

East Lothian Police Scrutiny Report



1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents there may be minor amendments between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. The extraction date from recording systems can also differ so it would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in the report as official statistics.

Data contained in this report should only be used to identify trends as figures are likely to change over time.

INTRODUCTION

Crimes and offences are grouped under recognised categories for statistical purposes. The Scottish Government defines these categories. For example, 'Group 1' refers to 'Non Sexual Crimes of Violence' (such as serious assault or robbery). Group 2 refers to 'Sexual Crimes' (such as rape or voyeurism) and so on.

Police Scotland publishes management information on an annual and quarterly basis by local authority and police division, as well as at a national level. These reports are produced to demonstrate Police Scotland's commitment to transparency. Police Scotland publishes all of these reports on the 'Our Performance' section of the Police Scotland website.

The reports can be accessed here: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

The East Lothian Policing Plan uses the following Police performance indicators, and these have been mirrored in the Scrutiny Report to maintain parity of understanding:

- *Non-Sexual Crimes of Violence (Group 1) - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Sexual Crimes (Group 2) - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Anti-social Behaviour Incidents (public reported) - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Racially Aggravated Conduct - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Crimes of Dishonesty (Group 3) - crimes per 10,000 population*
- *Proportion (%) of Domestic Abuse incidents which result in a crime report – total for reporting period*
- *Number of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded - total for reporting period*
- *Road Casualties - total for reporting period*

All figures quoted in this report are for the period April 2018 to March 2019 and are compared against the same reporting period from the previous year. Where figures are quoted on rate per 10,000 population, these are based on East Lothian's population of 104,840 in 2017 (Scottish Government figures).

Divisional Commander

Chief Superintendent John McKenzie is the new Lothians and Scottish Borders Divisional Commander taking over from Chief Supt Lesley Clark who has now retired from the force. John was born and educated in West Lothian. He completed a degree in Electronic Engineering and worked in this field prior to joining Lothian & Borders Police in 1992. He served in West Lothian, in both uniform and criminal investigation roles, prior to moving to Edinburgh as the Detective Chief Inspector for Public Protection where he worked in partnership to modernise the multi-agency response to child and adult protection investigations.

In 2011 he was promoted to Head of Professional Standards in Lothian & Borders Police and was directly involved in the development of a National Professional Standards Department within Police Scotland to serve the needs of all communities.

Chief Supt McKenzie moved to Greater Glasgow Division in 2015 as a Detective Superintendent and was promoted in 2017 to Chief Superintendent of the National Safer Communities portfolio. He has very strong personal and professional links with the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division. He also has an extensive investigative background and significant experience in working strategically with partners to build sustainable solutions as well as building strong and professional teams to deliver for local communities.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Non Sexual Crimes of Violence

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Per 10,000	7.7	8.6	--
Recorded	81	90	+9



There has been an increase of 11.1% in recorded crime (9 crimes) in this category which equates to 9 more crimes from the previous year. Serious assaults decreased by 1 crime to 45 (-2.3%). The increase was mainly Robberies, which increased from 12 to 23. 21 of these were solved, providing a detection rate of 91.3%. The overall detection rate for group 1 crime is 67.8%, with a number of protracted enquiries still ongoing.

To tackle this increase, the division have introduced Operation Parejos, which has a focus on violent crime in our communities. We have revised our weekend patrol matrix and for 2019/20 refreshed our violence plans both locally and divisionally. Additionally we are reviewing outstanding crimes and warrants with a focus of targeting prolific offenders.

Of note, 8 of the Robberies recorded were private space, with the other 15 public space. 4 of the public space crimes were shop robberies.

Sexual Crime

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Per 10,000	12.7	19.4	--
Recorded	133	203	+70



The number of recorded crimes in this category has risen from 133 to 203.

The detection rate for Group 2 is 65% (up 16.1% on 2017/18) and for Rape is 96.8% (up 44.4% on 2017/18).

The rise in group 2 crimes can be attributed to a number of high profile cases which have been highlighted in local and national media. Many group 2 crimes are still live enquiries.

We are alive to the potential link between alcohol and sexual offences. Keeping licensing in mind, the **Ask Angela** campaign has been introduced and posters are being delivered to licensed premises across the county. This is a campaign run by Rape Crisis Scotland and allows customers who could be feeling threatened or unsafe after meeting someone, to get help by approaching the bar and "Asking to speak to Angela".

