



**SCOTTISH
CRIME &
DRUG
ENFORCEMENT
AGENCY**

SCDEA 2009 ANNUAL REPORT 2010

TRANSFORMING OUR APPROACH SO COMMUNITIES CAN FLOURISH



DIVERT ♦ DISRUPT ♦ DETERR ♦ DETECT

YEAR OF SUCCESS 2009-2010



“The year 2009-10 may come to be looked upon as a watershed in this country’s continuing fight against serious organised crime.”

Deputy Chief Constable Gordon Meldrum QPM
Director General SCDEA

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009-2010

We successfully seized:

- 105 kilograms of Class A drugs with an estimated street value of over £21 million - 65% below our annual target of 300 kilograms. 51 kilograms of these drugs were high purity cocaine seized outside Scotland and had the potential to be adulterated to provide at least 408 kilograms of cocaine, based on what we already know about the low purity levels of cocaine currently available in Scotland.
- 1.6 tonnes of Class B drugs, mostly cannabis worth almost £5 million. There is no target set for Class B drug seizures.
- We identified £22 million worth of criminal assets for seizure under the Proceeds of Crime Act - 158% over our annual target of £8.5 million and 69% more than the £13 million we identified in 2008-09.
- We arrested 136 individuals, 67 of which were at Level 3 criminality* - 49% over our annual target of 45 Level 3 criminals and an increase of 34% on the 50 Level 3 criminals arrested in the previous year. 21% of these 67 individuals were the principal of their crime group.
(* individuals involved in serious organised crime)
- 29 criminals previously detected by us were convicted and sentenced to a combined 160 years in prison during 2009-10 - 63 years more than the previous year.
- In addition, we established the first ever Scottish Intelligence Coordination Unit.

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SCDEA

Working every day for the people of Scotland

“Working every day for the people of Scotland—dismantling serious organised crime.”

SCDEA MISSION



The year 2009-10 may come to be looked upon as a watershed in this country's continuing fight against serious organised crime. It was a year in which the collective efforts of law enforcement, Government and

the public and private sectors came together in Scotland under a single cohesive national strategy – Letting Our Communities Flourish.

That strategy, led by the multi-agency Serious Organised Crime Taskforce, is built around four important strands of work – Divert, Disrupt, Deter, and Detect. The SCDEA fully supports this national strategy and you will find the details and commentary on our performance in this document set out under these four objectives.

It was the year in which Scottish law enforcement began to use the knowledge and intelligence from the SCDEA's ground-breaking 'mapping' project to step up its action against serious organised crime groups (SOCGs) operating in Scotland. In less than nine months from its initial announcement, we successfully established the Scottish Intelligence Co-ordination Unit in its temporary Livingston location and began its work as a 'brain' at the heart of Scottish law enforcement – turning knowledge into action.

It was the year in which Scottish Policing made tackling serious organised crime one of its top strategic priorities – mobilising over 17,000 frontline police officers in addition to the specialist resources of the SCDEA.

A year in which the SCDEA began to radically change its shape to support the change of direction that began last year - targeting activity against those SOCGs we judge to do the greatest harm to our country. We have restructured our many brave and resourceful officers into integrated Major Investigation Teams working alongside skilled civilians, including financial investigators and intelligence analysts.

And, thanks to a £4 million two-year funding package from the Scottish Government, we have in the last year successfully recruited half of the more than 80 additional posts we identified as necessary to step up the SCDEA's activities.

It was the year too in which the veil of glamour that somehow still clings to serious organised crime began to slip.

The public were exposed to murders carried out in broad daylight within feet of mothers and children doing their shopping. High-profile TV documentaries graphically demonstrated the toxic dustbin of chemicals that makes up street-level cocaine in Scotland. Working with the SCDEA, the Colombian Ambassador to the UK sat down with Scottish pupils to personally and passionately highlight the brutal exploitation of children and destruction to the natural environment carried out by drug cartels in his homeland.

As that veil slipped we saw the ugly, sneering face of serious organised crime. That's why I am delighted that in 2009-10 we arrested 67 individuals involved in the most serious national and international levels of organised crime (known as Level 3 criminals) – an increase of 34 per cent on last year and the largest number of such criminals we have arrested in a single year so far.

The type of arrests we made last year starts to show the shift in approach that mapping is bringing to our work.

Five years ago, only one in five of the arrests we made as an agency were of these Level 3 criminals. In 2009-10, nearly half of all arrests were of individuals at this level. That is increasingly how the SCDEA's performance needs to be judged – on the effectiveness of our impact in dismantling and disrupting serious organised crime. Going after the right people with the right resources where we can do most good. One of the key outcomes of the mapping initiative is our ability to rank SOCGs in terms of the threat and harm they pose.

“The SCDEA's activities are increasingly focussing on joint investigations with other jurisdictions which are helping us to intercept drugs closer to their point of production.”

