



Hello from the Communications Team!

Welcome to our fourth 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.

For this edition we thought we should introduce ourselves and give you a quick insight into our roles at the Police Authority.



Naomi Walker, Communications Manager

Description - An adorer of sour cream and chive Pringles, all things Flemish and a huge 'Lost' fanatic.

Role - responsible for the developing and delivering of public consultation activities, external publications and community events as well as coordinating internal and external communications, giving feedback to the public about the Authority and making sure that the public views on policing are fed into the Authority's performance scrutiny and planning process.

Why get out of bed in the morning? "I live such a hectic life... balancing the intricacies of my quest for the perfect lipstick between being a wife and mother and doing a job I really enjoy...give me a reason to stay in bed!"



Ian Dickinson, Administrator

Description - The proud owner of 'Dads taxi's', all things Maltese and a Preston North End Fan (well, someone has to be)

Role - to assist the Communications Manager in the delivery of public consultation activities, external publications and community events as well as co-ordinating the Authority's Independent Custody and Animal Welfare Schemes and servicing Police Authority Committees.

Why get out of bed in the morning? "My wife tells me to!"



Danielle Norton, Administrative Assistant

Description - I enjoy going to the theatre and the cinema, eating out and spending time with family and friends.

Role - to assist in the provision, maintenance and development of the Police Authority website including responding to all communication received through the site. I work with the Communications Manager to achieve delivery of public consultation activities and community events and assist the scheme administrator for the Authority's Independent Custody Visitor Scheme.

Why get out of bed in the morning?

Interesting question... "It's generally a struggle but I am lucky to have such a diverse and interesting role to undertake when I do get to work and outside of work, there is always shopping..."

what affects your confidence?

As you are aware the Police Authority regularly measures the public's confidence in Lancashire Constabulary through its resident's Panel "Opinion". Since the start of the panel in 2002 we have been asking how confident residents are in the police and what things affect the way they feel. From this we know what impacts on confidence and can take steps to address those issues that cause a decrease.

Currently confidence in the police is high at 88%. The table below details the most recent reasons given by our panel members. We will continue to keep you informed of the results in future editions of Dialogue.

Things that increase confidence:	Things that decrease confidence:
Positive/professional reaction from the police (31%)	No/slow response from police (27%)
Rapid response from police (27%)	Unhappy with police reaction/follow up (26%)
Increase in visible police presence (27%)	Negative media coverage (9%)

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Your Safety Our Priority

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

PSCO With Added Pedal Power

Fighting crime may sound like hard work to some but for one Blackburn Police Community Support Officer it is just like riding a bike.

Since getting on his bike in April 2006, PCSO Nigel Brooke has cycled over 1000 miles on his beat area of Mill Hill, Ewood and Lower Darwen.

PCSO Brooke explained "It all started back in 2004 when a generous member of the public donated a bike to the police. I started to use the bike and soon realised how useful it was, particularly in reducing the time it took me to respond to incidents."

The Constabulary has since invested in a number of

bicycles for Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the county and PCSO Brooke believes this is certainly money well spent.

PCSO Brooke continued, "It's marvellous, I thoroughly enjoy the cycling and the fact that I am providing reassurance to my local community, whilst acting as a visible deterrent to offenders, makes it all worth while.

I am constantly stopped by locals, which is one of the best parts of the job. They often stop me to inform me about abandoned vehicles, crime or juvenile nuisance. You name it, I'm stopped!"

In April 2006 Ewood cycles fitted a milometer to the bike and he has since recorded over 1000 miles and responded to over 500 incidents on his patch.

He added "I even went to Ewood cycles to verify that the milometer was correct and they confirmed it for me. I use it day in, day out and wouldn't be without it. It helps to keep me fit too!"

PCSO Nigel Brooke, 58, has worked for Lancashire Constabulary for 15 years, firstly as a Traffic Warden and more recently as a PCSO which he started in 2003.

Inspector Claire Holbrook added "When I am asked to describe the ideal Police Community Support Officer, Nigel Brooke is the officer that springs to mind. He is an inspirational officer who genuinely serves the public from the heart and we are very proud to employ him in the Lancashire Constabulary."



next stop for a 'safe haven'

A bright yellow bus is to provide a place of safety in Darwen Town Centre.

On Friday 23 March, Janet Anderson MP for Darwen and Rossendale launched Blackburn with Darwen's successful Safe Haven scheme in Darwen Town Centre.

