



POLICE
SCOTLAND

Midlothian

Local Policing Plan 2013-2014



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Policing Plan for 2013-2014

1. Introduction

This plan sets out the local policing priorities and objectives for Midlothian for 2013-2014 and is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. It is produced as part of a planning process which takes account of the Scottish Government's overarching vision for public services, the Strategic Police Priorities set by Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Police Authority's Strategic Police Plan, the Midlothian Council Joint Strategic Assessment and the Chief Constable of Scotland's Annual Police Plan.

The Local Policing Plan for Midlothian represents a critical part of the delivery process for the new service, demonstrating our commitment to local policing within the national planning framework and enabling us to respond effectively to the concerns of local communities as well as meet and tackle nationwide demands. Local community policing plans, which respond directly to local needs and demands, will support this local authority plan.

2. Foreword by:

Chief Constable Stephen House QPM

This plan is the first under the new policing arrangements for Scotland. Local Policing will be the focus of the Police Service of Scotland and will deliver real improvements to the way services are delivered to local communities. Reform offers us the opportunity to improve accountability and increase scrutiny. This plan sets out our continuing commitment to 'Keeping People Safe'. It establishes the issues we believe are important to communities across Scotland. By delivering a local policing service that drives improvements against our priorities we can make a real difference in the quality of life for people in Scotland.

Vic Emery, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority

When it comes to local police services, one size doesn't fit all. Different communities across Scotland want access to the best expertise and services in policing - but they quite rightly expect police services to meet their area's needs and priorities. Your Local Policing Plan is a key part of making sure this happens, and keeping this local focus at the heart of community policing.

These plans are linked to national priorities, but are based on local issues and what people say matters to them. They are also a very public commitment by Police Scotland on what it will deliver to make our communities safer. The Scottish Police Authority will be working with Police Scotland, partners and communities to ensure we all receive the best policing possible.

Councillor Bob Constable, Leader of Midlothian Council

2013 is a unique year in policing, brought about by the move to a single force for Scotland. There are new challenges and there are new opportunities, but what remains constant is the desire, not only to maintain, but also continue to improve, police service delivery to Midlothian communities.

The Midlothian Local Policing Plan sets out objectives and priorities and explains how the excellent policing performance, which has seen a reduction in crime over previous years, will be maintained. For the first time local police priorities are being agreed in Midlothian, for Midlothian.

At a time when it is increasingly important to ensure that we are working together, local partnerships will continue to be forged and strengthened to deliver an effective and efficient policing service for the greater benefit of our local communities.

Chief Superintendent Jeanette McDiarmid, Local Police Commander

As the Local Police Commander for Midlothian I am delighted to provide you with the first Local Policing Plan, as part of my statutory duty under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

The Local Policing Plan for Midlothian sets out the key strategic priorities for policing and has been developed in collaboration with local communities and our partners, whilst taking national policing priorities and crime analysis into consideration. It prioritises the issues that really matter to local people. Police officers will focus on these identified priorities in order to reduce crime whilst robustly pursuing those responsible for committing such crimes.

I am committed to delivering the highest possible service to the people of Midlothian in order to improve safety and wellbeing whilst increasing the public confidence and satisfaction.

3. Priorities and Objectives:

Priority 1 – Protecting People

Our officers are dedicated to keeping people safe from harm and abuse. Public protection in Midlothian is a core activity for all partner agencies, ensuring the most vulnerable members of our community are identified and given the support they require. Similarly, within our communities, there are people at risk of harm, including domestic abuse and sexual crime.

It is acknowledged that domestic abuse, sexual crimes and honour-based violence disproportionately affect women and girls and the police in Midlothian are committed to taking a gender-informed approach to tackling these forms of violence.

Objectives:

- Increase detection rates for crimes of domestic abuse
- Increase the detection rate for sexual offences

In Midlothian there is an average of twenty incidents of domestic abuse each week, which places it within the top nine local authorities in Scotland for rates of domestic abuse per 100,000 population.

We are committed to tackling domestic abuse in partnership with a wide variety of agencies. The Police in Midlothian aim to identify and pro-actively target persistent perpetrators of domestic abuse who pose the greatest risk of causing serious harm.

To keep people safe we will continue to focus on a victim centered approach to public protection with the aim of preventing crime through early and effective intervention, education and the sharing of relevant information with partnership agencies.

By focusing on offenders, it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in repeat offending and thereby an enhanced protection of children through early intervention. The Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit will continue in the development of this methodology.

The Rape Investigation Unit will deliver a victim-centred approach to sexual offences, in partnership, by placing the welfare of the victim and support facilities at the forefront of the investigation.

Priority 2 – Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

Our priority is to reduce antisocial behaviour and hate crime across all our communities.

