



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

PRESTON POLICE SCOOP NATIONAL PRIZE



Preston Police Officers have come out on top and have been awarded first place in the National Tilley Awards for Problem-Oriented Policing.

The awards, funded by the Home Office recognise the best police work across the Country, and reward the most intelligent, courageous and effective approaches to dealing with the problems police encounter on the streets.

Community Beat Managers PC Dave Johnson and PC Gary Salisbury from Lancashire's Central Division won the Tilley Award for their 'MOPPIN up Dodge' project which focused on the Farringdon Park estate in Ribbleson, Preston, also known by the locals as 'Dodge City'.

A huge amount of work was put in by both the police officers involved and by partner agencies such as the Community Gateway Association, Preston Youth Offending Team and Preston City Council's Cleansing, Highways and Parks Departments to name a few.

Over a two year period, issues in the area such as high crime levels, gang culture, and low involvement and community spirit of the residents have been addressed and big improvements can now be seen in the area thanks to the work of the officers and partners.

Overall, crime has been significantly reduced by 49% which includes; a reduction of 91% in Burglary in a Dwelling, a 66% reduction in Criminal Damage and a drop of 29% in Anti-Social Behaviour.

Key members of the gang on the estate have been jailed following drugs offences and the majority of remaining members have been issued with ASBO's which stops them associating with other gang members. Gang culture has been tackled and has little impact on the area now. As well as this, local offenders were involved in reparation/community improvement work as an alternative to custodial sentences and in doing so have improved the appearance of their estate. This work has provided a sense of justice for victims and the offenders have developed pride in the projects in which they have been involved.

Following opinion surveys carried out in the area, since the project began, the fear of crime on the estate and in the surrounding areas has been reduced significantly.

Sgt Mark Morley said "We are delighted with this award and feel it is just reward for the hard work and dedication of the community team. The area has improved significantly over the past 2 years and we will continue to work with our local partners to enhance the quality of life for residents and reduce calls to service in the area"

DISPERSAL ORDER REAPING REWARDS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Residents across the Ingol ward of Preston are reaping the rewards of a new dispersal order for the area.



There has been a dramatic reduction in the number of complaints from members of the public about large groups of youths congregating at night and causing anti-social behaviour. The number of incidents of criminal damage has also reduced.

The dispersal order means that youths cannot hang out in groups of more than 2 and can be asked to leave the area and not return within a certain time. If the request is breached, the person can then be arrested. The order also gives police and PCSOs the power to take home any youth under the age of 16 after 9pm.

PC Counce, Community Beat Manager for the Ingol area, said "From speaking to members of the public, it appears the dispersal order is having the desired affect and youths are moving away from problem areas like the shopping precincts and local schools."

The order started on 1st August and will be in place until January 2008. This year's summer holidays also saw the council's park rangers accompany police community support officers out on their beats to monitor any anti-social behaviour in the area's parklands. Parks are notorious hotspots where youths will sit and congregate and regularly consume alcohol well into the early hours that results in damage being caused to play equipment. Very little damage was reported and several groups had alcohol confiscated from them.

PACT FOR ALL RESIDENTS

It became clear earlier in the year that member's of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups rarely attended PACT meetings. With this in mind the issue was discussed at a meeting with Mosque committee representatives. It was apparent that even though key messages regarding PACT meetings were regularly sent out there was a misunderstanding of the PACT process within the community.

The concept of Mosque PACT was successfully negotiated with key influencers within the community. The first meeting was held on the 14th May and was well attended with over 100 people from Mosques in the Deepdale area. The timing was key and the meeting was scheduled to run between prayer times to maximise attendance.

It was a lively debate with officers taking away three priorities to work on. The main issue that arose during the meeting was drug dealing and anti social behaviour at an address in the area.

Within days a warrant was executed at the premises and following negotiations with the housing association with responsibility for the premises, the problem tenant was evicted. At subsequent court proceedings the tenant was issued with an Anti Social Behaviour Injunction and banned from the Deepdale area for a period of two years. The community were key in these proceedings as they provided Community Impact Statements detailing how behaviour in and around this address had affected residents quality of life.

Positive feedback has been received from the Community who now feel they have a voice and can impact on policing within their area. Together with recognition that PACT and their local NHP team do deliver.

Further meetings with females and youths have also taken place proving successful at breaking down barriers with hard to reach groups.

To find out about your local PACT meeting go to www.lancashire.police.uk

“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 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:
Miranda Carruthers-Watt,
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.



