



Introduction

Welcome to our third Police Authority Newsletter "Dialogue", aimed at providing you with information on issues that have arisen as a result of our Police Authority Community meetings and to alert you to any other information that we think will be of interest to you.

Consulting and engaging with the public are key objectives for both the Authority and the Constabulary and your views help to influence decision-making in respect of local policing. If you wish to become more involved why not attend one of our public meetings where you could talk directly to your police authority member and senior police officers in your area. Details of the next meeting for your area can be found on the back page.

Or, you may wish to become part of the wider police family by becoming a volunteer, a special constable; or by joining a community safety scheme such as neighbourhood watch. Further information for which can be found on the Lancashire Constabulary Website at www.lancashire.police.uk

Alternatively, you may wish to register your views or opinions on policing with your police authority member from the comfort of your own home on info@lpa.lancsc.gov.uk



Ms Trish McGirr
Rossendale



County Councillor
David Whipp, Pendle

confidence remains high

As you are aware the Police Authority regularly measures the public's confidence in Lancashire Constabulary through its Citizen Panel "Opinion". Our latest survey has shown a very slight increase in public confidence from 87% in March 2006 to 88% in June 2006.

Looking at the survey results in more detail tells us that 12% of respondents claim their confidence has increased due to 'active' performance such as a positive and professional reaction, a rapid or quick response, drugs raids and arrests, positive media coverage and an increase in a visible police presence.

However, 12% of respondents claim their confidence has decreased as a result of receiving no response or a slow response from the constabulary.

Interestingly, 5% of respondents mentioned that they were less confident because of the proposed merger with Cumbria, which is now no longer going ahead so we hope their confidence will increase again by the next wave.

Public confidence and the reasons for an increase or decrease are regularly monitored and we will continue to keep you informed of the results in future editions of Dialogue.

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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.



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 Naomi Walker on 01772 531214 or e-mail naomi.walker@lpa.lancsc.gov.uk

no escape warn police as new offender management unit is launched

Specialist officers from CID, intelligence, drug treatment, and prison liaison have been brought together under one roof to create a new unit dedicated to helping tackle some of Pennine Division's most persistent offenders.

The new Offender Management Unit, based at Pennine's Divisional Headquarters in Burnley, will work closely with The National Probation Service, HM Prisons, The Youth Offending Team, Crown Prosecution Service, and other organisations to ensure that the top burglary, robbery and car crime offenders across Pennine are closely monitored and swift action co-ordinated, if they offend.

Superintendent Neil Smith, Operations Manager at Pennine said "The unit will be one of the first in the county bringing together key partners, ensuring that the most appropriate interventions are considered to prevent crime and to catch and rehabilitate offenders. This approach will help to further reduce the number of victims of crime."

Inspector Sheena Tattum from the new Offender Management Unit said "Crime continues to reduce across Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale and, working with the public and partner agencies, we aim to maintain this.

We know from experience that the vast majority of crime is

committed by a small number of repeat offenders and it is those offenders that our new unit will concentrate on."

Together with the relevant partner agencies, officers working in the new unit, will keep a close eye on known offenders and make sure that prompt action is taken if they start committing crime. Inspector Tattum said "The top offenders on our list will be watched 365 days a year and if they are committing crime, then swift action will be taken. What that action entails will depend on the individual but there are a range of tactics we can use.

Those include recommending offenders for targeting through the National Intelligent Model and the new Offender Management Unit traffic light risk management process, or where appropriate, drug treatment to help break the individual's cycle of crime. Electronic tagging and recall to prison, are also options." She continued "Of course, keeping an eye on offenders is nothing new - it is something the relevant agencies have always done. However, by bringing together experts working throughout the criminal justice system and by concentrating on those who commit the greatest number of crimes, our new unit should be more effective and help ensure that crime across the Pennine Policing Division continues to reduce."



Bobbies go on the B-EAT in local Schools

Neighbourhood Police Officers in Pendle are swapping their batons for baked potatoes in an initiative designed to encourage greater interaction between police and local youngsters.

Neighbourhood Officers - including local Community Beat Managers and Police Community Support Officers - are to start taking their lunch breaks in local school canteens opting for salad or soup with the students, rather than a sandwich at the station.

The idea is the brainchild of Pendle Youth Involvement Officer PC Dave Richardson, himself a familiar face in local schools. He hopes it will enable his colleagues to get to know local youngsters better and be a real recipe for success in terms of ensuring pupils get to know and trust local officers.

