

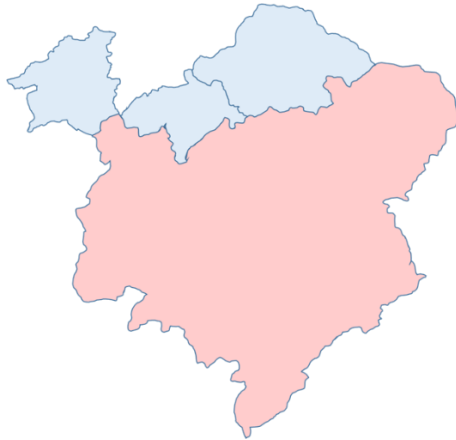
OFFICIAL



Scottish Borders Area Command

The Lothians and Scottish Borders

Kelso and District Community Councils
Multi Member Ward Report for February 2024



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.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Community Update - Kelso & District

Local officers are aware of increased reports of vandalism and antisocial behaviour in Kelso over the past few weeks. We are working with partners in an effort to tackle these issues. We are appealing to members of the community to help by

- Providing any information you may have regarding those responsible for vandalisms – in particular the damage to the old lights on Rennie Bridge. These lights are very expensive to repair. Information can be given anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or online at [Giving information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)
- If you see or hear antisocial behaviour, report it to police with descriptions and any names you may hear. Police may not be able to respond immediately depending on other calls at the time, however the information will be recorded and will be useful to community officers when following up enquiries.
- Consider volunteering as a special constable – further information can be obtained here [Police Scotland Special Constable Recruitment - Police Scotland](https://www.police.scot.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Police-Scotland)

County Lines Intensification Week

As part of our planned intensification week between 4th and 11th March regarding County Lines, below is a short insight into what it is and signs to help recognise it. There is a hyperlink below should you wish any further information. We strongly encourage all community representatives to be aware of County lines and how to report concerns.

What is County lines?

A model of criminal exploitation whereby gangs and organised criminal networks coordinate the supply of illegal drugs, often using vulnerable adults and children. The model of exploiting young people has extended into Scotland - persons are exploited through use of threats, violence and grooming to supply and move drugs across the UK.

What is Cuckooing?

Act of taking over a person's home often by exploitation, intimidation or violence. The home then becomes a safe-house to deal drugs and gives the crime group a local base for a number of weeks, before they move onto the next house, which is a tactic to evade Police. Victims are targeted due to disability, mental health and substance use. Victims may initially be paid, given substance or may also be threatened, intimidated, assaulted or blackmailed.

Signs of Cuckooing

Unknown persons in area/address, increase in reports of violence, antisocial behaviour usual occupant no longer at address or is less visible. Increase in drug dealing activity at the address, visitors/vehicles, and drugs paraphernalia. Occupant appears anxious or distressed. Bags of clothing or bedding around their property. Barricades within the address, including weapons.

Responding to concerns

Report concerns via 999 if someone is in immediate danger. Share less immediate concerns and information via 101 or via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111 or [Giving information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/) Alternatively drop into the police station or speak with your local officers.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

[Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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.

[Item No. 5 a - Scottish Borders Scrutiny April - Sept.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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 and also contains an input from Local Area Commander, Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher.

Local Policing Priorities

1. Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical & Digital World
2. Reducing violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Reducing acquisitive crime
4. Improving road safety
5. Tackling serious and organised crime

Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical & Digital World



In February 2024 Police in the Scottish Borders attended and were involved with around 181 mental health related calls, around 23 missing person enquiries and approximately 73 domestic related incidents.

Kelso & District had 16 mental health related calls and 2 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 Anti-Social Behaviour



Assault

On 20/02/2024 report of a male from Barony Park, Kelso being assaulted. Enquiries carried out, Recorded Police Warning issues for Threatening and Abusive Behaviour.

On 25/02/2024 report of 5 males fighting in street, started at Oven Wynd then moved to Square, Kelso. No persons found on Police arrival, no reports of any criminality made to police.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On 01/02/2024 report of a disturbance outside a property in Orchard Park, Kelso. No criminality, suitable safety advice given.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

On 03/02/2024 report of a disturbance involving loud music within a property in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Officers attended and spoke to occupants, no criminality, suitable advice given to all parties.

On 03/02/2024 report of a disturbance within the Royal British Legion, Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Officers attended and thereafter arrested a male for being in possession of an offensive weapon.

On 04/02/2024 report of a disturbance outside a property in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Officers attended and male charged for vandalism and being in possession of an offensive weapon.