Launched by the Right Honourable Jack Straw in Blackburn Town Centre in December, the Safe Haven bus is the first project of its kind in the North West.

DCI Simon Giles said, "Already, the Safe Haven volunteers have treated over 20 distressed people in Blackburn Town Centre. We have also recorded a 25 per cent reduction in violent crime in Blackburn Town Centre.

"I want to thank all of our sponsors, including the Lancashire Telegraph, Moist café Bar, Blackburn Cathedral and many more who have really helped to get the project off the ground. The bus has been in Blackburn Town Centre on Saturday evenings for three months and is going from strength to strength."

The scheme aims to provide a place of safety for distressed or vulnerable people, who can stay on the bus until volunteers can arrange for the person to be reunited with friends or collected by a taxi. People turning up to the bus on a Friday night in Darwen or Saturday night in Blackburn will be greeted by a member of the Safe Haven team, who will then assist them in whatever way possible.

People can be reassured that all volunteers will have a non-judgemental attitude towards them and any discussions they have with the volunteers will be kept confidential.

Councillor Andy Kay, chair of Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership said, "People in Blackburn have already shown a great amount of support for the Safe Haven scheme, both in terms of the donations they have made and the time they have committed.

This is a very worthwhile project born out of the excellent working relationship we have with the police. I hope that members of the community in both Blackburn and Darwen will feel reassured that the Safe Haven bus will be there to provide help and advice for anyone who comes into difficulty in the town centres at night-time."



Custody Developments

Some people who come into custody have physical or mental problems. Problems around alcohol or drug-related abuse or misuse are common and police officers are often placed at considerable risk from prisoners who are violent. These problems however, are overshadowed by the impact of a death in custody for the family and friends of the deceased and also the police officers and staff involved.

Therefore, the Home office recently issued guidance on how police forces should put in place safeguards to help raise the standards of care for those in custody.

Over the next few editions 'Dialogue' will take a look at the guidance and focus on the practical issues



surrounding how the police, with the help of the community through the authority's independent custody visitors scheme; can minimise the risk to those in custody.

Make sure you don't miss the first feature on 'hands on' equipment (for example, ligature knives and defibrillators) in our next edition.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT LAY MEMBER ON THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Police Authority has an Audit and Standards Committee which has two main roles

- ensuring that ethical standards are maintained across the Authority, by both Authority Members and Officers.
- overseeing both internal and external audit activity and ensuring the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control systems

Two Independent Lay Members from outside the Authority are appointed to this Committee to help increase public confidence, provide a clear signal that the Committee is fair, and bring a wider perspective from their outside experiences.

Following advertisements in the Lancashire press, an appointment process has recently been completed for a new Independent Lay Member to serve on the Committee.

The Authority has appointed Mr Douglas Soper, for a four year term of office commencing on the 1st April 2007. Mr Soper is a CIPFA qualified accountant who has served at senior levels of management in the health service and elsewhere, and has recently retired from his post as Chief Executive of Wyre Primary Care Trust.

did you know...

That when a Police Dog is retired from active service they do not receive any financial support or pension? Police dogs are often retired ahead of schedule due to being injured in the course of their work; or even injured protecting their handler. They are an integral part of operational Policing within Lancashire and provide an invaluable service to our County, loyally serving the handlers and the people of Lancashire.

Mrs Jay Nicholas, Secretary of the Retired Lancashire Police Dogs Benevolent Fund said, "Most of the Lancashire Police Dogs generally retire to their handler, who then has to take over all financial responsibility.

The Retired Lancashire Police Dogs Benevolent Fund is a newly formed charity which has been set up by a small group of Lancashire residents to give financial assistance and support to handlers so



that the dog can stay with the family it loves and trusts for the remainder of its life. The Fund, which we believe is the first of its kind in the Country, is completely independent although we have received tremendous support and encouragement from both officers and staff of Lancashire Constabulary.

Children from Balshaw's High School in Leyland made a fabulous donation of £300 to the Fund which was raised through a 'Stars In Your Eyes' Talent Show which the children staged in School recently. There are some extremely talented children at Balshaws and now that the entry age of the X-Factor has been lowered, who knows, maybe we'll see some of them on the X-Factor next year!