He said "We're committed to Neighbourhood Policing in Pendle which means officers working with local people to solve local problems.

That can only happen if the people living and working in our local communities - including the younger generation - get to know officers and what better way to do that than by spending time with them over lunch?"

He continued "Of course, there are already a wide range of ways in which local youngsters can contact officers, for example by stopping them on the beat, by ringing them on their mobile or by going along to the regular Police And Community Together meetings. However, we're wise enough to know that some young people won't want to sit through a public meeting or feel confident enough to stop an officer on the beat. That's why, we are reaching out to local young people and encouraging them to get to know us in a more informal setting. That way, if and when they do need to speak to an officer about something, they will know a friendly and familiar local officer they can turn to."

He concluded: "Officers clearly won't be able to spend every lunch break in local schools but hopefully by popping in every now and then they can start to build even better relationships with local youngsters and get to know a little more about their opinions and concerns."

Police Surgeries for Hate Crime Victims

VICTIMS of hate crime are being offered help and advice at a series of Police Surgeries to be held at the St Peters Centre in Burnley Town Centre.

Anyone who feels that they are being singled out for abuse because of their age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, faith or race is welcome to attend the surgeries which are being held by PC Bev Taylor from Pennine Division's Hate Crime and Diversity Unit.

The next one will take place on the 20th December between 10am and 12 noon.

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.

PC Bev Taylor "Not everyone feels comfortable visiting the Police Station which is why we are increasingly using community venues for Police surgeries and advice sessions.

The surgeries at St Peter's Centre 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.

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 come along and speak to us, don't suffer in silence."

Quality counts

Lancashire Constabulary has been working hard behind the scenes over the past 18 months in readiness for the police national customer service standards that became effective on 1st November 2006. These improvements have been progressing under the working title of "Quality Counts".

Superintendent Bill McMahon, from the Constabulary's Corporate Development Department told us "The Quality Counts agenda is being integrated into everything the Constabulary does. Quality of Service and Customer Care is and will remain part of our 'business as usual' approach."

The national standards consist of:

- Making it easy to contact the police
- The provision of a professional and high quality service
- Dealing with initial enquiries from the public
- Keeping people informed
- Ensuring the public voice counts
- Victims of Crime
- Complaints
- Freedom of Information

He added "In order to meet the standards we have to communicate them to staff, train our staff, put policies, systems & working practices in place to support the commitments and have the necessary people and technology in place to deliver them. In addition we then have to check that the commitments are being delivered.

What is clear is that local work already undertaken supports the commitments and demonstrates that the Constabulary want to do more than is expected at a national level. For example,

monthly PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings held in each of our Neighbourhood Policing Areas, give residents the opportunity to raise any issues/concerns directly with local policing teams. These issues are then translated into local policing priorities - ensuring that we focus on what matters most to residents.

Much of the work undertaken within the Constabulary has, rightly so, been in support of Victims of Crime. Information gathered by talking with victims has influenced our approach to training and as a result, we use real-life video case studies during officer and staff training to demonstrate what is important.

In addition, re-contact bureaus in each of our policing divisions have dedicated staff, supported by a newly developed IT package, which ensure that victims of crime are kept informed about the progress of their case at key stages."

Superintendent McMahon concluded, "Whilst we will endeavour to give a 'right first time' approach, we realise that we do sometimes get things wrong. We will actively seek feedback and make every effort to put things right - trying to ensure it does not happen again.

We produce and distribute Victim Care Packs - which give Victims information in relation to what to expect from the police and include contact numbers and crime reference numbers.

We are committed to providing a world-class service and we see the Quality Counts programme and Neighbourhood Policing Service as being at the heart of the Government's Citizen Focus Agenda".

help for victims & witnesses across the county



Victim Support Lancashire is a registered charity. It supports crime victims, witnesses, their family and friends.

- It offers a free and confidential service irrespective of whether or not a crime has been reported to the police
- It raises public awareness and recognition of the effects of crime
- It promotes victims and witnesses rights in all aspects of criminal justice and social policy

Staff and volunteers are trained to provide emotional support, information and practical help to people who have suffered the effects of

crime ranging from burglary to the murder of a relative.

Victim Support also runs the Witness Service, based in all the criminal courts. Here, staff and volunteers are trained to provide support and information about the court process to witnesses, victims and their families, before, during and after the trial.

Recently we are also able to offer our service at a number of Outreach venues across the county.