On 14/02/2024 report of a disturbance outside a property in Edenside Court, Kelso. Officers attended and spoke to both parties involved. Both parties given suitable advice

On 22/04/2024 report of a male causing a disturbance at a property in Tweed Court, Kelso. Officers attended and male was removed from property and charged with Threatening and Abusive Behaviour.

On 24/02/2024 report of youths throwing stones at property, Sheddon Park Road, Kelso. Youths had left prior to police arrival, no damage caused, advice given.

On 27/02/2024 report of disturbance in Edenside Court, Kelso. Community Officers aware and are dealing, no criminality, suitable advice given to both parties.

On 28/02/2024 report of a male in Maxmill Park, Kelso causing a disturbance and shouting and swearing at council officers. A male has been charged with threatening and abusive behaviour.

On 29/02/2024 report of a male causing a disturbance in Maxmill Park, Kelso. Officers attended and upon searching male, a weapon was found. Male has been held in custody and charged with threatening and abusive behaviour, and also being in possession of a weapon.

Vandalism

On 01/02/2024 report of damage to a motor vehicle parked in Meadow Court, Kelso, whereby the vehicle tyres have been damaged. Enquiries complete.

On 11/02/2024 report of vandalism to a motor vehicle whilst parked in High Croft, Kelso. Enquiries complete.

On 11/02/2024 report of vandalism to a property in Roxburgh Street, Kelso whereby a window was smashed. Enquiries ongoing.

On 16/02/2024 report of damage to front door of flat at Roxburgh View, Roxburgh Street, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 18/02/2024 report of damage to a window of a property in Orchard Park, Kelso. Enquiries complete.

On 19/02/2024 report of damage to the front door of a property in The Square, Kelso by unknown youths kicking same. Enquiries ongoing.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

On 21/02/2024 report of a disturbance at a property in Roxburgh Street, Kelso whereby a window was smashed. Officers attended, and after speaking to witnesses, a male was charged with vandalism.

On 25/02/2024 report of damage to vehicle. Inchmead Drive, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 25/02/2024 report of wing mirror kicked off car. Jedburgh Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 27/02/2024 report of 3 lanterns damaged on Rennie Bridge, Kelso. Enquiries are ongoing. We note there has been further damage caused on 02/03/24 and we are following up on enquiries regarding these incidents.

Reducing acquisitive crime

Theft

On 10/02/2024 report of theft of vehicle number plates from a garage in Station Road, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 11/02/2024 report of theft of property at Fairington Farm, Kelso. Enquiries ongoing.

On 15/02/2024 report of two males taking items from a garden in Kings Croft, Kelso. Officers attended and established that items had been stolen, with a further report of theft from a property in Coldstream. Both males were traced, arrested and charged.

On 24/02/2024 report of theft of oil from Templehall Hotel, Morebattle. Enquiries ongoing.

On 27/02/2024 report of theft of purse from Orchard Park, Kelso. Enquiries carried out and complete.

On 27/02/2024 report of a male seen within a garden at Maxwellheugh, Kelso, and later seen walking away in possession of a garden strimmer. Male was traced by police shortly afterwards, the property was recovered and the male charged with theft.

Theft Housebreaking

On 01/02/2024 report of males forcing entry to the Co-operative Store, High Croft, Kelso. Males were traced and arrested a short time later in Northumbria by Northumbria officers. Cross border enquiries are continuing.



Improving road safety

On 21/02/2024 a driver was issued a fine and penalty points for use of handheld mobile phone in Kelso.

On 25/02/2024 a driver was issued a fine for driving with no MOT in Kelso.



Tackling serious and organised crime

Serious and organised crime enforcement – February 2024

The Scottish Borders CID Proactive Unit executed 2 Drug Warrants across the command area during February, both were positive and 2 persons were charged with drug related offences. This included another large / industrial scale Cannabis cultivation which had a potential street value of £500,000.

They would also 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.

Campaigns

Fuel Theft

It's important to put measures in place to protect your fuel tank and make it extremely difficult for thieves to target your fuel.

Locate in safe location many thieves use Google Maps to find satellite images of fuel tanks. Consider locating your tank behind a garage or shed away from roads or in clear view of your home or business. Locate inside a security gate or cage a good quality, robust fence or cage will help make life difficult for thieves. Install an alarm. Fit a fuel theft lock. Install outdoor security lighting. Low energy dusk till dawn lights are a low-cost option to protect your expensive fuels and oils. Install CCTV. Put up signage to highlight the security measures you've installed.

