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Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Kelso and District Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for December 2023



The information provided within this report, is predominately based on the Kelso and District Multi Member Ward Policing Plan and the areas you have identified as priorities.

The data provided in this report is for information purposes only and is not official crime statistics. Due to delayed reporting or recording of crimes, incidents or road accidents and the management of crime enquiries, there is likely to be differences between the information in this report and the final Police Scotland statistics. It would not be appropriate to refer to, quote or use any data in this report as official statistics.

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Community Update - Kelso & District

December as usual was a busy time of year for our local officers. Community and CAT officers were involved in a planned operation which included patrols of our towns across the Scottish Borders to help tackle shoplifting, disorder and driving offences associated with the festive period. Community officers also assisted with numerous Christmas parades and light switch on events across the region. School Link officers attended the senior school dances to ensure all those attending had a safe and enjoyable evening, whilst catching up with local young people.

Response officers covered calls and incidents in the region 24 hours a day, 7 days a week over the festive period, reducing time spent with their own families. They deal with incredibly difficult incidents on a regular basis, assisted by community officers. Their dedication and hard work means communities can rely on their attendance when they need it most. Our priority of 'Protecting the most vulnerable' (detailed below) is dealt with mainly by response officers. The figures here demonstrate the demand upon them, especially when we consider this is only one aspect of their role. We very much appreciate the support they receive from our local communities and community representatives.

The below link gives access to the latest Police document for the Scrutiny Panel for the Police, Fire and Rescue and Safer Communities Board, which sits every quarter at Scottish Borders Council.

<https://scottishborders.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s75749/Item%20No.%205%20a%20-%20Scottish%20Borders%20Q4%20CI.pdf>

Once you click into this link, please scroll down to read the full report. It provides progress and updates on service matters from Police Scotland as presented by the Local Area Commander CI Vinnie Fisher.

Local Policing Priorities

1. Protecting most vulnerable
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime

Protecting most vulnerable



In December 2023 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 200 mental health related calls, around 29 missing person enquiries and approximately 89 domestic related incidents.

Kelso & District had 22 mental health related calls and 1 missing person enquiry. Due to GDPR and protection of victims/subjects involved, we are unable to share any more specific information in relation to these type of call within this report.

Police Scotland work in collaboration with key partners to assist the most vulnerable within the communities and to provide support.

Reducing violence and ASB



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Assault

On 11/12/2023 report of assault at Rosewood Gardens, Kelso. A female has been charged with assault, theft and vandalism.

On 17/12/2023 report of a female being assaulted in Bridge Street, Kelso. A female has been charged with minor assault.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 06/12/2023 report of a disturbance within a property in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. No criminality, advice given

On 09/12/2023 report of a hate crime towards a male at Inchmyre, Kelso. A male has been charged.

On 10/12/2023 report of a disturbance outside a property in Coal Market, Kelso. No criminality, advice given

On 10/12/2023 report of a disturbance outside a property in Maxmill Park, Kelso. No criminality, advice given

On 14/12/2023 report of a male from Crawford Street, Kelso receiving threats of violence. Enquiries complete. No suspects identified.

On 15/12/2023 report of a disturbance outside a property in Maxmill Park, Kelso. No criminality, advice given

On 17/12/2023 report of a disturbance in Woodmarket, Kelso. No criminality, advice given

On 19/12/2023 report of youths causing a disturbance in Roxburgh Street, Kelso by knocking on doors and ringing door bells. Community officers dealing with on-going issue.

On 20/12/2023 report of a disturbance outside a property in Crawford Street, Kelso. No criminality, advice given

On 21/12/2023 report of a disturbance within a property in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 21/12/2023 report of a disturbance at a property in Shedden Park, Kelso. Officers attended and spoke to occupiers, no disturbance or criminality identified.

Vandalism

On 02/12/2023 report of vandalism to a glass panel of a communal entrance at Horsemarket, Kelso. Enquiries complete. No suspect identified.

On 04/12/2023 report of vandalism to a motor vehicle parked in Queens Croft, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

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On 17/12/2023 report of damage to a motor vehicle parked in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 19/12/2023 report of damage to a motor vehicle parked in Mayfield Gardens, Kelso, whereby the vehicle has sustained scratches to paintwork. Enquiries complete.

On 19/12/2023 report of damage to motor vehicle parked in Inchmyre, Kelso, whereby a vehicles wing mirror has been damaged. Enquiries ongoing.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On 09/12/2023 report of theft shoplifting from the Co-op Store, High Croft, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

Theft Housebreaking

On 06/12/2023 report of damage the door of a property in Woodmarket, Kelso. Enquiries revealed this was attempt housebreaking, enquires ongoing.



Improving road safety

Killed or Seriously Injured



Tackling serious and organised crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – December 2023

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 4 Drug Warrants across the command area during December, three were positive and 3 persons were charged with drug related offences.

They have also been liaising with a number of forces in England in relation to further criminality involving county lines nominals and rural acquisitive crime, particularly in the Eastern are of the Scottish Borders. Inquiries here are ongoing.

Three warrants were also executed in conjunction with other departments in relation to serious crime inquiries in The Scottish Borders.

