

Quadrant

Quarterly Public Performance Report
Issue 15

COCAINE

– your questions answered

Dumfries and Galloway
Constabulary



Established 1948

New challenges for 2008



As we close the book on 2007, I hope everyone had a peaceful festive break and look forward to 2008. It is appropriate at this time to reflect on one or two of the highlights and particular achievements and opportunities from the last 12 months.

Firstly, as a force, we congratulate Ian Marshall who was recently awarded the Queen's Police Medal and wish him and his family a long and prosperous retirement. Ian's award recognises the force's links with the local community, something I wish to build on in 2008.

The Force Consultation Day in December clearly demonstrated the benefits from inclusive working with our communities in the development of future plans.

On the performance front, the last quarter has seen a considerable drive to maintain standards with reductions across most of the significant crime groups, whilst still achieving increased detection rates. One of our main concerns in 2007 however has been death and serious injuries on our roads. Whilst progress has been made over the last six months, we will continue to pursue a policy which encompasses education, engineering and enforcement in an attempt to achieve reductions in 2008 and beyond.

At a national level, the structural changes following the creation of the Scottish Police Services Authority have raised a number of challenges which we are working on. In June, we had the incident at Glasgow Airport which served as a timely reminder of the need for vigilance. The incident also demonstrated the importance of the community and the role it plays.

I would like to finish by saying that I am extremely grateful for the effort made by all staff in ensuring the force moves forward in a positive and progressive manner.

Force Consultation Day

The force recently held a consultation day at the Crichton Campus, Dumfries. The event brought together members of the public and police staff to discuss issues such as community policing, crime, roads policing and drugs and alcohol.

In addition to community constables, around 25 secondary school pupils from across the region were there, along with a number of representatives from the recently-formed Community Voice initiative.

One school pupil commented: "I felt involved and although at times it felt

like young people were getting blamed for everything, my views were listened to and I was allowed to put my views across."

Chief Constable Pat Shearer said: "The day seemed to go very well and I was impressed with the "no holds barred" type of input from those who contributed. Many of the young people made meaningful contributions to a number of the issues under discussion. This provided an alternative perspective to areas such as underage drinking, drugs misuse, driving-related matters, including

drink and drug driving, and in general about the perception of the police in the community from a young person's point of view."

The day ended with a plenary session when the panel took questions from the floor. There was a lively debate which provided an insight into the workings of the force, both at a local and national level. It also allowed the public to have their say on several issues. The results of the day will be analysed and published at a later date – watch this space.



Visit our website at www.dg.police.uk

Can't tell? Don't sell!

Wednesday 5 December 2007 saw the formal launch of the test purchase of alcohol by youngsters scheme.

Since February 2005, local authorities in Scotland have been permitted to participate in schemes which allow criminal proceedings to be based on evidence obtained through the test purchasing of age-restricted products.

