

Welcome from our new Chief Executive

Miranda Carruthers-Watt was appointed as the new Chief Executive of Lancashire Police Authority in April 2007. Here she outlines some of her plans for her new role.

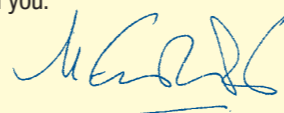
“As a Lancashire resident and Council Tax payer, I feel privileged to have been appointed to the role and want to make sure that the Authority works even harder to make sure that local people have their say in local policing.

Therefore, we have developed “Investors in Policing”, a new campaign that urges people to look upon their local police as a service in which they invest and in which they, rightly, should have a say in its direction.

Lancashire is a top performing force but to help improve performance and 'customer' satisfaction still further I believe that the amount of 'red tape' in the police system needs to be reduced and that we must make even more effort to work with partners in Local Authorities, the Criminal Justice system and community and voluntary groups so that resources are targeted at problem solving. The role of the Police Authority is important: it makes sure that the Police use their resources efficiently and effectively and it monitors police performance. This means we spend a lot of time working with the police to look at those things

which people in Lancashire have told us are important.

I'm keen to build up awareness and understanding of the role of the Police Authority and demonstrate how we work with the Constabulary to ensure an efficient and effective police service, to clearly show how council tax contributions are used and to increase public confidence in policing. One of the things that I want to do is to make sure that the task of “holding the Police to account” is clearly understood across Lancashire. Please do keep talking to us, either through your local Police Authority Community meetings (dates can be found at the back of this newsletter) - these are your chance to be involved with Authority Members and the Divisional Commander for your area and to ask some of the difficult questions! - or through our website www.lancspa.gov.uk These are key elements (and challenges) of my role, which I am enjoying immensely. I look forward to working with you.




Miranda Carruthers-Watt

See the centre pages for more information on **Investors in Policing**.



“ALSO IN THIS ISSUE”

- Fix my street
- PAC meeting dates
- Custody Developments

We want to ensure that this newsletter is addressing the issues that are important to you. If you have any suggestions about any issues or topics you would like us to include in the next edition, please contact Naomi Walker on 01772 531214 or e-mail naomi.walker@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk

Policing Puzzle Solved!

Young Luke Britton enjoyed a VIP trip in a police car from the new Central Police Station in Preston on Sunday 8th July, courtesy of Lancashire Police Authority. Ten year old Luke from Preston, was the lucky winner of the Police Authority's Word Puzzle competition in the community newsletter 'Newsbeat', issued earlier this year.

Hundreds of entries were received and Luke's name was drawn out of a hat by the Authority's Chief Executive, Miranda Carruthers-Watt, who said: “We are keen to see young people taking an interest in policing and it is always a shame that there can only be one winner. However, Luke had

a wonderful time and hopefully will tell his friends all about it!”

Luke, who considers that the most important job for the police is 'catching criminals', was met by Sgt Nicholson of the Road Policing Unit at Central Division where he had his photograph taken with a patrol car as a memento of the day. This was followed by, in his view, the best bit of the day - a trip out in the police car to see all the gadgets first hand.

When asked about his journey in the police car, Luke said: “I thought it was great and would like another go!”



“NEW PCSOs COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU”



NEIGHBOURHOOD Policing Teams in parts of East Lancashire have been given a boost as 17 new Police Community Support Officers take to the streets. The new officers will be posted to neighbourhoods in Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Ribble Valley and Great Harwood.

Dialogue spoke to Chief Inspector Alice Knowles who is responsible for Neighbourhood Policing in Eastern Division. She said: “Since their introduction over four years ago Police Community Support Officers have had a tremendous impact on our local communities. The support they give to our existing Neighbourhood Policing Teams has an extremely positive effect on our drive to make neighbourhoods safer places to live, work and socialise.

Our PCSOs provide a visible and accessible uniformed presence in the communities of East Lancashire which helps to reassure members of the public.

In Eastern Division there are currently 37 Neighbourhood Policing Teams, responsible for 209 neighbourhoods. There are 53 Community Beat

Managers, 75 Police Community Support Officers and two Emergency Community Support Officers working in the Ribble Valley area.

Neighbourhood policing is all about working alongside other agencies to ensure neighbourhoods remain safe and secure, where people know that the police and partners understand the issues that matter most to them and are tackling them together.

Each neighbourhood in the division has a dedicated point of contact - a local Community Beat Manager who is supported by a Police Community Support Officer.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend their Police and Community Together meeting, details which can be found on the Constabulary website, www.lancashire.police.uk using the postcode search facility. PACT meetings give local residents the chance to speak to officers about any concerns they have in their neighbourhood and the police, then work with their partners to address these concerns.

Deaf PACT introduced

Lancashire Constabulary’s Pennine and Eastern divisions have joined forces with East Lancashire Deaf Society to launch a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting specifically aimed at the deaf community.