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](#)

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 \(iammescotland.co.uk\)](#)

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/>

OFFICIAL

CAT Update:

ROAD SAFETY – SBCAT have continued carrying out road checks in numerous locations in the Scottish Borders and have issued 11 traffic tickets for various offences throughout the month.

Following concerns regarding antisocial driving at Tesco, Galashiels, and regular checks were carried out during the month in line with direct CAT taskings.

Throughout February numerous hi- vis speed and static road checks have been carried out at schools throughout the Scottish Borders at dropping off and picking up times.

On 10/02/24 officers on mobile patrol found a crashed vehicle in Hawick. Following enquiries, a male was arrested and later charged with driving whilst under the influence of alcohol along with other offences. No one was injured. A second male was charged with taking the vehicle without permission of the owner.

On 28/02/24 officers SBCAT took part in Operation Checkpoint which is a Multi force Operation targeting travelling criminals operating between counties in the North of England and Scotland. SBCAT conducted road checks on the A68, A7 and A1 targeting vehicles coming into Scotland from England. About 70 vehicles were stopped, 12 drivers were warned regarding minor offences for lights and tyres and one was issued a ticket for no MOT. A driver of an HGV was stopped and searched due to the smell of cannabis. He was found to be in possession of cannabis and under the influence of drugs. He was arrested and blood samples have been sent away for analysis prior to prosecution.

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 131 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 along with Duns Industrial Estate (no issues).

We've also received new complaints of cars parking in ambulance spaces outside the 2 of the health centres in Hawick. We have spoken with the staff in the nearby businesses and reminded them of the parking restrictions. Regular checks are being made and parking tickets have been issued.

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. 21 static checks were carried out throughout the Scottish Borders in this month along with numerous hi-visibility patrols of rural areas.

On 18/02/24 Officers on quadbikes at Monynut found a male in a van. It was strongly suspected the male had transported off road bikes to Monynut and friends of his were out on the bikes. The male was issued a ticket for an unrelated offence and left Monynut

Several other quad bike and vehicle patrols were completed on weekends 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.

3 youth warning letters were issued during the month of February in relation to youths.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Extra patrols have been completed in the areas identified in the tasking as well as Burnfoot in Hawick due to ongoing issues with youths at the Primary School. They have also been doing foot patrols outside Jedburgh Sheriff Court on court days due to several altercations that have occurred between people attending court. Extra Patrols in Kelso following an increase of reported ASB from youths and several vandalisms.

On the evening of Saturday 17/2/24 – The Specials Initiative Team (SIT) which is a team of 6 Special Constables joined the SBCAT for patrols in Hawick. The first couple of hours was spent dealing with youths committing ASB at Morrisons. They completed detailed checks at 3 licensed premises, using plain clothes officers. 2 traffic tickets were issued and several drivers were given warnings. The public noticed the extra officers and were keen to engage. The team received a lot of positive feedback. CI Fletcher is arranging for the SIT to return and work with the SBCAT in other parts of the Borders.

On 23/2/24 whilst SBCAT officers were on foot patrol in Galashiels they carried out a drug search of a male. Although this search was negative subsequent enquiries established that he had committed a shoplifting nearby. As a result he was arrested, charged and reported for theft.

On 24/2/24- Following a report of anti-social behaviour at Morrison's, Hawick. Officers attended where it was established that a 12-year-old girl had spat at a member of staff and also thrown a cardboard sign at another. Subsequent enquiries identified the girl and she was thereafter traced and charged with 2 x Assaults and threatening and abusive behaviour.

On 24/2/24- During patrol in Newton St Boswells, two female youths had alcohol seized from them. Youth warning letters issued.

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 checks on multiple individuals who are wanted on warrant. During the past month a total of 10 people were arrested on warrant.

On 06/02/24 – After 3 weeks of checks for a priority warrant CAT officers found the suspect hiding in bathroom. The suspect was also found to be in possession of multiple different types of controlled drugs.

On 20/02/24 – CAT officers arrested a male wanted on a high priority warrant.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT – SBCAT officers have taken part in 1 drugs search warrants in the Scottish Borders.

On 1/2/24- CAT officers executed an MDA warrant in Galashiels which resulted in the recovery of a personal amount of cannabis and over £1,000 in cash being seized. Enquiries are ongoing (approx. 36g, value £550.00)

Feedback from a meeting/contacting your Community Policing Team

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:

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

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.

OFFICIAL