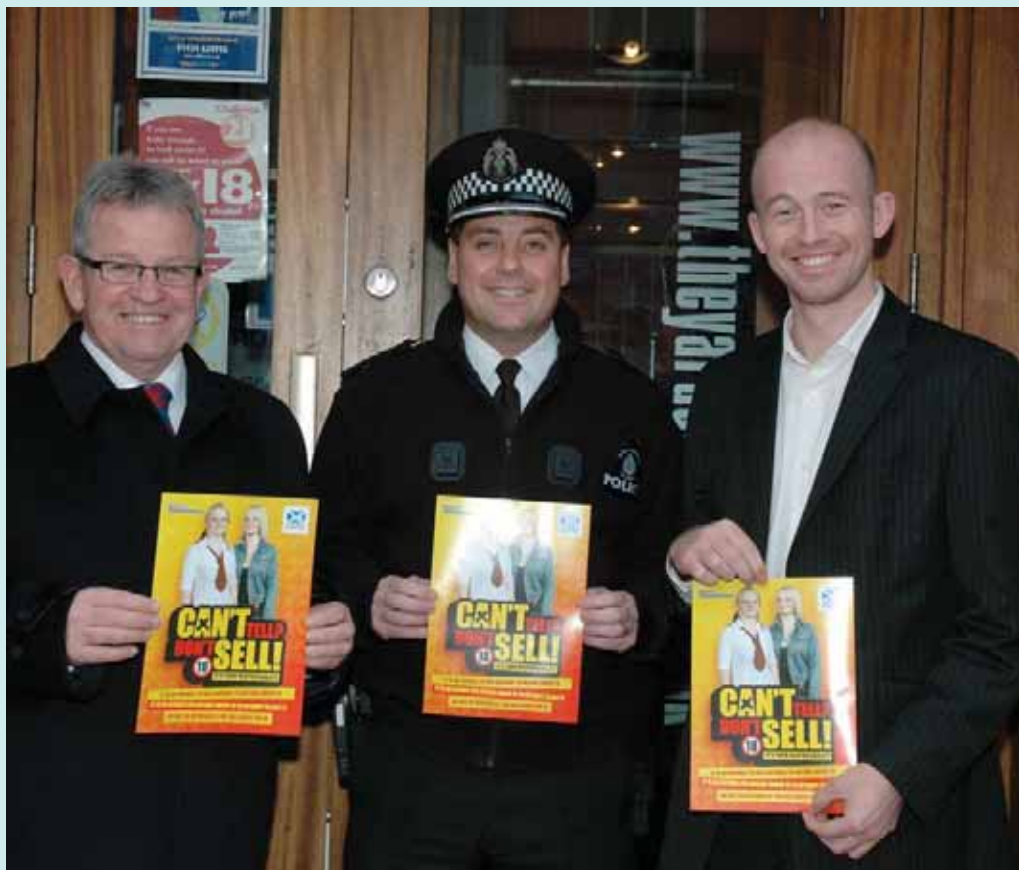
Historically, police officers have been used as test purchasers for the purposes of obtaining evidence in relation to the sale or supply of drugs. Recent legislative changes have permitted the test purchasing of alcohol in Scotland.

Last year, a test purchase pilot project was carried out by Fife Constabulary. From an early stage, it was evident that the pilot scheme had been very successful and was well received by the licensing trade, local communities and elected members.

The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) welcomed the Scottish Government push to roll-out the test purchase of alcohol scheme throughout the country, requiring changes to current licensing law.

The test purchase initiative will be a high profile operation, aimed at reducing the amount of alcohol being sourced by underage youngsters throughout the region.

Where evidence is found identifying breaches of licensing law, appropriate action will be taken via the Procurator Fiscal and local licensing boards.



Test purchasing may be carried out at any licensed premises or off-sales during operating hours. Contact has been made with all licensees in the region to make them aware of this initiative.

Publicity material, in the form of posters and stickers, has been distributed to the licensed trade with a request that premises and licensees display the material in a prominent position to remind staff and customers alike of the law concerning the sale of alcohol to youngsters.

This will be the first time Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary has participated in such a test purchasing of alcohol initiative.

The overall message to licensees is quite clear:

“If you can't tell that someone is over 18 years of age, don't sell them alcoholic drinks or you could face serious consequences.”

Ultimately, the success of this initiative will be gauged against the number of premises passing test purchase operations. The police are actively seeking the cooperation and participation of parents and licensees alike to ensure that the amount of alcohol being sourced by youngsters is greatly reduced.

