



Lancashire
POLICE AUTHORITY
Your County, Your Police, Your Say

“DIALOGUE”

Issue 7 - March 2008

Pennine

Strong performance maximises use of Lancashire residents' INVESTMENT IN POLICING

As policing becomes ever more challenging, it's pleasing to see that Lancashire Constabulary continues to perform so well. We are working hard to make sure that your concerns are tackled and currently officers are targeting criminals successfully and 1 in 3 crimes are solved.

Lancashire Police Authority will continue to set challenging targets for the constabulary in a bid to drive down crime even further and make sure that the constabulary builds upon its strong performance.

Malcolm Doherty, Chair of the Police Authority said: "We must continue to ask for even better achievements, working in close co-operation with our partners, to make Lancashire even safer for those who live, visit and work here."



INVESTORS IN POLICING • YOUR INVESTMENT WORKING FOR YOU
“MAXIMISING PERFORMANCE”
INVESTORS IN POLICING • YOUR INVESTMENT WORKING FOR YOU

What are protective services?

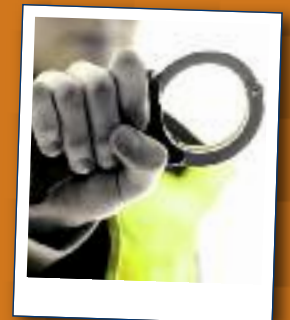
You may have heard the phrase 'Protective Services' in the news over the past year and, if you have, you've probably wondered what this is all about!

Basically, protective services refers to policing that needs a more challenging and complex approach, crime that is serious and organised. When we talk about protective services, we mean, things such as counter-terrorism, major crime investigation, strategic roads policing, critical incident management, contingency planning and public order.

Fortunately few members of the public experience this type of crime but we need to make sure that the constabulary has the capacity to deal

effectively with it. It is also equally important that the Constabulary get the balance right between protecting people from the more 'serious' types of crime and providing the day-to-day reassurance that communities rightly demand.

That is why, whilst the Constabulary rightly prioritises 'Protective Services' and specifically the areas of protecting vulnerable people, counter-terrorism and serious and organised crime; we continue to lead the way in putting police officers and staff precisely where the public want them – in the heart of their communities.



“STAMPING OUT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR”

605 items of alcohol seized

Operation Shepherd was a crime reduction and community reassurance campaign that aimed to tackle and prevent alcohol related and antisocial behaviour across Lancashire over Christmas and the New Year period.

In Pennine division a total of 102 young people were stopped due to alcohol related issues. Officers also seized 605 items of alcohol, 90 test purchases were carried out at off-licences, pubs and clubs and officers carried out 577 planned visits to off-licences and 417 to pubs and clubs.

Various initiatives were introduced in Pennine division in conjunction with Operation Shepherd some of which are highlighted below.



“INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON PERSONAL SAFETY”

Crime in Burnley town centre is low, but in a bid to reduce crime levels further and reassure the public, Burnley’s Neighbourhood Policing team offered free information and advice on personal safety as a part of a month long initiative.

Police Community Support Officer Francesco Franco said, “People often worry about their personal safety and the chances of having their bags, mobiles or purses stolen.



“Fortunately, these incidents happen far less frequently than many of us think – fear of crime is disproportionately high. However, in order to provide reassurance and to help prevent the few instances that do occur, we took action.”

“FISHING SESSIONS”

Fishing sessions were introduced thanks to the RANK foundation.

Organised by officers and supported by Thursby Gardens Community Action Group and Councillor Gary Frayling, this initiative was designed to keep local teenagers entertained and off the street where they might get involved in anti-social behaviour or be perceived as causing a nuisance.



“STREET DANCE”

Bradley Neighbourhood Policing Team in Nelson introduced street dancing to combat boredom of young people. The scheme was made possible by donations from the Pendle Community Safety Partnership and the RANK Foundation, enabling them to employ a dance instructor.



Anyone wanting further information about the Street Dance sessions should contact PC Kitson on 07984 317183 or PCSO Croasdale on 07903 979050.

“CHILL OUT ROOM”

The ‘Chill out’ room reopened in Padiham Town Hall to provide young people aged 13 – 17 somewhere to meet and enjoy music and take part in activities in a supervised, warm and secure environment.

Community Beat Manager, Simon Fetigan said, “Young people told us they wanted somewhere to meet up with friends rather than roaming the streets and that’s what we provided for them when we joined forces with Padiham Council and Padiham Youth Centre.”

“PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN ACTION”

Police in Pennine launched Operation Facio, an eight week Operation in February, 2008. Based around ‘protecting people’ each week focussed on a different theme such as drugs, offenders being brought to justice, alcohol related crime, vulnerable people, road safety and organised crime.

