



Welcome from our Chief Executive



Miranda Carruthers-Watt at the Investors in Policing launch

Welcome to this sixth edition of our Dialogue Newsletter. I'm very pleased to be able to congratulate Lancashire Constabulary on the good news that they have been ranked joint first nationally out of the 43 forces in England and Wales - but what does this mean?

Recorded crime is down by 4.5% compared to the last 12 months; public confidence in Lancashire Constabulary is at an all time high at 93% because you are more confident in the police or see more officers out and about; feelings of safety are also high across the county and the 'whole experience' (from contacting the police, to actions being made, to being kept informed) has improved. A significant achievement is that burglary is at a record 27 year low and there has been a substantial decrease in levels of antisocial behaviour across the county.

Rightly, the Chief Constable has put success down to the achievements of police officers and staff. But how has the Police Authority helped to achieve this success? Lancashire Police Authority set the challenging targets for the police and our role is to make sure that the targets are achieved.

How do local people fit into this process? The Authority believes that, as local people and tax-payers, you have a very real investment in the police service. Your investment needs to provide a service that reflects your priorities, that reduces crime and keeps you safe. It is our job to ensure that this is the service you receive. We hope that you will take the opportunity to use your say in how your police service is provided. Turn to the centre pages of this newsletter for information on how to become involved and find out more about our 'Investors in

Policing' Campaign or visit our website www.lancspa.gov.uk

Our Police Authority Community Meeting dates can be found on the back of this newsletter, so please keep talking to us by attending these meetings - or email questions through our website. This will help us to make sure that the task of 'holding the police to account' is achieved across Lancashire, we want you to have your say.

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

“ALSO IN THIS ISSUE”

- Investors in Policing
- Independent Member Vacancies
- A Quick Glance - Checking Custody
- PAC meeting dates

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 Danielle Norton on 01772 531209 or e-mail danielle.norton@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk

BUILDING BRIDGES AWARD

Lancashire Police Authority's Vice Chair, Gail Stanley presented the 'Building Bridges' Award at Lancashire Constabulary's Celebration of Young People awards in September.

The winner of the Building Bridges award was 16 year old Sarah Lam who has taken a conscious decision to take on a very public role to raise young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues in the Blackpool area. She is the chair of a youth support group and has worked to ensure that young LGBT people are represented at local forum meetings. Described as 'ace' and 'inspirational' as the vice chair of the Blackpool Young People's Council Sarah has stood up to adversity to make a difference for others, building bridges between different sections of the

community and working hard to ensure young people's issues are heard.

Commenting on the awards, Mrs Stanley said "it was wonderful to see a collection of inspired young individuals at the awards event, all contributing significantly in their own way. Sarah should be commended on her excellent work increasing awareness of diversity issues and including the perspective of young people."

Serena Wong from Preesall was the first runner up and Karl Woodfield from Chorley was second runner up in the Building Bridges award.



Sarah Lam with her award



PICTURE: The new Lancashire Constabulary Northern Division police cadets with Ch Supt Gary Stephenson, trainers and sponsors.

POLICE CADETS COURSE UP & RUNNING

A GROUP of teenagers in the Lancaster and Morecambe area signed up to become the Northern Division's first police cadets recently.

The 28 youngsters, aged 16-19, from the district began the innovative new course in July. The 38-week volunteer scheme will teach cadets about police law, procedure and crime prevention, as well as provide sport and self-defence activities. The cadets will also take part in real life crime prevention and community projects and be able to work towards a BTEC qualification in conjunction with Lancaster and Morecambe College.

Ch Supt Stephenson backed the scheme saying: "I am delighted to see so many young people in our area who care about the local community and wish to make a positive stand. So often youths are associated with anti social behaviour and negativity, this is an excellent example of the willingness of young people to work within their local area for the good of others. I believe that this course will give the youngsters skills that they will be able to use throughout their lives in whatever profession they choose."

