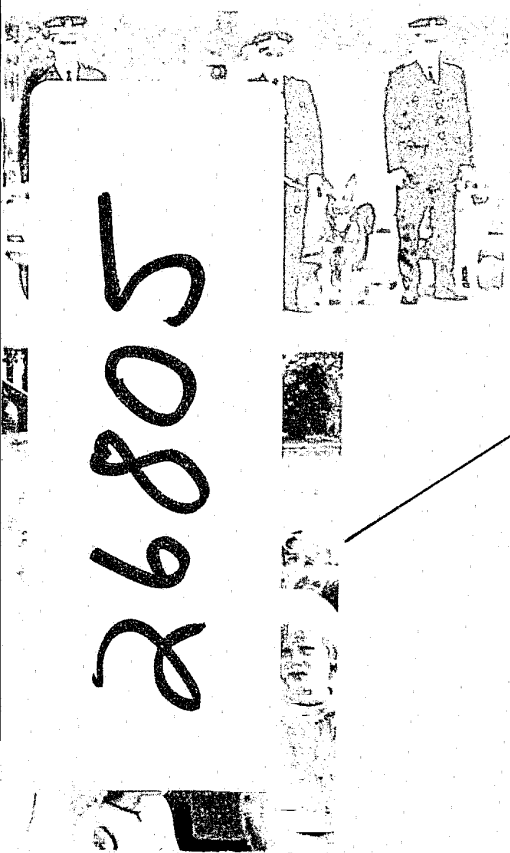
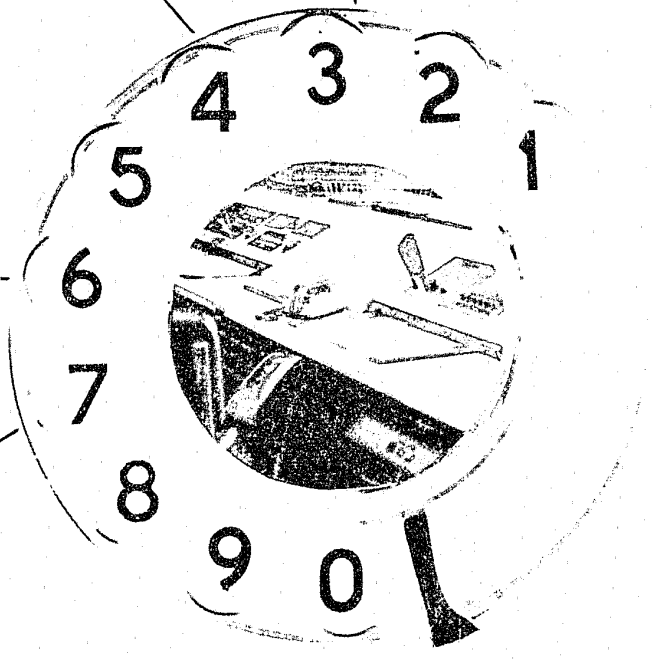


A MATTER OF INVOLVEMENT



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crime prevention and
community involvement
in Dunbartonshire

CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DUNBARTONSHIRE

"The first duty of a Constable is always to prevent the commission of a crime."

These words were written in 1829 and still remain the basic duty of the Police in the late 20th century.

Initially crime prevention was sought after by constant patrol and watch by uniformed Policemen, this is still the ideal but modern manpower shortages make it impossible to achieve. It is only comparatively recently that the Police sought to enlist the aid of the public in protecting their own property and, with certain isolated exceptions, in carrying out "grass roots" crime prevention by attempting to prevent the formation of a criminal at the earliest stages in life through education, correction and example.

Early Crime Prevention Campaigns were staged on a small scale in Sussex in 1943 and, in Brighton and Birkenhead in 1949. A centrally organised campaign was held in 1950 with assistance from insurance companies.

In 1954 a Working Group on Crime Prevention Methods was set up and a report was published in 1956 recommending among other things that all Police Forces should appoint Crime Prevention Officers. A major step forward was achieved in 1963 by the establishment of the Home Office Crime Prevention Centre at Stafford. Run by highly trained Police Crime Prevention officers it has since become a model which has been widely admired and copied throughout the world.

In 1971 the Scottish Police Service, following recommendations by Mr David Gray, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, pioneered an infinitely wider approach to Crime Prevention by setting up Community Involvement Branches throughout the country.

