



Lancashire
POLICE AUTHORITY
Your County, Your Police, Your Say

“DIALOGUE”

Issue 6 - November 2007

Pennine

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

LAUNCH OF BRIERFIELD'S NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICE



Chief Superintendent Neil Smith with guests at the opening

Pennine Police's Divisional Commander Neil Smith, Chief Inspector Stuart Noble and Brierfield's Mayor Councillor Naeem Ashraf, were amongst the guests who celebrated the official launch of Brierfield's new Neighbourhood Police Office.

The official opening ceremony was on 31st August at the new office at 19 Colne Road. Guests and the public of Brierfield had the opportunity to look around the new facility and met with the local Neighbourhood Policing Officers. Once a former convenience store, the building has been transformed by Lancashire Police and by Pendle Partnership.

Pendle Partnership secured £30,000 for renovation work on the new office.

Brierfield Police Office now has a bright, modern, public enquiry area, an office for the town's 4-strong team of Community Beat Managers and Police Community Support Officers and a meeting room which is used for Police meetings and is open to other local groups and service providers.

The venue has good disabled access and a lift which means that community groups of all ages and abilities can visit the office and make use of its meeting facilities.

Commenting on the new building, Nelson and Brierfield Police Inspector Russ Procter said: "Lancashire Constabulary is committed to neighbourhood policing and Pennine Division is leading the way. For Brierfield, this means a dedicated team of neighbourhood officers consisting of a Sergeant, Community Beat Managers, Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood Response Officers and now, a fantastic new police office for the town too. Residents have said they want us to be highly visible and easily accessible and this new office goes a long way towards helping us achieve that".

PENNINE DIVISION HATE CRIME & DIVERSITY SURGERIES



Victims of hate crime are being offered help and advice at a series of Police Surgeries throughout Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale.

The sessions are being run by PC Bev Taylor from Pennine Division's Hate Crime and Diversity Unit, they will give anyone who feels that they are being singled out for abuse because of their age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, faith or race, a chance to air their concerns and seek help.

PC Taylor hopes that the surgeries will give people from all backgrounds a chance to express their thoughts and feelings on crime and disorder and in particular talk through any concerns or experiences they may have which relate to hate crime.

She said: "The surgeries are carried out at locations within the community and are for anyone who feels that they may be being singled out for abuse or

anyone who has become a victim of crime simply because of their age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, faith or race. They are being held in community venues because we acknowledge that not everyone feels comfortable visiting Police buildings. During the surgeries we will be able to offer help and advice, contact points for other agencies and access to a team of officers dedicated to investigating hate crime offences. If you are affected by hate crime, then please don't suffer in silence.

Contact us directly and in confidence on 01282 472190

Restorative justice comes to Pennine

Restorative Justice was launched as a new initiative for Pennine Police on 1 August and is a new way for Police to deal with incidents or offences where the people involved are willing to sit down together and work it out.

It is revolutionary for Lancashire, but it has been used in the UK since the 1980s. Its roots lie with Maori people who developed the approach to resolve conflict within their communities by enabling those involved to face the true impact their actions had.

Chief Inspector Ian Sewart who led the launch in Pennine said, "The aim is for Restorative Justice to become part of Lancashire Constabulary's problem solving philosophy 'POP's' and to give our staff more options in how they resolve conflicts in communities. Trained officers have organised meetings between consenting parties to resolve problems and prevent further incidents and offences

occurring in the future. It's not an easy option or one that is suitable for all incidents but it is a common sense way of going about things and has real advantages for the victim, offender and the community with participants agreeing on what action needs to take place to repair the harm caused. So far in Pennine Division, it's Officers have averaged 41 Restorative Justice results in cases such as Anti-Social Behaviour, Minor Criminal damage and Minor thefts and the figures are expected to rise in the coming year."



Burnley Police Neighbourhood Cup Competition 2007

Burnley Police held their annual football competition on Sunday 16th September at Towneley Park all weather pitch which was sponsored by Charter Walk Shopping Centre.

The football competition included community teams from all over Burnley competing in two age groups 11-14s and 14-17s.

