

**OFFICIAL**



## **INVERNESS AREA COMMAND COMMUNITY BEATS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022**

This is a monthly general overview of the work being carried out by your local community beat officers covering Inverness and surrounding areas. Your current community beat team is, from left to right -

Sergeant Brian Bisset, PC Jo Barclay, PC Laura Kerr, PC Cailean MacLeod, Inspector Stuart Fitzpatrick, PC Keith Whitelaw (school liaison), PC Katie Johnstone and PC Stuart Connell.

Community Beat officers cover the whole of the Inverness area and as far as Ardersier, Strathnairn, Strathdearn and Beauly.



**OFFICIAL**

**School link officer update**

Education Link Officer – PC Keith Whitelaw

In the past month I have continued to work on building relationships within the schooling community. This work is proving to be beneficial as it is allowing me to positively engage with young people in an attempt to affect real change in terms of how they conduct themselves with one another and within the wider community. As always this work is ongoing.

This month I along with other police officers such as Community Beat officers, Youth Offending, Child Exploitation Expert, Missing person co-ordinator, Preventions and Interventions, Harm Prevention Officer and other agencies such as Highlife Highland, Waverly Care, James Support Group, Youth Action Team, Barnardo's went to Charleston Academy for the day to offer a road show for young people to give them the opportunity to ask questions and get information about issues or worries that can affect them day to day.

The children were taken to the road show in groups with teaching staff where police chatted to them about issues that affect their age groups and were showed a video on sextortion. They were then given the opportunity to walk around the stands and engage with all the agencies and ask questions and get open and honest answers.

Feedback from the children was very positive. They felt it was informative and they were felt comfortable enough to ask questions about worries or questions that has been playing on their minds and if they didn't feel able to ask questions there were information leaflets and web links shown where they could get the information they wanted.





Also this month I hosted another Inverness High School's criminology class in a scenario based learning exercise at Burnett Road Police Station, Inverness. This has involved the young people taking part in a scenario where they played the parts of the Police Officers, the witnesses, the accused and the victim. Throughout the scenario they toured around the station, spoke with the people behind the scenes and had a peek behind the policing curtain. They had the chance to speak with our scenes of crime examiner, a dog handler and his trusted furry companion, our custody staff, custody sergeant, community officers, response officers, CID sergeant and more.

### **Operation Respect**

Operation respect is a festive Initiative for 2022 that launched on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November,

The initiate runs from the New Year with increased activity and presence over the weekends in our city centre and communities tackling issues such as

## OFFICIAL

vulnerability, anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime, to ensure Inverness remains a safe and welcoming place to enjoy and visit.

Participants in Operation Respect are – Police Scotland, The Highland Council, Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Highland, Inverness City Centre BID, Highland Third Sector, Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Inverness Street Pastors, MERT Highland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, British Transport Police and Criminal Justice Partnership.

Cycle patrol officers have been out on patrol in the city centre as part of Operation Respect Festive Initiative over the festive period. The police mobile base was also in the city centre where it was available to assist with vulnerable people.



OFFICIAL

### **Community Beats – East/West**

Since the September edition of the newsletter, the community team has had a reshuffle and is now split into two – Cailean, Jo and Laura cover the east of the city and Katie and Stuart work in the west. This has been done for the sole reason of familiarity. We know from speaking to the public that people like to have a point of contact and a familiar face when they need to speak to the police. This has given us a chance to develop strong working relationships with the community, and continuity when dealing with any ongoing issues.

However this is not to say we aren't able to be flexible; although the officers are designated as above, if there's an issue which is pressing we will work with and/or cover our colleagues as necessary.

### **Road safety**

Road safety continues to be an ongoing priority for the community beats team, with "hotspot" areas being flagged up to us from members of the public from various areas.

High visibility speed checks continue to be carried out around your local communities and in problem highlighted areas.

Officers will be carrying out high visibility patrols and winter safety checks as part of the "Get ready for winter" campaign which aims to address poor driving standards and reduce road deaths across the North of Scotland.

## OFFICIAL



### **Drugs**

Community officers continue to gather intelligence about drug activity in the communities they work in.

If you think you have an issue with drugs in any capacity in your area, please contact us on

[HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk](mailto:HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk)

All information shared is anonymous and only shared amongst the police.

### **Community engagement**

PC Connell worked in conjunction with Tesco and local charity Rokzkool Academy to assist with delivering food parcels for those in need in the lead up to Christmas. Along with co-founder Rod Shannon, PC Connell spent an afternoon engaging with multiple families in the west of Inverness and providing essential foods donated by Tesco for lower income households.

OFFICIAL

## OFFICIAL



PC Connell attended Central Primary School's Christmas carol service at the Cathedral. The event was an opportunity for the children to show off all their hard work in preparing songs and readings throughout December on the final day of term. Head teacher Mrs Fraser conducted the ceremony which was exceptionally well attended by family and friends of the pupils.