As a result of the knowledge we have gained in 2009-10, Scottish law enforcement is now mounting intelligence-led investigations against all of the 'Top 20' SOCGs in the country.

Over the last year, the SCDEA has also seized 105 kilograms of Class A drugs – less than the very large seizure figures of the last two years but higher than the total for 2006-07.

Our total Class A drug seizures have an estimated street value of over £21 million and represent the equivalent of 462,000 street level deals that were prevented from reaching the streets of Scotland. Over £18 million of that estimated street value comes from calculating that 51 kilograms of high purity cocaine that we seized abroad could be converted into the low-purity Scottish equivalent - adulterated more than eight times to realise 408 kilograms valued at £45,000 per kilogram.

We have also seized some 1.6 tonnes of Class B drugs - mostly cannabis which the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey in January confirmed as the most prevalent illegal drug in Scotland and the drug most likely to lead users towards Class A drug use.

We have also identified £22 million of criminal assets for restraint under the Proceeds of Crime Act – a 69 per cent increase on last year's figure of £13 million and a 158 per cent over our annual target of £8.5 million. A substantial amount of the total results from one case, which is still currently under active investigation and as a consequence is sub judice.

The level of Class A drugs seized is clearly not of the same scale as the exceptional record level we recovered last year. Our investigations are complex and can last for several years, so they do not neatly fit the confines of individual reporting years.

However, the overall size of the Class A drugs haul masks an increasingly important element for us – purity.

The SCDEA's activities are increasingly focussing on joint investigations with other jurisdictions which are helping us to intercept drugs closer to their point of production.

The closer to the source, the purer the drugs.

Even if we take the most conservative of estimates, the purity of street level cocaine in Scotland is less than 10 per cent. The 51 kilograms of cocaine that we seized 'upstream' – i.e. out-with Scotland's shores - were over 80 per cent purity. We believe those drugs were destined to do two things.

First, they would have been cut with chemicals and bulking agents and turned into something like 408 kilograms by the time they reached Scotland – equivalent to over 408,000 street level cocaine deals.

Second, these high purity drugs represent working capital for SOCGs. Their ability to expand and profit from their 'investment' is entirely based around the presumption of turning it into those thousands of street deals. As a result of seizing this seemingly modest amount of drugs, we have hugely disrupted the ability of these crime groups to do any kind of business at all.

Again, at face value a relatively modest ripple of drugs in terms of grams and kilograms, but a major disruption to a group of people hell bent on the pursuit of profit and power and utterly indifferent to the misery they cause.

Serious organised crime affects us all. Many agencies inside and outside law enforcement are coming on board to combat it. At the heart of that partnership approach lies the SCDEA's close working relationship with Scotland's eight Forces.

Almost every investigation we are involved in is a partnership with one of the Scottish Forces. It is a two-way process with around a quarter of the SCDEA's resources dedicated in the last year to supporting Force-led operations.

The flexibility that Forces have shown in seconding officers to us has been vital in establishing the SCDEA as the asset to Scottish law enforcement it represents today. However, Force resources are under strain too and we cannot solely rely on that goodwill and flexibility being able to take us forward into our second decade.

That's why I welcome the Scottish Government's support in creating a dedicated resource to work with us over the next 12 months to turn the potential for the SCDEA to directly recruit officers into a practical reality. Direct recruitment will not replace the importance - to us and to Scottish policing - of the secondment experience, but we believe it will provide us with a greater resilience.

In conclusion, 2009-10 was a year in which, for me, one February day brought into stark focus the kind of people this organisation was set up to tackle.

On that day while volunteer Scots doctors and nurses were working to save lives in the chaotic aftermath of the Haiti earthquake, we and our local partners on the Dominican Republic side of that island were apprehending Scottish criminals with cocaine of incredible purity bound for our shores.

Those involved in serious organised crime are brutal, callous people. Stopping them is what gets all of us at the SCDEA up in the morning.

We have made a major impact on SOCGs in 2009-10 and I want to pay tribute to the officers and staff who have contributed to that.

I am delighted also that this year we have built the crucial foundations for making an even greater impact in the future.



Deputy Chief Constable Gordon Meldrum QPM
Director General, SCDEA

DIVERT

To divert young people from the dangers of drugs and inform consumers about the products of serious organised crime.

REACHING CHILDREN ACROSS SCOTLAND

CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING

Choices for Life™ is an annual series of live events designed to provide Primary 7 pupils with information on drugs, alcohol and smoking. The aim is to equip young people with the information they need to make healthy lifestyle choices and to resist peer pressure at a time when they are making the transition from primary to secondary school. The emphasis is on increasing knowledge and understanding to enable them to make their own decisions, rather than telling them what they should think or do. Choices for Life™ seeks to contribute to the wider personal, social and health education of children by providing credible information, raising self-esteem and developing decision-making skills.