During the first weekend, high visibility police patrols were out in the division and visited licensed premises to address anti-social behaviour issues with the following results:

- 51 licensed premises were visited and 47 off-licence visits were carried out by officers
- 1 test purchase operation was carried out
- 49 youth referrals were submitted
- 26 intelligence submissions
- 91 seizures of alcohol from underage youths
- 5 on street penalty notices for disorder were issued
- 119 anti-social behaviour hot spots were visited
- 2 drugs warrants were executed
- 1 bail warrant executed
- 1 sex offender visit
- 6 warrant enquiries
- 3 domestic violence checks were carried out
- 7 second hand dealers were visited



The first week concentrated on drug related offences and there were ten warrants and seven arrests made in Pennine Division.

Chief Inspector Stuart Noble said: “The warrants were carried out following information received from the local community and concerns raised at local Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings.

“I hope this action reassures members of the local community that we are listening to their information and taking action to tackle their concerns.”



“DRUGS CASE STUDY: POLICE SEIZE DRUGS IN COVERT OPERATION”

On Wednesday 12 December 2007 officers from Pennine Targeted Crime Unit arrested two males following a pro-active covert investigation into the distribution of Amphetamine and Cannabis Resin in the Burnley area as part of Operation Fold.

Around £16,400 worth of suspected Amphetamine and Cannabis Resin was taken off the street by officers in Lancashire Constabulary’s Pennine Policing Division.

Detective Inspector Dean Holden said, “Following the arrests, a number of addresses were searched in the area, resulting in the seizure of five Kilos of Cannabis Resin and a Quarter Kilo of Amphetamine with a street value of approximately £16,400. The Operation was supported by numerous officers from Pennine Division.

“Those people who deal in drugs are responsible for ruining lives and their trade lies at the heart of many burglary and other crimes. We will leave no stone unturned to catch these people and the latest arrests should serve as a warning to others who think they can get away with dealing drugs in Pennine Division.”





“YOUR INVESTMENT, YOUR SAY, OUR RESPONSE”

Last year Lancashire Police Authority launched its Investors in Policing campaign to encourage the local community, who invest in the service through the payment of their council tax, to get involved and help shape local policing.



“AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION”



SHOPPING FOR INFORMATION!

As a part of our continuing Investors in Policing campaign we went shopping for information during November 2007. Members of the public were asked to get involved in setting local policing priorities and we made it easier than ever before by delivering a series of road-shows at Asda supermarkets across the county.

Shoppers gave their views by spending ‘policing pounds’ to illustrate whether or not they were willing to pay any additional amount towards policing and where they would like to see money allocated.

People were asked if they would be willing to pay between £5 and £30 in addition to the amount they currently pay for policing or whether they would vote for no extra increase. Of the 872 people we spoke to, 620 were prepared to pay more. They were then asked whether the extra money should be invested in Neighbourhood Policing, Response, Protective Services or split between all three options. The majority wanted to see it spent on Neighbourhood Policing reinforcing the importance that the public place on having access to local policing teams.

These findings were considered, along with the outcomes from other ways in which we have consulted Lancashire people about the budget, when the Authority agreed the budget and priorities for the coming year.

A sincere thank you to Asda stores including Asda Fulwood, Blackpool, Rawtenstall, Lancaster, Blackburn and Clayton Green for their support at the events and for allowing us to talk to their customers.

For more information on our Investors in Policing Campaign, visit our website www.lancspa.gov.uk



LISTENING TO RESIDENTS

The Authority hosted a second disability consultation event where we asked about opinions and experiences of policing. We wanted to know how those attending felt the police communicate with disabled people and what standards should be expected from the police. A wide debate led to some very positive feedback and excellent suggestions, some of which have already been acted upon.

The launch of an emergency text messaging service number by the Constabulary, in partnership with the Fire Service builds upon comments made at the event from people who wanted to see greater use of new technology. This new facility enables those who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment to contact the police or fire service by sending a text to 66247 (the text must start with the words FIRE or POLICE, include your name, street name, town or motorway junction of the emergency followed by details of the emergency).

Another suggestion was that disability issues should be looked at when designing police stations to make sure they are accessible to everyone and input from disabled people could help achieve this. Disabled people would then have a greater confidence that the police have taken their needs into consideration should they be arrested.

It was thought that all officers should receive initial basic training followed by regular ‘top up’ training on disability so that they can effectively communicate with disabled people. It was suggested that both the Police Authority and the Constabulary should work together with more local disabled groups to develop training packages.

The main concerns of deaf people were the potential communication problems that can arise when dealing with the police.

Many attendees appreciated the commitment made to disability by the Authority and Constabulary and it was recognised that steps had been taken by both organisations to adjust policy, procedures and delivery of services and that Disability as an equality issue was given high importance. The Authority is grateful for the frank participation from the attendees and the useful feedback received.