One of the cadets Laura Johnson, said she was looking forward to the course. She said:

"Joining the police is an option I am looking at after university so this course will help me get a good background into the job and what it entails. I'm sure we will all enjoy the experience."

Sgt Mark Salisbury, from the Northern Division's Training Department, said: "The programme offers young people a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the police service, to take part in a range of exciting activities and perhaps more importantly, gain new skills, make new friends and have fun."

The cadet project is the brainchild of the police's youth involvement officer PC Kath Bromilow, who ran a similar scheme in Wigan a few years ago. She said:

"This is a great, unique opportunity for young people who may want to work for the police in the future or who simply want to help within their local community."

“FOOTBALL COACHING SCHEME A GREAT SUCCESS SAY POLICE”

A football coaching scheme for teenagers in Lancaster has proved a great success..

Youngsters from Skerton took part in the scheme organised by police and the Shrimps' Football in the Community department. A group of boys and girls took part in weekly coaching sessions by Morecambe FC coaches at Skerton High School with the lessons organised by the police.

The course lasted for six weeks and was well received by the youngsters and the community. Crime prevention officer at Lancaster police station Jan Brown said the sessions had been so successful that a further group of children were enjoying the same scheme at Skerton High School this year.

She said: "The police often look to forge links with community groups to offer children some activities they may not often get the chance to take part in. The coaching was top class and well received by the youngsters.

As well as thanking the coaches we have to thank the school as well because they did all they could to support the coaching."

The Shrimps' community officer Janet Preston added: "Morecambe Football Club has several schemes running in conjunction with the police. This was another new initiative which has proved successful and we will be looking to continue to run it in the future."

The sessions were paid for by a grant obtained from the Lancashire High Sheriff's Crime Beat fund.



NORTHERN DIVISION RESIDENTS BENEFITING FROM POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

Residents across the Division are benefiting from the introduction of new Police Community Support Officers.

The policing area now has more than 80 PCSOs on the beat helping to tackle issues that really matter most in our communities in an innovative partnership between police Lancaster City Council and Wyre Borough Council who have invested funds to help pay for the high visibility community officers.

PCSOs were introduced in 2002 as part of a nationwide drive towards neighbourhood policing, with the aim of tackling crime and the fear of crime and bringing the police closer to local communities.

The head of local police Ch Supt Gary Stephenson said: "PCSOs perform an essential role, which extends the range of activities the police are able to provide to our communities. It is the job of a PCSO to provide a highly visible, reassuring presence on the streets and to help tackle the anti-social behaviour and minor crimes that concern many people, freeing up frontline police officers to focus on solving more serious crimes. They provide a high visibility presence in the community, helping the police to tackle anti-social behaviour and offering reassurance to the public as well as having a key role to play in freeing up police officer time – for example by undertaking some tasks which require police presence but not necessarily the skills and expertise of a fully sworn officer."

Mr Stephenson said the support of both councils has been instrumental in providing a strong PCSO team. He said:

"The Council has been behind this scheme all along and shared our vision. We look forward to maintaining that partnership for years to come."

Councillor Graeme Cocker, Wyre Borough Council's Living Safely Portfolio Holder, said: "We are delighted to support the vital work of the Police Community Support Officers who do a sterling job in the community patrolling the streets to tackle community safety issues - such as crime and grime - which we know are important to local residents and make them feel safer."



By working together and targeting our resources in 'hotspot' areas we can achieve much more and make Wyre a safer place with real improvements for residents living in towns and villages across Wyre."

PCSOs contribute to the safety of the community by:

- Supporting the police to increase public safety
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and underage drinking
- Contributing to the regeneration of local communities
- Dealing with truants, graffiti and litter
- Assisting with missing persons enquiries
- Helping to support victims
- Assisting with house to house enquiries
- Involvement in patrolling major public events
- Helping to control crowds

They also have a number of powers, which include the power of detention for up to 30 minutes (pending the arrival of a police officer).

“FESTIVE FIRE SAFETY...”