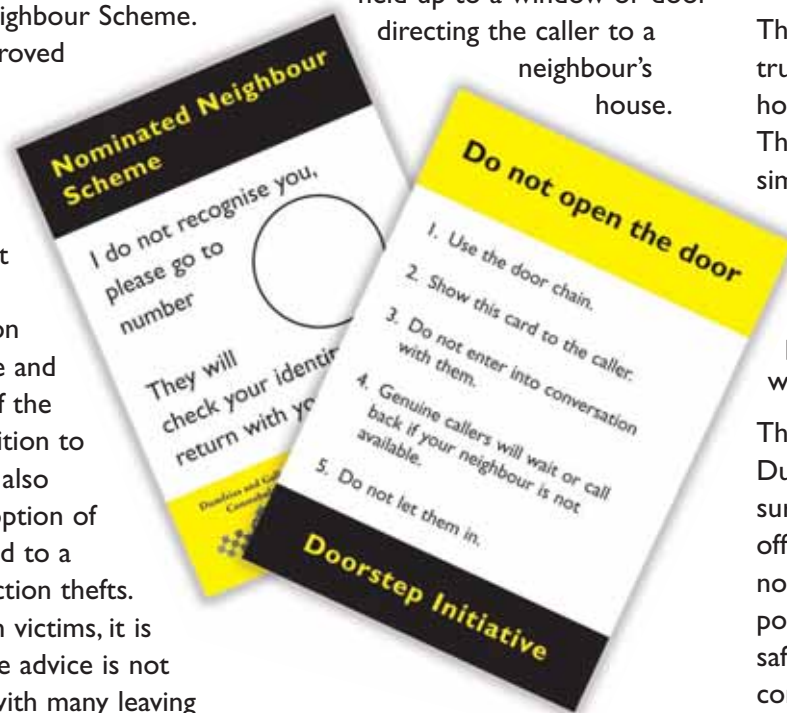
Nominated Neighbour

In a bid to tackle the problem of bogus work type crimes in the region, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, along with Stewartry Community Safety Forum and Age Concern Scotland, launched a pilot of the Nominated Neighbour Scheme. The initiative has proved successful in other parts of Scotland.

The scheme is designed to prevent the effect that this type of crime has on both the vulnerable and elderly members of the community. In addition to tackling crime, it is also hoped that the adoption of the scheme will lead to a reduction in distraction thefts. From speaking with victims, it is apparent that police advice is not being adhered to, with many leaving their doors unlocked, failing to use door chains or spyholes and not asking for any form of identification.

Experience has shown that not fully opening a door reduces the opportunity for this type of crime.

The scheme provides the vulnerable person with a card which can be held up to a window or door directing the caller to a neighbour's house.



The neighbour can then check the identity of the person and return next door with him/her. The neighbour will then supervise the visit to ensure that there is nothing untoward taking place and remain until the caller has left.

The nominated neighbour will be trustworthy, chosen freely by the householder and be readily available. The neighbour will be supplied with simple and clear guidance notes instructing him/her of the action to be taken.

It is apparent that criminals who prey on the elderly would not wish to endure this type of scrutiny.

There has been recent activity in Dumfries and Galloway and surrounding force areas by bogus officials, demonstrating that there is no room for complacency, and any positive action that improves the safety of those vulnerable within our communities is most welcome.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Constable Iain Howie at Kirkcudbright on 0845 600 5701

CRIME NEWS

- A hardware store in Newton Stewart was broken into in late November and a large amount of money stolen. A 27 year old male and 26 year old female were apprehended and charged with the break-in. A substantial amount of the stolen money was recovered.
- 48 cartons, each containing six bottles of Glenlivet 12 year old malt whisky, with a value of approximately £5,000, were stolen from a pallet secured within a rear yard in Dumfries.

- A boulder was dropped from a bridge onto a parcel delivery van as it travelled along the Annan low road. The van's window was shattered and the driver, although not physically injured, was visibly shaken. This act shows a complete disregard for the consequences and could have resulted in a very serious crash had the driver lost control of his vehicle.
- Two elderly ladies were the victims of robbery on the same day in December. Although

neither was hurt, they were extremely upset. Whilst there are similarities between the two incidents, they are being treated separately at this time.

- Two Stranraer men were recently sentenced to imprisonment following the attempted murder of an 18 year old local man. The incident took place in January 2007. Callum Kyle, aged 17, was imprisoned for 4 years and 2 months and Peter O'Hare, also aged 17, was sentenced to 3 years and 9 months.



COCAINE

- not worth the habit

During the festive period, a poster campaign to highlight the dangers of cocaine and ecstasy was carried out in licensed premises and other public places throughout the region.

There is a growing concern around the abuse of “recreational” drugs and **Constable Scott Jardine**, the newly-appointed Substance Misuse Officer for Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, provides some advice on the dangers of using cocaine.

■ What is cocaine and how is it used?

