



Lancashire
POLICE AUTHORITY
Your County, Your Police, Your Say

“DIALOGUE”

Issue 6 - November 2007

Western

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

“NIGHTSAFE 2”

Plans are underway to re-launch the successful Nightsafe campaign by local police and their partners this winter.

Nightsafe 2 aims to encourage people to drink in a socially responsible way, have a good time with friends and wake up the next morning with no regrets.

Inspector Keith Ogle says, “We want people to enjoy themselves, have a good time, drink sensibly and not regret drinking to excess. Drinking to excess impacts not only on individuals but on families and communities. We see the impact of excessive drinking in our crime statistics especially in the areas of domestic abuse and football violence. There are also issues around personal safety, as having that one drink too many may mean people put themselves in vulnerable positions as their judgment is impaired.

The previous campaign was extremely successful and whilst we want to retain the same Nightsafe branding in terms of look and ethos, we want to broaden the imagery to appeal to a more diverse audience. We have recruited a group of local people to be the new faces of Nightsafe and they're all just ordinary people from different backgrounds that enjoy going out for a drink with friends.

We know that drinking to excess is not exclusive to groups of young men and women. Older and supposedly more sensible people drinking at home can often get through one or two glasses of wine too many at night. We hope that the new campaign, themed around ‘the people we turn into when we've had one too many’ will strike a cord with people young and old.”



NEW CAMPAIGN FOR FYLDE

Fylde Community Safety Partnership launched a new campaign in October to ask parents ‘Do you know where your children are tonight?’

An advertisement will run in the local cinema magazine which will be distributed to all households over the next twelve months.

For further information please contact Bryan Ward 01253 658467

“TACKLING VIOLENT CRIME WITH NEW HIGH-TECH HEAD CAMERAS”

Head cameras on trial by officers in Blackpool Central and South are now to be used to tackle and detect cases of violent crime including town centre alcohol related crime and Domestic Abuse. The head cameras, which have already proved successful in Plymouth in reducing incidents of violence, are a useful visual deterrent to violence in all shapes and forms, as people will be aware their actions are being recorded.

BSafe Blackpool has provided the original funding for the scheme, after successfully obtaining a £20,000 grant from the Home Office. Initial findings are that the cameras provide indisputable evidence and successful convictions at court have increased accordingly.

The camera is attached to the officer's head, following eye movement and film everything the officer sees. When entering premises where domestic violence has been reported the cameras record behaviour,

language and also any physical evidence of abuse. When the footage is played back to the victim and offender the results are startling. The victim is much more likely to give a statement and the offender is often unaware that the behaviour displayed is totally unacceptable. It is hoped one of the results will be more guilty pleas at interview and court, resulting in reduced time and effort by the police and their partners in order to secure successful convictions for offences. It is also hoped that where witnesses retract or don't show up at court, CPS will still be able to press charges against the perpetrator using the video evidence.



“NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VEHICLE FOR FYLDE”

Keep an eye out for Fylde's new Community Engagement vehicle as it provides a visual treat on the roads and a source of information to residents about services across the Borough.

The vehicle has been purchased jointly by the Fylde Community Safety Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership to supply a portable display and information centre. It will attend events, appearing directly in communities, providing information on local services and promoting crime prevention initiatives.

Fylde Community Safety Manager Bryan Ward said “The vehicle is a high profile one which has been graphically designed, showing all areas of the Fylde. Our message is ‘Engaging with the Community’ and all our partners have been encouraged to make full use of it. The vehicle saw its first official outing as part of Fylde Borough Listening Day on Saturday 22nd September and will be used by various agencies in the Borough including the Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Borough and County Councillors and also by charities including Age Concern who will be using the vehicle each week to travel around the rural areas.”

