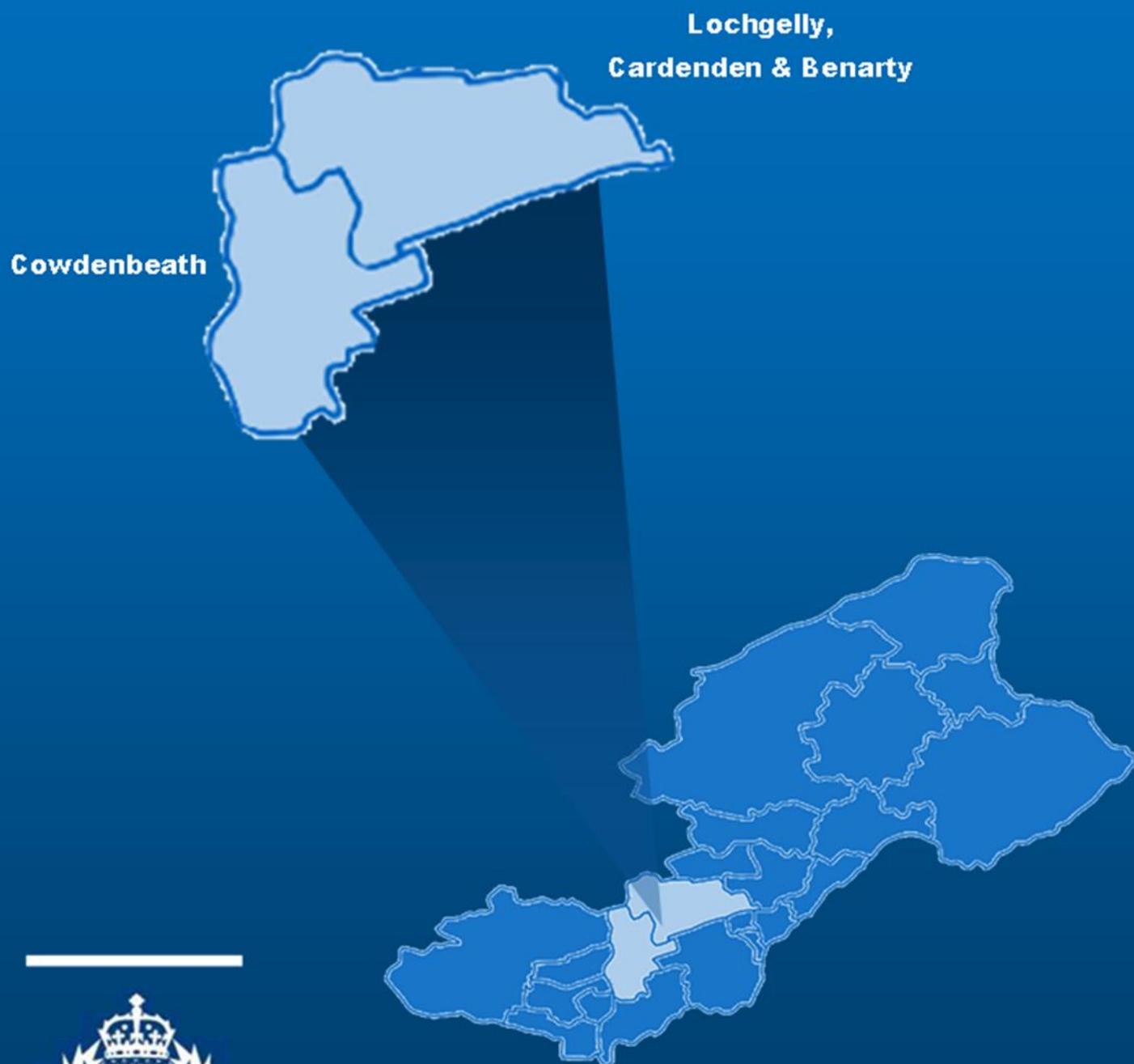

Cowdenbeath Local Area Plan 2017-2018



POLICE
SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe
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Keeping Cowdenbeath Safe

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1. Introduction and Purpose of Area Plan

Welcome to the Cowdenbeath Area Local Policing Plan for 2017 – 2018. The new plan outlines the priorities identified by the residents of the Cowdenbeath area following engagement and consultation within the community. Building on last year's plan, it is designed to assist us to deliver our organisational purpose – *To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.*

It is aligned with the priorities outlined in the Fife Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2016 - 2020 and the Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan.