Keep all candles away from curtains and decorations (including table decorations). It only takes a few seconds for the flame to spread so use with care.

To arrange a home fire safety check, please contact Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service on 0800 169 1125.



“IF IT CAN BE SEEN [SAFETY TIPS!] IT CAN BE STOLEN”

Don't leave anything in the car, make sure you remove anything of value including your satellite navigation system and car stereo.

“YOU ARE AN INVESTOR IN POLICING”



Do you have an independent mind?

If so, we want you! Lancashire Police Authority will be recruiting Independent Members in the near future.

Back in July Lancashire Police Authority launched the Investors in Policing Campaign. The Police Authority is the bridge between the public and the police and we want to ensure that council tax payers have a say in the way their money is spent.

The Campaign is about having:

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

Policing to help us achieve just that. We are piloting new ways of collecting views to make it easier and more accessible for a wide range of residents to put their views across. This will include road-shows, visits to supermarkets and shopping centres, as well as on-line and electronic forms of consultation.

As the budget-setting process begins for the next financial year, an intensive consultation programme will take place to see what is really important to residents when it comes to prioritising areas for investment. We need local people to become involved in the policing process so that our decisions are informed by their views and responsive to their needs. We want people to feel that their money is being used with maximum impact.”

If you would like to get involved and help shape local policing then please visit the web-site www.lancspa.gov.uk to e-mail your views or complete an online questionnaire or voice your opinions at a local meeting (details can be found on the back page of this newsletter).

Look out for us as we are visiting supermarkets across the county in November to capture views and opinions, more details can be found on our website.



Crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour, can affect the quality of life of people living in our communities.



Cllr Malcolm Doherty

Cllr Malcolm Doherty, Chair of the Authority said, “People invest in the police service through payment of local and national taxes, so we feel that our decisions should be driven by public opinion. Any investor has a right to ask questions about where and how their money will be spent and with what effect. It should be no different when it comes to policing. We are just providing the opportunity.

We want to know if people are happy with the return they are getting from their investment. Are they satisfied with the service they receive? What's really important to them and what's not? Importantly, we want to take on board the views of all local communities, not just those with the loudest voices - and we've developed Investors in

Question us!

Usually you would expect it to be the police asking the questions, but now the Police Authority is giving members of the public the opportunity to ask questions or make a statement at its Committee or full Police Authority meetings.

Individuals or representatives of community groups, voluntary or statutory organisations, can now ask a question or make a statement relating to an item on the meeting's agenda.

All you have to do is let the Chief Executive know, at least three working days before the meeting, in writing or via email, who you are and what you would like to ask or say. If you have any queries please ring us on 01772 533589 and we will help you.

Dates and agendas for all our meetings are published on our website: www.lancspa.gov.uk

Written questions should be addressed to:
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Preston
PR2 2WB

Email: miranda.carruthers-watt@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk



The Police Authority has a very important role to play in the policing of the community. Do you ever ask Who will police the Police? The answer is the Police Authority. An independent body responsible for the provision of an efficient and effective police service throughout the Lancashire area.

It consults extensively with the public about local policing issues and helps to form a bridge between local communities and the police force.

Independent Members are a vital component of the Police Authority, as they bring a wide range of experience and skills to the Authority to help strengthen the scrutiny of the police service on behalf of local people. We hope to receive applications from all areas of the diverse community in Lancashire, including under-represented groups, to ensure that the Authority's membership and therefore viewpoint, is genuinely representative of the whole community.

Independent Members are paid a basic annual allowance of £9,060 plus expenses and in return will require an average time commitment of between seven and ten hours a week.

If you are interested in this role, look out for information in the local press and on our website www.lancspa.gov.uk in the coming weeks. Alternatively, you can register your interest in receiving further information on these vacancies by contacting Mrs Jay Nicholas, Tel: 01772 532251.



WYRE HATE CRIME PROJECT

Wyre Hate Crime project was launched in July 2007 and is the only hate crime project in Lancashire to specifically tackle hate crime.