Please contact your local office for further information:

AREA OFFICE

Preston

Tel: 01772 828422

Central District Office

Covering Preston area, Chorley & West Lancashire.
Tel: 01772 201142

Eastern District Office

Covering Blackburn, Darwen, Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale & Ribbles Valley.
Tel: 0845 373 2456

Northern District Office

Covering Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, Lancaster & Morecambe.
Tel: 0845 373 2458

Burnley Crown Court Witness Service

Tel: 01282 452334

Lancaster Witness Service

Tel: 01524 62907

Preston Crown Court Witness Service

Tel: 01772 844836

Preston Magistrates Court Witness Service

Tel: 01772 887439

Blackpool Witness Service

Tel: 01253 296253

Blackburn & Hyndburn Witness Service

Tel: 01254 265305

Pennine Witness Service

Tel: 01282 425780

Chorley, Leyland & Ormskirk Witness Service

Tel: 01772 453556

setting the police agenda: policing priorities 2007-2008

Each year as part of my role here at the Authority, I approach Lancashire residents to find out their views and opinions about policing. Meeting and talking to residents helps me collect valuable information about how policing is being delivered in the area, what is working and what isn't, what issues and concerns local communities have and how the police are working with them to resolve the situation. This approach also means that areas are identified which the public either want to know more about, have concerns about or are identifying as an area for further action.

Alongside this, views, information and feedback from Lancashire residents are also collected from OPINION (our independent

Citizens panel); from emails and online survey responses received via the Authority's website; by issuing questionnaires to all members of the Police Authority Community Meetings; and from other specific research and surveying activity such as on-street surveys and conducting face to face interviews. In addition, I also look at letters I have received from the public.

Each year the Authority sets a number of policing priorities for the Constabulary and as Chair of the Authority it is important to me that these priorities reflect the public's priorities and concerns.

As part of the wider consultation process, I am now asking for your views for this specific process. I

want to know firstly, how successful you believe the Constabulary has been this year on delivering the existing priorities and secondly, what you consider to be the important policing priorities for next year. In addition I am seeking views on the resources needed to pay for policing. I would like to know how much you as a Lancashire resident are willing to pay for policing and where that money should be targeted.

Public involvement is critical to the process and I am inviting you, a reader of dialogue to have your say.

By visiting our website www.lancspa.gov.uk you can complete an online survey and give us your views. If you prefer a postal survey you can contact our



Communications Manager, Naomi Walker on 01772 531214 to request one. **Please note that we need your views by the end of December**

Remember, your views do help shape the decisions that the Authority makes so if you want to have your say on next year policing priorities and budgets, now is the time to do it.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Malcolm Doherty
Chair

Disability Equality

Lancashire Police Authority recently hosted a unique consultation event with disabled people to help the Authority write their New disability equality scheme. The new scheme looks to :-

- promote equality of opportunity between disabled people and other people;
- eliminate discrimination against disabled people;
- eliminate harassment of disabled people that is related to their disabilities;
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people;
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life; and
- take steps to take

account of disabled people's impairments, even where that involves treating disabled people more favourably than other people.

Over 40 people came along on the day to share their views, give practical suggestions and outline particular barriers that disabled people face and discuss how these issues can be overcome effectively.

This innovative half day event was held at the Gujarat Hindu Centre. The event was designed to be creative, informative, interactive and fun and featured a drama performance from the 'Certain Curtain' theatre

company as well as providing participants with the opportunity to take part in art-based activities provided by 'Prescap' (Preston Community Arts Project).

Lancashire Police Authority member Howard Gore, who has specific responsibility for Disability as part of his diversity portfolio, said, "This was the first consultation event of its kind undertaken by the Authority and we welcomed the constructive and open communication that we had with people who have first hand experience of the difficulties faced when accessing services for those who are disabled in any way. We have learned



from their experience and will aim to put their ideas into practice to improve the service we provide.

If you would like more information regarding the Authority's new disability equality scheme, visit the Authority's website at www.lancspa.gov.uk or contact Christine Durber on (01772) 533415.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

did you know?

The Lancashire Constabulary Community Volunteer Scheme is going from strength to strength. Established in June 2004 the scheme is now fully incorporated into the organisation.

To date, over 580 volunteers regularly give up their time in order to assist the constabulary in providing a better quality of service to the communities of Lancashire. The roles they perform vary from keeping victims of crime updated on how their case is progressing to assisting Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the heart of their own communities.



