

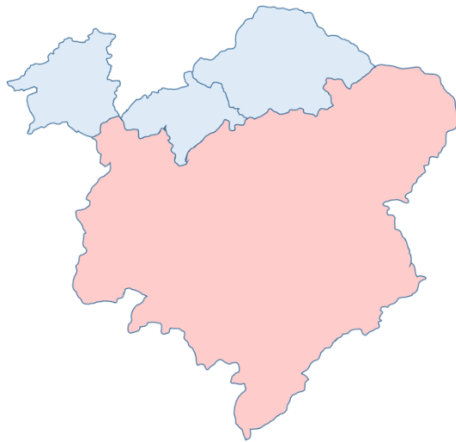
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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Leaderdale and Melrose Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for October 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 Crawford Laing

On 21st October I took up post as the Community Policing Team (North) Sergeant based at Galashiels. My background in Policing is mainly in Response Policing Teams across the Scottish Borders, Edinburgh, and East Lothian. I have also worked in Community Policing, Pro-active and Public Order roles.

I have lived in the Borders for over twenty years and fully appreciate that for most, it is a fantastic place to live, work and raise a family. The Scottish Borders remains one of the safest regions of Scotland however I understand that for some in our communities it may not always feel that way.

There was a gap between PS James Harrison leaving the CPT post and me starting which has resulted in no MMW Reports being prepared and distributed for a month or two and for that I apologise.

PC Gary Beaumont will join the Community Policing Team on 13th October in Tweeddale and will be a welcome addition to the team.

Please encourage as many members of the community as possible to complete the ‘Your Police Survey’ for 2024/25, the link below gives access. We value your input and would appreciate your time in completing the survey.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2024-2025/>

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 twice per year 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.

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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 October 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 207 mental health related calls, around 18 missing person enquiries and approximately 91 domestic related incidents.

Leaderdale & Melrose had 17 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 Anti-Social Behaviour



Assaults

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 04/10/2024 a report of threatening messages being received in Horsemarket, Earlston. Culprit warned.

On 10/10/2024 report of persons smoking drugs on grounds of BGH. No person there on arrival of police.

On 20/10/2024 report of female causing a disturbance within BGH. Person charged and reported.

On 28/10/2024 report of a female causing a disturbance within BGH. Person charged and reported.

Vandalism

Reducing Acquisitive Crime

Theft by Housebreaking

Theft

On 07/10/2024 report of theft from a motor vehicle in Newstead. Crime report for enquiry.

On 13/10/2024 report of online fraud from an address at Church Place, Earlston. Enquiries ongoing.

On 26/10/2024 report of theft by finding of a mobile phone left on a bus from Galashiels to Earlston. Enquiry ongoing.

Improving Road Safety

On 05/10/2024 – a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for use of handheld mobile phone while driving in Lauder.

On 01/10/2024 – a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for driving with no insurance in Tweedbank.

On 07/10/2024 – a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for careless/inconsiderate driving on Soutra Hill.

Killed or Seriously Injured



Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – September 2024

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 6 Drug Warrants across the command area during September, all except one were positive and a variety of MDA charges were proffered against 5 persons. Heroin, cocaine, benzodiazepines and cannabis were all recovered during these searches in addition to large sums of cash and suspected stolen property.

They also assisted other CID departments in the area with stolen property warrants for housebreakings across the Scottish Borders.

They would like to re-enforce the message to all wards that any drug related crime or organised criminality in the Scottish Borders can be anonymously reported via Crimestoppers, who are an independent charity not connected to the Police. The public can of course still use 101 for this purpose too.

Serious and organised crime enforcement – October 2024

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The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 4 Drug Warrants across the command area during October, four were positive and 4 persons were charged with drug related offences. A number of stop and searches were also conducted in identified hotspot area where drugs misuse was prevalent across the Scottish Borders.

Serious and organised crime impacts local communities across the Borders and anyone with information on criminal activity are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101, report it at any Police Station or report it anonymously via the Crime Stoppers Charity. This information can be on any criminal matter but includes an individuals unexplained financial gain or wealth or persons who are vulnerable in our communities and being targeted or exploited by others for any reason.