From left to right: Barry Parsonage Executive Director Wyre Borough Council Chief Superintendent Gary Stephenson, Lancashire Constabulary Dr Lewis Turner Hate Crimes officer Wyre Borough Council, Angie Mackey, Wyre Housing Councillor Graham Cocker, Wyre Borough Council

The Hate Crime project has already established 15 reporting centres in the area where people can report incidents. A website where hate crime can be reported online has also been launched which is linked directly to the Diversity Unit at Lancashire Police Headquarters. A lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender PACT meeting has been established in the Wyre area and a hate crime leaflet has been produced with over 4,000 copies being distributed throughout the area.

The project is currently identifying the ‘hotspot’ hate crime areas of Fleetwood particularly around take-aways and shops and is looking to run a forum to support owners of these businesses. Future plans for the project will include a community hate crime event with stalls outside local supermarkets to raise awareness.

Hate crime officer Lewis Turner said “Evidence suggests that with regards to violent crime in the Wyre area, racially aggravated hate crime is centred in Fleetwood town centre, which has a high concentration of licenced premises including public houses and night-clubs as well as take-aways; whereas most homophobic and transphobic incidents occur in the victim’s neighbourhoods.”

The project works with Preston and Western Lancashire Race Equality Council who can assist victims of race hate crime on a case-by-case basis and since the project began, the reporting of racist hate crime is up by 100%.

For more information visit:
www.mywyre.co.uk/hatecrime/home/

Or contact:
Lewis Turner
Hate Crime Officer
Wyre Borough Council
FY6 7PU
Tel: 01253 887292
Mob: 07791 318772
Email: ltturner@wyrebc.gov.uk



POLICE IN THE WYRE SET UP COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

A group set up to provide a wider community perspective to the work of police in the Wyre was launched in September.

The Wyre Independent Advisory Group (IAG), will focus on specific policing issues affecting minority communities. The aim of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) is to advise and work with the police to improve both the service provided to minority communities and the relationship between those communities and the police.

By giving advice on issues such as race equality and disability, the group intends to bring police more closely into touch with individual needs and enable them to interact with greater sensitivity. This improves communications and leads to closer mutual understanding.

The advisory group is made up of a wide variety of people who are representative of the diverse communities of Wyre and bring with them skills in areas such as disability, ethnicity, age and gender and has been set up after a similar group in the Lancaster and Morecambe area proved so successful.

Sgt Karen Hall, the Northern Division’s Equality and Diversity Officer, said “The IAG will act as critical friends to the division offering advice and challenging the Constabulary and division in relation to policies, procedures and practices to enable police performance to be improved. The group will help us to influence and devise new and effective initiatives to reduce criminality, promote links within effected communities and, most importantly, support community safety.”

POULTON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

An operation targeting anti-social behaviour in Poulton and the surrounding areas is proving to be a success.

Operation Reassure is currently being organised by the area’s Neighbourhood Policing team and indications are promising with a 56% decrease in crime in Hardhorn, Highcross and Normoss in May and June this year compared to the same time last year.

There were fewer reports of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and violent crime compared to this time last year in areas such as High Cross, Normoss and Poulton town centres. During the same period crime in Poulton town centre has also fallen by 39%.

PC Ian Lester, a Community Beat Manager in Poulton said the successes were down to more staff being able to patrol the hot spot areas. He said “The Poulton Neighbourhood Policing team has

expanded in recent months with the introduction of more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and their effectiveness is already being seen. They are proving a valuable extra resource in terms of skills and the fact that we have more people in the problem areas at the right times. As well as the PCSOs we have involved people like Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and volunteers to man the CCTV cameras and the partnership is really paying dividends at the moment.”



“STAYING SAFE ON A NIGHT OUT...”



With office parties and other Christmas celebrations underway it’s important you take extra precautions to keep yourself safe when out on the town.