The SCDEA works in partnership with the Scottish Police Service to organise Choices for Life™, and is responsible for the financial management, planning and procurement involved in establishing all venues and the services required to support the production of events. We work with key partners in health and education to plan the strategic direction and development of the events and content material.

In May 2009, we managed 13 events at venues across Scotland. As in the previous year, attendance increased, with 82% (47,500) of Primary 7 pupils attending. Significant work was done by SCDEA Interventions to realign the event with the new school curriculum, Curriculum for Excellence and to make the messages more relevant for the age group concerned, with a greater emphasis on alcohol and cannabis. This work included the development of new supporting classroom material.

An evaluation process, agreed with the Scottish Government, to assess the effectiveness of Choices for Life™ revealed positive feedback from teachers and pupils. The programme is viewed as a valuable contribution to substance misuse education.

“ Serious organised crime affects us all. Many agencies inside and outside are coming on board to combat it. ”

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

A TEMPLATE FOR GLOBAL COLLABORATION

The SCDEA continues to support this unique and innovative project.

Shared Responsibility is aimed at generating attitudinal and behavioural change towards the threat from Class A drugs. It was developed by the Colombian Government to raise awareness of the personal, social and environmental devastation caused by cocaine in producer countries (Colombia) and consumer countries (Scotland).

To bring the message to a Scottish audience, the SCDEA has been working alongside pupils at Girvan Academy in South Ayrshire since 2008 and, more recently, Portobello High School in Edinburgh. Through various school subjects, pupils have been exploring the different ways that cocaine production damages the environment in its country of origin, i.e. through deforestation in Colombia, as well as looking at the social, economic and personal harm caused by cocaine consumption in Scotland. Pupils were 'buddied' with school pupils in Colombia so that they could share their experiences.

As a result of their involvement in the project, Girvan Academy has developed a learning support framework, which is now available to all schools in Scotland via GLOW – Scotland's

national intranet for education – and can be adapted to address any area of substance misuse and other crime types.

In February 2010, the Colombian Ambassador to the UK Mauricio Rodríguez Múnera visited Scotland to see first hand how the school pupils, supported by the SCDEA are progressing this initiative through specific projects and interdisciplinary activities across the school curriculum. During his visit the Ambassador highlighted the work in Scotland as an exemplar and issued citations to the pupils and teachers acknowledging their work in respect of the project. He also invited the schools to visit Colombia in early June 2010 to see how the Shared Responsibility project operates in Colombia. The pupils visited their 'buddy' school in Bogota, and experienced for themselves the amazing biodiversity of the Amazon jungle and the damage caused by deforestation for cocaine production.

The work of the schools and the SCDEA in support of Shared Responsibility was highlighted in a BBC Scotland documentary, *Avalanche* in February 2010. The SCDEA featured prominently in the programme which also included the Scottish Police Service and the work being done to reduce the supply, demand and harm caused by cocaine and other commodities associated with serious organised crime in Scotland.



The Colombian Ambassador at Girvan Academy



REDUCING THE DEMAND FOR THE PRODUCTS OF SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME

DELIVERING THE MESSAGE

The SCDEA Interventions unit organised an Intellectual Property Crime (IPC) seminar in June 2009. A range of organisations contributed to presentations, including Europol, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), British Phonographic Institute (BPI) and a number of brand holders, and was attended by over 120 people from organisations, such as Trading Standards, Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC), local authorities, the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT), the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Scottish Police Service.

Following the event, the Scottish Intellectual Property Crime Group was created to support these new and flourishing alliances. It is a dedicated forum, chaired by the SCDEA, for information exchange and discussion within a truly partnership-led environment.

“The aim was to drive the message that counterfeiting is not a victimless crime and is controlled by serious organised crime groups.”

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

During the summer holiday season the SCDEA Interventions unit delivered a high profile campaign within Scottish airports targeting holidaymakers to raise awareness that “Fakes Fund Crime”. The aim was to drive the message that counterfeiting is not a victimless crime and is controlled by SOCGs.

In December 2009, an IPC festive campaign, “Don’t make Christmas a gift for organised crime – Fakes Fund Crime” was launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill at the Barras Market, Glasgow and generated significant media coverage.

DISRUPT

Work collaboratively with the Scottish Police Service, other law enforcement agencies and regulatory bodies to target the serious organised crime groups that pose the most threat to the communities of Scotland to disrupt their criminal activities, confiscate their profits and seize their assets.