Your Local NHP (Neighbourhood Policing) teams are now benefiting from the new community bus. PCSO Ed Watterson says. “We will be using the bus to engage with local youngsters in some of our more



Left to right: County Councillor Bernard Whittle Chair of Fylde CDRP; Mr Michael Wren-Hilton, Chair of the Fylde LSP; Councillor Dawn Prestwich, Fylde Borough Council Community Safety Champion and in the drivers seat PCSO Ed Watterson.

troubled hot spot areas in the Fylde. We hope that young people will use the facilities the bus has to offer and benefit from some of the materials in the bus, including information on substance misuse, sexual health and alcohol. Young people will be able to come along and see us in a non-judgmental environment and talk to us frankly about their problems. We also hope that residents seeing the bus will be reassured that we are working with young people in their area.”

“ADOPT-A-POT FUN DAY”

Problems in one neighbourhood in the Tyldesley ward area of Blackpool had broken down to the point where residents were thinking of moving. The problems were mainly around children playing in the street, stone throwing and problems with car parking.



In an effort to bring back some community spirit and get residents talking about the problems, the local Neighbourhood Policing Team applied for a Community Investment Award to a scheme aimed at breaking down the barriers between residents and re-building relationships.

The local PCSO, Clare Crook came up with the brilliant idea of inviting the residents to an ADOPT-A-POT event whereby local children and neighbours got together to plant flower beds and planters in the gardens of their street. Local landlords, MUIR Housing, donated £150 to buy the equipment including pots, plants, watering cans and prizes.

Residents including children had great fun choosing their pot, painting on a design and planting seeds and bulbs and everyone that took part took home a free watering can.

The day was a great success and went a long way towards rebuilding community spirit in the neighbourhood.

“KEEP YOUR SAT NAV SAFE!”

More and more of us are getting the latest high tech systems for our cars, but they can sometimes present opportunist criminals with easy pickings.

Here are some tips on how to keep your Sat Nav safe.

- If you do have one, take it with you when you leave your vehicle and consider placing a prominent notice in your car stating that the system has been removed.
- Where possible, do not even leave the cradle for the system on display and wipe away any sucker marks, a thief will assume it is in your glove box.
- Mark your satellite navigation system with your postcode and house number or your vehicle registration number, using special security markers, or bring it to advertised security marking sessions.
- Make a record of the make, model and serial number.
- Make sure your system is insured.

Thieves are opportunist so never leave anything on view in your car.

“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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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.



“POLICE WARN DRIVERS SPEEDING IN THE FYLDE”

Since the beginning of August, local police have been targeting motorists who persist in exceeding the speed limit in the Fylde, to drive home the message that driving in excess of the speed limit is dangerous.

The scheme, which is part of a wider policing Operation, has come about due to the amount of complaints received at PACT meetings about speeding.

In August and September, PCSOs Jenny Smith and Ed Watterson took the mobile speed gun to a number of complaint areas throughout Lytham and St Annes and said the results were astonishing.

PCSO Jenny Smith said, “We have been amazed at the amount of drivers that have been speeding on local roads and most of them live locally. Initially we sent warning letters to anyone doing over 35 and

up to the end of September sent out in excess of 400 letters. From the beginning of October we conducted the same checks but with officers from the division’s Road Policing Department, so anyone caught didn’t just get a warning, they were fined and received points on their licence. Although we hope our campaign was a deterrent, we want drivers to realise that if they reduce their speed by a small amount, accidents will be reduced by five percent and that will mean less deaths and serious injuries on our roads.”



“DRIVERS – DON’T GET CAUGHT OUT THIS WINTER”

This year local police want anyone that may be faced with driving in hazardous conditions to bear in mind a few simple measures that may mean the difference between getting to your destination safely and being delayed or even worse being involved in an accident.

Winter weather conditions pose special problems for even the most experienced drivers. So if you really have to travel when it has been snowing, taking these steps should increase your chances of arriving at your destination safely.