Dunbartonshire's first Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant Robert Kennedy, took up his duties in December, 1956, as well as co-ordinating Crime Prevention work in the Force he was responsible for giving talks to clubs and youth organisations throughout the County, a task which was to increase in volume rapidly.

Sergeant Kennedy was assisted initially by Constables in the various sub-divisions of the Force who carried out a survey of all business premises giving on the spot advice on improving security to the occupants and reporting the more serious problems to the Crime Prevention Officer for a detailed survey. Records were kept of each survey so that a follow up visit could be made to check on how the advice given was implemented.

All members of the Force were instructed to report security weaknesses seen by them to the Crime Prevention Officer and to encourage this talks were given to senior Constables who attended refresher courses at Police Headquarters.

Leaflets, posters, cinema slides and articles in the local press all were used to carry the message of Crime Prevention to the people of the County during the first year. Sixty-two schools were visited immediately before the summer holidays and talks were given to the children on the effects of crime and vandalism, a foretaste of the ambitious Community Involvement programme to come in the future.

Another example of Community Involvement was the formation of a Police Concert Party in 1957, which brought to light some quite unexpected talent in the Force. During the next six years over 100 concerts were given to organisations of all kinds, including old peoples' homes and hospitals. Over 22,000 people saw the concerts and £1,910 was raised for various charities. Unfortunately, although the members of the concert party gave up their free time to perform, the chronic manpower shortage eventually caused its disbandment, though many members continued to entertain at hospitals and old peoples homes.

For the next few years the one man Crime Prevention Department was chiefly concerned with tightening up the security of tobacconists and licensed premises as many thousands of pounds of cigarettes and spirits were stolen annually in the County. It is significant that because of better security such thefts are now extremely rare.

More attention was paid to making householders aware of the necessity of good security in the home, and many talks and exhibitions were given to ratepayers' and tenants' associations for this purpose.

In 1964, the Crime Prevention Officer attended a four week course at the newly opened Home Office Crime Prevention Centre at Stafford. Since then all the Force's Crime Prevention officers have been trained at this centre, now internationally regarded as the world's finest.

Liaison with Architects and Builders in an attempt to have good security built into new buildings now occupied an increasing amount of time and standard security specifications were drawn up by the Crime Prevention Officer for their guidance.

Civilian Crime Prevention Panels.

In 1968 a visit was made to Bristol City Police to study the operation of the newly formed Civilian Crime Prevention Panels. The function of the Panels, which are composed of prominent business and professional men and women, is to study patterns of crime and vandalism in their areas, consider ways and means of combating it and make recommendations to the Police. As a result it was decided to set up similar Panels in Dunbartonshire and three were formed, covering the eastern, central and western areas of the County. The Panel Members have been of particular help during Crime Prevention campaigns and competitions for school children and now give talks, in the company of local police officers, to clubs and organisations in their areas.

Good Neighbour Scheme.

During 1969, recognising that the police alone could not hope to give all closed houses throughout the County the individual scrutiny necessary to deter or detect housebreakers, a "Good Neighbour" scheme was introduced enlisting the aid of neighbours in giving attention to closed houses in their vicinity. The scheme had been devised by Gloucestershire Constabulary. The forms incorporated a security checklist for the person going on holiday. The scheme was an immediate success with the public and is now a permanent feature of the Crime Prevention programme.

National Crime Prevention Campaign.

On 8th October, 1969, the first of a series of National Crime Prevention Campaigns commenced in Scotland. The government decided to spend a large sum of money publicising Crime Prevention throughout the county. The Campaign was opened by a reception at Edinburgh Castle by the Secretary of State for people who had given particularly valuable assistance to the Police. Six persons were chosen from Dunbartonshire. There was also a conference of Civilian Crime Prevention Panels at the Scottish Police College. The broad policy of the campaign was decided by the Standing Committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers and all Chief Constables were asked to run local campaigns.

A mobile exhibition consisting of a Crime Prevention display built by members of the Force and mounted in the Mobile Office, an Accident Unit and a Jaguar patrol car fitted with anti-theft devices, toured the County making sixteen day visits to street corner sites during the period of the Campaign. The Police Dog Section also gave demonstrations each day.

A Crime Prevention calypso was specially written for the Campaign by Mr. Jack Pickup, the County Director of Musical Education and, as well as being broadcast wherever the mobile exhibition was on display, was also broadcast by B.B.C. radio.

