of youths repeatedly banging/knocking on a door of an elderly resident. Ongoing enquiry.

On 11/03/2024 report of kids vandalising and shouting in a park. Police attending no youths were present and damage had been caused.

On 12/03/2024 report of group of youths throwing items at a window in Tweedbank. Area searched, no trace and no damage.

On 14/03/2024 report of youths causing a nuisance in Horsemarket, Earlston. Complainer still to be seen.

On 15/03/2024 report of dog having bitten informant at Tweedbank Pond. Description of dog and owner only provided. Informant still to be seen.



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On 16/03/2024 initial report of assault, subsequently found no assault had taken place. Minor argument between couple. No complaints made and advice given to both.

On 19/03/2024 report of an aggressive male in hospital, Melrose. Male arrested and charged with various offences, held in custody.

On 21/03/2024 report of threats being made to informants 14-year-old daughter from another 14 year old female. Informant still to be seen. Arrangement made.

On 24/03/2024 report of male refusing to leave hospital. Police attended, no complaints made by staff. Male remains under observation.

On 24/03/2024 report of kids throwing items at a caravan in Gibson Park and shouting at the occupants. Advice given.

### **Vandalism**

## **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

### **Theft by Housebreaking**

On 20/03/2024 report of a theft housebreaking in East High Street, Lauder. Further enquiries ongoing.

### **Theft**

On 08/03/2024 report of a theft from petrol station, Lauder. Details noted for crime report.

On 09/03/2024 report of a theft of materials from a premises in Whitlaw Ind Estate, Lauder. Complainer still to be seen.

On 12/03/2024 report of the theft of a caravan from the Lauder area. Ongoing enquiry.

On 14/03/2024 report of a theft from petrol station, Lauder. Crime report submitted for theft.

On 19/03/2024 report of a theft from petrol station, Lauder. Complainer still to be seen.

On 20/03/2024 report of an online fraud / scam to a complainer in Gattonside, Melrose. Complainer still to be seen. Arrangements made.

On 20/03/2024 report of an online fraud / scam to a complainer in Newstead, Melrose. Complainer still to be seen. Arrangements made.

On 20/03/2024 report of theft of fuel from Lauder filling station. Informant still to be seen. Arrangements made.

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## **Improving Road Safety**

On 01/03/2024 report of vehicle crashing in Earlston and the driver running off. Driver traced by police and subsequently charged with drink driving.

On 06/03/2024 – a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Earlston

### **Killed or Seriously Injured**



## **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

### **Serious and organised crime enforcement – March 2024**

*The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 9 Drug Warrants across the command area during March, all were positive and 12 persons were charged with drug related offences. This included another two large / industrial scale Cannabis cultivations which had a potential street value of £2.3 million.*

*They would also like to highlight that the local communities across the Borders may have information which they deem insignificant in relation to people being seen at disused large premises over a period of time. Any suspicious activity will be followed up by this team but it is important that the public know they can report such matters in person at any Police Station, by use of 101 or anonymously via the Crime Stoppers charity.*

## **Campaigns**

### **Divisional Domestic Abuse campaign**

Regular social media posts highlighting local (DAAS) and national helpline contact details and reporting mechanisms

Ongoing engagement with main local employers to share campaign messages, information in relation to local support services and charities and prevention messages targeting perpetrators directly.

### **Rural**

Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) the partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.

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**Help protect our livestock in Scotland**

[crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity.  
UK Registration Nos. 1108687/SC037960.

Scotland  
**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

- 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**

- 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/>



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**CAT Update:**

**MMW REPORT:**



**ROAD SAFETY** – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have issued 10 traffic tickets for various offences throughout the month.

Throughout March numerous hi- vis speed and static road checks have been carried out a schools throughout the Scottish Borders at dropping off and picking up times. Speed checks were completed at the Primary Schools at Langlee, Melrose, Lauder and Earlston. Several drivers were warned regarding driving slightly over the speed limit.