“MONEY FACTS”



Policing will cost the average household less than **£2.62 a week in the next year, which we believe is good value for money.**

Last year the council tax increase helped to pay for an extra 50 officers and 24 police staff to tackle major crime, protect vulnerable people and keep local people safe.

Your investment helped to pay for:

- Detectives dedicated to major crime in each division
- The expansion of the Public Protection Team, to help protect vulnerable people
- Work to combat terrorism, an important part of local policing, which brings real benefits to communities
- The development of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit

“MAXIMISING YOUR INVESTMENT”

We know that you expect excellent policing services for your council tax investment. Each year we ask residents to indicate how successful they believe the constabulary to be in delivering policing services and if they get value for money. Part of that consultation involves asking the public if they would be willing to pay any extra towards policing. Our consultation showed that 70% of those questioned were willing to pay an extra £10 or more a year towards policing and that they felt that the money should be invested in areas such as major crime and counter-terrorism activities as well as neighbourhood policing.

This year, the amount of Council Tax that you pay towards policing for a Band D property will be £135.96 a year, an increase of £10.01 (7.95%). The additional amount for a Band B property is £7.79 a year, so that's less than 15p per week. Of the properties in Lancashire, 60% are Band B or below.

That extra resource will provide the Constabulary with an extra £4.352million for protective services. Together with savings of nearly £1million achieved by the Constabulary, this will provide an additional 84 police officers and 9 police staff.

This will enable the Constabulary to develop specialist teams to:

- Combat terrorism
- Target serious and organised crime, such as drug dealing
- Gather information to tackle crime

“NEW RURAL WATCH SCHEME FOR WORSTHORNE AND CLIVIGER”

A new scheme has been launched in the Cliviger and Worsthorne areas to reduce crime in remote farms and properties. The scheme, Rural Watch, is similar to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in that it is run by a network of local co-ordinators and details of how it will run are currently being put together by these residents and their local Police Community Support Officer, Dave Johnson. The co-ordinators then act as a point of contact between the residents and the police, passing on information regarding suspicious vehicles, people and other incidents.

PCSO Dave Johnson, said, “This scheme was successfully introduced in the Briercliffe area four years ago. Incidents such as fly-tipping, bogus callers and attempted burglaries have been significantly reduced when criminals realise that the local community is on the ball when it comes to watching unwanted visitors in the area.

“We have sent out letters to as many rural properties as possible inviting them to join the scheme. However, if anyone has not received a letter and would like to join the scheme they can contact me on **07946 552828**.”



PCSO DAVE JOHNSON

“POLICE WARN MOTORISTS: DON'T LEAVE PROPERTY ON DISPLAY IN YOUR VEHICLE”

Every year, police estimate there are hundreds of opportunist thefts from cars, many of which would have been entirely preventable had the owners not left valuables such as mobiles, satellite navigation systems, handbags, sports bags, jackets, purses and other items on display in their vehicles.

During November and December 2007 in Burnley there were 80 recorded thefts from vehicles including 62 of items left on display and 14 sat nav systems.

Crime Prevention Officer, PC Nikki Corbett said, “The sad truth is that the majority of these thefts could probably have been prevented.

“Clearly we have a role to play in terms of patrolling areas but motorists have a duty of care too and leaving items on display is, quite simply, an open invitation to thieves. Just spend a few moments, when you leave your car, to check that you have not left items on view and that they are locked away out of sight.”



“HELP REDUCE BURGLARIES”

Although burglary on the whole across Lancashire stands at a 27 year low, unfortunately Bacup saw an increase during September and December which prompted a crime prevention campaign that saw officers handing out information to residents and patrolling the streets.

Sergeant Chris Counsell said, “Although we recorded some of the lowest levels of crime on record we were very concerned about the increase in burglaries in the Bacup area, so we took positive action.”

Top tips for reducing burglaries:

- In two out of every ten burglaries, the thief hasn't even had to force their way in because a window or door has been left open. Keep your windows closed when you leave the home and fit window locks – thieves don't like having to break glass, it attracts attention.
- Prevent sneak-in burglaries by ensuring your windows and doors are locked even when you are at home especially when you are in the garden/yard.
- If your front and back doors are not secure neither is your home. Make sure the doors are of a strong and solid construction and fit deadlocks where applicable.
- Good lighting can deter a thief. Consider installing security lights outside your house and buying a time switch for interior lights so that your home looks occupied even when you aren't in.
- Consider a burglar alarm. They are a visible deterrent and an early warning signal.
- Never leave spare keys in a hiding place. Thieves aren't stupid, they know where to look. Never leave keys in the door either – thieves may be able to use them even from the outside.



CADET GROUP DINNER

“VOLUNTEER CADETS FOR PENNINE”

March will see a new group of 16-19 year olds join the Pennine Police Cadets. The Volunteer Police Cadet course is designed to give an insight into the modern Police Service and the organisations that work in partnership with the Police and will run until December.