A new innovation in Crime Prevention was the making of a special video tape programme on the Police with the aid of Mr Roy Foster, a lecturer at Chesters Management Centre. The programme was shown constantly at the exhibition on a close circuit television monitor screen and was so effective an attraction that new programmes were made for each successive Campaign.

The help and encouragement given by Mr Foster and his colleague Mr Allan Gay of Chesters Management Centre over many years is impossible to over estimate and is one of the finest examples of continuing assistance to the Police service experienced anywhere in Scotland.

Police Headquarters was thrown open to the public on two successive Sundays during the Campaign and visitors saw Crime Prevention displays, Police Dog demonstrations and films on safe driving and crime prevention as well as touring the building. Over 1,000 people visited the building on each day.

Operation Crimestop was another feature of the Campaign and involved recruiting members of the public who would undertake to dial 999 and notify the Police immediately they noticed anything suspicious. It had initially been tried out in a Government sponsored campaign in Dundee. One thousand, one hundred and sixty "Crimestoppers" were enrolled and issued with Crimestop cards, beginning with the Provosts of each Burgh.

The importance of involving children prompted the introduction of a colouring quiz and crime prevention slogan competition for primary schools. Over 9,000 entries were received and the winners and their parents were conveyed to Police Headquarters and entertained to tea before being presented with their prizes.

This competition in varying forms has been repeated each year and has continued to grow in popularity, over 29,000 entries were received for the 1973 competition which was on the theme of "vandalism". Local newspapers have helped greatly by reproducing the competition in their columns.

One hundred and fifty thousand Crime Prevention letters were delivered on the first morning of the Campaign to every householder and business premises within the County by members of youth organisations.

The campaign of 1969 has set the pattern for each succeeding year. New ideas are constantly being tried out and some have become institutions.

The Public Speaking Competition for Senior Secondary pupils, based on an idea submitted by a member of the Civilian Crime Prevention Panel, Mr Gerry Fitzgerald, is perhaps the best example of this. With the permission of the Director of Education all the Secondary Schools, including two private schools and St. Andrews Approved School, took part and spoke on the motion "Don't leave it all to the Police. Crime Prevention is everybody's business", which was the theme of the campaign. The teams were coached by Policemen from their local sub-divisions and the finals were held in Dumbarton before an audience of over 500 people who, in addition to the speeches, were entertained by a folk group from Clydebank High School. The compere was Mr Bill Tennant and the prizes were presented by the Lord Lieutenant. The Competition was a resounding success and the Joint Police Committee decided to present a silver trophy for annual competition.

In 1971 The Mobile Exhibition was replaced by a series of three static exhibitions of Crime Prevention equipment at Dumbarton, Clydebank and Cumbernauld. The exhibition was described by a well known locksmith as one of the most comprehensive he had seen in Scotland.

More than 2,500 Dunbartonshire businessmen and women from leading industrialists to corner shop proprietors received personal invitations to attend a series of Symposiums on Crime Prevention held in conjunction with the exhibition where experts on security spoke on various aspects of crime prevention.

A "Crime Prevention Teach-in" was also held at the three centres. 300 youth organisations were invited to attend and put questions to panels of doctors, social workers, teachers and Police. Each teach-in was chaired by a well known radio or television personality.

The 1972 Campaign saw the first of a series of two day Seminars on Crime Prevention for Industrial Security Officers. These have now become a regular feature and have proved to be a valuable service to industrialists within the County.

The Mobile Police Office equipped as a Crime Prevention Advice Centre visited the rural areas of the County while Crime Prevention Officers carried out surveys for householders who had completed coupons offering this service published in local papers.

In 1973 one of the main features of the Campaign was a two day Seminar on Crime Prevention for industrialists at managerial and director level. The Seminar, which was organised jointly by the University of Strathclyde and Dunbartonshire Constabulary and was held at Chesters Management Centre, Bearsden, had speakers who were acknowledged as the leaders in their fields in Britain. It attracted 50 industrialists from firms throughout the British Isles and was the first of its type in Scotland. Because of its success a further Seminar was held in April, 1974, and more are planned.

The large Crime Prevention Exhibitions have been replaced by more specialised exhibitions, each devoted to a theme such as security in the home, security for the elderly and disabled, holiday crime prevention, mountain safety and boat security. The last of these, boat security, was held at the Royal Northern Yacht Club and invitations were sent to members of all yacht and sailing clubs in the Firth of Clyde and was once again the first of its type in Scotland. Special pamphlets have been prepared for many of these exhibitions, one on holiday security being printed in six languages, including Gaelic.

