



E DIVISION

Leith Links Community Council

February 2026

Leith Community Policing Team
Monday 23rd February 2026



Some notable work and recent results in the Leith Links area

- Leith Community Policing Team (CPT) along with the North East Support team (NEST) have continued Operation NESTGuard which focuses on the Friday and Saturday nighttime economy in Leith. In February, Officers seized 3 cars for no insurance, one driver was arrested for failing a roadside drugs wipe. An illegal off-road bike ridden by a teenager was also seized. The bike was worth £2500 and believed to be stolen during a robbery. The rider was charged with 6 offences.
- In February, Community officers were joined on patrol by staff from Lothian buses and Edinburgh trams as well as members of the Edinburgh Police command team who got to experience some frontline policing!
- Another training day was organised by Leith community officers in order for Special Constables to hone their skills and become more confident in an operational environment. This provides a great return in results when it comes to weekend deployments.
- Local Boys Brigade recently visited Leith Police station and were shown round. A discussion was then had with the boys who learned about some policing operations, uniform and crime types.
- Community officers and the local school link officer held a bike marking event at Leith Academy. Further events will be planned for Easter time.
- Planning is underway for an illegal E-bike/E-scooter operation in the near future.

Leith retail crime

Plain clothes patrols continue to result in apprehension of prolific offenders and shoplifting in the Leith area has decreased as a result.

Funding has now been granted for 2026 to enable this work to continue. Leith CPT along with Edinburgh retail crime team are planning more dedicated days of action and the extra funding will mean additional officers on the street.

The Apex radio scheme has now been implemented which means all businesses in the Newkirkgate as well as security and local Police will have a radio so they communicate any movement of known shoplifters in the area. This should assist in crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals.

February has seen three retail crime days of action in Leith. This has resulted in:

The arrest of the No.1 retail crime offender in Edinburgh who was wanted on 17 warrants and was also charged with 30 offences;

1 person arrested and charged with 17 retail crime related offences;

5 persons arrested and charged with shoplifting and threatening retail workers.

Friday Night Lights

- Each week, Leith Community Policing officers work with Sports Scotland at “Friday Night Lights” youth initiative, to support reducing anti-social behaviour in the Leith area through a programme of activities and sports aimed at young people aged 9-12 years that were deemed ‘at risk’ of committing crime and/or antisocial behaviour.
- The initiative runs on Friday evenings, between 6pm and 10pm, which is a time traditionally associated with such antisocial behaviour.
- This initiative is run in conjunction with various community groups across Leith including YMCA Edinburgh, Leith Academy, Hibernian Community Foundation, Pilmeny Development Project and Lochend Football Academy.
- Participants have reacted positively to the initiative, and there has been a marked decrease in youth-related antisocial behaviour since the project’s inception.



OFFICIAL



Take Five is a national UK campaign that offers straightforward and impartial advice to help everyone protect themselves from preventable financial fraud.

This includes email deception and phone-based scams as well as online fraud, particularly where criminals impersonate trusted organisations.



Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police.

They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Challenge: Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Protect: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Police Scotland directly by calling 101 or Advice Direct Scotland on 0808 164 6000.

takefive-stopfraud.org.uk



Edinburgh-wide Police Reports and Information

- On a quarterly basis, the Edinburgh Divisional Commander attends and provides both a written and verbal report to the [Edinburgh Council Culture and Communities Committee](#), during which scrutiny is provided in terms of the division's performance against the Local Policing Plan and other ongoing or emerging issues. Edinburgh Division Scrutiny Reports can be found [here](#). This meeting is also freely available/accessible to view live or retrospectively.
- Our Local Police Plan 2023-26 outlines our local Divisional priorities and is accessible via [the Police Scotland website](#). Members of Edinburgh Division's Senior Management Team routinely respond to queries received from Elected Representatives, including MPs', MSPs' and constituents' concerns across a broad spectrum of topics.
- From a locality perspective, each of the 4 Local Area Commanders chair local Community Improvement Partnerships and form part of the Locality Community Planning Partnerships, in order to address local concerns in partnership.
- Police Scotland's Quarterly Performance Report for the Scottish Police Authority and performance statistics (by council & policing division) can be accessed [here](#).
- Recorded and detected crime data at Multi-Member Ward level, Road Traffic Collision (RTC) data (casualties and circumstances), and Stop/Search data can be found via the following links:
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/> (provided annually)
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/road-traffic-collision-data/>
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/stop-and-search/data-publication/>
- The fortnightly Capital Cops column in the Edinburgh Evening News, featuring themed and topical articles, can be found via this link [Opinion Latest News | Edinburgh News \(scotsman.com\)](#)



E DIVISION

About Us

Local Area Commander:

Chief Inspector Alison MacDonald

Leith Community Policing Team based at Leith Police Station:

Inspector Gary Reid

Sergeant Paul Gray

Your local Community Beat Officers for NL27/NL28:

PC John Anderson

PC Lewis Hardie

PC Campbell Blackmore

Plus 6 other officers dedicated to community issues in Leith

Contact Us:



101 for non-emergencies



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Edinburgh Police Division



www.scotland.police.uk