Cocaine is a fast-acting nervous system stimulant, extracted from the leaves of the coca bush, a high altitude plant which grows in the Andes of Bolivia, Peru and Colombia.

It usually comes as a fine white powder which is snorted in lines and rapidly absorbed through the nasal membranes. Many users also dab it on their teeth and gums.

■ What is the purity and what is inside?

This is the danger – most people think that it would be pure cocaine but this is far from the case. The average gram “wrap” is usually between 20% and 65% actual cocaine. The rest is probably corn starch, vitamin C powder, sugar, talcum powder, Italian baby milk powder or local anaesthetic (to simulate the numbing effect).

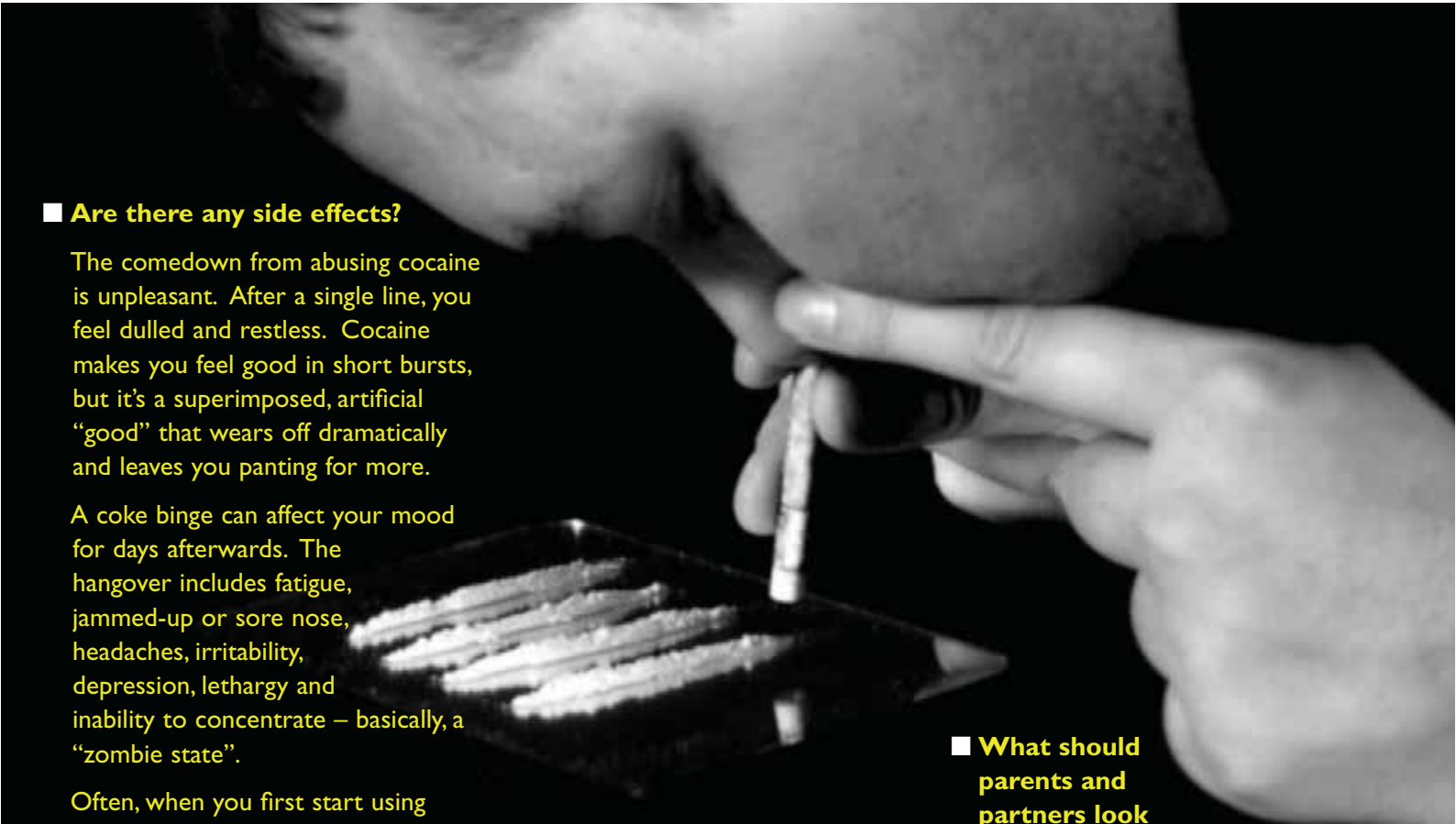
■ What are the effects of snorting cocaine?

