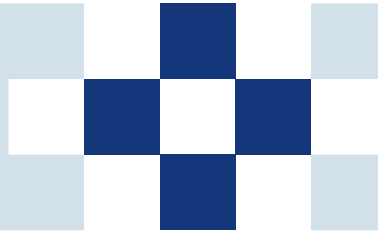


with
youfor
you

work with us to create a
positive force in your community.



February has seen us deal with a number of major incidents in Edinburgh, including a number of murders, and our officers and staff are working hard to carry out thorough investigations to each of them. Our Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers are an integral part in ensuring that the impact of these crimes on the local community is considered and managed. Enquiries are progressing well into each incident, and we hope for swift resolutions for all of them. I would like to reassure the public that serious incidents of this nature are rare, and Edinburgh still remains one of the safest places in the UK to live, work and visit.

The results of the public perception survey that I mentioned in last month's Commander's Message are now being made public, and within this newsletter you will find a breakdown of the results for your ward, which I hope you will find useful. A full copy of the results is available to view on our website at www.lbp.police.uk

Community Safety Advice

Residents in Edinburgh with sheds and garages are being warned to watch out for an increase in crimes that traditionally rise in spring. In particular housebreakings of non-residential buildings, such as business premises, including offices and factories, sheds and garages.

Insecure windows and doors on business premises can tempt opportunist housebreakers. But good lighting, CCTV and an alarm will both dissuade thieves and aid the Police in the event of any attempted break-in.

Residents should also be careful to lock sheds and garages. They can be seen as easy targets to thieves, particularly if they contain valuable items such as mountain bikes or expensive tools. You can help to prevent this type of crime by securing sheds and garages with locks and marking your property.

All members of the community are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Police. Any member of the public who would like appropriate advice should contact their local crime prevention officer.



Local Operation and initiatives

New Youth Club

Inverleith Safer Neighbourhood Officers are working with staff from a new local youth club set up in the Blackhall area.

The officers have been making use of the mobile soccer/ football pitch, which has been erected and used within Ravelston Park.

The pitch has already been out on several occasions and will be used throughout March, 1 day each week.

The events are open between 3.30pm and 5.30pm and officers have been taking an active part in the sessions along with the youth club staff helping to engage with the local youths and use sport as a vehicle to break down the barriers between police and the younger community.

The response so far has been positive and with the better weather arriving it is planned to continue with this project.



Drug Education

The Drugs Awareness Officer who is attached to the Drylaw Safer Neighbourhood Team has been conducting numerous Drugs Education talks within the local schools of Stewarts Melville, Mary Erskines and Wardieburn Primary School.

These talks are conducted by a specially trained officer and are carried out in line with the national curriculum and cover a wide range of aspects designed to educate the pupils of the dangers in the misuse of drugs and the legal implications of being involved.

Lothian and Borders are committed to working with local education authorities in an effort to improve the quality of drugs education and help to prevent substance misuse amongst the wider society.





Appeal for information

Bogus callers is something that the police continue to investigate and seek the help and assistance from the public.

The following advice has been issued :

'We would urge anyone who receives an unsolicited call at their property by any individual claiming to be employed by a company or organisation to ask for identification. It is important to take time to scrutinise their identification, and if you are still not satisfied, then you should deny them access, and contact the organisation they claim to represent to verify their identity. Similarly, if anyone has any suspicions over the intentions of any cold caller, then they should contact police immediately.'

Anyone with any information should contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131, or Crimestoppers in confidence and in complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

Local Priorities

Safer Neighbourhood Officers continue to focus on the Inverleith priorities set in January.

These are dog fouling in open green spaces, congregation of people at the Drylaw Shopping Centre and parking of vehicles on Pedestrian Crossing points.

Environmental Wardens and SNT officers have conducted joint patrolling to tackle dog fouling and a number of fixed penalty tickets were issued.

Parking on pedestrian crossings has been monitored and a high degree of compliance was found. A discussion with the retailers at the Drylaw Shopping centre took place and solutions are being explored in relation to the problems being experienced. A report to the Clean, Green & Safe Group is due in March and the new priorities for the forthcoming 6 weeks will be set.

Response to Public Perception Survey

Of the 1689 questionnaires received for the City of Edinburgh, the Inverleith Sector returned the second largest percentage (8%), with 130 recipients responding.

54% of the Inverleith respondents indicated that they had some knowledge of the work that the police do in their local area. 9% stated that they know the Community Officers who look after their area with 40% knowing how to contact their Community Police Officers. 37% either strongly agreed or agreed that the police and local council seek people's views about antisocial behaviour and crime issues that matter in the area.

The Inverleith Sector has some fairly affluent areas within its curtilage and relatively low crime statistics. There are several active Neighbourhood Watch and Community Councils operating and community interaction with the police remains a large part of the SNT role. Parking problems, dangerous driving or speeding, rubbish and litter lying around and dog fouling, were the main problems identified in the Inverleith area, youth problems were only then considered an issue.

A joint initiative has been undertaken with the Road Safety Officers, SNT officers and Community Wardens at all the local primary schools in the area in respect of inconsiderate/dangerous parking and other related road traffic issues. The issue of dog-fouling has also been highlighted as a local priority and joint patrols with council wardens have been initiated.

In conclusion, 78% of Inverleith respondents consider that the police in the local area either do a very good, good or fair job, with only 5% returning a poor or very poor answer (18% did not know).



A Division

City of Edinburgh help and advice

Lothian and Borders Police
Non emergency
0131 311 3131

Lothian and Borders
Fire and Rescue Service
(freephone)
Fire safety advice:
0800 169 0320
enquiries@lbfire.org.uk

Lothian Gay and
Lesbian Switchboard
0131 556 4049
0131 557 0751 (lesbian)

Samaritans
For emotional advice if you are
feeling depressed or suicidal:
0131 221 9999 (Edinburgh)
08457 90 90 90 (National)

Shakti Women's Aid
Support and information for
black minority ethnic women
experiencing domestic abuse:
0131 475 2399

Update
Signposts people with
disability to a wide range
of services:
0131 669 1600

Victim Support
01896 751 212

Women's Aid
0131 3158 110

National freephone helplines

(calls may not be free
from mobile phones)

Breathing Space
For emotional advice if
you are feeling depressed:
0800 838 587

Childline
Help for people aged
18 or under: 0800 11 11

Know the Score
Free confidential drugs
information and advice:
0800 587 587 9

Message Home
Get a message home for
free if you have run away:
0800 700 740

National Debtline
0808 808 4000

National Domestic
Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247

National Missing
Persons Helpline
0500 700 700

Runaway Helpline
0808 800 7070

Scottish Domestic
Abuse Line
0800 027 1234

Shelter's Free Housing
Advice Helpline
0808 800 4444

Stonewall
Lesbian, gay and
bisexual charity:
08000 50 20 20

Womens Aid
0808 2000 247

Crimestoppers

0800 5551111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Contact your SNT Officer

Email: adivsntInverleith@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Telephone : 0131 343 3171