They would again like to highlight that the local communities across the Borders may have information which they deem insignificant in relation to people being seen at disused large premises over a period of time. Any suspicious activity will be followed up by this team but it is important that the public know they can report such matters in person at any Police Station, by use of 101 or anonymously via the Crime Stoppers charity.

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A recent news article about the discovery of another industrial scale cultivation in Dumfries again points to the fact this is an ongoing criminal enterprise affecting all areas of Scotland and people should remain vigilant in their communities for any suspicious activity and report it.

Campaigns

Scams

Victims of Phone / Internet / Doorstep Scams continue to be provided with an incident follow-up information pack containing advice intended to prevent repeat victimisation. This pack now includes a copy of the latest "Little Book of Big Scams" which covers a huge variety of common scams. [Little Book of Big Scams – Cyber Scotland](#)

High Value Bike Thefts from Vehicles

Following a spate of bike thefts from visitors vehicles in the Peebles area, work is ongoing to place warning signage at hotspot areas in Peebles, Innerleithen and Glentress. Prevention advice leaflets are also to be distributed to local businesses such as cafes, hotels etc.

Keep Safe Initiative

Primarily aimed at disabled members of the community helping to tackle disability hate crime, Keep Safe is a national network of over 800 safe places (including shops, libraries, pubs etc.) for anyone who may feel lost, scared or vulnerable when out in the community. [About Keep Safe \(iammesotland.co.uk\)](#)

All Scottish Borders Co-ops have signed up to the scheme with staff training, business packs and store signage being provided.

No Cold Calling Zones

- Any community organisation interested in setting up a new zone or wishing to refresh an existing zone (those with the old Lothian and Borders Police signs) or should contact their local community policing team <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/>

Rural Crime

- Scottish Borders Partnership against Rural Crime (SBPARC) exhibited at the Border Union Show highlighting the latest rural crime prevention advice. The partnership continues to meet regularly to address local priority rural crime throughout the year.

We continued to distribute free wireless perimeter security alarms and crime prevention advice to farmers and rural business. These can be requested by Farmers / Rural businesses using the [Contact Us Form](#) on the Police Scotland Website.

CAT Update:

For the whole of December SBCAT officers were attached to a planned Operation in which they carried out increased High Visibility foot patrols around retail areas throughout the Scottish Borders and also carried out Hi Visibility mobile patrols.

ROAD SAFETY – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have issued 10 traffic tickets for various offences throughout the month.

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Following concerns regarding antisocial driving at Tesco, Galashiels and Currie Road, regular checks were carried out during the month in line with direct CAT taskings but no issues were found.

PARKING TICKETS – Officers have been carrying out high visibility patrols in Peebles, Kelso, Eyemouth, Duns, Selkirk, Galashiels, and Hawick, and addressing parking concerns there. Advice has been given to drivers and 142 tickets have been issued.

Passing attention was given to Traquair Road, Innerleithen (no issues) The War Memorial in Coldstream (no issues) Galashiels Town Centre and Bridge Street in Kelso were also regularly checked by officers, which was also carried out as a result of requests made at the previous meeting.

RURAL ACQUISITIVE CRIME – We continue to carry out static road checks in rural areas at all times of day to deter and detect rural acquisitive crime. 68 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in December.

On 13/12/23 following the report of a theft of Christmas Trees in the Newtown St Boswells area SB CAT officers carried out a search which resulted in them tracing and arresting two persons for theft. Enquiries are ongoing.

On 28/12/23 CAT officers deployed on the SB Quads to Monymut (1030-1330 hours). In addition regular patrols have been carried out in the area with nothing to report.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – High visibility patrols have continued in targeted areas of the Scottish Borders to address concerns highlighted at these locations.

13 youth warning letters were issued during the month of December in relation to youth issues in Innerleithen and Peebles.

On 13/12/23 due to a reported increase of ASB involving youths, CAT officers carried out a foot patrol in Selkirk which resulted in 4 youths being identified for ASB and returned to their parents (no letters issued).

During December CAT officers have also carried out 132 hi-visibility Licensed Premises checks throughout the Borders.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE – Part of the SBCAT role is to trace persons wanted on warrant/missing person/and bail curfew checks. SBCAT have carried out regular bail check on multiple individuals and there have also been 6 arrests of people wanted on high priority warrants, with the persons involved subsequently appearing at court.

During December CAT officers have also been involved in the protection of vulnerable people which has resulted in 8 social work referrals being submitted.

On the 1st December SBCAT officers attended at Mayfield Garden Centre, Kelso, where a surgery was held providing advice to members of the public regarding Borders Rape Crisis White Ribbon Campaign.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – SBCAT officers have taken part in two drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders, one of which resulted in a positive search.

[Feedback from a meeting/contacting your Community Policing Team](#)

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Anyone with information relating to any criminal activity can contact Police Scotland by dialling 101 or alternatively anonymously by calling **CRIMESTOPPERS** on **0800 555111**.

Should the Community Council wish to discuss any matters highlighted in the report, please contact:

KelsoDistrict@scotland.pnn.police.uk

We will endeavour to provide you with this information, however some information is sensitive and as an organisation we have to ensure compliance with GDPR.

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