- Plan how you’ll get home safely before you go out.
- Nominate a designated driver for the evening and NEVER drink and drive.
- Don’t accept drinks from strangers and never leave yours unattended.

For more top tips visit www.lancashire.police.uk

“REDUCE THE CHANCE OF FESTIVE CRIME”



- Empty boxes left outside advertise that you have new goods inside - dispose of any packaging carefully.
- Keep presents out of sight until Christmas Eve and mark important and expensive items with your postcode and house number using special security markers. Keep a record of the make, model and serial numbers of all electrical equipment and frame numbers of any cycles.



“DIALOGUE”

Police Authority Community Meetings - January to February 2008

District	Venue	Date	Time
Lancaster	Gregson Community Centre, 33-35 Moorgate, Lancaster, LA1 3PY	Tuesday 15th January	7pm
Wyre	Larkholme Community Centre, Cartmell Ave, Fleetwood, FY7 8NF	Wednesday 16th January	7pm
Preston	St. Margaret's Church Hall, Tag Lane, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3ZU	Monday 21st January	7pm
Ribble Valley	Longridge Civic Hall, Calder Avenue, Longridge, Preston, PR3 3HJ	Wednesday 23rd January	7pm
West Lancashire	Appley Bridge Village Hall, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge, WN6 9AQ	Monday, 28th January	7pm
Blackpool	Highfield Humanities College, Highfield Road, Blackpool, FY4 3JZ	Thursday, 31st January	7pm
Chorley	Chorley Rugby Union Club, Chancery Road, Astley Village, Chorley, PR7 1XP	Monday, 4th February	7pm
Fylde	Carr Hill 11-18 High School, Royal Avenue, Kirkham, PR4 2ST	Thursday, 7th February	7pm
Blackburn-With-Darwen	Blackburn Central Library, Town Hall St, Blackburn, BB2 1AG	Monday, 11th February	7pm
South Ribble	St Andrews Church Hall, Liverpool Road, Longton, PR4 5AA	Thursday 14th February	7.30pm
Hyndburn	Oswaldtwistle Y&C Centre, Harvey Street, Oswaldtwistle, BB5 3LT	Thursday, 21st February	7pm
Burnley	Burnley Town Hall, Manchester Road, Burnley, BB11 1JA	Monday 25th February	7pm
Pendle	Brierfield Town Hall, Colne Road, Brierfield, BB10 2ND	Wednesday, 27th February	7pm
Rossendale	Y & C Centre, The Old Fire Station, Burnley Road, Rawtenstall BB4 8EW	Thursday, 28th February	7pm

A Quick Glance

“CHECKING CUSTODY”

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme is run by the Police Authority. It aims to give the public greater confidence in policing by making this largely unseen area of policing open to better scrutiny. 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.

From April 2006 to March 2007 a total of 377 visits were carried out in police stations across the county. When our volunteers randomly did their visits there

were 2442 people detained in custody and 57% (1404) were spoken to by our volunteers and 7% (172) were observed through the hatch.

This means that our volunteers checked on the welfare of 1576 of those in custody at the time of their visits.

To view some of the observations from the visits and the full annual report for 2006/07 see our website www.lancspa.gov.uk



“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.

Crimestoppers

43 crimes detected thanks to Lancashire Crimestoppers.

The anonymous crime reporting 0800 555 111 phone line received 310 calls in August, the highest number of monthly calls since April 2005.

The calls led to 43 crimes being detected throughout Lancashire in that month. It is a number which delights Lancashire Crimestoppers chairman Gail Porter.

She said: “The latest Crimestoppers figures show that 15% of calls in Lancashire lead to detections



whereas the national average is only 7%. These are excellent statistics and I would like to thank all those who have called the number. It really does make a difference. Crimestoppers is a totally anonymous way to report crime. No-one will ever ask your name.”

Over the next few months leaflets to encourage people to call and report crime or information on crime will be distributed to households in Lancashire with the message

“Just tell us what you know, not who you are. Call about Crime anonymously”