UPSTREAM SEIZURES

THE PURITY IMPACT ON PERFORMANCE

During the last year we have made considerable progress in improving our ability to disrupt serious organised crime not just at the point at which the criminal activity takes place in Scotland, but before it ever gets here. We refer to this as upstreaming, whereby we work with our law enforcement partners across the world to target criminals who source their commodities abroad and stop them in their tracks before they ever get the opportunity to inflict their misery on the streets of Scotland. It means we can identify and take action against criminals who are not from Scotland, but who would intend to inflict their illegal activity on Scotland.

We recognise that the volume of drugs seized by us is not the entire story. There is a more sinister element to the way in which SOCGs manipulate the supply chain. One of those ways is the manner in which purity levels of drugs are adulterated. Regrettably during the year we have seen the deaths of a number of drug users through the adulteration of heroin with anthrax. This is a clear warning about the risks involved with drugs misuse, but it also highlights that those involved in dealing drugs will use whatever adulterant is available to increase their criminal profits.

Below is an overview of some of our investigations which have successfully used an upstream approach to dismantle serious organised crime.

OPERATION KLAXON

Operation KLAXON was established to investigate the activities of a SOCG involved in the international importation of Class A drugs.

“There is a more sinister element to the way in which SOCGs manipulate the supply chain.”

Working with the relevant law enforcement agencies in each country, almost 35 kilograms of cocaine were seized upstream in Colombia and in the Dominican Republic. The purity level was high, as expected from producer countries and would potentially have been adulterated to produce 280,000 street level cocaine deals.

As a result of this upstream action, alongside a significant level of domestic disruptions of the criminal activities of this SOCG, including identification of net assets valued at £1.8 million, the principal and his associates were arrested and are currently awaiting trial.

OPERATION LUXOR

This year-long intelligence-led investigation into the criminal activities of a west of Scotland SOCG led to the arrest of the principal and his associates, who are currently awaiting trial in Spain for money laundering offences.

Two individuals were also charged in Scotland with seven offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 for concealing the acquisition of seven cars on behalf of the principal of this group. The cars were valued at £886,000. Our inquiries are ongoing and we will have further outcomes to report in 2010-11.

As part of this investigation, the SCDEA was able to share intelligence on the group with Strathclyde Police that resulted in the seizure of over 3 kilograms of high-quality cocaine in Jersey.

OPERATION ACRID

Operation ACRID was an investigation conducted by the SCDEA between 2005 and 2007. During the different stages of this prolonged investigation assistance was sought from several law enforcements agencies within the UK and in Europe, where members of the crime group were based.

In February 2007, Thomas Findlay was driving an articulated lorry from Europe into the Eastern Docks at Dover. Acting on information that Findlay was carrying controlled drugs, the SCDEA sought the assistance of HMRC at the Port of Dover to intercept the vehicle. Findlay and the vehicle were detained and a subsequent search revealed over 5 kilograms of heroin concealed within a legitimate load of cooked meat products within the refrigerated trailer unit.

In June 2009, Findlay was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment at Canterbury Crown Court. The magistrate, His Honour Judge Nash said in his summing up that "the transcripts of the foreign intercept material told him and the jury everything they needed to know".

PROTECTING THE STREETS OF SCOTLAND

OPERATION VENOM

This SCDEA operation targeted the large-scale supply of heroin and cocaine in the Edinburgh area. As a result of a five month investigation almost 5 kilograms of Class A drugs were recovered and nine individuals have now been convicted, with sentences so far totalling over 31 years. The two principals who coordinated the gang, Paul Ward and Shaun McKinnon were given custodial sentences totalling 12 years between them.

Detective Chief Superintendent Allan Moffat, Head of Investigations Group, SCDEA said: "The illegal drugs trade causes extensive damage within our communities through the effects of drug misuse, as well as the fear and violence associated with drug trafficking. By locking up those responsible we hopefully provide some respite to our communities and also send a clear message to others involved in serious organised crime."

Scott Pattison, Director of Operations for Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service said: "These offenders subjected communities in Central Scotland to a determined campaign to flood the area with heroin and cocaine. As a result of this operation and the partnership between the SCDEA and our prosecutors, a significant amount of Class A drugs have been removed from the supply chain - and the misery and devastation they would have caused has been avoided."



OPERATION NASCENT

This intelligence-led drugs investigation is one of the longest running in SCDEA's history, beginning in 2007 and ending in early 2010.

It resulted in seizures of over 220 kilograms of Class A drugs valued at nearly £17 million. There were 70 arrests over this three-year period, with a significant proportion of those arrested involved in Level 3 criminality. To date, sentences amounting to over 98 years have been handed down and in 2010-11 we can expect more convictions to be secured, both in relation to drugs offences and under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Operation NASCENT is also one of the first covert investigations led by the SCDEA to utilise the Assisting Offender scheme, where an accused person enters into an agreement with law enforcement to give evidence about their co-accused in return for a reduction in sentence. The benefit to law enforcement from using this innovative tactic is that the SOCG suffers continual disruption due to repeated attacks from within.