Pictured - Year 9 children from Balshaw's High School in Leyland with Deputy Head, Mr David Croft and Mrs Jay Nicholas, Secretary of the Retired Lancashire Police Dogs Benevolent Fund.



www.lancspa.gov.uk Visit our new look website

Lancashire Police Authority has updated and re-launched the website following consultation with the public. The new site offers greater levels of accessibility for visitors, provides access to agenda papers for the Authority's committee meetings and information about our public meeting dates. The usual interactive



facilities where you can email us or email members with your questions, comments and queries or take part in consultation to register your views continue to feature on the site.

So log on now www.lancspa.gov.uk and tell us what you think.

coppers for cash

One of the core jobs for the Authority is to set the police budget each year and before we set this we have to make sure we consult with local people.

Both the Authority and the Constabulary want to see the police service get even better, but cutting crime and keeping people safe costs money.

The problem we face is how to match low levels of government funding and a limit on the amount of money we can raise locally from residents, with the growing demands on the service.

This year the Constabulary calculated that it needed another £17.6m a year extra. The Constabulary has sought to use its resources as effectively as possible, but it is reaching the limits of what that can achieve on its own.

We know that residents like a visible and responsive police service and that local neighbourhood policing teams have been well received. So as an Authority it was very important that we did not reduce the investment we have made already in neighbourhood policing.

So how do we solve the problem?

From consultation we know that over half of residents surveyed were willing to pay at least £10 more per year for their policing.

That increase gains the Constabulary an extra £3.3million for the service. This amount together with the Constabulary's own savings of £2.6m would provide:

- more detectives to deal with major crime
- more officers to respond to calls for assistance from the public



- more investment in technology, equipment and buildings to support the police in their work.

The cost

At the full Police Authority meeting on the 14th February 2007 it was agreed that we increase council tax for policing by an extra £10 on a typical band B property in Lancashire from £87.96 to £97.96 a year.

For a Band D property, the increase will raise the current £113.09 cost to £125.95.

Setting the grade for policing

Thinking about what targets we set for the police each year, we asked residents to tell us how successful you thought the constabulary had been in delivering on last year's objectives.

Areas of success residents identified included:

- Keeping the public safe and secure,
- Responding well to dealing with alcohol related and other antisocial behavior
- Keeping the roads safe
- Tackling violent crime
- Dealing with crimes committed as a result of prejudice against another person or group for reasons such as age, skin colour, religion, disability etc

- Dealing with crimes committed as a result of the use of or sale of Class A drugs such as cocaine and heroin

When asked about your priorities for the police for next year, you wanted them to:

- Continue to be accessible to everyone and visible in the community
- Keep you safe and secure
- Deal with alcohol related and other types of anti-social behaviour
- Crack down on violent crime
- Fight Terrorism
- Bring more offences and offenders to justice

Objective 1: To reassure the public, particularly those who are vulnerable.

By providing high quality, flexible and responsive policing services which give emphasis to:

- Accessibility and Visibility
- Anti-social behavior, including alcohol-related
- Diversifying our workforce
- Equitable service delivery
- Positive engagement with young people
- Road Policing
- Safer environments
- Support of victims and witnesses

Objective 2: To reduce and investigate crime, particularly those offences that are of concern to the public.

By providing high quality, flexible and responsive policing services which give emphasis to:

- Acquisitive crime
- Counter- terrorism
- Crimes arising from prejudice (Hate crime)
- Crimes associated with Class A drugs
- Offences brought to justice
- Serious and organised criminality
- Violent Crime, including domestic violence

The Budget Process Explained

Who is involved in the budget process?

The Lancashire Police Authority

Lancashire Police Authority has a statutory requirement to approve and monitor the annual police budget and to set the police element of the council tax.

In doing this the Authority aims to provide the Chief Constable with the necessary financial and manpower resources to enable the delivery of an effective and efficient policing service across Lancashire.

The Authority has a Treasurer, supported by a Finance Team, who provides policy and financial advice to members and recommends a budget strategy to the Authority.

Members of the Public

Members of the public are consulted by the Authority

about levels of council tax and how much they would be prepared to pay before it is set.

For 2007/08, more than half of our citizens' panel indicated they were prepared to pay at least a £10 increase in their council tax bill for policing.

The Chief Constable

As well as being responsible for the day-to-day operation of the budget, the Chief Constable in a specific document 'Blueprint2', has reassessed the needs of the policing service for Lancashire, particularly in relation to 'protective services' which include serious and organised crime, major incidents, vulnerable people and counter-terrorism.