Margaret Mills preparing a 'mail shot'. At 85, Margaret is the Constabulary's oldest volunteer.

Volunteering is proving to be a valuable tool for gaining citizenship skills for young people who are just starting out on a career path and a great way of giving something back to their own community for others.

Our volunteers are meeting new people, embracing different cultures and gaining new skills.

More importantly they are helping us to become more transparent and assisting us build bridges and strengthen our ties with the people of Lancashire.

If you are interested in joining the Lancashire Constabulary Community Volunteer Scheme please contact your local volunteer co-ordinator:

Blackpool:	PC 1770 Gordon BIRT	(01253) 604241
Lancaster:	PC 785 Steve BROADBENT	(01524) 596424
Leyland:	PC 2641 Jean BAKER	(01772) 415884
Preston:	Mr Eryl EDWARDS	(01772) 209107
Blackburn:	PC 6177 Ann WEBSTER	(01254) 353547
Burnley:	PC 1345 Chris COLLETT	(01282) 472948
HQ:	PC 2964 Alec CARTER	(01772) 410326

raising the standard

Over the years there has been a certain amount of confusion and uncertainty by the public surrounding work of the Constabulary in relation to complaints and the police complaints procedure. Therefore, in the next few editions of "Dialogue" we will be taking a look behind the scenes of the Professional Standards Department who are responsible for dealing with complaints against police officers and police staff.

This series of articles coincide with the appointment of Detective Chief Superintendent Clive Tattum as the new head of the Professional Standards Department.

On your behalf we spoke to Mr Tattum who told us he is keen to continue the good work of his predecessor, and members of the department, which has resulted in Lancashire Professional Standards Department being recognised for it's good practice in the recent HMIC document 'Raising the Standard'.

That said, Mr Tattum is determined to improve the performance of the department yet further. The focus of his activity will be around the quality of the service provided by the constabulary, ensuring that the police officers have a respect for and an understanding of diversity issues and to ensure that the high standards are maintained and improved.

He said: "All members of Lancashire's communities have the right to expect the highest quality of service on each and every occasion we have any dealings with them".

It is also understandable that where the service, behaviour or actions of a member of staff falls below the required standard, members of the community have a right to express their dissatisfaction. This can be either to the Constabulary or to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Where complaints are made I will ensure that quality, timely, fair and proportionate investigations are carried out."

**IN THE NEXT EDITION - RAISING THE STANDARD:
Focus on the Reactive Unit of the Professional Standards Department.**



Detective Chief Superintendent Clive Tattum

BEHIND THE HEADLINES - how does the Constabulary ensure good levels of service?

There's no prize for guessing that the most popular method for the public to get in touch with the Constabulary is by telephoning a police communication centre. But do you know what goes on behind the scenes to ensure the level of service is maintained.

Over the last 18 months the number of concerns raised at Police Authority Community meetings about the speed in which the Constabulary answers the phone has reduced significantly. However, concerns continue to be raised about the quality of response and the service received from the communications operator.

Therefore, on your behalf we have spoken to the Constabulary's Contact Management Unit (CMU) about the work they do, to ensure that structures and processes are in place to give members of the public easy access to the police and a satisfactory service when they do so.

The CMU, in addition to monitoring local performance indicators (such as the time it takes to answer 999 and non 999 calls on a daily basis) also monitors staffing levels at each of the communication centres ensuring that there is enough staff to handle the volume of callers. The

CMU also works with colleagues from the recruitment and training departments to simplify the way in which people are recruited to these jobs and ensure that they receive the right training.

The CMU also examines call and incident handling processes to make sure they remain fit for purpose as well as acting as an advisor to communication centres' staff; helping them to deliver and recognise good practice or areas for further development. This can be in the form of action plans to address under performance in answering 999 calls and non 999 calls and once action plans are agreed, progress against them is monitored on a regular basis until satisfactory performance is resumed.

We spoke to Graham Keyte from the CMU who told us "The National Call Handling Standards set out a number of standards to improve customer satisfaction and staff are being trained in



delivering a quality service. This will mean their work will be subject to random checks as part of their development plan. Also, every three months, the CMU reviews each communications centre by looking at Call handling performance records, maintaining standards on how the data is captured by the communications staff and ensuring that the correct classification of incident and crime related incidents are recorded.