“To date, sentences amounting to over 98 years have been handed down and in 2010-11 we can expect more convictions to be secured.”

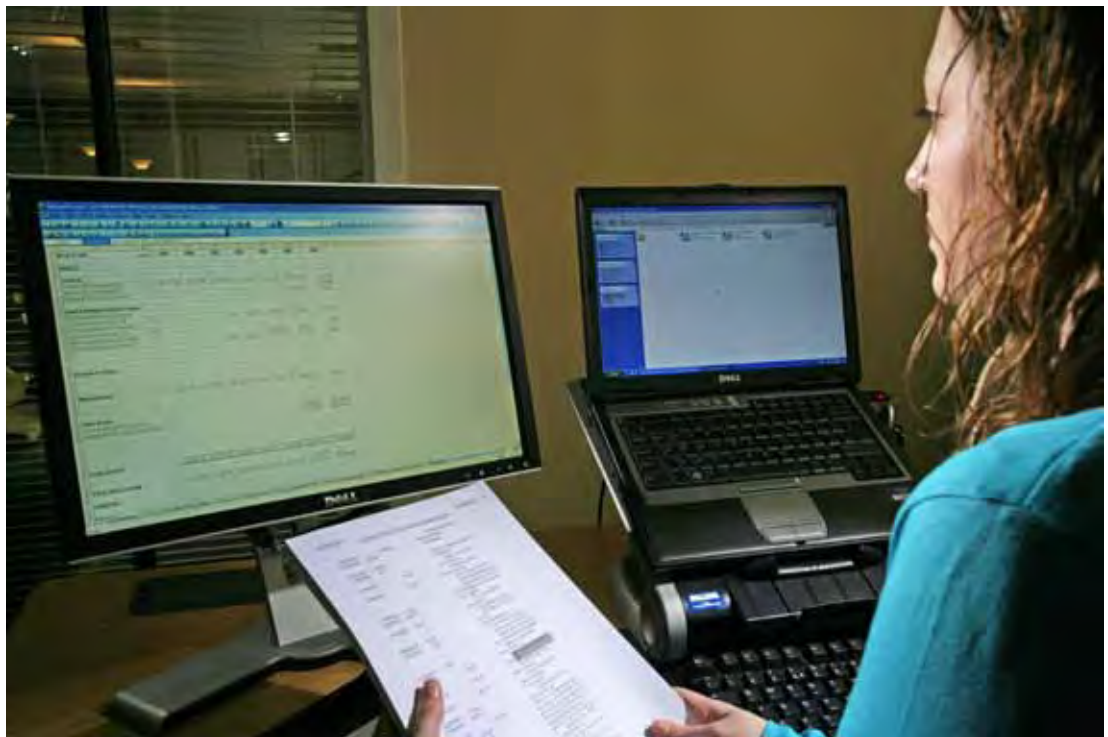
MAXIMISING OUR USE OF THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT

FOLLOWING THE MONEY TRAIL

The work of the Scottish Money Laundering Unit (SMLU) includes the identification of criminal assets, which can be reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) for consideration of restraint and subsequent confiscation through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. This can be a complex and protracted process, with specialised officers following the money trail through the maze created by criminals in their attempts to thwart law enforcement.

Once assets have been restrained, they cannot be disposed of by the owner, causing disruption to their activities, and starving the criminal enterprise of the lifeblood of ready cash. This causes significant problems for criminals who are unable to sell or move assets to avoid subsequent financial penalties imposed by the Courts. This work is also used to disrupt the ability of crime groups to obtain finance through recognised financial routes.

By utilising the full extent of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, criminals and their organised crime groups can be pursued for the financial gains they have made from their activities, sending a powerful signal to local communities.



IDENTIFYING THE SPECIALISTS

PROJECT CONNECT 2

This project was developed as a result of the Scottish Serious Organised Crime Group (SOCG) Mapping project to identify the specialists, i.e. the professional experts, who provide legal, financial and counter-surveillance assistance to SOCGs.

Those specialists who are assessed to provide assistance to the most harmful of these groups have now been identified, and Forces and other agencies have been tasked with pursuing these individuals.

One individual, who posed a serious risk to law enforcement due to his expertise at sweeping premises for electrical devices thus exposing covert law enforcement techniques, has already been arrested. This individual was utilised by most of the major SOCGs in Scotland.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS IN A NEW WAY

DISRUPTION PANELS

As a result of an academic review of SCDEA performance measures it was recommended that we consider an evaluation or disruption panel model as a more holistic approach to measuring the impact of SCDEA tactics and action against SOCGs.

We researched existing disruption models from police forces and have developed our own bespoke SCDEA process to enable us to measure the impact of our action in a more effective and meaningful way, taking into account not just our arrests and commodity seizures, but how effectively we use our tactics and introduce innovative ways of working through SCDEA interventions. During 2010-11 we will test, evaluate and embed the new approach, enabling us to critically assess our impact on serious organised crime.