A recent citizen's panel survey in Midlothian found that 70% of respondents considered vandalism and antisocial behaviour to be the main issues the police should be dealing with across the local authority area.

Antisocial behaviour includes everything from dog fouling and litter to disorder and serious harassment. It is acknowledged in Midlothian that antisocial behaviour is not the responsibility of a single organisation. The police, individuals, council services, victims and witnesses, schools, businesses and many other groups have a role to play in tackling the problem.

Eighty percent of all hate crime committed in Midlothian is racially motivated. This can have a corrosive effect on community cohesion and disproportionately impact on the lives of its victims. By adhering to the Lord Advocate's guidelines on the investigation and reporting of hate crime, the police in Midlothian will deal robustly with those committing such crimes and effectively support its victims.

Objectives:

- Reduce the number of antisocial behaviour incidents
- Increase the detection rate for hate crime
- Reduce the number of complaints regarding youth disorder

Incidents of antisocial behaviour and youth disorder within Midlothian are dealt with through the multi-agency tasking and co-ordinating process, which meets weekly. This group is intelligence-driven and served by a police and council partnership analyst who identifies key victims, offenders and locations through the scrutiny of multi-agency data.

Partnership funded community officers are a flexible police resource capable of responding quickly to low-level disorder or emerging issues. This interventionist style of policing, in conjunction with wider Community Policing Teams, ensures that any incident of antisocial behaviour is proactively dealt with.

We continue to forge positive links with all communities and acknowledge that strong community confidence is essential in encouraging people to report hate crime. Recent initiatives in tackling 'point of sale' hate crime and the use of restorative practices has been instrumental in building these stronger links.

Priority 3 – Reducing Violence

Violence within our communities will not be tolerated and our officers are dedicated to making Midlothian a safer place.

Violent crime accounts for 11% of all crimes committed in Midlothian in 2010/2011.

The impact of violent crime in Midlothian can be devastating to victims, their family members, loved ones and the wider community. The police will continue to support victims and families by helping them understand the criminal justice system, assert their rights and access services, which are critical in regaining a sense of normality.

We will continue to work in partnership to prevent and reduce instances of violence through effective early intervention, enforcement, education and the rehabilitation of offenders.

Objectives:

- Reduce the level of violent crime
- Increase the proportion of positive stops and searches for offensive weapons

Public space violence in Midlothian will be tackled through the effective analysis and identification of 'hot spots' and subsequent targeted patrolling. Modern advances in technology will be used to support this work, through the deployment of Ferroguard poles and hand-held metal detectors.

Educational interventions will continue to be delivered across schools in Midlothian, including 'Knife City' and 'No Knives Better Lives'.

Alcohol is an underlying factor in serious violent crime in Midlothian, with a high proportion of assaults committed in the vicinity of licensed premises, and when offenders and/or victims are under the influence of alcohol. The police will continue to work with the Local Licensing Forum and Licensing Board to maintain the responsible management of licensed premises.

Priority 4 – Tackling Substance Misuse

Tackling the community and social harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse is a priority for the police in Midlothian.

In a recent community engagement survey within Midlothian, 71% of respondents indicated that drug misuse is a significant problem. Within the same survey 76% indicated that alcohol misuse is a significant problem.

To tackle the harm caused by alcohol and drug misuse in communities we will work towards a co-ordinated programme of education, awareness and early intervention with key partners within school and community settings.

We will identify and target those involved in the supply and distribution of illegal drugs and we will promote a partnership approach to harm reduction and intervention strategies targeted at problematic drug users.

Objectives:

- Increase the proportion of positive stops and searches for drugs
- Increase the number of licensed premises visits (on/off sales premises)

In partnership with the Mid and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership the police will focus on the needs of the most persistent offenders within Midlothian whose crimes are committed to sustain their dependency on drugs and/or alcohol.

A regime of proactive licensed premises (on and off sales) visits will seek to reduce the amount of alcohol available to young people.

A programme of Alcohol Brief Interventions will be delivered within a custody setting for individuals who are arrested or detained whilst under the influence of alcohol. Similarly, arrest referrals will be utilised for problematic drug users.

We will respond quickly to intelligence indicating the use or supply of drugs anywhere within the local authority area, using a wide variety of tactical options.

Priority 5 – Making our Roads Safer

We are dedicated to improving the safety of all our communities by reducing the number of incidents on our roads and reducing the number of casualties and deaths caused by road traffic collisions.

Road safety affects everyone who lives/works in or visits Midlothian. As most people use the road network on a daily basis it is essential to ensure they remain safe at all times.

We will work in partnership to improve road safety through enforcement, engineering, education and effective early intervention. Police and partners across Midlothian will proactively share information and intelligence to task and coordinate resources and change trends.

