



Victim Support Scotland Response to the Police Scotland Annual Plan Survey

Question 1: Violence, Disorder & Antisocial Behaviour

The impact of violent crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour has consequences that extend beyond victims; affecting families, communities and society as a whole.

We remain committed to maintaining a prevention, partnership and intelligence-led approach to reducing violent crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour. We will continue to utilise a range of tools to identify emerging trends and the geographical areas where issues are most prevalent.

In 2018/19 we will:

Provide officers and staff with the knowledge and skills to enable them to target and **prevent violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour**.

Utilise National Intelligence Model (NIM) methodology to monitor and address **emerging threats**.

Share information and develop **joint problem solving** initiatives with partners.

Q1. The approach to dealing with the threat of 'violence, disorder and antisocial behaviour' meets my expectation:

Answer: Strongly Agree

Question 2: Serious Organised Crime

Serious organised crime has the potential to affect every community in Scotland. Our assessment indicates a threat linked to on-going feuds, violence and firearms incidents between serious organised crime groups (SOCGs).

We will work in partnership to prevent harm caused to individuals, communities and businesses by serious organised crime.

In 2018/19 we will:

Prevent **cybercrime** by working with partners to support the implementation of Scotland's Cyber Resilience Strategy, and disrupt those involved in cyber enabled and cyber dependent criminality.

Disrupt and prevent **serious organised crime groups** activity.

Develop an overarching Police Scotland **Drug and NPS** (New Psychoactive Substances) Prevention approach.

Prevent **fraud** and protect those most at risk from current and emerging organised fraud threats.

Q2. The approach to dealing with the threat from 'serious organised crime' meets my expectation:

Answer: Strongly Agree

Question 3: Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

Terrorist attacks and disruptions across the UK, Europe and beyond continue to persist and the threat from extremist terrorist attacks in the UK remains high. The threat level was raised to 'CRITICAL' twice during 2017/18.

Tackling terrorism and domestic extremism is a national priority for Police Scotland and we will work with our partners to protect our communities by reducing and mitigating the threat and harm it causes.

In 2018/19 we will:

PURSUE – *to stop terrorist attacks*

PREVENT – *to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism*

PROTECT – *to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack*

PREPARE – *to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack*

Q3. The approach to dealing with the threat from 'terrorism and domestic extremism' meets my expectation:

Answer: Strongly Agree

Question 4: Protecting people at risk of harm

The demand on police services is growing and is increasingly focused towards addressing vulnerability and the consequences of inequalities. Quantifying this is challenging, particularly when issues are under reported and less visible. Protecting people at risk of harm involves significant risk from very harmful types of crimes, the impact of which extends beyond victims and cannot be underestimated.

This is a national priority for Police Scotland and we will work with partners to protect people and prevent all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

In 2018/19 we will:

Reduce the harm caused by the **abuse and neglect of children**.

Reduce the harm caused by **sexual crime**.

Reduce the harm caused by abuse of **adults at risk of harm**.

Reduce the harm caused by **human trafficking and exploitation**.

Reduce the harm caused by **domestic abuse**.

Manage offenders who pose a risk of serious harm.

Focus on prevention and early intervention to improve the **safety and wellbeing** of individuals in public, private and virtual space.

Q4. The approach to dealing with the threat relating to 'protecting people at risk of harm' meets my expectation:

Answer: Strongly Agree

Question 5: Road Safety and Road Crime

Serious collisions on our roads have a significant impact on Scotland's communities, both in terms of fatalities and personal injury, as well as the disruption caused by road closures. In addition, much criminal activity involves use of the road network and the illegal use of vehicles.

Keeping people safe on our roads and tackling road crime is a national priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to promoting road safety, improving driver behaviour and enforcing road traffic legislation in support of the Scottish Government Road Safety Framework to 2020.

In 2018/19 we will:

Modify driver behaviour and **reduce injury** on Scotland's roads through engagement and proportionate enforcement of legislation.

Detect and deter all types of **criminality on our roads** through efficient use of intelligence and analytical products.

Develop and deliver a national road safety and road crime **calendar of activity**, which will be aligned to 'priority focus areas', as identified during the mid-term review of the Scottish Government's Road Safety Framework to 2020.

Q5. The approach to dealing with the threat of 'injury on our roads and road crime' meets my expectation:

Answer: Strongly Agree

Question 6: Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime is when the offender derives material gain from the crime, such as theft, fraud and robbery. It is a high volume crime group accounting for just under half of all recorded crimes in Scotland.

Instances of doorstep crime and fraud, particularly online fraud, are continuing to increase. These types of crimes can have a significant impact on victims, communities and the wider economy.

Tackling acquisitive crime is a national priority for Police Scotland and we will work with our partners to address the concerns of communities.

In 2018/19 we will:

Prevent acquisitive crime and reduce the harm it causes.

Develop our nationwide approach to prevent **doorstep crime** and the harm it causes.

Work with partners to tackle **online fraud** and protect individuals and businesses from this threat.

Q6. The approach to dealing with the threat of 'acquisitive crime' meets my expectation:

Answer: Strongly Agree

Question 7: Other Priorities

Q7. Are there any other national priorities that you would expect to see included in Police Scotland's Annual Police Plan?

Victim Support Scotland is a key partner of Police Scotland and we would highlight the need for ensuring continued appropriate referrals (with the express permission of the victim) to our organisation, particularly as we have the infrastructure to provide onward referrals to other agencies with the agreement of the victim. Police Scotland and Victim Support Scotland have worked together to facilitate early access to support for those in need, and we hope to develop this relationship in order to deliver an integrated and efficient service to victims and witnesses in Scotland.

By establishing and maintaining well-functioning and meaningful partnerships, VSS can assist the police in delivering effective services to people affected by crime and our local communities across Scotland. Victim Support Scotland brings extensive knowledge and experience of how crime and victimisation affects different people throughout Scotland and what practices may be used to lessen the impact of crime. We regularly develop new approaches and improve what we do to ensure we continue to meet the needs of those we support. We can assist in providing the skills and knowledge to ensure a skilled workforce within the police with the ability to identify and respond to victims appropriately, and to treat them in a respectful, professional and non-discriminatory manner and in keeping with the 2014 Act.

The Annual Police Plan should run in tandem with the organisations 10 year strategic priorities and has the potential to reflect the needs of victims and witnesses of crime. Victim Support Scotland would therefore welcome seeing direct and specific measurable outcomes relating to all victims and witnesses being integrated into all plans, including local and annual policing plans.

VSS believes the standards of service for victims and witnesses and duties placed upon Police Scotland through the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 need to be reflected in all regional, ward and policing plans and must be explicitly regarded as a priority for the delivery of successful services to local communities across Scotland.

ENDS