Cocaine is very fast-acting but short-lived. The effects range from subtle to white knuckle, depending on the dosage and purity of the drug.

The effects of snorted cocaine can be felt within 10 – 15 seconds, peaking after five minutes and fully wearing off after 20 – 30 minutes. Mentally, you feel alert, energised and buzzing. You feel a sudden burst of euphoria and self-confidence which makes you more sociable and talkative – you talk lots!

Physically, you feel “wired” – clenched jaw, wide-eyed and dilated pupils. Your heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature all rise. If you’re in poor shape, be careful. You may also feel strong and sexually aroused.





■ **Are there any side effects?**

The comedown from abusing cocaine is unpleasant. After a single line, you feel dulled and restless. Cocaine makes you feel good in short bursts, but it's a superimposed, artificial "good" that wears off dramatically and leaves you panting for more.

A coke binge can affect your mood for days afterwards. The hangover includes fatigue, jammed-up or sore nose, headaches, irritability, depression, lethargy and inability to concentrate – basically, a "zombie state".

Often, when you first start using cocaine, these after-effects are minimal, but they get worse with continued use.

■ **Is it safe to mix cocaine with ecstasy and other party drugs?**

Most drugs combined with cocaine will increase stress on the heart. Again, be careful if you are in bad shape.

You should also be aware that taking cocaine and alcohol creates a metabolite called cocaethylene in the body, which is more toxic and can put more stress on the heart.

■ **How much do you have to take before it destroys your nose?**

Regular chronic (daily or heavy weekly) cocaine use will gradually collapse the septum, the thin membrane which divides the nostrils. The damage is irreversible unless you are prepared to pay for expensive cosmetic surgery.

■ **Can cocaine be absorbed through the skin?**

Yes, cocaine can be absorbed through the skin, although most readily through exposed soft tissue and thin skin such as the lips, gums and eyes.

■ **Will one experimental use of cocaine make you addicted?**

One single use of cocaine will not make you an addict. Nor will two or three times. However, cocaine addiction is a gradual and insidious process. If there's availability and you can afford it, it is not difficult for regular recreational use to descend into habitual abuse.

■ **Is possession of cocaine a criminal offence?**

Yes. In the UK, cocaine is a Class A drug, alongside heroin and ecstasy, with extreme penalties for possession and supply.

■ **What should parents and partners look out for?**

Folded wraps of paper or foil, scales, mirrors or razor blades. They should also look out for rapid mood changes, particularly just after weekends. Severe paranoia is also a distinct symptom.

The effect builds quickly, coming on in waves within the first two hours, strengthening with each pass. A lightness of mood and relaxation gives way to waves of physical pleasure, euphoria, openness and empathy to others around you. The awareness of touch is strongly heightened. The muscles relax.

Should anyone have any information regarding the possession or supply of controlled drugs, they should contact the police on 0845 600 5701, or information can also be left anonymously with Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Community Voice

452 people have so far completed the recent community survey which was launched as part of the Community Voice contact group. The full results of the survey will be published shortly on the force website. Some of the responses were as follows:

63.9% of respondents felt that there was a sense of community spirit where they lived

85.8% felt very or fairly satisfied where they lived

91.2% of those who responded felt that traffic issues were the top concern for them and their neighbourhoods

antisocial behaviour was the type of crime most likely to affect a person's quality of life.

In addition to the survey, a number of members of Community Voice were randomly selected and asked to take part in the Force Consultation Day.

Following the day, a member of the group sent in a letter, commenting:

"I have become somewhat cynical about the vast majority of tick-box style consultation and it was therefore with some trepidation that I accepted the invitation to your recent consultation day.