Community Involvement

On the 16th May, 1971, Dunbartonshire Community Involvement Branch officially came into operation thus commencing an entirely new approach to Crime Prevention in the County. The Branch consisted of a Chief Inspector, three Sergeants, three Constables and a Policewoman and had in fact been in operation unofficially since 1st April, 1971, to prepare for the start of the new system of Children's Panels.

The responsibilities of these officers included the maintenance of close liaison with the Reporter to the Children's panels and the Directors and Staff of the three Social Work Departments in the County. They were also responsible for fostering Community involvement activities of resident Constables, liaison with youth organisations, talks and demonstrations to clubs and organisations and for arranging visits of parties to Police offices. The Branch was given direct responsibility for the operation of the official Police Warning and Juvenile Liaison system, for all matters concerning Crime Prevention, Civil Defence and Race Relations together with the recruitment, training and organisation of the special Constabulary.

To prepare for these duties a comprehensive two week training course was drawn up and held at Police Headquarters immediately before the official start of the branch.

The early weeks of the new Branch were occupied in building up a working relationship with the Children's Panel members and Social Workers. In addition to the routine meetings for day to day business, a system of informal discussion meetings between Police, panel members and social workers were organised which have been found to be of great value in breaking down prejudices and barriers on both sides. To further this process, Police Cadets and Policewomen are attached to the Social Work Departments for periods. The training process within the force has been carried out by talks to shifts, attachment of all probationers and cadets to the Branch, and short courses for resident Constables and Policewomen in giving talks and demonstrations to schools, youth clubs and adult organisations.

Race Relations

Apart from initial training, Race Relations fortunately has not occupied much of the time of the Community Involvement Branch but obviously a constant watch must be kept for indication of developing trouble.

Special Constabulary

The Special Constabulary still plays an important support role for the regular Force and training and morale among the Special Constables is of great importance. This was recognised by the creation of an award for the Special Constable of the Year where the officer who is judged to have contributed most to the Force is awarded a silver shield presented by the Joint Police Committee.

Police Warnings and Juvenile Liaison

The official Police Warning and Juvenile Liaison Scheme already referred to is essentially a method of preventing delinquency by interception at an early stage. First tried out in Liverpool in 1951, it was brought to Scotland in 1956 by Mr David Gray when he was Chief Constable of Greenock. It provides another means of dealing with juvenile offenders who have committed minor crimes and offences and who, if not corrected, would be likely to embark on a criminal career. Many offenders are dealt with by a formal Police warning given by a senior Police Officer. There are, however, a number of instances where a Police warning by itself would not have a lasting effect, for example, in a case where the child shows signs of being outwith parental control or is easily led by older and unruly companions.

In such instances, proper and regular supervision by a Community Involvement Officer, after an official Police warning has been given, can ensure that the child is given the advice and encouragement necessary to engage in worthwhile pursuits to prevent him committing further offences or reverting to old associates.

The Scheme is complementary to the work of the Children's Panel and the Social Work Department as the Social Workers are normally concerned with the child after he has been brought to the notice of the Reporter or has appeared at a Court or Children's Hearing. The Juvenile Liaison Scheme is a follow up to an official Police warning and endeavours to prevent the need for future referral to a Court or Hearing. A Police warning, with or without supervision, is not regarded as a conviction and the offender has thereafter not acquired a criminal record. An encouraging development is the number of parents and teachers who seek the assistance of the Juvenile Liaison Officers. Many hundreds of hours are spent annually on this work and on enquiries for the Reporter to the Children's Panels.

The duties just described can be regarded as a practical form of Crime Prevention as they are designed to prevent the formation of a criminal at a stage of life when success is most likely. The traditional forms of crime prevention, the provision of advice on security of property, while of great importance, are designed to prevent a crime being committed by a criminal who is often already set in his ways.

Schools Citizenship Programme

At the time of formation of the new Branch it was decided that the concept of Crime Prevention required to be very much wider than formerly and that the most rewarding field of activity would be among children and young persons. This would involve three main fronts, the Juvenile Liaison Scheme already described, increased activity by the Police, particularly resident Constables, in visiting and being involved with youth clubs and organisations and the setting up of a schools citizenship programme.