Local neighbourhood Policing Teams from Blackburn and Burnley will be available to discuss community issues for deaf people throughout East Lancashire. PCSO Marcus Locke, who covers Burnley Town Centre, said, “This is an initiative we have developed with the assistance, support and guidance of the East Lancashire Deaf Society. The Inn on the Wharf has recognised this as an important issue for the local community and has provided the venue for the surgery free of charge. An interpreter will be at the surgery and I would encourage members of our deaf community to call in and let us know their concerns or just to find out who their local neighbourhood community officers are and what they can do for them.” PS Viki Crorken, Burnley Neighbourhood Policing Co-ordinator added. “Lancashire Constabulary and its partners recognise that the county has a diverse community and is committed to encouraging our residents to be involved in local issues. This is the first time we have held a PACT surgery for deaf people in East Lancashire and we will continue to run our regular surgeries throughout the area. I believe it is an excellent opportunity for our Neighbourhood teams and partner agencies to gain a better understanding of issues that arise within the deaf community”.

PCSO Marcus Locke can be contacted by text or phone on 07939 926336, or by e-mail on marcus.locke@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Police close the door on suspected drug dealers

POLICE in Darwen praised local residents for helping them to close down a flat suspected of being used for drug activity.



On Friday, the 27th July, Blackburn Magistrates agreed to close the flat on Hilton Road, Darwen for a period of three months. The Anti Social Behaviour Closure Order was granted after police gathered evidence of drug activity at the property. Continuous complaints from local residents about suspicious activity and suspected drug dealing in the area prompted police to take action and in April police executed a drugs warrant at the property. A 59-year-old man was arrested and cautioned for possession of a Class A drug (Heroin) after police discovered evidence of Class A drug use at the property. This is the fifth Closure Order to be granted in Eastern Division (including two at Accrington, two at Blackburn and one at Darwen), reflecting the determination of the police and the local authority to stamp out drug related crime in East Lancashire. Speaking after the Order was granted, PC Phil Hambley said: “We are extremely grateful to the local community for bringing this to our attention and I hope people are reassured that we have listened to their concerns and acted on the complaints they have made. We will not tolerate the use and sale and illegal substances and anyone involved in such activity are risking not only their liberty but their homes as well.”

Anyone with any information about drug dealing or activity is urged to contact police on 0845 1 25 35 45 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

“ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN”



OVER 20 people were stopped and spoken to about road safety as part of a speed awareness operation in Blackburn.

Police in the South East Neighbourhood Policing Team focussed the operation on four specific areas of Blackburn including North Road, Lincoln Road, Rothesay Road and Manxman Road.

In total, three people were spoken to in relation to speeding, 15 people for driving without a seatbelt and one person was dealt with for driving whilst using a mobile phone.

PC Gareth Brooks said: “This latest campaign was all about raising awareness of road safety. Motorists have got to stop thinking they are invincible and realise the dangers associated with not wearing a seatbelt or using a mobile phone when they’re driving. We want to make the roads safer for everyone and we will continue this operation on a regular basis, alternating the roads we use.

If a member of the community is concerned about a particular street, I urge them to contact us and let us know so we can take action in that area.”

Anyone with concerns can contact the police on 0845 1 25 35 45.



“YOU ARE AN INVESTOR IN POLICING”

July 1st marked the launch of the Police Authority's 'Investors in Policing' campaign, when hundreds of local people were brought in for questioning - but they weren't in trouble, they were helping us with our enquiries by sharing their thoughts on policing.

Views were captured by people either leaving a 'video statement' in the special video diary booth or by allocating '£125 policing pounds' across 16 areas of policing to show how they think that money should be spent.

The five top five choices were, in order of priority:

1. Terrorism
2. Tackling drugs crime
3. Tackling anti-social behaviour
4. Bringing criminals to justice
5. Keeping communities safe

People were also invited to 'grab' (and keep) real £5 notes kindly sponsored by the research company SMSR mingled in with 'fake' notes in the money grabber kiosk.

Looking for answers

The event epitomised the significance the Authority is placing on community involvement and its drive to include the views of the whole community in shaping local policing.

As Chief Executive of the Authority Miranda Carruthers-Watt explains, the Police Authority has a vital role in this - and so do you. “The Police Authority is the bridge between the public and the police,” she said. “As council tax payers the public has a right to have a say in the way their money is spent on all local services, and that includes policing. Giving people the opportunity to make their voice heard and taken into account is one of our key roles. Residents can give us their views in a number of ways, such as completing our online survey; attending Police Authority Community Meeting where they can talk to Police Authority members and

police officers; or by emailing (info@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk) or telephoning us direct on **01772 533587**.