As a result, a review of force-wide operational policing services was undertaken to see how far the existing budget could be re-allocated to assist with these protective services.

How is the Lancashire Police Authority Funded

The main sources of funding are as follows.

Police Grant

The Government allocates this grant which is the largest source of funding for the police service. The Government, within the framework of central government spending plans, decides the overall size of the grant which is allocated by way of the police funding formula. In recent years however the formula has been overridden by a flat-rate percentage increase for all police authorities.

Revenue Support Grant

The Revenue Support Grant is allocated by the Government and like the Police Grant is distributed according to the police funding formula, but again more recently this has been overtaken by a flat-rate increase.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

The NNDR is based on the rateable value of properties other than houses and flats. The rate at which the NNDR is charged is set nationally by central government and can increase every year by up to the rate of inflation. Income raised from this is collected by local authorities and paid into a national pool which government then shares out

among police authorities in proportion to their resident population.

The sum total of the Police Grant, Revenue Support Grant, National Non-Domestic Rates equates to 77% of the Authority's budget.

Specific grants

The Authority also receives a number of special grants from the Government each year to assist in the funding of specific national projects and initiatives. For instance, the Authority currently receives a specific grant to assist with the recruitment of Police Community Support Officers

Council Tax

Police Authorities are able to raise additional funding through local council tax to meet their budget requirement, subject to any restrictions that the Government may impose by way of "capping".

At present in Lancashire, the contribution made by council taxpayers in the whole of Lancashire to the total budget is 23%.

The Budget Process - who does what and when?

Who?	What?	When?
LPA	Review of the previous year's actual expenditure	May
Constabulary	Review medium term financial forecast (5 year financial review)	October
Constabulary	Blueprint2	
LPA	Public Consultation on police budget	November -January
Government	Announcement of the provisional Financial settlement for all authorities	November
LPA	Consideration of draft policing budget	December/January
Government	Announcement of final financial Settlement.	January
LPA	The LPA makes decisions in relation to final budget and Council Tax	February
Constabulary	Provisional Allocation of budget to department (police divisions etc)	March
Constabulary	Revision of budgets by departments in line with Divisional Policing Plans	March/April
Constabulary	Revised Budgets entered into Accounting System for monitoring purposes	April
LPA	Monitoring of performance against the budget	Ongoing

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

Police Authority Community Meetings help us to gain the views of local people and hold the Divisional Commander to account.

In recent years, the authority has widened out its consultation mechanisms to increase public engagement. There has also been an increase in other public meetings, such as the

introduction of PACT by the Constabulary and an increasing use of area committees by local authorities. Therefore, the authority is about to embark on a review of its public meetings and in the coming months will be seeking your views on how the authority can effectively engage with the diverse communities of Lancashire.

RAISING THE STANDARDS

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.

In the first of our in depth look at the Professional Standards Department (PSD) we focus on the Department's Reactive Unit.

The Reactive Unit's role within PSD is to respond to any incoming allegations from members of the public or employees and is staffed by 25 employees.

The unit deals with approximately 1,250 cases per year which range from the most common of allegations of incivility or assault, which can more often than not be rectified locally in Division, to the more serious allegations of corruption. At any one time, the Unit can have around 150 'live' cases on the go.

The total number of cases per year of 1,250 may seem high; however it is a lot lower than previous years. It may also be of interest to know that many complaints are received as a direct result of a member of the public being arrested.

Superintendent Tony Ronan said of the Reactive Unit's work, "To ensure the highest standards are maintained and our quality of service is not compromised, the Reactive Team works extremely hard to ensure that all cases are treated fairly and in a proportionate way."

So, when a case is received, what happens then?

Timeline

STEP ONE - Assessment

On receiving a case, an assessment is made looking at its severity and the speed with which it must be dealt with.

STEP TWO - Allocation

There are two ways cases could be dealt with. One is a local resolution whereby the matter is solved, explained, and settled with the

complainant by the local policing division or two, for more serious allegations, a full Professional Standards Department investigation would take place. For the most serious allegations, for example deaths in custody or corruption, the Independent Police Complaints Commission would also be involved.

STEP THREE - Investigation and Resolution

If referred to the PSD, two operational teams, under the command of a Detective Chief Inspector, would then fully investigate the case and be supported by an Investigation Support Team.

Direction and Control

If a complaint does not concern the conduct of an officer or member of staff, it may be about the organisation or procedures of the Force such as Operational Management Decisions, Operational Policing Policies and Organisational decisions. These complaints are Direction and Control issues.