A NATIONAL RESPONSE TO A DEVELOPING THREAT

OPERATION ALBA

Operation ALBA is a national investigation to tackle the online distribution of indecent images of children. It is a Scotland-wide initiative involving the eight Scottish police forces, COPFS, ACPOS and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and is driven by intelligence developed within the SCDEA's e-Crime unit.

One of the primary drivers behind this operation is academic research that suggests there can be a high correlation between those who share indecent images of children and those who are involved in contact abuse.

The purpose of Operation ALBA is, through the use of cutting-edge technology, to proactively ensure offenders are identified, enforcement action is taken and children at risk are rescued from harm.

During 2009-10, 43 intelligence packages were disseminated from the SCDEA e-Crime unit to police forces for action, resulting in 39 warrants being executed that led to 17 people being reported for a range of offences.

This included the arrest of a Registered Sex Offender who had previously served nine years' imprisonment for abusing children and who has subsequently been sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with a 25-year Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) prohibiting him from being alone with children.

It has also led to the rescue of three children who were the subject of long-term systematic abuse by their grandfather and the arrest of an individual involved in education who had caring responsibilities for children with learning difficulties.

Operation ALBA clearly demonstrates that there is no hiding place for paedophiles and that every contact via the internet leaves a trail which law enforcement will follow. We will investigate these individuals, enforce the law and rescue children from harm. It is a priority for the police service in Scotland to protect our children and the SCDEA e-Crime unit will use all its expertise to ensure we do just that.

DETER

Protect and support businesses, local authorities and public sector partners by enhancing collective awareness of the threats from serious organised crime.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO SAFEGUARD SCOTTISH BUSINESS

THE SCOTTISH BUSINESS CRIME CENTRE

During 2009-10 the SCDEA strengthened its relationship with the Scottish Business Crime Centre (SBCC) by working together to develop a business crime intelligence and analytical capability within the SCDEA. As part of the £4 million funding package to the SCDEA to support the Scottish Government's serious organised crime strategy, Letting Our Communities Flourish, SBCC Liaison Intelligence Officer and Criminal Intelligence Analyst roles were created and sit within the new Scottish Intelligence Coordination Unit.

One of the first joint ventures has been the development of a web-based service, which will provide advice and guidance to businesses threatened by e-crime. The service is scheduled to go live in the first half of 2010-11.

SAFER PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

SHARING INTELLIGENCE TO ENABLE INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

The public sector is a prime target for those involved in serious organised crime to attempt to legitimise their illegal activity, as well as a source of legitimate funds for criminal activity. A key tactic against such activity is to ensure that public funds are not inadvertently directed into companies and organisations that act as the legitimate front of a ruthless and unscrupulous gang. Under the Letting Our Communities Flourish strategy, the SCDEA established the Serious Organised Crime & Procurement Sub Group in 2009.

“The public sector is a prime target for those involved in serious organised crime.”



This group has already taken a number of practical steps, including:

- Collaboration between the SCDEA and the Scottish Procurement Directorate (SPD) to identify those sectors of public procurement which are most vulnerable to exploitation by SOCGs. A preliminary assessment has been produced, which will be developed to increase the protection to public funds.
- The next data sweep for SOCG Mapping will include an amended data capture tool with company names as opposed to only business types. The capture of this information will enable more direct and relevant matching to be done between the data held for mapping and the company data held by the SPD.
- Collaborative work between the SCDEA, SPD and the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA) is now underway to scope the feasibility of introducing a validation process for previous convictions as contained within the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) for public contracts. This work will be supported by the development of an online standard PQQ for Scotland. Validation of previous conviction declarations is not currently standard practice with procuring bodies.

HELPING BUSINESSES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

TACKLING CORRUPTION AND PROCUREMENT ISSUES WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

In November 2009, the SCDEA Interventions unit delivered two events – one aimed at SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) and the other for COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities).

These 'Risky Business' events focussed on two key areas, namely corruption and procurement and examined a range of issues, including:

- Understanding how serious organised criminals can corrupt, influence and pressurise employees
- How serious organised crime can make use of internal structures, procedures and processes for illegal purposes
- Dealing with the insider threat from employees - vetting and lifetime management
- The importance of robust processes and procedures in relation to procurement.

The events were designed to strengthen the collaborative approach between Scotland's 32 local authorities and law enforcement to help make Scotland a more hostile environment for serious organised crime to operate.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PURSE

The SCDEA Interventions unit engaged with Falkirk Council in support of their internal audit process for the 2010-11 period. This collaboration focussed on knowledge of how serious organised crime operates and the areas and types of legitimate business they tend to infiltrate or utilise for criminal purposes.