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Anti-social Behaviour

(Public Reported)

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Per 10,000	516.9	503	--
Recorded	5,419	5,273	-146

There has been a 2.7% decrease in anti-social behaviour (ASB) calls, which equates to 146 less calls over the reporting year. This is a positive reduction and can be attributed to us targeting the right areas at the right times. In addition, our partnership working and the use of ASBO's against repeat offenders have also assisted us.

It is also worth recognising the hard work that goes into the PSP (Problem Solving Partnership) system which has identified and resolved significant and emerging instances of ASB across the area.

We are currently reviewing our response to warm weather which normally results in an increase in alcohol related disorder. We have identified specific dates and locations and are planning for such events using local and specialist resources as well as resources from partner agencies. Events such as the end of school exams cause problems and we will have a dedicated response to this.



Racially Aggravated Conduct

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Per 10,000	2.3	0.8	--
Recorded	24	8	-16

Racially aggravated conduct is down by 65.3%. Last year there were 24 of this particular crime type, whereas this year only 8 have been recorded. There are no obvious trends.

There is a 100% detection rate for Racially Aggravated Conduct crimes over this reporting period.

Educational visits have been ongoing throughout the year and it is thought that this has helped to drive the decrease. East Lothian's two dedicated Youth Community Officers have spent a large amount of time within the primary and secondary schools across the county delivering the inputs to pupils of all ages. These focused on hate crime, drugs education, firework safety and internet/social media safety. They have also facilitated inputs to high school pupils on the subject of serious and organised crime and other crime related issues.

Looking forward we will continue to deliver these educational talks. We also continue to ensure that Third Party Reporting is encouraged for victims who are initially reluctant to report directly to police.



PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Crimes of Dishonesty

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Per 10,000	189.1	204.1	--
Recorded	1,976	2,140	+164

Crimes of dishonesty have increased by 7.9% which equates to a rise of 164 crimes. The detection rate of 40.2% is almost static on the previous year (40.8%).

There has been an increase of 4 domestic housebreakings from 89 to 93, which is below the 5 year average. Towards the latter end of the year the county suffered from a spike in thefts owing to an organised crime group targeting the division. In response to this we launched and led a joint operation across Scotland and as a result a large number of offenders have been arrested and received lengthy prison sentences.

East Lothian Officers attend a variety of events to support Crimes of dishonesty, including 4 'Financial Harm' events, organised through the East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee, two of which were held at Fisherrow Community Centre and the John Gray Centre in Haddington. These multi-agency events were supported by a number of partners.



Domestic Abuse

(% of incidents resulting in crime report)

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
% resulting in a crime	42.4	40.9	-1.5%

Positively, the percentage of incidents which result in a crime has decreased from 42.4% to 40.9% (-1.5%).

April 2019, saw the introduction of the new Domestic Abuse Scotland Act, which brings additional powers to police and looks to tackle coercive and controlling behaviour. Recorded crimes for these will be classed as Group 1 Crimes.

Between June – August 2019, East Lothian will be undertaking a domestic abuse campaign, working closely with partners to raise awareness, offer additional support to victims, roll out additional local training to officers and look at early intervention through the community justice partnership.

We have been working with specialists from across Police Scotland, the Violence against Women Co-ordinator and other partners to jointly implement a bespoke East Lothian improvement plan. The result of this may be additional crimes and incidents but that in turn may evidence a greater confidence for victims to report the abuse.



PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Domestic Abuse Incidents

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Incidents	932	1,145	+213



This period has seen an increase of 213 incidents of domestic abuse.

As previously mentioned, the new legislation may have an effect on crime recording going forward. This is something which as a force we will be keen to analyse.

Locally we will continue to review all incidents thoroughly to establish correct recording procedures.

Road Casualties

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
Fatal	3	2	-33.3%
Serious	37	46	24.3%
Slight	190	138	-27.4%
Total	230	186	-19.2%



There has been a positive reduction in all road casualties. In 2017/18 we recorded 230 compared to the reporting period in 2018/19 where we recorded 186 (-19.2% reduction).

Road Policing underwent a national restructuring process throughout 2018. Part of the restructure was the establishment of a new 24/7 operating base at Dunbar police station, which came into operation on 29th October 2018.

The strategic aim is to provide increased road policing (RP) cover throughout East Lothian, in line with the national objectives of influencing driver and road user behavior and to reduce road casualties and detect and deter all types of criminality on our roads.

Speed checks have been carried out across the county at hot spot locations and the Local Area Commander is utilising the East Safety Camera Partnership to deter speeding and promote responsible driving, particularly at accident hot spots.