On 13<sup>th</sup> March SBCAT took part in Operation Janaca at Leadburn, near Peebles along with the Mid Lothian CAT, Roads Policing, Trading Standards and the DVSA. 2 males were arrested, 18 minor offences were detected and 1 vehicle was seized. These figures have not been included in the SBCAT figures.

**PARKING TICKETS** – Officers have been carrying out high visibility patrols in Peebles, Kelso, Eyemouth, Duns, Selkirk, Galashiels, and Hawick, and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 91 tickets have been issued.

Passing attention was given to Traquair Road, Innerleithen (no issues) The War Memorial in Coldstream (no issues) Galashiels Town Centre and Bridge Street in Kelso were also regularly checked by officers along with Duns Industrial Estate (no issues), Duns town centre (tickets issued) ambulance parking bays at the health centres in Hawick (tickets issued)

**RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME** – We continue to carry out static road checks in rural areas at all times of day to deter and detect rural acquisitive crime. 18 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in this month along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas. While doing these patrols SBCAT have been stopping to speak to local farmers and residents to gain an insight into any ongoing issues and to give advice.

At Monynut vehicle patrols and a quad bike patrol were completed on weekends with nothing to report.

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted at these locations.

9 youth warning letters were issued during the month of March in relation to youths.

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023, SBCAT officers traced a group of girls causing issues in Morrisons at Hawick. They escorted them outside and they were given a warning.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March SBCAT found a group of youths on the roof of WH Smith in Kelso. They were conveyed home to their parents.

Similar high visibility foot patrols are being completed around Burnfoot Primary School, Melrose Primary School and outside Jedburgh Sheriff Court on court days due to previous reported issues with members of the public.

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During the evening of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The Special Initiatives Team joined SBCAT officers in carrying out hi-visibility foot and mobile patrols in Kelso, Innerleithen and Peebles, in response to reported ASB. During their patrols alcohol was seized from 5 youths in Peebles (Youth warning letters to follow), 14 LP's checks carried out and as a result 1 ILP was submitted for Peebles. 1 male youth was arrested and C/C'd for a S38 offence in Peebles and was taken home and left with his parents, a male youth wanted for a Serious Assault in Peebles was also traced by CAT officers at which time he was arrested and subsequently charged for 3 offences. Mobile patrols carried out on A68, A699, A698 and A72 where 70 vehicle checks were also carried out.

**PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE** – Part of the SBCAT role is to trace persons wanted on warrant/missing person/and bail curfew checks. SBCAT have carried out regular checks on multiple individuals who are wanted on warrant. During the past month a total of 3 people were arrested on warrant.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March the County Lines Intensification Week started. This was a week of action targeting the use of vulnerable youths and adults to store controlled drugs or transport them across the UK. Unfortunately, groups have been targeting vulnerable people within the Borders. The SBCAT conducted additional foot patrols in the affected areas and along with a letter drops for Crimestoppers. We also spoke with our housing associations and public transport companies and provided them with posters and information for their staff.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT** – SBCAT officers have taken part in 1 drugs search warrant in the Scottish Borders.

On 15/3/24- Acting on intelligence CAT officers executed a MDA warrant at an address in Selkirk, however the search proved negative.

Following on from an incident where CAT officers carried out a drug search on a male found in a car in the Selkirk area and he subsequently failed a roadside drug wipe and was arrested in January 2024. On 14/3/24 following analysis of samples obtained from the male he was reported for drug driving.

On 26/03/2024 SBCAT assisted the PCT and other officers in the execution of numerous search warrants in Galashiels which resulted in the seizure of approximately £2.5m worth of cannabis

### **OTHER ISSUES OF NOTE-**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March a community police officer was bitten on the hand by a dog suspected of being an XL Bully. Following enquiries the dog was identified, searched warrants obtained and the dog was seized. The owner was charged under the dangerous dogs act.

Between 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 CAT officers were heavily involved with the enquiry into the sudden death of a 16-year-old male in Peebles.

Throughout March SBCAT have been carrying out extensive enquiries with regards to the graffiti which has been spray painted around several locations in Hawick, including the flood defences. At this time there are no suspects but enquiries continue.

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## **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](mailto: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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