Campaigns

Hate Crime Awareness Week – 12th to 19th October

Hate Crime in all its forms is unacceptable and that is why Police Scotland is raising awareness of the impact hate crime has on officers and staff and, in turn, the communities they serve.

We have a duty and an opportunity to lead change to improve the experiences of our communities, including our officers and staff. Discrimination of any kind is utterly deplorable and unacceptable. It has no place in society and no place in policing.

The Your Safety Matters Assault programme underlines that hatred directed towards police officers and members of staff based on their actual or presumed race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and/or transgender identity will not be tolerated.

Black History Month 2024



Police Scotland has teamed up with our friends and colleagues at SEMPER Scotland (Supporting Ethnic Minority Police employees for Equality in Race) to celebrate Black History Month.

For Police Scotland, Black History Month is a chance to celebrate the enormous value and contribution Black and Minority Ethnic citizens bring to communities of geography and interests across Scotland and to policing in Scotland.

This year Police Scotland and SEMPER continue to celebrate Black History month under the banner of Proud to Be, sharing contributions from our colleagues across a series of events on their achievements, pride in their culture and what the month means to them personally and as police officers and staff.

Black History Month is a celebration, but it is also an opportunity to highlight the action Police Scotland and the SPA is taking, and the further work required, to drive an anti-racist, anti-discriminatory agenda, as we seek to address complex and insidious wrongs which have deep roots through history and which persist today.

Policing Together is driving an anti-racist agenda to identify and eliminate the biases in practices and policies and to build a better service.

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We are actively listening to under-represented communities, inside policing and across Scotland, to understand how we can better serve them.

Police Scotland is committed to increasing knowledge and learning on inclusion and has given every police leader the skills and tools they need to build effective and inclusive teams.

The success of this action will be measured by the improved experiences of our officers and staff, and of all the communities we serve.

CAT Update:

ROAD SAFETY – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have dealt with 11 traffic offences this month.

SBCAT stopped a car in Galashiels which they recognised as having recently driven off without paying for fuel. Following checks they established that the car had no insurance and the vehicle was seized. The driver was charged with driving with no insurance and theft of fuel.

In late October SBCAT became aware of a vehicle driving erratically in Jedburgh. Upon speaking to the driver he failed the drug swipe test and was arrested for drug driving. Samples will be sent away for analysis prior to a report being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Speed checks have been completed in several towns near to schools along with villages including, Chirnside Coldingham and Ayton.

PARKING TICKETS – Officers have been carrying out high visibility enforcement across the Borders and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 50 tickets have been issued.

Passing attention was given to Galashiels, Selkirk, Hawick, Kelso, Duns and Peebles.

RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME – We carry out high visibility mobile patrols across rural areas at varying times while completing static road checks. A total of 24 static road checks were completed during October

On the afternoon of Sunday 27th of October, 4 CAT officers were deployed to Monynut, with 2 officers on quadbikes and 2 more in a 4x4 vehicle. Off road motorbikes were seen but they made off from police, further checks appeared to show that they had left the area.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted as per our taskings. This includes outside Jedburgh Sheriff Court on Monday court days.

Considerable attention has been given across Burnfoot, especially around the shops and the primary school. There are still ongoing issues with off road motorcycles and youth ASB. Extra Community and CAT patrols will continue

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE – Part of the SBCAT role is to trace persons wanted on warrant/missing person/and bail curfew checks. The SBCAT has also assisted with high-risk domestic enquiry packs and have traced one male wanted for domestic offences this month.

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On Halloween the CAT were out conducting youth patrols as part of Operation Torsion. They attended Newtown St Boswells for a ASB youth call. Following enquiries they established that a teenage girl had been assaulted. A male has been charged with a minor assault.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – On the 18th October the SBCAT and Proactive Crime Team (PCT) executed a drugs search warrant in Selkirk. 30g of white powder was seized which will be sent for analysis alongside some controlled tablets.

On 30th October the SBCAT assisted the PCT with executing a drugs search warrant in Galashiels. Some weapons were recovered but no drugs.

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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