Once again the plan reflects the strong traditions of community policing in the Cowdenbeath area. We are committed to ensuring that the Cowdenbeath area is a safe place to live, work, visit and do business.

2. Foreword

Introduction by Local Area Commander Chief Inspector Irene Ralston

I am fortunate to have been in the position to lead policing in the Cowdenbeath area for the last two years and this plan sets out the priorities for my third year as Local Area Commander. The priorities that are detailed in this plan are the focus of what we do day to day, week to week and month to month.



Our focus is Keeping People Safe and the best way to do this is to prevent crime from occurring. This plan and the priorities within reflect our commitment to our organisational purpose – *To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.* As such, crime prevention is at the heart of what we do and is a key role of all police officers and members of police staff. However, we must recognise that crime prevention is a broad and complex concept. Policing (deterrence and enforcement activity) will only ever be one part of a successful preventative approach.

The structure of policing in Cowdenbeath is well established and the work of all our staff whether Community Ward officers, Response officers, Crime Management or Public Counter staff contributes to achieving the objectives listed.

The priorities have been set by listening to the people who live and work in the area and following consultation with various partners and local organisations.

The priorities fall within the outcomes of the Fife Community Safety Strategy for the years ahead and also address the Community Planning Priorities in the Cowdenbeath area. The ongoing support that we receive from members of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee is also appreciated and welcomed for the year ahead.

As with previous years, our work will be carried out with integrity, fairness and respect and you have my personal commitment that our activities will focus on delivering a service for the communities in the Cowdenbeath area that addresses local priorities and concerns.

Local Community Inspector Gavin Cameron

It is my pleasure to be responsible for delivering the 2017-18 Cowdenbeath Area Policing Plan. Having recently been appointed as Cowdenbeath Community Inspector, I have been impressed with the strong community spirit and pride that local people have. The drive and enthusiasm shown by local people across the area, many of whom give up a considerable amount of time for the betterment of the area, is truly commendable.



I am keen to ensure that the work done by the Community Team positively enhances the local area, helping to make it a safer place to live, work and visit.

The objectives set this year have been identified as a result of public consultation, consultation at Community Engagement Meetings, engagement with elected members, examination of and analysis of police systems and a range of data from internal and external partners. These are not police objectives, they are your objectives. You can be guaranteed that I along with the Community Team will strive to ensure that we address the issues identified.

I know how strong the community in the Cowdenbeath area is, and I am confident that by working together we will be successful.

Chair of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee- Councillor Linda Erskine

As Cowdenbeath Area Convenor I am delighted to be given the opportunity to introduce our local policing plan.

We have been very fortunate over the years to have a close working relationship with Police Scotland, Cowdenbeath Area Committee, Fife Council and all local community safety partners. This has allowed the continuous delivery of clear and effective safety outcomes for the residents of all our towns, villages and hamlets in the Cowdenbeath Area from Crossgates to Cluny.



We receive regular community reports from Police Scotland at the Area Committee, which gives all the opportunity to raise matters

relevant to our area. This ensures that the local Police are responding to our specific needs.

The Cowdenbeath Area Local policing plan also gives Police Scotland the opportunity to show how your views and your local priorities have been taken onboard.

Our common goal is to make our local communities safe and be desirable places to live in, and by belonging to a strong working partnership I believe that we can achieve that aim. Both I, and your local elected members and Fife Council officers, are looking forward to working closely with our police colleagues over the next year to deliver this plan.

3. Priorities and Objectives.

Antisocial Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour is by its nature one of the key concerns raised by the public in the Cowdenbeath area. The intention this year is in accordance with the Fife Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2015 – 2020 to reduce antisocial behaviour and make people feel confident about reporting incidents.