It's important that people know what the Authority does, our role in holding the Chief Constable to account, delivering value for money services and how they can get involved. We really want feedback on the policing service residents receive so that we can drive forward improvements. Investors in Policing will help us do this.”

What Investors in Policing will achieve:

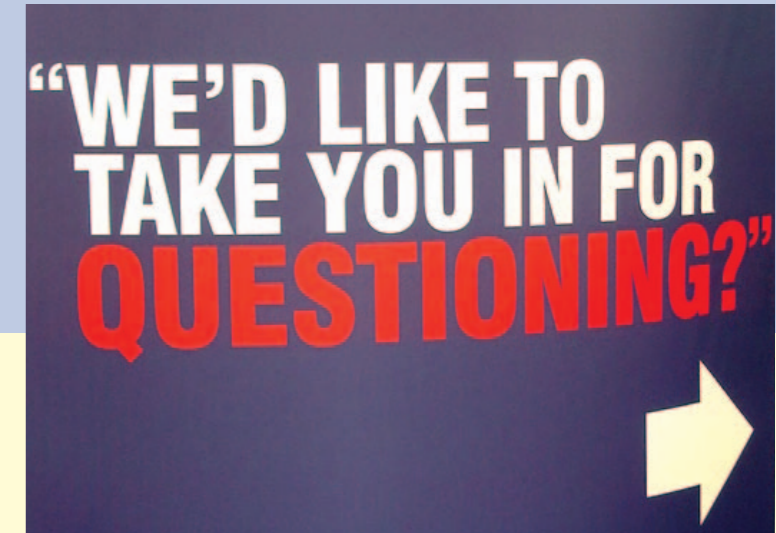
- Better dialogue with the whole community
- Policing priorities based on, and responsive to, local needs
- Customer-focused policing services
- Increased satisfaction with the police service
- Greater understanding of local issues
- An awareness of the role of the Police Authority
- Trust and openness between the police and the public

This new and highly pro-active campaign sends a clear message from the Police Authority. Talk to us and we will listen!

As Miranda concludes: “We are making it easier and more enjoyable for people to get involved in policing, whether as individuals, community groups or via our partners. By working together we can develop a police service that really reflects the needs and priorities of local communities which, in turn, will lead to more confidence in the police.”



People were invited to 'grab' (and take home) real £5 notes mingled in with 'fake' notes in the wind machine



We took hundreds of people in for questioning!



A bustling marquee



A visit by officers from the Constabulary



A lucky winner



“CRIMINAL GAINS HELP LOCAL CHILDREN”

CASH seized from convicted criminals is being used to help young ice hockey fans in East Lancashire.

Almost £1500 from the Proceeds of Crime Act has been donated to the Blackburn Junior Hawks helping to fund a new kit for youngsters who enjoy playing the sport. Chief Inspector Alice Knowles said: "It is extremely satisfying to see money seized from criminals used to benefit the community and I am pleased we have been able to contribute towards activities involving children in Blackburn. Involving young people in positive activities is extremely important.

Not only does it ensure that they remain active and healthy, it encourages social interaction and team work whilst providing diversionary activities outside school. Blackburn Junior Hawks Development Officer John Amos added: "This money will have a huge impact on the club and will allow us to involve more local young people in the sport of ice hockey."



The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 gave the police powers to strip criminals of assets obtained through crime and preventing them from enjoying a life of luxury upon their release from prison. The Act is aimed at disrupting criminal enterprise and reducing crime. Blackburn Junior Hawks has been running for 15 years and there are currently 90 playing members and up to 50 young people attending the skills sessions. Skills sessions are held every Monday and anyone aged under 16 can attend to learn skating and skills of the game. Anyone interested in joining can contact John Amos via the club web site www.hockeynest.com.

The kit includes hockey sticks, helmets, gloves and equipment required for the skills sessions. The additional funding will go towards funding a new strip for the under 12s team in the new season which starts in September.

“Kids wise up to Streetwise”



ALMOST 2000 school children have been wising up as part of a safety campaign.

Streetwise kicked off at King George's Hall in June with 1800 pupils aged 10 and 11 from primary schools across Blackburn and Darwen receiving practical advice to help them to 'wise up' both on and off the streets. The event involves a number of organisations including Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire & Rescue, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Virgin Trains, school nurses from Primary Care Trust and the Safer Travel Unit.

The event, now in its 14th year, was bigger and better than ever before with over 11 organisations taking part throughout the three week period. Children from Belmont School took part in eight scenarios and acted out a number of roles encouraging them to 'think safety', whilst considering

other people. They acted out roles as elderly people waiting at a bus stop and being bothered by groups of young people playing football. Virgin Trains also delivered a presentation about the consequences of trespassing on railway lines. Inspector Claire Holbrook said: "Streetwise is aimed at children about to start secondary school and move onto another chapter of their lives, when they will be given much more independence and take more responsibility for their own safety."

