



Lancashire
POLICE AUTHORITY
Your County, Your Police, Your Say

“DIALOGUE”

Issue 7 - March 2008

Western

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."



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“MAXIMISING PERFORMANCE”
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What are protective services?

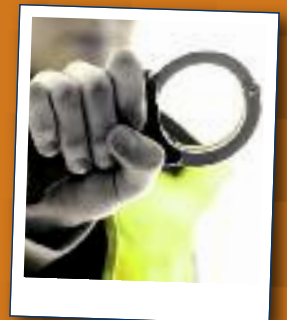
You may have heard the phrase 'Protective Services' in the news over the past year and, if you have, you've probably wondered what this is all about!

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.



“ADDRESSING THE ALCOHOL ISSUE”

From the consultation that Lancashire Police Authority has undertaken with regards to alcohol related antisocial behaviour, it is evident that it impacts on feelings of safety and confidence and you want the police and partners to take positive action to stamp out this type of anti-social activity.

Due to the make up of Blackpool with the concentrated number of licensed premises, police have listened to residents and taken positive actions to tackle anti-social behaviour and provide reassurance.

Licences removed

Blackpool's licensing officials are driving up the standards of drinking establishments in town by taking full advantage of licence review legislation. By making full use of the review laws, Blackpool Council and the Police have sent a stark message by revoking the licences of six offending premises over the last year alone. In one unique case the Counting House at Talbot Square dramatically improved its facilities after two licence reviews.

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“GETTING TOUGH WITH TEENAGERS AND A STERN WARNING TO LICENSED PREMISES”



New powers, which allow the police to fine teenagers for buying or attempting to buy alcohol when they are under the legal age, are now in place in a push to combat youth alcohol disorder.

Sgt Hill leading the initiative said, “Young people must be educated about alcohol harm and be made aware that buying alcohol or acquiring it by whatever means is illegal and we will take firm action by issuing Fixed Penalty Notices.”

From now on anyone found buying or attempting to buy alcohol under the age of 15 will be subject to a £30 Penalty Notice and anyone aged 16 or 17 will face a £50 penalty notice.

Police also have growing concerns over the number of off-licences in the Blackpool area that continue to serve alcohol to young people.

Out of the 70 premises visited over Christmas and New Year, 15 sold alcohol to underage volunteers.

Sgt Giffin who heads up the police leg of the Nightsafe initiative said, “Underage sales are a problem which contributes to alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour as well as impacting on social factors in the community and people's health and well-being. It is clear that we must take firmer action and to that end we are reviewing a number of licences, actively seeking the suspension or revocation of at least three licences.

“Three premises will have their licences reviewed by Blackpool Licensing Committee. All premises have sold to an underage person on at least three occasions. Some sales have included tobacco purchases to under 18s.

“The people responsible for the licence are potentially breaking the law, increasing crime and disorder and putting young people in our communities at risk. We will be focusing all our resources on the licence holder of premises who should at the very least be operating the ‘Challenge 21’ principle. Any licensee who would like to discuss ways to improve their operating procedures are welcome to contact a member of the police Nightsafe Enforcement team on 01253 604153 or Blackpool Trading Standards Department on 01253 478389.”

The Nightsafe partnership is also launching ‘Alcohol Masks the Real You’, a campaign that aims to embrace some of the wider issues in relation to alcohol related harm. It encourages young and old alike to consider the consequences of drinking too much and encourages them to adopt a more sensible approach.



INSPECTOR DEREK DARWEN, COUNCILLOR TIM ASHTON AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR BERNARD WHITTLE

“ALCOHOL AWARE”

In Fylde, police and partners are working together to raise alcohol awareness and safety messages.

Over 300 people answered questionnaires at an alcohol awareness event, designed to raise awareness of the dangers and health risks of excessive alcohol consumption. Organised by Fylde Vision, the event saw local authorities, police, fire and rescue and health organisations working together to give details of local support services and offering advice on how parents can help their children to drink responsibly with the message, alcohol awareness begins at home. The responses from the questionnaires will determine what the police and partners do to tackle alcohol issues.



“CAR CRIME PREVENTION IN WESTERN DIVISION”

In a joint project between BSafe Blackpool and the Fylde Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Car Crime Prevention Kits were distributed in February throughout Western Division as a part of an operation dedicated to cutting levels of vehicle crime.

The kits offer straight forward advice to motorists about simple measures they can take to prevent vehicle crime and avoid damage being caused to their cars. The kits include a sticker which invites officers to stop the car if it is on the road between midnight and 6am.

Western Division's Crime Prevention Officer, Andy Denton explains, “If a vehicle displaying the sticker is on the road at night time it may have been stolen. The presence of the sticker will alert police patrols who will then have the opportunity to check out the vehicle and the occupants.

“Should the driver be the vehicle's owner or using it with permission then they have nothing to worry about and are hopefully reassured that the sticker works. It is also hoped that the sticker proves a deterrent to would-be criminals because they know they will be stopped if the vehicle is seen.”

