



**Lancashire**  
**POLICE AUTHORITY**  
Your County, Your Police, Your Say

# “DIALOGUE”

Issue 6 - November 2007

Southern

## 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](http://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](mailto: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



Chief Superintendent Irene Curtis

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDER

Policing in Southern Division is going from strength to strength and we are seeing unprecedented reductions in crime across the division, which in turn means that there are fewer victims. My thanks must go to all staff, partners and, most importantly, the members of our communities who are working together to make this happen. We truly could not achieve these successes without this team work and I regularly see great examples of this in action, some of which are reported in this publication.

The public also play a part in helping us to detect crime, and I am pleased to report that for the last 2 years we have been detecting over 1 in 3 of all crimes reported to us, which is well above the national target.

However, I know that there is no room for complacency, and am also aware that we still don't always get things right first time, however we constantly strive to provide a quality service in everything we do. Last year we set out to demonstrate some real improvements in the quality of service we provide, in particular in relation to keeping people informed of what was happening with their case, and I am delighted that there has been a noticeable improvement with satisfaction in all areas of contact, but most significantly in this one.

Our aim in Southern Division is to deliver a high quality local policing service that meets people's needs and makes them feel safe, and with the continued support and commitment of our partners and communities I am confident that we can achieve this.

## “NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING DEVELOPMENTS”

Our neighbourhood policing approach continues to expand across Southern Division. For the last 12 months or more each geographic area has had an established neighbourhood policing team assigned to it, which consists of community beat managers and police community support officers who are under the direction of a neighbourhood policing sergeant.

These officers are assigned to a particular area, which they regularly patrol, developing key links with the local community and finding out about problems and, together with our partners, solving policing issues in their areas. They hold monthly PACT meetings within their communities where residents can speak to them about any concerns they may have.

During the last year the number of police community support officers in the Division has been boosted by the support of our three local authorities who have part funded a total of 34 PCSO posts.

PCSO's carry out a fundamental role in the community by complementing and supporting regular police officers, providing a visible and accessible uniformed presence in our communities, and therefore greater public reassurance as well as helping to reduce people's fear of crime.

One of the main areas of focus for our neighbourhood policing teams is tackling criminal damage, which is often caused by issues such as underage drinking and other anti-social behaviour. However the teams are now able to try a new approach to dealing with offenders in such



Painting over graffiti



Before...

situations, namely Restorative Justice. This approach looks at reducing re-offending by encouraging offenders to come face to face with their victims to hear about how their actions have impacted upon others, and to agree ways in which to 'repair' the damage they have caused.

This new approach was recently carried out in Leyland when two offenders received £40 fixed penalty notices and were made to paint over the graffiti they had left on a toilet block in Worden Park - giving the toilets a brand new coat of paint.

## “OPERATION SUMMER NIGHTS CYCLING TEAM”

Neighbourhood Police in Bamber Bridge teamed up with the Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service and South Ribble Borough Council's Park Rangers, to carry out joint cycle patrols in the village's parks recently.

The officers carried out patrols on pedal cycles and targeted anti-social behaviour and drink related crime as part of "Operation Summer Nights".

PC Richard Howarth from the Bamber Bridge Neighbourhood Policing Team said, "Patrolling on bikes is very effective. It gives us the ability to get about quickly and to places that can be inaccessible to a vehicle. We are also still able to maintain that all important contact with the public. By working together we will hopefully be able to take a joint approach to any problems we come across."



## “BIG CLEAN UP IN ASHURST IS HAILED A SUCCESS”

In August around 30 people took part in a big clean operation in Ashurst, Skelmersdale.

Lancashire Constabulary, West Lancashire District Council, Action Douglas and Yarrow and Ashurst Residents Association joined forces with volunteers from the local community, to organise a weekend of litter picking and general cleaning up of untidy areas on the Ashurst Estate.

The event was organised as part of the Police and Communities Together (PACT) initiative run by Lancashire Constabulary, which aims

to solve local problems by engaging with the local community.

PC Chris Thompson, the Community Beat Manager for the area commented, "The event was a real success with many people giving up their free time to help us with this clean up which I would personally like to thank them for. We have removed lots of items of rubbish making the area look a lot better."



Big Clean up in Ashurst

# “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](http://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.



## 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](http://www.lancspa.gov.uk)

Written questions should be addressed to:  
Miranda Carruthers-Watt,  
Chief Executive  
Lancashire Police Authority  
PO Box 653  
Preston  
PR2 2WB

Email: [miranda.carruthers-watt@lpa.lancscc.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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.

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



## “OFFICERS ARE RECOGNISED AT DIVISION’S AWARD CEREMONY”



Lancashire Constabulary’s Southern Division held its second annual awards ceremony earlier this year, to recognise all those officers and staff that had received either a Chief Constable’s or Divisional Commander’s Commendation.

The event was held on June 18th at Samlesbury Hall, near Blackburn and staff were invited to attend with guests. In total over 70 people attended the event with over 20 police officers, police staff and members of the Special Constabulary from across the Division receiving recognition for their commendations. Acts of bravery were recognised as well as work performed by a Crime Scene Examiner at Skelmersdale and a Divisional Analyst. The venue proved to be a great setting for the evening with family members and guests also having the opportunity to have a look round the Hall.