- **Make sure** that your car is well maintained, plan your route carefully and check the latest weather forecast.
- **Keep a full petrol tank.** It may be necessary to change routes or turn back during a bad snow storm.
- It’s also a good idea to keep a **breakdown kit** (warning triangle, torch, blanket, chocolate bar) in your car in case of emergency. Membership of a breakdown service is also advised.
- **The first fall of snow is very dangerous** if the roads have not been gritted. Once gritted, there should be enough grip for careful driving, but it’s when snow becomes compacted and refrozen overnight that the greatest care must be taken. Ungritted roads will become impassable by most vehicles and even gritted surfaces can remain extremely slippery.
- **Keep your windscreen and windows clear.** Keep an ice scraper handy, and use the car defroster or a clean cloth to keep the windows free of mist

- Allow more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead. At least **TEN** metres.
- **If your vehicle skids,** don’t hit the brakes! Ease off the accelerator and steer slightly into the direction of the skid until you gain control. Turn with steady rather than jerky motions.



- An equally common problem is getting **stuck in the snow.** Your wheels spin but your car goes nowhere. This is when emergency equipment is most important. Don’t continue to spin your wheels; you’ll only wind up in a deeper rut. Instead, pour sand, salt or gravel around the wheels to give them something to improve traction (An old carpet is ideal). You can also shovel snow away from the wheels and out from under the car to clear a pathway.
- **Ice is even more dangerous,** because the thicker it is, the harder it is to see. When running or standing water freezes on the road, it forms black ice. This can linger in the shadows cast by trees and buildings throughout an otherwise sunny day. So if there has been a sharp frost overnight, be careful, especially when driving through shadows that keep the sun off corners and roundabouts.

“PROPERTY MARKING PILOT”

Fylde Community Safety Partnership have initiated a Property Marking Pilot in the Central Ward of St Annes which is aimed at providing the shopkeepers and residents of St Albans Road with an added security measure.

Each commercial premise and all households are being provided with a Selecta DNA Forensic Property Marking Kit which will allow property owners to mark their items of value with a uniquely coded solution containing numerically encoded microdots This information is then stored on a database and can trace the item of property back to the owner.

The scheme forms part of the Fylde Local Strategic Partnership ‘Shaping the Place’ project which aims to address several areas of concern raised by local people.

Bryan Ward, Fylde Community Safety Manager said “We are particularly keen to run this pilot scheme which will enable us to monitor the impact it will have on burglary and acquisitive crime in this area. If it proves successful I intend to expand it to other areas”

High profile signage also forms part of the pilot and the signs display the message “THIEVES BEWARE - SELECTA DNA IS USED IN THIS AREA”

For further information contact Bryan Ward on 01253 658467



PCSO Oliver Boardman holding the Selecta DNA Sign on St Albans Road St Annes.

“COLD CALLERS NOT WELCOME”

Following the success of Blackpool’s first No Cold Calling Zone, in the Marton area, the Scheme is now to be extended across Blackpool as a result of lobbying by residents.

Over recent years there has been a notable increase in the number of businesses who use unsolicited doorstep calling as a method of canvassing new business. Whilst the majority of these businesses are genuine, there are a minority who are outright Rogue traders who provide poor quality goods or services.

In order for the Scheme to be extended local residents were consulted. The survey identified that the majority of homeowners were frustrated by the number of unsolicited callers and were in favour of implementing such a Scheme.

So how will this assist homeowners in deterring unwanted salespeople from calling? Every property in Blackpool will receive an Information Pack, which will include a “No Cold Calling Zone” sticker for them to display. It will also contain professional advice and contact details for the

Blackpool Trading Standards, Police, Fire Brigade, Age Concern and Consumer Direct.

Notices will be located on numerous lamp-posts warning businesses that the Scheme is in operation and that local residents reserve the right to ignore such unsolicited callers.

The Scheme is not intended to affect businesses who do not require a decision on the doorstep (i.e. Avon, Betterware) Charitable Collections, Political or Religious Canvassing are also exempt.

Finally to reinforce the Scheme, Blackpool Trading Standards and its partners will monitor all complaints received and, when appropriate, respond to such incidents and ensure that consumers receive the full protection of existing consumer legislation.

For more information on this Scheme please contact Trading Standards on 01253 478375.



"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"