Claire Waterhouse, Road Safety Manager at Capita Symonds and Chair of the Streetwise Steering Committee added: "An event such as Streetwise provides an invaluable addition to the education of school children in Blackburn and Darwen and every year we get excellent feedback from both pupils and teachers."



Lancashire
Constabulary

police and communities together

Eastern Division Independent Advisory Group - Volunteers Wanted!

Are you interested in having a say in the policing of your community?

Are you able to give four hours a month of your time?

Are you reliable and well motivated and able to give constructive feedback?

Volunteers are being sought from all walks of life to offer advice and assistance on all aspects of policing in Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley.

Independent Advisors act as 'critical friends' to the police, advising on how to enhance policies, procedures and

practices, so policing performance is improved.

As an Independent Advisor, you will be involved in many areas of policing from covert operations to high profile events. Your 'voice' and opinions are crucial in helping to improve the policing service delivered to the local community.

What does the average man or woman on the street think about the way their community is policed?

You can make a difference!



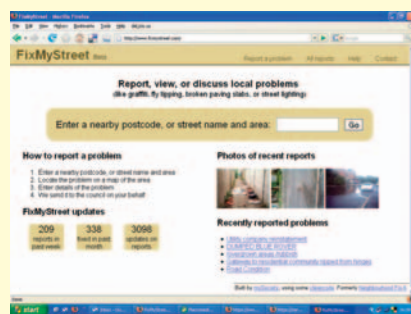
If you are able to spare a few hours a month or want to find out more about how to become an IAG member, please contact Sgt John Rigby on 01254 353638

“DIALOGUE”

Police Authority Community Meetings - September to October 2007

District	Venue	Date	Time
Lancaster	Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road East, Morecambe, LA4 5AS	Tuesday 4th September	7pm
Wyre	Wyre Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 7PU	Wednesday 5th September	7pm
Ribble Valley	Ribble Valley Borough Council Offices, Church Walk, Clitheroe, BB7 2RA	Wednesday 12th September	7pm
Preston	St Stephen's C of E School, South Meadow Lane, Preston, PR1 8JN	Monday 17th September	7pm
Blackpool	Park School, 158 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9HF	Thursday 20th September	7pm
West Lancashire	Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood, Digmoor, Skelmersdale WN8 9HR	Monday 24th September	7pm
Chorley	Coppull Youth & Community Centre, Springfield Road, Coppull, PR7 5EJ	Monday 1st October	7pm
South Ribble	Penwortham Community Centre, Kingsfold Drive, Penwortham PR1 9EQ	Thursday 4th October	7pm
Blackburn-With-Darwen	Greenfield Community Centre, Green Lane, Blackburn BB2 4SR	Monday 8th October	7pm
Fylde	YMCA, St Albans Road, St Annes on Sea, Lancashire, FY8 1XD	Thursday 11th October	7pm
Burnley	Howard Street Community Health Centre, Tay Street, Burnley, BB11 4PQ	Monday 15th October	7pm
Pendle	Foulridge Village Hall, Parkinson Street, Foulridge Colne, BB8 7PS	Wednesday 17th October	7pm
Hyndburn	Norden High School & Sports College, Stourton Street, Rishton, Blackburn, BB1 4ED	Thursday 18th October	7pm
Rossendale	The Riverside Whitworth Civic Hall, Market Street, Whitworth, OL12 8DP	Thursday 25th October	7pm

www.fixmystreet.com



Launched in February 2007, **FixMyStreet** is a new website to help people highlight local problems to the council simply by locating them on a map.

Simply visit the website at www.fixmystreet.com and

follow the instructions. A spokesperson for Fylde Borough Council said: "The site is very good, nice and simple to use with good mapping facilities. We have received about 10 requests so far with pictures detailing the problem - all of which have now been resolved."

“CUSTODY DEVELOPMENTS”

The valuable work of Lancashire Police Authority's Independent Custody Visitor volunteers largely goes unseen. They are members of the community who not only provide an extra level of protection to detainees but also help to provide community reassurance and improve public understanding of Custody Procedures. Through the scheme Lancashire Police Authority strives to ensure that custody areas are a safe environment for all people who come into contact with the police.



To promote the important role of the Custody Visitors and provide a training aid, the Police Authority is currently developing a multi-media DVD with the help of Lancashire Constabulary and a local theatrical group. Filming recently took place at the new state of the art custody suite at new police operation centre in Preston. The new custody centre opened on Wednesday, 18th July and replaced the old police cells at Lawson Street Police Station.

The Lancashire Evening Post came along to film the day. The newspaper article and film footage can be found at <http://www.lep.co.uk/features-av?articleid=3044514>

Further information on the scheme can be found at <http://www.lancspa.gov.uk/contribute/volunteers/icv>

“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 533462

Remember.....If the police don't know about a problem they cannot do anything about it.