Questions such as 'Have

we dealt with the incident appropriately?' 'did an officer attend within the agreed timescale?' and 'is the result appropriate?' are asked. These reviews include the results of satisfaction surveys from people who have recently contacted each centre. Part of the review also includes structured audits conducted by CMU, where staff dip sample certain elements of an incident to ensure areas that will improve customer satisfaction are maintained."



christmas message

When you're out and about doing that late night Christmas shopping, make sure you lock all doors and windows at home - and use light timers, or leave a light or the radio on, so people think that you're in.

Don't make it easy for criminals.

a wheely great way to get around!

NEIGHBOURHOOD Police Officers in Padiham are stepping up a gear in order to make fighting crime - and getting around their beat - a little easier.

They are donning cycle helmets and jumping on new Police Bikes, which are designed to assist them in patrolling their areas and getting to places where a patrol car can't.

Police have secured bikes and special uniform for four of their officers as well as a servicing deal with Halford's Bike Hut. However, if the bikes prove successful, they then plan to extend the scheme and give more local officers access to pedal power.

Padiham's Neighbourhood Sergeant Phil Hutchinson, who recently joined his officers on cycle patrol, said: "Bikes can be a fantastic way to get around a beat area because unlike when you are in a patrol area, you can

see and hear more and people can stop you and talk to you just as easily as they can a walking officer.

"Clearly bikes aren't suitable for everywhere in Padiham but we have recently used them on patrol around Gawthorpe Hall, Gannow, the Tim Bobbin area, Memorial Park, Ightenhill park, Farraday Park, Victoria Road and Padiham Town Centre to name but a few areas.

"The patrols have been very successful. They've enabled us to interact more with the community, particularly local youngsters who have happily stopped and chatted to us.

"They have also been useful in terms of enforcement enabling us to patrol areas frequented by underage drinkers. In the past fortnight alone we've come across litres and litres of alcohol all of which has been poured away in front of young drinkers."

Sergeant Hutchinson said officers won't use the bikes all the time - foot patrol and mobile patrols will still be used - but the bikes will provide an additional patrol option.

He said: "So far, feedback from members of the public has been fantastic. Residents of all ages, including some of the younger ones, seem to think it is a great

idea and it certainly attracts attention and encourages people to stop and talk to us. As far as I am concerned, that's what Neighbourhood Policing is all about.

"Bobbies on bikes isn't new but I think it's the first time we've tried it in Padiham, and so far, everyone seems to like it, including the officers."



Don't Get Left In Dark When it Comes To Security Say Police

Now that the days are shorter, police are issuing a reminder to all householders to check lighting and security and brush up on those good security habits that may have been relaxed during the summer.

Simon Evans from Burnley Police said "Crime levels, including burglary figures, are currently at an all time low in Pendle but it is important that homeowners don't become complacent. Now that the dark nights are upon us, now is the time to double check security and lighting and make sure that your home is adequately protected."

He urged homeowners to:

- Consider fitting a burglar alarm system - which provides a visible deterrent to the front and back of your home as well as audible warning. Even a cheap DIY one is better than nothing at all
- Check your outside security lighting is working.
- Check that your tools, spades, ladders, etc which may be left out in your garden or yard are securely locked away.
- Make sure doors and windows are locked and secure when you leave your home.
- Beware of the 'bogus caller' at the door. Keep them out, and call the Police.
- Leave a light on in a room and remember to draw the curtains when you go out at night or invest in a timer switch for lights when next shopping. They are now cheaply available from many of the main stores and supermarkets.
- Mark your postcode and house number on your expensive electrical equipment and property with a UV security pen, permanent marker or engraver.
- Keep the garden tidy with shrubs and trees cut back so they can't provide a screen for thieves.
- Put house and car keys away safely where they cannot be seen when they are not in use and well away from the doors they unlock.

PC Evans concluded "Crime is extremely low - working together we can keep it that way. If people follow these handy hints and tips they can reduce the risk of being targeted by thieves even further."

ABUSE OF 999 SYSTEM WASTING VALUABLE TIME SAY POLICE

POLICE in Lancashire Constabulary's Pennine Division are concerned following an increase in abuse and misuse of the 999 system.

Officers say that Pennine Communications Room (which handles around 30,000 calls a month), has seen a 25% increase in the number of emergency calls over recent months; many of which are unnecessary.

Problems are being experienced with:

- Giggling children making hoax 999 calls
- Mobile phone users misusing the 999 service when they run out of credit simply because its free
- Pranksters making malicious calls which tie up not just communications operators, but police officers too.
- Drunks abusing the 999 system.