Operation Prevail is a Divisional initiative implemented to target all forms of antisocial behaviour. This covers a wide range of crimes and offences including street drinking, public urinating and noise nuisance to name but a few. On a local level the Community Team, working in conjunction with partners, will strive to reduce all forms of antisocial behaviour.

No one should sit in silence if they are affected by this type of behaviour. Whilst analytical research can assist in identifying areas and crime trends, public assistance is required to expose and identify the true extent of the problem. Police Scotland support victims of crime and members of the public should have the confidence to report this type of behaviour.

With regard to public space antisocial behaviour we will continue to target 'hotspot' areas, recidivist offenders and respond quickly when emerging trends are identified. By continuing with this targeted approach and working closely with partners we will address all forms of antisocial behaviour which occur in our communities.

By its very nature private space antisocial behaviour can be problematic, however by working in partnership with the Cowdenbeath Area Safer Communities Group we aim to address this problem and prevent escalation. Partner agencies meet on a monthly basis providing them with the opportunity to lend their expertise. This early intervention ensures that a proactive approach is taken. This has been instrumental in dealing with our vulnerable residents whereby risk and threat has been quickly identified and support provided by the relevant agency. This joined up approach ensures that matters are addressed before they start to impact on the wider community.

Where required we will continue to utilise specialist resources available to us through Police Scotland such as the Licensing & Violence Reduction Division and the Operational Support Unit, deploying them on an intelligence led basis to areas of concern. This has proven to be a successful strategy in previous years.

Objective - To reduce in the following year reports of antisocial behaviour and encourage confidence to report incidents.

Violent Crime

The people of Cowdenbeath area have rightly highlighted assault and violent crime as a local concern and this is reflected in the Police Scotland priorities. Fife Division implemented Operation Path to address the issue. Violence can occur in both public and private space locations, if it is not addressed it can cause fear and have a detrimental impact upon people and communities.

The key to dealing with domestic violence is encouraging victims to report crimes and thereafter ensuring they are provided with the necessary support. All instances of assault and domestic violence are fully investigated and those responsible will be brought to justice. This ensures that adequate bail conditions are imposed and the relevant protective and preventative measures can be put in place to prevent reoffending. This also allows the opportunity for the relevant partner agencies to provide support to the victims and consider alternative housing, lifestyle and welfare arrangements. This focussed approach ensures that exposure to domestic violence is reduced.

Stringent management of bail plans in relation to violent offenders also ensures that the opportunity to commit further crime is limited and builds confidence in victims and communities.

Public space violence often revolves around alcohol consumption, from a local perspective proactive measures designed to prevent common assault will continue.

We will continue to focus on street drinking in identified hotspots and will direct our resources effectively based on seasonal trends and local knowledge.

We will work with our colleagues in Licensing to maintain a focus on the responsible management of licensed premises.

We will deploy Licensing and Violence Reduction Division officers, to supplement local resources and assist with policing the night time economy.

Through the enforcement of stop and search, officers detect and deter persons from carrying weapons, therefore preventing them from becoming involved in violent crime.

Education delivered through the Youth, Alcohol and Violence Reduction Officer in local High Schools ensures that from an educational perspective we are focused on preventing crime and diverting youths from becoming involved in crime.

Objective – To prevent and reduce the number of assaults and violent crimes in the Cowdenbeath area.

Road Safety and Road Crime

The residents of Cowdenbeath area have highlighted Road Safety and Road Crime as a priority. This coincides with our commitment to support the Fife Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2015 – 2020, the objective being to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.

To achieve this Fife Division implemented Operation Paramount, which will focus all road safety activity across Fife. Local officers will continue to promote road safety through our schools engagement programme in consultation with Fife Community Safety Partnership. We have already seen early evidence of the success of this partnership approach working with schools promoting safer parking and safe routes to school.

Education will continue to sit at the centre in order to promote safer roads and we will maintain our commitment to supporting Safe Drive / Stay Alive delivered by the Safety Partnership annually. This initiative exposes young adults and potential drivers to the reality of poor driving and reinforces responsibility.

From an enforcement perspective we will continue to deploy dedicated resources to enforce road traffic legislation and influence driver behaviour. We will use an intelligence led approach to target speeding motorists, uninsured, disqualified and dangerous drivers, drink/drug driving, those not wearing a seatbelt or who use mobile phones while driving.