As a result, the council has amended its audit plan to include elements relating to serious organised crime.

We also shared with the council the methods by which SOCGs circumvent regulatory processes, with suggestions on how an interventions approach can disrupt their activities and prevent them from securing public money through public sector contracts.

DETECT

Develop SCDEA analytical and specialist capacity and capability, strengthening our collaborative approach to intelligence gathering, enabling better mapping to reduce the threat, risk and harm posed by serious organised crime groups.

ENHANCING OUR CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

GROWING OUR BUSINESS

The Scottish Intelligence Coordination Unit (SICU) was officially launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice Kenny MacAskill in March 2010 and is now operational. In less than a year we identified suitable premises for the unit and created a working environment for new analysts and other specialists to begin to develop a centralised national intelligence function. Over the next three years we will continue to improve the model so that the SICU will move to the Scottish Crime Campus at Gartcosh as an established entity with a proven track-record in delivering quality intelligence products to its many partners.

This new unit has been created within the SCDEA to act as a 'brain' for the whole of Scottish law enforcement - coordinating and assessing knowledge about criminal gangs' activities to develop more effective ways of preventing, detecting and dismantling serious organised crime in Scotland.

The new facility brings together a range of partner organisations, at home and abroad, including SOCA, United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA), HMRC, Scottish Prison Service (SPS), SBCC, Europol and COPFS. The SPS and SOCA already have members of staff based within the SICU and we will work with the rest of our partners to embed their staff within the SICU during 2010-11.

Closer links to force intelligence systems enables the intelligence picture on the activities and individuals involved in SOCGs to be known and shared across the key agencies involved in tackling their criminal activity.

Gordon Meldrum, Director General SCDEA and Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill at the launch of the SICU.





Mobile phones were concealed inside milk cartons.

OPERATION QUARTZ

A practical example of how the SICU is helping to turn knowledge into action.

The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) identified an attempt to smuggle mobile telephones into the prison system when a prison guard found a single mobile telephone inside a milk carton. SOCGs are desperate to keep their operations going even when in jail and phones are a valuable commodity to them.

Rather than treat this as an isolated incident, the SICU was able to join together with a range of bodies to break a major phone smuggling operation. The investigation brought together the SCDEA, SPS, Tayside Police, SBCC and Robert Wiseman Dairies.

By collating information from each organisation, the investigation team was able to piece together how the phone smuggling was being achieved, and implement a range of activity to gather the evidence necessary to disrupt the smuggling operation.

The operation uncovered one individual employed as a delivery driver by Robert Wiseman Dairies who was smuggling mobile telephones and chargers into HMP Perth by concealing them inside milk cartons.

“There is now no place for those involved in serious organised crime to hide.”

As a result of the investigation, 19 mobile telephones and charger leads were recovered and the individual has been charged under the Prison (Scotland) Act 1989.

Details of the investigation and the method used to smuggle the mobile telephones have been distributed by the SICU to police forces and other law enforcement agencies in Scotland, across the UK and Europe.

INCREASING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE THREAT

The initial findings of the ground-breaking Scottish SOCG Mapping Project have lifted the mystique and to a degree the uncertainty surrounding the scale and extent of serious organised crime in Scotland.

There is now no place for those involved in serious organised crime to hide, and our efforts are now more effective than ever before against those who ply a trade of evil and destruction across our streets.

We know who they are, where they live, what their assets are, who provides specialist help and advice, and what they are interested in. Over the preceding year we have shown that along with our partners across law enforcement and the public, private and voluntary sectors we have systematically closed the door on the activities of a number of people and groups who have presented the greatest threat, risk and harm to our communities.

Collectively, law enforcement in Scotland and beyond is using this information to specifically target resources against those who present the greatest threat, risk and harm to Scotland's communities.

During the last twelve months we have arrested 136 criminals in Scotland, 67 of whom are known to us as being involved in serious organised crime.



SHARING OUR SPECIALIST SERVICES

The SCDEA already provides a wide range of unique services and knowledge to our law enforcement partners, and increasingly, to a number of other partners, including academic institutions, private businesses and local authorities.

SCOTTISH WITNESS PROTECTION UNIT

The role of the Scottish Witness Protection Unit (SWPU), previously the Scottish Witness Liaison Unit, is to provide a dedicated covert protection response to those individuals who as a result of their involvement with the criminal justice system find themselves at such a high level of threat that in order to secure their safety, relocation or even a change of identity is considered necessary.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 supports this crucial role and provides a statutory framework for assessment, response and assistance required by other key partners in the provision of protective measures to those who are in need of assistance.

The terms of the act extend to the provision of protection for witnesses, as well as any other individuals who may come under threat as a result of their involvement in the criminal justice process. This includes jurors, magistrates, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers.