"I am delighted to be able to say that the content was as good as the administration – in particular, I was impressed by the way that the younger participants were brought into the discussions."

There are now over 400 members in Community Voice and it is anticipated that the first consultation exercise to be carried out in the new year will be based around feedback, an area which the chief constable himself recognises as being one for improvement. If you wish to take part in any of these consultation exercises, it's not too late to sign up to the Community Voice contact group. Either complete a form online, pick up a form at a police station or simply write to Performance Management.



Operation Ichor

Following the success of Operation Ichor, nine people appeared at the Crown Court in Teeside where they were sentenced to a total of 21 years after being found guilty of numerous bank robberies and vehicle thefts throughout the country. As well as the thousands of pounds worth of structural damage caused by their attacks, police estimate that the total value of the cash and vehicles stolen by the gang exceeded £1.5 million.

The gang targeted ATM bank machines across the north of England and southern Scotland throughout 2005 and 2006. One of the ATM machines targeted was the Cooperative store in Glenesk Road, Langholm when they got away with almost £40,000.

A week later, they moved back across the border into Cumbria and attacked another ATM, collecting over £16,000, before returning to Dumfries and Galloway where they targeted the ATM at the Cooperative store in Moffat on the night of Thursday 10 March 2005.

On this occasion, the group was unsuccessful as local police were alerted to some suspicious behaviour in the area and quick-acting officers scared them off. Police officers were unable to capture the group but gained invaluable information, assisting the growing intelligence held on the gang.

They continued to target ATM machines in Cumbria, County Durham and North Yorkshire but never returned to Dumfries and Galloway. Officers from both sides of the border collected and shared intelligence about the attacks.

On the morning of 12 December 2006, police were involved in dawn raids at twelve properties in the south west of County Durham, which involved around 300 officers from a number of police forces.

The officers targeted premises in Witton Park, Bishop Auckland and Durham City (all in County Durham) where the gang members were arrested. Detective Inspector Gary Coupland from Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary said: "These arrests herald the success of another long-running investigation our force has been dealing with.

"This group struck time after time and would have continued to do so until caught. The arrests are an example of the excellent working relations we share with our neighbouring police forces and illustrate that mobile criminals are not immune to the law."



COMMUNITY BEAT

- 'Prison Me No Way' took place in Galloway during November. The event was aimed at reminding fourth year pupils what could happen if they make the wrong decisions. There were a number of scenarios the pupils took part in such as a street scene which showed the actions of a driver and passengers out drinking before driving a car.
- On Thursday 22 November, Stranraer town centre Community Constable Gavin McHallum held a driver awareness evening with young drivers from the Stranraer area. This was held within Stranraer fire station and was well attended by approximately 30 young drivers. Points covered by Gavin on driving in Stranraer town centre included racing, excessive speed, loud exhausts and loud music.



Do you know who your community officer is?



In a recent community survey carried out by the force, over 65% of respondents didn't know who their community officer was. The role of the community officer is pivotal in modern day policing and includes delivering presentations to local schools and engaging with partner agencies and local retailers. They are the main liaison for the local community and regularly attend community council meetings.

The policing world is always changing and it often seems that you are just getting to know, trust and involve the community officer when he/she moves on to pastures new. If you don't know who your community officer is, contact 0845 600 5701 and ask for details.

Some of your community officers

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | Lynn Fulton | Stranraer <i>Town East and West Beat</i> |
| 2 | Kevin Wylie | Stranraer <i>Landward Rhins North Beat</i> |
| 3 | Jim Porteous | Stranraer <i>South Central</i> |
| 4 | Robert Burns | Stranraer |
| 5 | Stuart Wilson | Newton Stewart |
| 6 | Iain Howie | Kirkcudbright |
| 7 | Ian Bradley | Kirkcudbright |
| 8 | Simon Kennedy | Castle Douglas |
| 9 | Alan McGowan | Dumfries <i>Georgetown/Calside</i> |
| 10 | Alison Jeffers | Dumfries <i>Lochside</i> |
| 11 | Alan Graham | Locharbriggs |
| 12 | Ben Pybus | Annan <i>Landward</i> |
| 13 | Alison Moir | Annan |
| 14 | Neil Graham | Annan |
| 15 | Jodie John | Sanquhar |

Antisocial Behaviour Team – one year on

The joint police/council Antisocial Behaviour Team for Dumfries and Galloway went “live” in December 2006. The team has now completed a very promising first year of operation.