The Mayor & Mayoress of Burnley, Peter & Mary McCann presented the awards for the younger age group and commented on the days event saying, "We were more than happy to be asked to present the awards at this annual competition that has now been running for 6 years. It's great to see young people from all over Burnley taking part in the event with each other in a friendly atmosphere. The local youngsters have again responded well to this initiative by the Police and the day was enjoyed by competitors and spectators alike, and it was great to see everyone having a good day out."

PCSO Dave Johnson who organised the event with the assistance from PCSO Marcus Locke and Lindsey Thompson said, "The youths had a great time on Sunday and luckily the sun shone for us!"

Winners

The 11 to 14 category was won by Unity College, with Leyland Road Boys coming runners up and the fair play award went to Burnley Boys Club.

The older 14 to 17s category was won by Rosehill Rovers with runners up being Colne Road Boys.

The Fair Play award was won by Anacondas.



“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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Chief Executive
Lancashire Police Authority
PO Box 653
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.



“BURNLEY POLICE STATION OPENS ITS DOORS”



Pictured – PCSO’s Nigel Keates & Emma Harrison put a potential future Police Cadet to the test

Burnley Police Station opened its doors on Sunday 9 September as part of the “Heritage Open Days” event, allowing the public to see what goes on behind the scenes.

“Heritage Open Days” is a major national event that offers people free access to buildings which are usually closed to the public or which charge an entry fee. Visitors to the Police Station were given an insight into how the communications room is run, shown the different equipment used by officers, and given the opportunity to view police cells in the custody department.

PC Ian Thompson, who helped co-ordinate the tours said “The Heritage Open Days are a fantastic opportunity for us to show people what happens on a day-to-day basis at Burnley Police Station. We had a lot of interest in the tours and had great fun sharing our police station with our visitors.”

The town’s current Police Station was built in 1955, replacing the previous police station that was under Burnley’s Town Hall. The Police Station now stands on the site of the former cattle market and was once the site of the Great Hustings meeting at Burnley’s first parliamentary election of 1868.

Over thirty people attended the event and the younger visitors were able to try on various items of police body armour as well as having their fingerprints taken in the custody office.

PCSO Dave Johnson said “We have been running these tours for over three years now and look forward to showing more people around next year.”

“YOUTH SHELTER REDUCES CRIME & FEAR OF CRIME”

A youth shelter in Rossendale is proving a success. The Staghills Youth Shelter, off Staghills Road in Rawtenstall is celebrating 12 months since opening.



A review of the shelter shows that it has achieved one of its aims – to reduce the fear of crime and reduce the number of reported incidents of youth-related anti-social behaviour, damage and assault. For example, the number of reported incidents of youth-related anti-social behaviour has fallen from 50 in 2006 to 33 in 2007.

PC Denise Barlow, who is on secondment to Rossendale Council’s Community Safety Department, says in a report to the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime “Provision of the shelter has made an impact on the number of youth-related incidents that have been reported to the Police and this in turn has allowed an upturn in the community’s feeling of well being on the Staghills estate.”

The shelter opened in August 2006 to provide a place for young people from the Staghills estate to socialise. Land for the shelter was donated

by Rossendale United Football Club and funding came from Rossendale’s Community Safety Partnership, Lancashire Partnership Against Crime and the High Sheriff of Lancashire’s Crimebeat Fund.

Rawtenstall shelter manufacturer, Euroshel, donated a top-of-the-range weatherproof shelter and donations were also made by other local companies B & E Boys Limited and Fielden Factors. Rossendale Council supports the project by insuring the shelter and maintaining the site with regular inspections, bin collections and clean-ups.

Cllr. Duncan Ruddick, leader of Rossendale Council and chair of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, said “These results - after only 12 months - are very encouraging. It just shows that if relevant organisations all pull together we can improve the quality of lives of residents in the borough.”

“IF IT CAN BE SEEN IT CAN BE STOLEN”

SAFETY TIPS!

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

“CELEBRATE SAFELY”

FESTIVE TIPS!

If you’re out celebrating during the festive season take personal safety seriously and reduce the chances of becoming a victim. Plan your route, keep to busy well-lit areas and don’t take short cuts. Whenever possible, stay with other people.

“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”