During 2009-10, the SWPU provided continuous professional support to 20 criminal investigations across Scotland that required the protection of 44 individuals under the provisions of the scheme.

As a result of this support, the SWPU has been collaboratively involved in high profile investigations that have resulted in a number of individuals receiving significant custodial sentences for a range of serious offences, including murder, conspiracy to murder, culpable homicide, firearms and drug trafficking. This amounted to over 92 years' imprisonment for a number of noteworthy criminals, who were assessed as having the capability and capacity to compromise the integrity of the criminal justice system.

SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE

During 2009-10 our assistance to our law enforcement partners was greater than ever before. Over 15,000 hours of support were given to our partners in 2009-10 - an increase of over 54% from 2008-09. There were 734 requests for assistance from Forces and other partners - an increase of 208 requests from 2008-09.

Significantly, the number of requests from other partners increased from 19% in 2008-09 to 36% of the total requests in 2009-10. Other partners include the Scottish Police College (SPC), the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), English Police Forces and a range of non-law enforcement agencies, such as schools and professional regulatory bodies. This is clear evidence of our collaborative reach, and also demonstrates the unique range of skills and services the SCDEA provides.

COLLABORATION THAT WORKS

Operation PETTICOAT was a human trafficking investigation, led by UKBA in collaboration with Grampian Police and the SCDEA (provision of surveillance). The operation resulted in the arrest of 21 illegal offenders, detection of 16 illegal employment offences and 21 facilitation offences, along with the seizure of £30,000 and identification of significant witnesses, who will assist in further investigations. This is an example of how effective collaboration can assist in relatively new areas of investigation that will continue and develop, enabled by the SICU.

To help to build a more detailed intelligence picture of the human trafficking threat, and to engage with those organisations that support and protect the victims of this crime, the SICU delivered the first human trafficking awareness event in March 2010 to both law enforcement partners and victim support organisations.

SHARING GOOD PRACTICE

The SCDEA e-Crime unit continues to work at the forefront of new technology to identify the areas of e-crime that criminals are involved in and to develop preventative measures. As part of this approach, the unit works with Scottish universities to better understand and tackle emerging threats in the digital environment.

The unit is committed to sharing this knowledge and expertise with Scotland's police forces and during 2009-10, provided training and mentoring in the use of the Fieldsearch™ tool, a new software solution which assesses computer use by Registered Sex Offenders in the community. The SCDEA e-Crime unit initially assessed the effectiveness of this new tool and found it to be useful, enabling non-technical officers to review computer use quickly and identify issues for investigation without the need for a full forensic computer examination, thus saving time and speeding up detection. It is proving invaluable in meeting the challenge of managing these individuals, especially in the IT environment where potential criminality has traditionally gone unnoticed.



DELIVERING TO A WIDER AUDIENCE

Although the SCDEA has become accustomed to delivering a wide range of training and specialist presentations, this year saw a noticeable increase in the variety of partners we worked with, fully demonstrating our collaborative reach.

Some examples of our work in this area include:

- Specialist IT information training to MSc students at Glasgow University by the SCDEA e-Crime unit
- IT safety seminars delivered to the police, education and public protection teams within Falkirk and Stirling Councils
- National Surveillance training to students at the Scottish Police College and Foot-Follow Techniques (on-foot surveillance shadowing) training to firearms officers – both delivered by officers from SCDEA Major Investigation Teams
- SCDEA Interventions staff delivered training on drugs education to probationer constables at the Scottish Police College
- Cannabis cultivations awareness sessions delivered to the Scottish Landlords Association
- Presentation to postgraduate teachers at Aberdeen University on the link between education and Choices for Life™
- Information stall at the Learning Teaching Scotland Educational Festival, focussing on Choices for Life™ and the Shared Responsibility project.



THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

OUR ORGANISATIONAL PRIORITIES 2010-2015

We have developed a five-year strategy that will lead the organisational development of the SCDEA and will ensure that we are constantly adapting to achieve peak performance against the ever-changing threat from SOCGs. Our strategy is centred on four key themes, with each area having a number of identified key priorities and outcomes that we will report progress on annually.

OUR SERVICE

We will work to increase confidence in the SCDEA, as well as pioneering new ways of working that will improve and develop our capability, leaving us better prepared to meet future challenges.

OUR PEOPLE

We will endeavour to become an employer of choice reflecting the diversity of Scotland's communities and maximising, through continuous development, the unique skills of our people.

OUR GOVERNANCE

We will seek the appropriate governance and accountability for the SCDEA, ever-mindful of the diminishing fiscal environment in which we operate and the public requirement for transparency and accountability.

OUR FUTURE

We will ensure that our assets are used in the best way possible to protect the communities of Scotland, by helping the Scottish Government to deliver the Scottish Crime Campus, and by working collaboratively with our partners – the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) - in relation to serious organised crime.





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