The Dumfries and Galloway Antisocial Behaviour Team is located at two centres – Queensberry Street, Dumfries and Ashwood Drive, Stranraer. The Dumfries centre covers issues arising in Dumfries, Nithsdale and Annandale and Eskdale, while the Stranraer centre covers the Wigtown, Mid Galloway and Stewartry areas.

A key component in the emerging success of the Antisocial Behaviour Team is the co-location of police officers in the Stranraer and Dumfries antisocial behaviour offices.

Referrals are made to the Antisocial Behaviour Team by police officers, elected members, registered social landlords and directly by members of the public. It is hoped that the recently-introduced Antisocial Behaviour Helpline – 0800 027 6567 – will encourage people to phone for advice and help reduce antisocial behaviour in the region.

Community mediation offers an alternative and practical method of resolving disputes between neighbours, helping those involved reach an agreement which is acceptable to all parties. This voluntary process is an important part of our Antisocial Behaviour Strategy and is provided free at the point of use to every resident and agency across Dumfries and Galloway.

Community wardens and out of hours domestic noise and environmental enforcement officers (dog fouling, litter and fly-tipping offences) are examples of how a multi-agency effort is being used to tackle antisocial behaviour.

The Antisocial Behaviour Team can be contacted directly on 0800 027 6567, Monday to Friday, during office hours. After 5pm and at weekends, calls will be taken by the out of hours service, who will in turn relay messages to the team.

DEALING WITH DRINK & DRUGS



- Have a safe night out in town – in a recent incident, a 27 year old female had her drink spiked which led to severe memory loss. Never leave your drink unattended and only accept drinks from people you can trust. If you feel unusual after only a drink or two, seek help from friends or management from the premises.
- Malcolm Paterson, a local 32 year old Stranraer man, was sentenced to six and a half years' imprisonment following the seizure of a large quantity of drugs earlier in the year.
- During a roadshow presentation to fifth and sixth year pupils at Moffat Academy, organised by Constable Scott Jardine, an ex-drug abuser provided an input on how he got involved with drugs and the dangers of substance abuse.
- Cannabis with a street value of £40,000 was seized when three men travelling on the A74(M) were stopped in December. All three have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.
- From 22 – 27 October, officers assisted ADAT (Alcohol and Drugs Action Team) with presentations on alcohol consumption as part of Alcohol Awareness Week.
- In November, following the execution of a warrant to search premises in Newton Stewart, eight cannabis plants with an approximate street value of £2,240 were discovered within a house. Two people were arrested and charged with being concerned in the cultivation of Class C drugs.
- Following the launch of the test purchase scheme (see separate article), a number of test purchase operations were carried out at licensed premises. In the Dumfries area, of the nine premises tested, three failed when they supplied the young test purchaser with alcohol. In the Stewartry, all 11 premises checked passed by not supplying alcohol.



- Pubwatch schemes from Newton Stewart/Machars and Stranraer have joined forces. If you get banned from a pub in Newton Stewart which is part of the scheme, you will automatically be banned from not only other pubs in Newton Stewart, but those pubs in Wigtownshire which are also part of the initiative. In addition, Stranraer operates a “three strikes and you’re banned for life” policy.

The Big World

Cadets Lynnette Murray and Clare Wilson were there

During November, the Big World event was held at Annan for all sixth year pupils from Nithsdale and Annandale and Eskdale. All the police cadets were asked to participate, alongside actors and actresses from Dumfries and Galloway College. They acted out various scenarios to highlight the dangers of drugs, alcohol and sexual intercourse.

It started out with the pupils going to a friend's house, before heading out to the nightclub in town. Her granny regaled everyone with stories of what her life used to be like during the war and then went on to discuss her sex life. She stated very clearly that safe sex was best and then handed out condoms to some of the pupils, much to the embarrassment of her granddaughter.