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Problem Solving Partnerships

In the months since the last reporting period, Problem Solving Partnerships (PSPs) have been initiated in Haddington, Dunbar and in Musselburgh. The first was set up in response to anti-social behaviour being evidenced in Haddington Town Centre, the second in relation to youth disorder at a specific location in Dunbar and the third in relation to private dwelling based anti-social behaviour being exhibited within the Goose Green area of Musselburgh. Both the Haddington and Dunbar PSP's have now drawn to a successful conclusion due to a drop in ASB incidents in both towns. The PSP within Musselburgh is still ongoing and all partners are working closely together, focusing on the issues reported by the public to bring this to a conclusion.

The Partnerships are made up of representatives from Police Scotland, East Lothian Council, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other local partners. The collective response is co-ordinated via multi-agency action plans and all three Partnerships have been successful in reducing the level of anti-social behaviour being experienced.

Community Engagement & Social Media

The Local Area Commander led a recent project which focussed on communication and engagement in the Lothians and Scottish Borders Division. He has successfully implemented a new Social Media structure across the division and this includes East Lothian. Over the past months East Lothian has been far more engaging and informative over its Facebook and Twitter pages with a significant rise in followers. He is keen to promote this activity far beyond what we do now and utilise Social Media for a policing purpose, promoting our activity, making appeals, but also to pilot some innovating new ideas such as bringing local CAPP's online where people can easily influence police activity in their area at the press of a button.

Organised Crime & Licensing

During the month of November 2018 licensing officers were involved in a joint operation with HMRC, Immigration and East Lothian Council at premises in East Lothian tackling issues relating to human trafficking and this coordinated activity will continue until the issues are resolved. Reports have already been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

There is evidence to suggest that organised crime groups are operating within the county however, excellent partnership work ensures that the issue is not as big a problem as it is in other Local Authority areas. In recent months the success of operations such as 'Operation Portable' and 'Operation Uttermost', which were local operations to tackle serious and organised crime groups from Birmingham and Liverpool trying to move into the County, have been seen as best practice. These operations, highlighted in national press, have been recognised across Police Scotland as the best way to deal with such groups and the processes have been shared across the country.

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

Community Justice Partnership

The East Lothian Community Justice Partnership which is chaired by the Local Area Commander, exists to promote equality and drive local community planning activity to improve outcomes for people wherever they are on the justice pathway, and to improve outcomes for their families, victims and the wider community. The Partnership aims to strengthen the coordination of services in East Lothian, which will help in the prevention of offending and re-offending.

To move the work of the Partnership forward, the Local Area Commander met with several key Heads of Services from East Lothian Council where it was decided to devise three new priority areas for the Partnership to focus on in order to deliver services that are joined-up and responsive to local needs.

These priority areas are, Community Engagement, Early Intervention and Doing Things Differently.

These work streams are in their infancy and have representation from Police Scotland, East Lothian Council, SFRS, Scottish Prison Service, NHS Lothian and 3rd sector groups on all 3 areas.

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) have had a steady period volunteering hours at events such as the Positive Action Recruitment event held at the Scottish Police College, assisting the East Lothian Foodbank in Musselburgh and are planning to help fundraising campaigns with new local Haddington based charity St Columba's Hospice. During the National House Breaking Campaign the volunteers delivered leaflets on how to keep homes safe and also joined the East Lothian Community Safety Officer in delivering forensic marking kits to farm owners throughout East Lothian. Ten new volunteers have also recently joined the group taking their total to 23 and the new volunteers have completed their initial training programme and will now begin to volunteer in the community.

Jim and Jemima

Following the introduction of an experimental 20mph limit in most of Dunbar and East Linton a lot of complaints were made to local police officers about drivers not keeping to these new limits. Dunbar's Community Officers, linked up with colleagues in the Berwickshire area who were deploying cardboard cut-out officers to deter speeding in their area. They ascertained the details of the manufacturer and cost, then collaborated with the four community councils in the Dunbar and East Linton Ward. They unanimously agreed they could be of benefit in slowing traffic down so accepted the proposal to purchase them with the cost being split between them. The pair have been named 'Jim and Jemima'. Ten locations have been identified in the Ward and Jim and Jemima have been deployed at them all. Feedback from the public appears to confirm they definitely work in slowing traffic down and they have provoked a lot of discussion on social media.

ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

East Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime

Following an initial meeting in April 2018, on 16th August 2018, the East Lothian Partnership Against Rural Crime (ELPARC) was officially formed. ELPARC have a regular schedule of strategic meetings with the intention of delivering outcomes in reducing rural crime in East Lothian. Members of ELPARC include East Lothian Council, Police Scotland, NFUS, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, SEPA, Marine Scotland, RSPB, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Forth Fisheries, Scottish Water, Network Rail and the Woodland Trust.

ELPARC is concerned with the occurrence and fear of all crime affecting rural communities. This includes wildlife, heritage, marine and other crimes including anti-social behaviour and all impact on individuals, a community, property, businesses, environment and/or the quality of life in rural areas and the rural economy.

A rural crime action plan was produced with all partners working towards the outcomes in relation to this. Two specific outcomes were to arrange a high profile launch day, promoted through the existing network of the NFU Scotland. This event took place on 23rd January 2019 at Adniston Farm, Macmerry, and was officially opened by Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity. The second outcome was to promote the use of the Neighbourhood Watch/Rural Watch Scotland Alert system.

The programme for the day included lunch, Crime/Fire Prevention 'walk and talk' tour of the farm, various other presentations/demonstrations, pop-up stalls and crucial networking opportunities. There were also representatives from SPARC (Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime), who have informed ELPARC members that the work they are doing in East Lothian is being recognised at a national level and has been described as 'trail blazing'.

Operation Monarda/Shut Out Scammers

Shut Out Scammers is Police Scotland's initiative to raise awareness and reduce the harm caused by door step crime. Door step crime can take the form of bogus callers, rogue traders or scams. While anyone can become a victim of such fraudulent activity, these criminals will often target some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

East Lothian Officers attended a variety of events to support this initiative including 4 'Financial Harm' events, organised through the East and Midlothian Public Protection Committee, two of which were held at Fisherrow Community Centre and the John Gray Centre in Haddington. These multi-agency events were supported by East Lothian Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, Musselburgh and Haddington Citizen Advice Bureau, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Royal Bank of Scotland as well as Police Scotland.

The East Lothian Community Safety Officer, along with a representative from East Lothian Trading Standards, also took part in a regular drop in, arranged by the Community Bankers from the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Police in East Lothian have also worked in partnership with East Lothian pharmacies to provide preventative information targeted at the more vulnerable. Information leaflets outlining steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of falling victim to this crime, were distributed along with prescribed medication. Further events are planned throughout the year.

Divisional Crimestoppers Awards

The Lothian and Scottish Borders Division held their annual ceremony at the headquarters of Transport Scotland in South Queensferry.

Officers from Police Scotland, other blue light services, partner organisations and members of the public were in attendance at the event which saw several East Lothian nominees scooping two of the top awards.

Nominations had been sought in the months previous for categories which included: teamwork, partnerships, outstanding performance, making a difference, volunteers and members of the public.

In the partnerships category the award went to an East Lothian team which included police officers, local authority education staff and staff from Crimestoppers for their outstanding contribution in the role out of 'No Knives, Better Lives', a national capacity-building programme that supports primary school prevention work related to knife carrying. Secondly, for their work to introduce 'Fearless', an anonymous reporting system run by Crimestoppers for 11-16 year olds to secondary schools in East Lothian. Two of those receiving this award were PC Allen Paul, East Lothian Community Safety Officer, based at Haddington Police Station, and Fraser Parkinson, Principal Officer Inclusion and Equality, East Lothian Council.

PC Paul and Mr Parkinson, along with their team, arranged a launch event in Musselburgh for every High School which was opened officially by Ash Denham, Scottish Government Minister for Community Safety. The launch event was followed by further events within individual schools co-ordinated by PC Paul and Mr Parkinson. These programmes, which continue to be delivered in local schools, are challenging attitudes and are promoting good citizenship amongst the young people of East Lothian that will inevitably make the county a safer place to reside.

Another resounding success within the 'Making a Difference' category which recognises excellence in service delivery against the national policing priorities, was a team comprising of East Lothian police officers and staff from East Lothian Council's Safer Communities department.

In the last few years, the Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders areas have seen a marked increase in the number of 'County Lines' style drug dealing operations, whereby criminal groups from large cities expand their drug dealing network into rural and semi-rural communities.

Kenneth Black, East Lothian Council, along with a team of East Lothian officers, worked in close partnership to draw on their respective knowledge of known offenders within East Lothian to support a strong evidence portfolio detailing impact of their activity which could be used at court. The hard work, knowledge, skill and determination of all involved saw 3 people being issued with ASBO's banning them from the East Lothian area.