He continued, “I would also like to take this opportunity to remind motorists to remove valuables from their vehicles or put them out of sight in the boot. Sat Navs in particular are a target and these should always be removed, including the cradle and the telltale suction mark wiped from the windscreen.”





INVESTORS
IN LANCASHIRE POLICING

“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.



“IT'S NO BIG SECRET... WHERE YOUR COUNCIL TAX GOES”

“WHAT IS THE POLICE AUTHORITY?”
Lancashire Police Authority is an independent organisation, responsible for ensuring an efficient and effective police service for Lancashire. We work with the Constabulary and local people to:

- Identify local policing priorities
- Set performance targets
- Assess how well the Constabulary meets those targets
- Set the budget and council tax for policing

www.lancspa.gov.uk

“AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION”



INVESTORS
IN LANCASHIRE POLICING

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**

“PEACEFUL NEW YEAR FOR MERESIDE RESIDENTS”

The New Year has started particularly well for residents of Aisla Avenue in Mereside who were being plagued by a problem family.

People living in the area were being subjected to severe incidents of anti-social behaviour and, after seven years, were reaching the end of their tether. Thanks to the issues being raised at a local Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting the Community Beat Manager and members of the BSafe Blackpool team were able to address the problem.

A whole host of tools and powers were used to deal with the family including involvement from Environmental Protection and the RSPCA. Eventually, with help from the landlord of the property, it was possible to remove the family from the area.

A resident who was particularly affected by the problem family said: “People living here were afraid to leave their houses for fear of this family. It has been hard work but we cannot thank the police and other agencies enough for their help.”

The family was moved into a new house with wraparound support and has not been involved with the police since the move.



“MOBILE PHONE ENFORCEMENT”

To mark the one-year anniversary of the introduction of tougher penalties for using a mobile phone when driving, the Blackpool Bsafe Partnership, which includes Blackpool Council and local police, campaigned to highlight the dangers.

And it looks like the message is getting through. On one enforcement day, the police were pleased that they had to stop nobody during a full day of checking.

Recent research has shown that the new laws are having a positive impact with a 40% reduction in the number of car drivers seen using hand-held mobile phones at the wheel between September 2006 and August 2007.



DI TONY BAXTER (PPU) DS LEE WILSON (PPU DV UNIT) & ANDREA THORLEY-BAINES (DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY COORDINATOR)

“WEAR RIBBON AND PLEDGE TO STOP DOMESTIC ABUSE”

Blackpool Domestic Abuse Partnership is supporting an international campaign designed to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

Although domestic abuse is an issue that is not exclusive to women, with both sexes as potential sufferers, this particular campaign is targeted primarily at men and highlights the suffering of women. Women are at greater risk of repeat victimisation and serious injury.

Local Facts

- Domestic abuse accounts for 28.4% of all violent crime in Blackpool.
- In 2006, 3790 domestic abuse incidents were reported to the police in Blackpool.
- The Home Office estimates that the cost of domestic abuse to be £440 per head of the population. In Blackpool, this adds up to around £62 million.

Chief Superintendent Russ Weaver said: “If anyone thinks there is a difference between violence and abuse inside or outside of the home, they are sadly mistaken. Police officers make no such distinction and people should be under no illusion that we treat domestic abuse seriously, and will use every means at our disposal to protect victims.”

To find out more about the White Ribbon Campaign you can log on to: www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk.

“CASE STUDY: HEAD CAMERA CONVICTION”

The use of state of the art head cameras has led to a successful conviction. As a result of innovative use of the head-cam to capture evidence, an individual pleaded guilty to the assault charges and was sentenced to 84 days imprisonment.

Since December 2007 the cameras have been a part of the kit for officers attending homes where domestic abuse is suspected and are used by Nightsafe teams in Blackpool town centre and other hot spot areas. They record behaviour, language and also any physical evidence of abuse or violence which is then used evidentially in court.



“TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR”

The festive period was testimony to the work the BSafe Blackpool partnership has done during the last few months of 2007 to combat anti-social behaviour. Figures show that anti-social behaviour fell by 16.5% with 585 incidents in 2007 compared to 701 in 2006 between 20 December and New Year.



“FASHION POLICE”

Operation Archers saw over twenty 16-25 year old students from Palatine working with local officers and the force clothing store department dissecting old police uniforms to understand how they are constructed and looking at what makes them fit for purpose.

PCSO Pete Rae said, “Not only is this about recycling out of date uniforms that are no longer fit for purpose, but the students get an insight into the protective gear we wear and why we need to wear it.”

“The next stage of the process is for the students to design new police uniforms, something the Constabulary is looking at in the near future.”



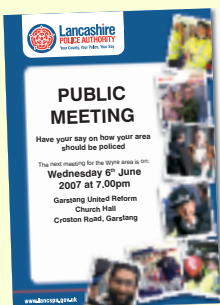
STUDENTS FROM PALATINE

“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.