Primary 1's at Merkinch Primary School were given a surprise by Santa Claus (PC Connell) who helped the teachers hand out presents to the year group for all of their good behaviour throughout the term. The children were delighted to see Santa visiting them earlier than expected, with him being rewarded for his appearance with a few renditions of some classic Christmas carols.

## OFFICIAL



### **Other Duties**

Community Beat officers have been assisting other departments over the festive period covering absences and changing shifts to cover the busy periods. They have still been carrying out community duties while assisting other departments.

PC Johnstone and PC Macleod have been undertaking mountain rescue training in Aviemore and are both now part of the Police Mountain Rescue Team.



### **Drop-in clinic update**

PC Connell's drop-in clinic ran each Thursday throughout November/December at the Merkinch Community Centre. Although some initial success, it was felt that the time slot of 2-3pm isolated those who work and in the New Year, it is hoped that a new evening time can be arranged to accommodate the wider community.

### **Rural Patrols**

Officers continue to carry out regular patrols within the rural communities in the division. We continue to drop into community groups/cafes when out on our patrols and carry out speed checks in areas that have been highlighted to us.

## OFFICIAL

Community officers attended at Farr Primary this month where they talked to pupils about road safety and walking safely to and from school during the darker winter mornings and evenings. The children asked some very good questions and listened very well. They were all given reflectors to put on their school bags. These were very well received.

Through January, PC Paterson (Ft Augustus) will be visiting Glenurquhart High School where she will deliver inputs on the topic of “no knives, better lives” and “keeping safe online”. PC Paterson will also be attending at the High School for its career’s fair in early January.

PC Hamilton has undertaken mountain rescue training in Aviemore and is now part of the Police Mountain Rescue Team.

Rural officers will also provide high visibility patrols and winter safety checks as part of the “Get ready for winter” campaign. As part of this campaign, officers will undertake static roadside vehicle checks where they will inspect vehicles for road worthiness. The campaign will also look to address poor driving standards and reduce road deaths across the North of Scotland

If you have any policing concerns in your area or would like a rural (Fort Augustus / Drumnadrochit / Whitebridge / Foyers officer visit then please let us know on

[HighlandsandIslandsBeaulFortAugustus@scotland.police.uk](mailto:HighlandsandIslandsBeaulFortAugustus@scotland.police.uk)

For concerns and issues in the Inverness area please let us know on

[HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk](mailto:HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk)

### **Contact Details**

Your rural team (Fort Augustus) covering round Loch Ness can be contacted on – [HighlandsandIslandsBeaulFortAugustus@scotland.police.uk](mailto:HighlandsandIslandsBeaulFortAugustus@scotland.police.uk)

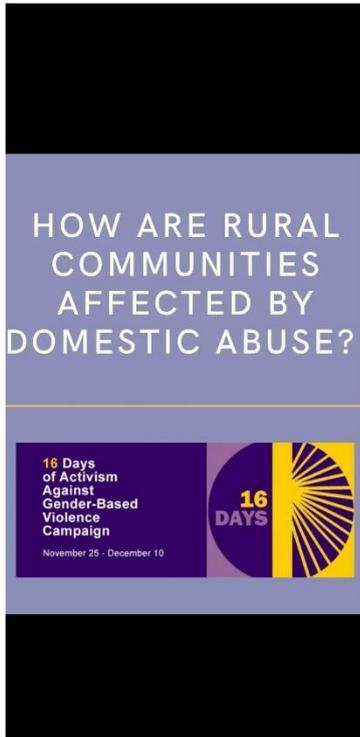
Your community beats team can be contacted on the following e-mail address–

[HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk](mailto:HighlandsandIslandsCommunityBeatsInverness@scotland.police.uk)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Please be aware that this e-mail address is not monitored 24/7 and is a contact email. Crimes should not be reported by this e-mail and should be reported via 101 or 999 in an emergency.



HOW ARE RURAL COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE?

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign  
November 25 - December 10



**RURAL VICTIMS** ARE HALF AS LIKELY AS THOSE LIVING IN URBAN AREAS TO REPORT THEIR ABUSE TO ANYONE.

THE ABUSE LASTS ON AVERAGE 25% LONGER

RURAL RESEARCH REPORT, FIFE WOMEN'S AID, 2021.

RURILITY AND REMOTENESS ARE DELIBERATELY USED AS A WEAPON BY PERPETRATORS

*'IT'S THE ATTITUDE OF WHAT HAPPENED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS STAYS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS'*

THOSE IN RURAL AREAS WERE ESPECIALLY LIKELY TO REPORT FEAR OF NOT BEING BELIEVED, AND FELT MORE EXPOSED IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.



SEE LINK IN POST TEXT FOR SUPPORT SERVICES IN HIGHLAND

SEIRBHEISEAN TAIC DO BHOIREANNAICH SA GHÀIDHEALTACHD (FAIC GU H-ÌOSAL)



OFFICIAL