Our engagement policy will allow us to gather information and intelligence on local concerns real time. This will ensure that dangers are reacted to swiftly and public confidence is maintained.

Specialist Road Policing officers deploy across the Cowdenbeath area on a regular basis, as and when required they will be directed to address specific concerns raised within the community.

Objective – to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on our roads.

Drug Dealing and Alcohol/Drug Misuse

Drug Dealing and Drug/Alcohol Misuse are contributory factors in terms of crime and antisocial behaviour in the local area and have an adverse impact on community wellbeing.

Operation Prospect is a Fife division initiative implemented to address drug dealing and substance misuse.

In the Cowdenbeath area officers will continue to engage with the local community and will listen and act upon information received in relation to drug misuse. In conjunction with specialist resources we will prioritise enforcement activity in respect of individuals involved in the supply of controlled drugs.

Through engagement and partnership working with licensees we will continue with our programme of education and enforcement to ensure that access to alcohol for those under age is prevented/reduced. Our presence in schools allows us the opportunity to provide education with regard to drug / alcohol abuse and provides children with the information to make better lifestyle choices.

We will continue to work with the Mobile Alcohol Intervention Team (MAIT), carrying out alcohol interventions with young persons who we find frequenting known drinking locations throughout the area ensuring we help keep our young people safe.

Objective – To tackle drug dealing and substance misuse
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4. How we identified our Priorities and Objectives

The Scottish Policing Assessment sets out the priorities for the Police Service of Scotland and is a key document for the Police in the continuous process of ensuring the service provided to the communities of Cowdenbeath area is of a high standard.

In addition, the priorities in this Plan have been identified through further analysis of local crime trends identified in our Divisional Strategic Assessment. We have also taken cognisance of the content of the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, the Cowdenbeath Community Plan and the Fife Local Policing Plan.

Cowdenbeath area has always had a strong tradition of community engagement between the police and local residents. We have ensured that we have maintained this tradition and consulted widely to capture the opinions of our residents.

Our Engagement Strategy ensures that we capture the views of a wide variety of residents including elected members, local businesses, schools, elderly, vulnerable and hard to reach groups. Meetings held at local authority buildings and business premises also ensure we are available to capture opinion when the public are available and not just according to our operational availability. Social media and online interaction is also an increasingly important means of community

engagement, and we will shortly be hosting a Facebook Live session to enhance engagement opportunities.

This flexible approach to business ensures that the information we gather to set objectives is relevant and proportionate of local concerns.

5. Performance Reporting

Progress against this Plan will be reported to the Local Area Committee in an agreed format on a quarterly basis. This information will be available to the public.

The reporting of performance to an independent body ensures that there is governance and scrutiny in place.

6. Scrutiny and Engagement

Fife Council has determined that the Safer Communities Committee will be the appropriate forum for reporting performance.

In addition, the Local Area Commander and the Local Community Inspector or their deputy, will continue to engage on a regular basis with the Local Area Committee and Community councils reporting against the objectives within this local Plan.

This scrutiny and engagement will ensure that there is accountability and transparency built into the process.

7. Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreement

The priorities in the Area plan support the Fife Local Policing Plan and the Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreement.

8. Equalities

All of our work is underpinned by our commitment to equality and diversity, in our dealings with the public we serve, as well as our own staff. This commitment is underpinned by our values of Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

We recognise that effective and fair policing is about reflecting the needs and expectations of individuals and local communities. Survey results show that different communities have differing expectations and contrasting experiences of the service provided by the police. Our aim is to ensure that our service to all is fair and

consistent, keeping those who are most vulnerable safe and enhancing the quality of life throughout the local community.

9. Local Contact Details

Cowdenbeath Police Station
Brunton House
318-320 High Street
Cowdenbeath
KY4 9QU

Telephone number:
101

E-mail address
FifeAreaCommandWest@scotland.pnn.police.uk

This group e-mail address is provided for you to discuss non-urgent local crime or antisocial behaviour problems. This should not be used to report a crime or incident.

Twitter:
CowdenbeathPolice@Cowdenbeathpol