PC Chris Collett, the Volunteer Police Cadets Co-ordinator said, “The scheme will enable its participants to gain a nationally recognised qualification, as well as encouraging valuable skills to develop such as leadership and decision making. In addition to this the cadets will engage in a community project somewhere within the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale area. There are also team building opportunities which include an Outdoor Pursuits weekend in the Lake District.

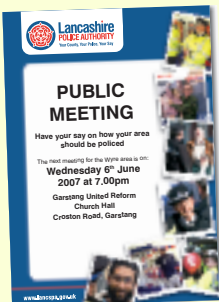
“The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme aims to give young people a chance to express their feelings on policing issues, and to take part in an exciting and memorable experience.”

“DIALOGUE”

Police Authority Community Meetings - May to June 2008

District	Venue	Date	Time
Lancaster	St. Peter's Church Hall, Main Street, Heysham, LA3 2RN	Tuesday 6 May	7pm
Wyre	St Aidan's CE High School, Cartgate, Pressall, Poulton-Le-Fylde, FY6 0NP	Wednesday 7 May	7pm
West Lancashire	Halsall Memorial Hall, Halsall Road, Halsall	Monday 12 May	7pm
Ribble Valley	Read St. John's Primary School, 11 Straits Lane, Read, BB12 0AD	Wednesday 14 May	7pm
Blackpool	Salvation Army, The Citadel, Raikes Parade, Blackpool, FY1 4EL	Thursday 15 May	7pm
Preston	City of Preston High School, Ribbleton Hall Drive, Preston, PR2 6EE	Monday 19 May	7pm
South Ribble	Walton-le-Dale High School, Arts Theatre, Brindle Rd, Bamber Bridge, PR5 0AA	Thursday 22 May	7pm
Chorley	St. Gregory's Parish Centre, Ash Grove, Chorley, PR7 3HZ	Monday 2 June	7pm
Blackburn-With-Darwen	Accrington Road Community Centre, Accrington Road, Intack, Blackburn, BB1 2AF	Monday 9 June	7pm
Fylde	Staining Village Hall, Chain Lane, Staining, Blackpool, FY3 0DD	Thursday 12 June	7pm
Burnley	Ennismore Community Centre, Ennismore Street, Burnley, BB10 3EU	Monday 16 June	7pm
Pendle	Nelson Town Hall, Council Chamber, Market Street, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 7LG	Wednesday 18 June	7pm
Hyndburn	Elmfield Hall, Gatty Park, Hyndburn Road, Church, BB4 4AA	Thursday 19 June	7pm
Rossendale	Crawshawbooth Village Community Centre, Adelaide Street, Crawshawbooth, Rossendale, BB4 8PW	Thursday 26 June	7pm

“YOUR COUNTY, YOUR POLICE, YOUR SAY”



We know that how policing is delivered is important to you. Locally as investors in policing you are in a fantastic position to tell us about your concerns and expectations of policing as your experiences can shape future services.

Locally, police and communities together meetings (PACT) are your first point of call and Police Authority community meetings (PACs) should be the process for a more strategic look at policing.

Over the last 3 years discussions at our PAC meetings have involved more local debate and less debate on the strategic issues.

Lancashire Police Authority values your support and involvement and there is a need to look at our resources to make sure that as an investor, you contribute to resolve local issues and can also shape the bigger picture.

Lancashire Police Authority is looking to take on a different approach to make sure you have a say on the 'bigger picture' so we will be working with partners to make this system better and to manage your expectation of policing.

Removing barriers, enhancing access The Emergency Information card ('E-card')

The innovative 'E-Card' has been launched to support people with disabilities to communicate more effectively with the emergency services. The E-card contains information detailing a person's next of kin and alerts officers that somebody might require additional support. The brainchild of PCSO James Holland, the e-card is aimed at removing barriers that may deter the wider disabled community becoming involved with policing in Lancashire and strengthening the options available to help people with disabilities communicate more effectively.

James explained that research has shown that people with disabilities feel they have been targeted as a victim of crime solely

because of their disability and that some people found it difficult to communicate due to their disability, so he developed the E-card to help them.

E-Cards are free of charge and come with a self-seal laminated pouch to protect the card from being damaged.

For further information, or if you would like James to come along to your next group meeting to talk about the card, you can contact him directly via email (James.Holland@lancashire.pnn.police.uk) or call him on 01772 412870.



“CONTACT”

In an emergency, when you need an immediate response dial 999. Police Non emergency number: 0845 1253545
Crimestoppers - a confidential phone line: 0800 555 111. Lancashire Police Authority: 01772 531209
Remember... If the police don't know about a problem they cannot do anything about it.