Objectives:

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads
- Increase the number of people detected for drink/drug driving offences
- Increase the number of people detected for speeding offences

In partnership with the local authority and other relevant groups the police in Midlothian are committed to reducing road casualties and preventing road traffic collisions. This will be achieved through initiatives like 'Road 2 L' – a rolling intervention within schools targeting the parents and carers of S5 and S6 pupils – and '2MRO's Driver', an annual intervention for S6 pupils.

In addition the police in Midlothian facilitate an annual road safety event at Glencorse Barracks for young service personnel based in the area.

Midlothian will continue to have dedicated roads policing resources, which will deploy to key locations at specific times based on sound analytical research. These resources will educate drivers regarding safe driving habits and enforce the law where appropriate.

Priority 6 – Tackling Serious Organised Crime

Our officers are committed to tackling serious organised crime and reducing the impact and harm it has on our communities.

Serious organised crime has the potential to impact negatively on all aspects of community life. It can fuel street crime, increase the fear of crime and have a detrimental financial impact on local economies.

We are committed to reducing the threat from organised crime groups by targeting their criminal enterprises and disrupting their activities. The police in Midlothian acknowledge the Scottish Government's objectives under the Serious Organised Crime Strategy of Divert, Deter, Disrupt and Detect, to

improve public safety and confidence by reducing the harm caused by organised crime groups.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of cash seizures and restraints through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) legislation
- Increase the number of people detected for supplying drugs

Prevention and early intervention is critical in Midlothian's approach to reducing the impact of serious organised crime. The police, in partnership with education, will continue to deliver the award winning 'Slide' educational package to schools throughout the area in an effort to divert young people from criminality and highlight the risk factors to professionals working with them.

We will take an intelligence-led approach to enforcement activity against organised criminal networks and deploy local and specialist resources appropriately.

4. How we identified our Priorities and Objectives

The Scottish Policing Assessment sets out the priorities for the Police Service of Scotland to the year 2015. It is a key document for the police in the continuous process of meeting future policing challenges and ensuring that the service the police provide to the communities of Scotland is of a high standard.

The Assessment draws on information and intelligence provided by all the Scottish forces and law enforcement agencies as well as information from key partner agencies including the Scottish Government, local authorities and the public. It is through this assessment that risk relating to crime and disorder is prioritised.

The priorities identified in this plan have been identified through further analysis of local crime trends and information. Appendix A summarises the key trends in the local authority area over the past year as shown in the Midlothian Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2012-2013.

Throughout 2012 we consulted with people from across Midlothian about issues that were of greatest concern to them. These consultation results made a critical contribution to identifying issues for local communities and these have been translated into the key policing priorities for Midlothian. Appendix B contains information on the results of our consultation.

All of our work is underpinned by our commitment to equality and diversity, in both our dealings with the public we serve and our own staff.

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 their quality of life.

To further this aim, and satisfy our statutory duties under The Equality Act 2010, we are developing national equality and diversity outcomes for 30 April 2013. In our 2014 three-year plan we will identify local priorities and objectives aligned to them.

5. Local Policing Arrangements

Our mission is to keep people safe. We aim to deliver policing that is visible accessible and responsive to the needs of the communities across the local authority area.

From 1 April 2013 a single Local Police Commander has been appointed for the Lothians and Scottish Borders who will direct one Local Area Commander based in Midlothian in order to deliver an effective policing service that delivers against our key priorities.

We will continue to respond quickly and effectively to public demand by answering all calls and operational requests made of us.

We have two local Community Policing Teams based across each electoral ward to tackle local problems and issues.

In addition to the Local Policing Plan for Midlothian, each ward will have an individual plan that will address the priorities specific to that ward and neighbourhood. These will also link closely with the plan for Midlothian.

These plans will be delivered by identifiable officers located in each geographic community, continuing engagement with the communities, adopting a shared partnership problem-solving approach to dealing with issues.

Multi Member Ward community policing plans are available at www.scotland.police.uk.

Local policing arrangements are aligned to the Community Safety Partnership working towards joint community safety priorities.

Uniformed officers are engaged in community policing and response roles, with additional funded officers forming part of joint partnership community teams working closely with officers from the local authority and third sector. Response resources comprise five response policing teams, each with an identified Inspector. Local Community Policing Teams are managed through two community-based Inspectors. A Criminal Investigation Department and other specialist units support these resources.

The local Community Policing Team will make sure you know who they are, how you can contact them and they will be visible and accessible in your communities, working first and foremost on community priorities. They will arrange regular community meetings, work with you to identify local concerns and work with others to solve these problems. They will regularly update you with progress made.

This blend of preventative policing set within the community planning context is targeted at providing an effective and efficient police service whose aim is community reassurance and increased community well being.

Measures of satisfaction from public perception surveys will be used when examining performance and all policies, procedures and practices will be Equality Impact Assessed.