All such complaints will be recorded and allocated to the appropriate department so that a complainant can be contacted to discuss the issues raised and give explanations as required. Organisational learning is a key consideration in dealing with Direction and Control matters, and action will be taken to rectify any failures in process.

RAISING STANDARDS NEXT MONTH:

Focus on the Intelligence and Anti-corruption team within PSD

crimestoppers

CRIMESTOPPERS is a way of giving information informally and without telling us who you are.

Every day hundreds of ordinary citizens use the scheme to help the police solve many crimes - not just the most serious. It is highly successful and proves that it is possible to do something to make society safer after all. One in ten calls to Crimestoppers results in an arrest.

How does it work?

- Phone any time at all on 0800 555 111. Your call is Free and the person you speak to will be understanding and helpful.
- You will NOT be asked your name, address or phone number.
- The police will NOT contact you - if you want to ring them back, they will give you a code number.
- You may get a cash reward if your information results in an arrest and charge.
- Any reward is paid out by Crimestoppers without you ever revealing your identity to anyone.
- You won't have to go to court.
- No-one will know who gave us the tip-off.

So, if you're fed up with seeing and hearing about crime, help stop it. If you have any information about any crime phone 0800 555 111



Your safety, our priority

In Opinion our residents' survey, we asked respondents about how safe they felt in various situations. Most felt safest at home and least safe in their nearest town centre both during the day and after dark. The two main things that made them feel less safe referred to-

- No/slow response from the police
- Unhappy with the police reaction or follow up.

The two main reasons that made them feel less safe were related to problems associated with groups of young people hanging around and seeing or hearing about anti-social behaviour.

Both of these issues are high on the Constabulary's agenda as Superintendent Bill McMahan, the Force lead on Citizen Focus

explains:

"We continue to work with local people and partners to make full use of the tools we have available in order to tackle these issues. These include making full use of our Youth Referral Scheme, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), Dispersal Orders and, in appropriate cases, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). The Constabulary also works closely with other agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour. Taken together, we are committed to delivering neighbourhood policing and ensuring local people have a real chance to influence the way their local policing services are delivered. We will continue to work to address these issues and keep you updated on any developments".

police community support officers join policing teams in hyndburn

Hyndburn streets are set to get safer, after the introduction of six new Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's).

Council Leader Cllr Peter Britcliffe said "This is an important new development

as people have been telling us again and again that they want to feel safer on our streets. We are determined to do just that and the six new recruits will swell the total number of PCSO's to 13, who will be seen right

across the borough and will certainly play a huge part in making our streets safer. The appointment of the PCSO's is a big part of our plans for Community Safety and it will mean a physical presence of more police

officers on the streets of Hyndburn.

Chief Superintendent David Mallaby added: "I am delighted by the appointment of Hyndburn's new Police Community Support Officers and I would like to thank Hyndburn Borough Council for the funding they have provided.



"PCSOs are of vital importance to the organisation and all of the communities we serve. The new PCSOs have already made a huge impact in the Borough and have proved very popular with local residents. Their presence within the wider Neighbourhood Policing Teams is extremely valuable and they continue to have a pivotal role in the fight against crime across the borough."

Police give pupils lessons in law

A pencil features at the centre of a new campaign to educate children about the consequences of crime.

B-Ace was launched after a local Head Teacher raised concerns about a lack of information delivered to year 6 pupils regarding the consequences of poor behaviour, crime and responsibilities.

Working closely with Blackburn with Darwen Healthy Schools Coordinator Audrey Livesey and the Education Authority, PC Phil Hambley from the South Darwen Neighbourhood Policing Team, saw a unique opportunity to educate youngsters including those



most likely to commit crime in the future.

PC Hambley said, "The education Authority advised and assisted in producing a lesson plan that met National Curriculum standards and complemented the national Healthy Schools Programme and Every Child Matters. This helped us to help address the consequences and responsibilities of children and their involvement in

crime and disorder and the effects on their victims."

Funding for the project came from the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime to pay for pencils which were given to the school children bearing the message 'Give respect, get respect'.

Inspector Andrea Bradbury added: "B-Ace is a simple concept which will hopefully encourage a sense of respect and community amongst our younger citizens. I am particularly pleased that this local initiative delivered by the Community Beat Manager PC Phil Hambley, working in partnership with Ashleigh School and the local Education Authority, has now spread

throughout Lancashire and further a field.