Requests by teachers for talks and projects on the Police Service had grown in volume during the past few years and it was decided to set up a programme of talks and demonstrations designed to give children of all ages a proper appreciation of their responsibilities as members of the community and an understanding of how they could improve life in their own town or village. The programme was planned in four main phases, each designed to cover a particular age group. The maximum use is made of visual aides and specially prepared programmes of overhead projection foils, slides and films. There are also visits from specialists such as dog handlers and motor cyclists who give talks and demonstrations on their particular aspects of Police work.

The youngest age group is catered for by visits to pre-school playgroups and by annual showings of the film "Never go with Strangers" involving visits to 90 schools

The phases of the Programme are as follows:—

Phase I consists of talks, illustrated by an overhead projector, given to children in the 8 and 9 year old group, followed by a discussion introduced and chaired by the local resident constable. If required by the school a project on the Police Service is then arranged involving visits to the school by the resident constable and a tour of the local Police station by the pupils.

Phase II involves pupils in the 10 to 12 age group and consists of four lectures and demonstrations illustrated by a slide projector. Whenever possible these are given by a local constable assisted by the Community Involvement Branch. The Policewoman and resident dog handlers in Cumbernauld for example run the entire primary school citizenship programme.

Phase III is designed for pupils in the 14 to 16 age group and the course which can vary from 5 to 9 visits according to the needs of the school was devised jointly by the Community Involvement Branch and the Education Department's Curriculum Development Centre in 1971. The course which is based on a single crime of assault and robbery staged in Clydebank and photographed in detail stresses to pupils the effect of crime on the ordinary person and underlines both the need for self discipline in order to preserve civilised community life and the acceptance of their responsibilities as citizens. In the session 1973/74 twelve Senior Secondary Schools and over 600 pupils were involved in this Course which was the subject of an article in the Times Educational Supplement on 1st June, 1973.

Phase IV involves senior pupils of secondary schools and is designed to stress the service aspect of Police work which is under publicised by comparison with the detection of crime.

Many additional lectures on specialist subjects are arranged at the request of teachers.

It is hoped that the regular visits by Police officers to schools will build up an acceptance of the Police and an understanding of their problems by pupils. Three hundred and seventy nine talks and demonstrations were given to pupils of all ages during 1973 and ninety one organised parties of school children toured Police stations. In addition to this several hundred visits were made to schools in connection with the film "Never go with Strangers", the various children's Crime Prevention competitions and the very successful primary school seven a side football competition run by local policemen throughout the County.

A less publicised but very valuable aspect is the frequent meetings between guidance teachers and Juvenile Liaison Officers at Secondary schools.

The success of the Schools Citizenship programme has depended on the ready and enthusiastic co-operation of the Director of Education and School teachers throughout the County who have welcomed the Police into their classrooms and given them every assistance.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Since the inception of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, courses for the Service qualification have been run by the Police throughout the County. These courses at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels are run several times a year and generally involve nine lectures and demonstrations. Police Officers also inspect the expeditions and camps for many youth organisations taking part. A special course has also been devised at Silver level for the pupils of one of the County's Special Schools for handicapped pupils.

This account of Community involvement activities by the Police of Dunbartonshire is by no means exhaustive, there are many individual visits and projects of which space does not permit describing in detail. In fact the vast proportion of community work by the Police goes unremarked and it is part of the twenty four hour service regarded as normal by the public. A recent survey by a lecturer of the University of Dundee showed that 73.8% of all calls dealt with by the Police in the area surveyed were concerned with some aspect of service to the community in no way connected with law enforcement. Only 26.2% in fact dealt with crime and offenders.

This long established tradition of friendly service to members of the public in trouble coupled with the efforts through Community Involvement to ensure that the public feel personally concerned with the problems of maintaining law and order will, it is hoped, produce dividends in the shape of reduced crime and a more orderly society in the future.

DUNBARTONSHIRE CONSTABULARY COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT BRANCH AT 1st MAY, 1974.

Officer in Charge:-

Detective Chief Inspector A. M. MacKenzie

Sergeant J. P. Scott

Sergeant J. Meiklejohn

Con. W. McGichan

P/W Con. J. Halliday

Sergeant W. G. Maitland

Con. T. Murphy

Con. R. Smith

Con. N. Smith

Headquarters

Headquarters

*Western Division and
Alexandria*

Helensburgh

Dumbarton

*Eastern Division and
Clydebank*

Clydebank and Milngavie

Kirkintilloch

Cumbernauld

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