CITY OFFICER REWARDED FOR WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY



It was celebrations all around when Central Officer PC Scott Archer, Community Beat Manager for Larches, Savick and Docklands, received this years National Police Award – The George Herbert Redman Award.

Scott, who has been in post for the past 16 months, has received the support of what he describes as a fantastic and truly excellent policing team, namely Bernie Moon and Michael Fox, to whom he says none of these achievements would have been possible.

Since taking up the post in October 2005 Scott and his team have targeted the areas local problem youths securing several ASBO's, targeting some local criminals and suspects through a successful Closure Order, a Dispersal Order and a class A drugs find valued at around £15,000.

The team's work first received recognition when they won the Divisional Problem Orientated Policing (POP) competition with Larches storm which focused on forging a multi agency approach with Co-op Stores, Community Gateway, Youth Offending, Cleansing, Local residents groups (PACT & Residents Associations). This work encouraged the communities to provide intelligence to Crimestoppers and resulted in warrants being served against problem individuals.

Scott has recently launched "Pub Watch" on the docks with PCSO Middleton which encompasses The Ribble Pilot, Water Front, Ship Inn, Wellington, Last Orders and Grand Junction. This initiative involves all the Land Lords attending monthly meetings to discuss problem individuals who they can then issue 'Banning Orders' against. An early warning system is also now being operated allowing landlords to actively share information about problem groups who they eject from their premises. Recently the team have obtained £20,000 of funding which will be going to improve the estates CCTV systems providing further safety and security to local people.

Scott received £400 for winning this Countywide award and has kindly nominated The Larches and Savick Amateur Boxing Club as his chosen charity to receive the winning cheque.

“RESIDENTS GET THEIR SAY” IN TACKLING CRIME IN BROOKFIELD

A groundbreaking initiative by Preston Community Safety Partnership to improve safety, tackle anti-social behaviour and clean up grime moved into Brookfield in September.

Teams acted on issues raised by residents during an ask-the-people exercise. This highlighted key concerns as litter, overgrown gardens and loitering youths as well as other crime and disorder concerns.

During the two days of action the partnership delivered dozens of actions. Included in these were:

- **Environmental Health surveyed properties for accumulations of waste and facilitated removal and gave noise advice to domestic/commercial premises particularly pubs/clubs.**
- **Community Gateway Housing Association carried out graffiti and fly tipping removal.**
- **Lancashire Fire and Rescue provided fire safety information to primary school children and carried out home fire safety checks.**
- **Preston police carried out high visibility patrols, ANPR enforcements, drug enforcement warrants, licensing visits and joint operations with DVLA, Housing Benefit and court bailiffs.**



- **Other services provided advice about responsible dog ownership and substance misuse.**

This event follows successful similar campaigns in St Matthew's, Plungington Road, the Canaries estate and Savick shops.

George Holroyd, Preston City Councils environmental protection team leader said, "We are pleased to be able to respond positively to the issues raised by local people. Our aim is to make the area look better and feel safer. It also brings together the partnership in a concentrated drive to make a difference in Brookfield".

Speaking about the police involvement in Brookfield, Community Safety Inspector, Stuart Whittle said, "The Brookfield Partnership Action Week event was another good example of joint agency working to improve the lives of people in Preston. We are committed to this programme and look forward to working with our partners in similar events in the future".

For further information contact Mike Przybysz on 01772 209676

“FULWOOD TASK FORCE”

Fulwood Police Task Force focuses on activity around the ward areas of Saint Matthews and the Trees Estate.

Says Insp June Chessell of Fulwood Police, "This is an ongoing operation aimed at targeting active criminals in the area who are making the lives of local people miserable. Our aim is disrupt their criminal lifestyle through activity which includes the conducting of street stop and searches, raiding homes, checking any property they are found in possession of and making arrests whenever and wherever possible. The message is that anyone living in the Fulwood area and who is involved in any form of criminal activity our Police Task Force will target you and arrest you."

Following three weeks of activity by the Task Force across Fulwood officers had made 43 arrests, issued 8 PND's and detected 33 crimes.

In this time police had targeted the home addresses of 38 suspected criminals conducting raids and searches and in the process recovered £2,600 worth of drugs and stolen and counterfeit property valued at £23,000.

If any member of the community who feels threatened, intimidated or concerned about a neighbour or local individuals possible criminal activity please contact the police on 203203 or speak anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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"