One of the awards went to officers who perform the role of road death Family Liaison Officers (FLO) within the Division. These roles involve

specially trained officers supporting the families of people killed in road traffic collisions and the victims and families of those involved in life threatening and life changing collisions. The officers all volunteer to undertake this role in addition to their day to day job and in the last 3 years the team of 8 FLO’s have dealt with 119 families.

Chief Superintendent Irene Curtis commented, “The event was a real success and I have received some really good feedback from the officers and family members that attended. It was a great opportunity to publicly recognise the great work that our officers and staff do.”

## “SOUTHERN DIVISION WIN AWARDS AT FORCE POP CONFERENCE”



Pictured – L-R PC Kevin Bond, Chief Supt Irene Curtis, PC Gary Johnson

The Constabulary held its annual Problem Orientated Partnership (POP) Conference at Park Hall in May this year and we were delighted that two officers from the Division won the top award for an initiative to reduce criminal damage, whilst our Scenes of Crime Supervisor picked up the Organisational Problem Solving Award.

PC’s Kevin Bond and Gary Johnson who are Community Beat Managers in South Ribble were successful in the criminal damage category for the work they carried out to tackle problems at The Maltings, a purpose built apartment complex situated in a residential area of Penwortham.

Scanning of police incidents for Middleforth and consultation with the community via PACT identified ‘The Maltings’ as a location of concern requiring many police and fire responses. Police logs showed that over the six month period 01/01/05 to 30/06/05 police responded to 93 incidents at the premises, 20 of which were anti social in nature. The CBMs worked closely with the Housing Association and developed a stricter vetting process for new tenants. They also encouraged tenants

to get involved in PACT meetings and to report information against the minority that were causing the problems.

Their work resulted in a significant reduction in calls to the emergency services for attendance at The Maltings; in the first six months of 2006 there was a 43% reduction in the number of calls to the police with anti-social incidents being reduced by 97% in the same period. When residents were surveyed after the implementation of the initiative it was evident that their quality of life had improved dramatically.

Our Senior Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) Beth Brown was also recognised at the conference and presented with the award for the best problem solving initiative which addressed an organisational issue. In response to issues around crime scene preservation, Beth and her team developed a Crime Scene House where officers can learn about how best to protect a scene. The police station at Tarleton was used as a venue and was set up as a burglary scene. Operational officers attend the house as part of a training package and they are filmed examining the scene and then receive feedback from the CSIs on how they have performed. The officers that have completed the scenario have since shown greater awareness when attending incidents on forensics and scene preservation. As a result the CSI’s have been able to recover more evidence which has ultimately led to improved detection rates.

## Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating in Chorley

Chorley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) has launched a new process named MATAAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating).

In January this year the CDRP purchased equipment so that they could plot incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour in their area. The data was processed through the software and hotspots were quickly identified in the target areas thus giving a complete picture of crime, disorder, graffiti, fly-tipping and fires etc for the whole neighbourhood.

Each month members of the principle agencies including the Police, Fire and Rescue through to the Benefits Agency, Registered Social Landlords and members of the security detail at Chorley and District Hospital attend a meeting where the information is presented and data and intelligence is exchanged. Actions are allocated to agencies involved and two weeks later an interim meeting tracks progress of the actions and reviews any current issues.

As a result of the process the CDRP has been able to provide diversionary activities in areas that previously may have gone unnoticed through the previous MAP’s forums. Front line resources have been deployed to specific locations and there has been an increase in Youth Referrals, there have also been specific needs catered for by identifying problem children and engaging with them on new and innovative projects.

All the data and actions will be regularly reviewed and the process will help towards forming the Strategic Assessment later this year.

For further information contact Phil Towndrow 01257 515344.

## Tackling Alcohol Issues in West Lancashire

£20,000 has been poured into new measures to slash the number of young people binge drinking



West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (WLCSP) has given more funding to Lancashire County Council’s Youth and Community Service for them to carry on delivering a number of initiatives to warn teenagers about the dangers of drinking. The idea behind the project is to reduce alcohol-related incidents, target underage drinking and to highlight the health risks. This initiative was first launched last year with a major alcohol awareness campaign. It was so successful that the WLCSP has given the project another cash injection so that this good work can continue until March 2008.

Clr David Westley, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, said: “With this latest cash injection the money is to be used to produce a DVD as an awareness resource for schools; educate parents about alcohol so that

they can pass this onto their siblings; organise a number of non-alcohol events to show that you can socialise without drinking on a night out; target new college students about sensible drinking; and encourage agencies to work together and bridge any gaps in current services”.

Bill Taylor, Chairman of the WLCSP, said: “Tackling alcohol related problems are a big priority for us and I applaud the work that is being done across the district. Underage and binge drinking can have a negative impact on our society and we want to do all that we can to nip it in the bud. I’m confident that this latest project will help in our fight against this common problem of underage and binge drinking.”

For more information about the work of the WLCSP, visit the Council’s website [www.westlancsdc.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.westlancsdc.gov.uk/communitysafety).

# "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](http://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"**