6. Local Contribution to National Outcomes and National Policing Priorities

The Scottish Government has 16 National Outcomes, which demonstrate a commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth. Policing in Midlothian can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for this area by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the local authority area.

The priorities in this plan will be reflected in the Single Outcome Agreement for Midlothian, which will also include a range of indicators and targets focused on delivering improved services.

Scottish Ministers have also established Strategic Policing Priorities and these reflect the contribution that policing can make to achieve the National Outcomes.

Our local priorities align to the Strategic Policing Priorities and the Scottish Government's National Outcomes as follows:

Priority	Strategic Policing Priorities	National Outcomes
Protecting People	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16
Reducing Antisocial Behaviour	1, 2, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11
Reducing Violence	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16
Tackling Substance Misuse	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16
Making our Roads Safer	1, 2, 4	9, 11
Tackling Serious and Organised Crime	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 7, 8, 9, 11

Further information on National Outcomes and Strategic Policing Priorities can be accessed at www.scotland.gov.uk

7. Performance and Accountability

To support this plan Police Scotland will develop a national performance framework which allows the service to measure progress, monitor activity, identify key areas where resources need to be focused and demonstrate how successful we are in meeting our key priorities and objectives as set out in this plan.

We are committed to publishing our performance information and will use this as the foundation for reporting to Midlothian Council and local communities. This information is available upon request or at www.midlothian.gov.uk.

8. Local Scrutiny and Engagement

The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 includes a framework for local scrutiny and engagement arrangements between local authorities and the police service.

In Midlothian, local scrutiny and engagement will ensure that the locally set objectives will deliver the statutory purposes of improving the safety and wellbeing of the people. It will ensure that local conditions are understood and that community concerns are reflected. It will promote joint working to secure better outcomes and best value and will provide strategic leadership in order to influence service delivery and support continuous improvement by providing constructive challenge. Robust monitoring and reporting processes are instrumental in ensuring that the Midlothian Local Policing Area remains on track to deliver against local objectives within the resources available.

The Midlothian Police and Fire & Rescue Board consists of 6 elected members and 5 non-voting members co-opted from the Community Planning Partnership.

9. Local Contact Details

Contact details

Dalkeith Police Station
Newbattle Road
DALKEITH
EH22 3AX

Telephone number

Single Non Emergency Number
101

Email

For all non-emergency issues or enquiries relating to Police business, you can contact us via:

MidlothianLPP@scotland.pnn.police.uk

This group email address is provided for you to discuss non-urgent local policing issues. It should not be used to report a crime or incident.

For information about your local Community Policing Team and other services that Police Scotland provides, please refer to the Force website at:

www.scotland.police.uk

We are here to help

We will continue to keep in touch with you to keep you updated on the ongoing work being carried out to tackle the issues that are affecting life for you in Midlothian.

- If you have any concerns or issues you wish to discuss, contact your local Community Policing Team.
- Dial 999 for an emergency that requires urgent police attention.
- For non-emergency contact, call 101, the single non-emergency number.
- If you have information about crime in your area and wish to provide it anonymously, call:

CRIMESTOPPERS on
0800 555 111
- Service users who are deaf or have a hearing impairment can contact Police Scotland via TextRelay in an emergency on 18000 or non emergency on 18001 101.

Appendix A - Midlothian Community Safety Strategic Assessment

The Midlothian Community Safety Strategic Assessment is produced annually and provides an analysis of issues impacting on community safety within Midlothian. In the assessment each issue is prioritised through an evidence-based process of analysis, environmental scanning and risk assessment.

This has resulted in the following outcomes being identified as meeting the local needs and fitting with the wider Midlothian Single Outcome Agreement themes:

1. Fewer people are victims of crime, abuse or harm
2. People feel safe in their neighbourhoods and homes
3. Our communities take a positive role in shaping their future

Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2012-2013:

www.midlothian.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2541/midlothian_community_safety_strategy_2012-13

Appendix B - Local Consultation Results

In addition to the Strategic Assessment, the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership is committed to placing communities at the heart of community planning. This involves producing 16 Neighbourhood Plans, one for each of Midlothian's Community Council areas.

A neighbourhood plan describes the area it serves and lists the changes, developments and improvements local residents would like to see happen. This is done through consultation involving both public meetings and questionnaires aimed at finding out the most important issues that need to be addressed.

The process is designed to help a variety of agencies to work together with local people to build strong, safe and attractive communities. The plans can be viewed by following this link:

www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/200130/communities_and_community_planning/367/community_planning/9

Additionally, this plan was distributed for consultation and comments to a number of interested parties including:

- Local councillors
- Director of Midlothian Council
- Police National Reform Team
- Police Lay Advisor
- Local police Command Team
- Local Senior Fire Officer