Communications Team Inspector Phil Davies said "The 999 system exists in case of an emergency. It is intended to be used only when there is a crime in progress or where life is at risk.

As it stands, people are ringing the number when there is no need to and this is simply not acceptable.

While communications operators are dealing with these unnecessary 999 calls; people in genuine need of emergency help may well be trying to get through.

At best, these types of irresponsible calls are wasting valuable time at the very worst, they could ultimately cost lives."

He warned that anyone making hoax calls or malicious calls will be traced and could end up with a hefty fine or, in the case of mobile phone prankster, a dead line.

"There are a range of penalties which can be imposed on those who are caught abusing the 999 system. £80 fines can be issued and indeed around a dozen have been issued over the past two months. In addition, people making hoax calls from mobiles can be cut off by their network provider - four people have already been cut off this month.

Finally, in extreme cases or in the case of repeat offenders; people can also be hauled before the courts.

Our message is simple. For the sake of those who genuinely need emergency help, please do not abuse the 999 system."

999 is the number to call in an emergency. The number for all non-emergencies is 0845 1 253545.

casualties reduced as motorcyclists are urged: ride safely

Road Policing Officers in Pennine Division have been taking part in a Lancashire-wide campaign designed to help reduce the number of motorbike accidents on the county's roads.

The 'Ride Safe, Back Safe' campaign spearheaded locally by police and supported by the County Council, Ambulance Service, Road Safety Partnership and local cycle retailers, has reduced casualties amongst motorcyclists by 22% over the last three months, when compared to the previous year.

As part of the campaign officers in Pennine have been taking a variety of action including stopping and speaking to motorcyclists on key roads and

giving out education packs.

These packs include details of a free Rider Assessment Course run by Lancashire County Council - which gives riders an opportunity to have their skills assessed with a view to improving their riding - along with information about first aid courses and advanced riding courses.

Officers have also involved local cycle retailers encouraging them to promote the Ride Safe, Back Safe campaign, and in particular, the free rider assessment course.

PC Mark Darlington from Pennine Division's Road Policing Unit said "The vast majority of bike riders are responsible and will probably

never have the misfortune of being involved in an accident. However, there are other riders whose skills aren't so well honed and who fail to realise the potentially devastating impact that high speed, poor cornering, poor overtaking and bad weather conditions, can have.

The last thing we want to see is riders being killed or seriously injured because of this which is why we are keen to work with both motorcycles and local retailers to make sure local riders bike safely.

Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the courses can contact Police motorcyclist PC Mark Darlington at the Pennine Division Road Policing Unit on 01282 472542.

Don't be a turkey at Christmas



The number of accidental fires in the home increase significantly over the Christmas period.

Many are caused by cooking related incidents attributed to the occupier being under the influence of alcohol whilst cooking.

Please don't drink and cook!

39% of people that are killed in fires had consumed alcohol.

For a free home fire safety check and smoke detector from the Lancashire Fire and Rescue service call 0800 169 1125.

Christmas message

When you're out and about, doing that late night Christmas shopping don't give car thieves a chance. Park in busy or well-lit and attended car parks near CCTV cameras or in police-approved car parks. Don't make it easy for criminals.



The next scheduled Police Authority Community Meetings for Pennine

BURNLEY

**Sion Baptist Church Hall, Church Street, Burnley BB11 2DW
Monday, 19th February, 2007 at 7.00pm**

ROSSENDALE

**Edenfield Community Centre, Off Exchange Street, Edenfield BLO 0JA
Thursday, 22nd February, 2007 at 7.00pm (Please note - Although there is disabled access to this venue, there is currently no disabled toilet)**

PENDLE

**Colne Town Hall, Albert Road, Colne BB8 0AQ
Wednesday, 28th February, 2007 at 7.00pm**

Cars Could Be Lost as they Defrost Warn Police!

Whilst defrosting is a must in icy conditions, please don't leave your engine running with the keys in the ignition as this is an open invitation to thieves.

Rossendale Crime Prevention Officer PC Sally Atkinson said: "Car crime levels are currently at an all time low but last winter we had a couple of vehicles stolen after they were left unattended with keys in the ignition. Our advice to motorists this winter is simple. Never leave your car unlocked and unattended, especially with keys in the ignition. It's far too tempting for thieves."

Information and advice on crime prevention, including how best to prevent vehicle crime, is available from all local police stations.

Contact Details

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 533462**

Remember...

If the police don't know about a problem they cannot do anything about it.