Everyone eventually left and on the way to the nightclub, stopped for a bite to eat. At the burger bar, they came across a gay couple holding hands and it all got a bit out of hand with homophobic abuse being hurled at them.

They then moved on to the nightclub and while waiting to enter, a drug dealer tried to sell some of the pupils drugs.

However, a member of staff from the nightclub spotted him and shouted at him to leave. There was an argument and a fight took place with the bouncers having to step in.

With the loud music and flashing lights, everyone was soon dancing in the nightclub. After a few minutes however, a fight started and a girl was stabbed. The paramedics attended and got her out as soon as possible. This is not the only problem one of the paramedics has to deal with as he notices another girl lying on the floor. He puts her in the recovery position as it is not known whether she is too drunk or if she has taken drugs.

Throughout the day, various speakers from different agencies, such as the NHS, talked about the effects of alcohol, sex, antisocial behaviour, road safety, health and lifestyle. Dumfries and Galloway Fire Service gave a short input and demonstration on the dangers of a chip pan and what can happen if left on.

At the end of the day, all pupils received a bag with further information, along with personal attack alarms and condoms.

Overall, we thought the Big World event was a great experience as we are in the same age group as most of the pupils. We got a good understanding of things that can happen throughout your life and the dangers were clearer to us after listening to the people giving their talks. I would recommend all school leavers to attend as it is worthwhile to everyone going out into the big world.



How Did We Do?

1 April – 31 December 2007

Crime Rates

	Number reported 07/08	06/07	% increase /decrease	% detection rate April – Dec 2007
1. Violent	104	115	-9.6%	87.5%
2. Sexual	93	93	-	83.9%
3. Dishonest	2,313	2,804	-17.5%	54.7%
4. Malicious	2,332	2,454	-5.0%	40.7%
5. Other crimes	1,696	1,784	-4.9%	99.6%
6. Miscellaneous	3,990	4,346	-8.2%	92.6%
7. Motoring	15,305	20,550	-25.5%	100.0%

Road Collisions

	Collisions	Casualties
Fatal	9	10
Serious	99	112
Slight	254	366
Total	362	488

Public Opinion

INITIAL CONTACT WITH POLICE

Very satisfied	64.5%
Fairly satisfied	19.7%
Neither	7.4%
Fairly dissatisfied	1.3%
Very dissatisfied	1.0%
Did not answer	6.0%

FEAR OF CRIME

	Daylight	Darkness
Felt very safe	52.2%	19.1%
Felt fairly safe	37.5%	37.8%
Felt a bit unsafe	5.4%	18.4%
Felt very unsafe	0.7%	8.0%
Don't go out	0.3%	11.4%
Did not answer	4.0%	5.4%

Drug Seizures

	Dumfries	Galloway
Diamorphine (g)	2,620.6	7.2
Cocaine (g)	3,664.6	54.9
Crack Cocaine (g)	1,680	-
Cannabis resin (g)	52,921.2	2,170.2
Herbal Cannabis (g)	11,565.3	1,436.1
Cannabis plants	59	20
Amphetamine (g)	40.3	1,039.3
Ecstasy (tablets)	7,156.5	1,442.5
Diazepam (tablets)	1,292	476
Methadone (ml)	675	100
Dihydrocodeine (tablets)	91	69
Ketamine (g)	0	1
Nitrazepam (tablets)	0	9
Temazepam (tablets)	2	3
Codeine Phosphate (tablets)	0	3
Methylamphetamine (g)	0	0.4

Appreciation & Complaints

Letters of appreciation	131
Formal complaints	15
Minor misconduct complaints	42
Informal complaints	39

Response Times

Emergency calls where police attendance at locus was within 10 minutes in urban area	77.4%
Emergency calls where police attendance at locus was within 20 minutes in rural area	80.7%
999 calls answered within 10 seconds	95.7%

Force Budget

Revenue Budget

(Grant Aided Expenditure)

Budget	£29.968m
Spend	£20.740m
Balance	£9.228m

Capital Budget

Budget	£0.779m
Spend	£0.379m
Balance	£0.400m

FACTS & FIGURES