It shows how a simple concept and partnership working can deliver effective results on the ground in our neighbourhoods."

The scheme was initially delivered to three schools Darwen which followed a 25 per cent reduction in anti social behaviour figures over a two month period and 100 per cent positive feedback after a lesson evaluation sheet developed for pupils and teachers. Initially the project targeted 30 people and after being rolled out across Lancashire, it now reaches a potential 17,005 school children.

Lessons in road safety for Blackburn children

Children in Blackburn have been given aluminous bags as part of a scheme to raise awareness about road safety.

Lessons in road safety were delivered to pupils at West Holme, Sacred Heart and St Silas Primary School when police distributed brightly coloured bags to help children be safe and be seen during the dark winter mornings and nights.

Inspector Claire Holbrook said: "As a result of the money recovered from convicted drug dealers and backing from the North West Area Agency Partnership that we were able to fund this project, which we hope will raise awareness about road safety amongst school children.

"The bags were given out to both reception and year

one pupils at three schools in the borough including West Holme Primary School, Sacred Heart and St Silas.

"We want children to stay safe and be seen clearly by motorists during the dark mornings and evenings and if by carrying one of these bags, there was one less casualty on the roads this winter then it was worth while."



The next scheduled Police Authority Community Meetings for Eastern

RIBBLE VALLEY

St Peter & St Pauls Parish Centre,
Stydd Lane, Ribchester, Preston
Wednesday 9th May, 2007 at 7.00pm

BLACKBURN-WITH-DARWEN

Tockholes Community Hall,
Tockholes Road, Tockholes
Wednesday 13th June, 2007 at 7.00pm

HYNDBURN

Accrington Stanley Football Club,
The Interlink Express Stadium,
Livingstone Road, Accrington
Thursday, 21st June, 2007 at 7.00pm

Contact Details

In an emergency when you need an immediate response dial 999

Police Non emergency number - 0845 1253545

Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

Lancashire Police Authority - 01772 533462

Schools get 'Smart' to Crime

Schools in Blackburn are getting smart in the fight against crime by employing a different kind of crime-fighting tool - water!

Expensive and vulnerable equipment in 38 schools including primary and secondary schools and colleges including St Mary's and Blackburn across the Borough have already been marked with SmartWater - a harmless liquid that contains a unique DNA that helps to reunite property with the school and identify offenders.

All schools have been provided with the Smartwater kits and signs are visibly displayed at all the premises where SmartWater is being used to act as a deterrent to criminals.

Once property is marked with the solution it is only visible in UV light. Each solution has a unique coding making the property traceable to its owner by searching against a registered database. It is designed to be easily applied but extremely difficult to completely remove.

A state-of-the-art UV archway has been installed at the custody office at Greenbank Police Station, and all people arrested will walk through it and be scanned for SmartWater.

If SmartWater is detected a sample is sent away and the unique coding within the solution will match that offender back to the scene of the crime. If property is recovered officers and staff using hand-held UV lights will scan it and if SmartWater is detected it can be returned to the owner.

Bosses from the police, education authority and Blackburn with Darwen Community Safety Partnership are hoping that the initiative will put off would-be burglars and opportunist thieves, as well as increasing the chance of detecting a crime should it happen.



Sergeant Paul Goodall said, "I am pleased to be rolling this initiative out to schools within Blackburn and Darwen. Smartwater is a very successful method of security and is used by over 95 per cent of UK police forces as part of their crime prevention schemes.

I am optimistic the initiative will act as a real deterrent to offenders whilst helping the police to detect more offences and increasing the prospects of reuniting valuable property with the rightful owners.

Money spent on replacing stolen equipment and repairing vandalised equipment is money that could be spent on books, equipment and other valuable resources. Smartwater can help to address this problem and provide a solution."

Councillor Andy Kay, Chair of the Community Safety Partnership said "I am delighted that Smartwater is being rolled out to schools across the Borough. The Partnership is pleased to support this project, as it is an innovative use of technology that can help us to reduce crime and identify offenders."

Smartwater was recently introduced by Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust, applying Smartwater to all equipment.

Mike Threlfall, PCT Security Management said: "The SmartWater project is a new and exciting development in our bid to tackle the problem of burglary and theft from our premises. In addition to applying SmartWater to the usual items thieves target, the solution has also been used on medical equipment."

Remember...

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