



NewsBeat



Lancashire Constabulary
police and communities together

A community newspaper from Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Police Authority

£ multi million investment

A MULTI-million pound investment package to help Lancashire Constabulary start to bridge the gap in some of its services has been welcomed by new Chief Constable, Steve Finnigan.

The package, which is made up of £2.6 million of redistributed resources from within the Constabulary and £3.3 million from the Council Tax precept, will go towards Lancashire's work in protecting vulnerable people, tackling serious & organised crime and counter terrorism as well as on an improved response service.

In agreeing this budget the Authority was responding to the fact that although Lancashire Constabulary is a consistently high performing police force, it is increasingly being stretched due to new threats and increasing demand, particularly in areas such as protecting vulnerable people, counter terrorism and serious and organised crime – known as 'protective services'.

Historically low

It also took into account the historically low level of the council tax policing precept in Lancashire, which in the current year is nearly 20% below the average for shire police authorities.

Consultation had established that the majority of those consulted would be willing to pay an increase of £10 or more a year towards policing. Budget proposals were therefore based around a £10 per annum increase in the policing precept for band B properties. (Sixty percent of all properties in Lancashire are rated band B or below.)

Mr Finnigan said: "I am grateful to the Police Authority for the high level of support they have shown in respect of this matter and that they have accepted the main thrust of our business case - which is that we are a high performing Constabulary facing some significant challenges in the years ahead."

"We are a high performing Constabulary facing some significant challenges in the years ahead."

"It has been important that we have been able to demonstrate both to the Authority and to the Government that we have, in recent years, had a big efficiency drive within the force to squeeze out everything we can from the money we already have and that we are currently re-shaping some of our services in order to release some of our own resources for reinvestment into protective services.

"The additional funding will greatly assist our plans to begin to close the gaps."



Malcolm Doherty,
Chair Lancashire Police Authority

Cllr Malcolm Doherty, Chair of the Police Authority, added: "In approving this budget we are providing the Constabulary with the resources it needs to sustain frontline policing delivery and invest further in protective services.

Ever-increasing demand

"The Constabulary is acknowledged as a particularly high performing force, which, when you consider that it has achieved this on one of the lowest levels of council tax in the country, is truly commendable. However, we know that it is facing an ever-increasing demand and it is unrealistic to expect this demand to be met without increasing the resources available to it.

"Policing is particularly good value for money. Those living in a Band B house in Lancashire will pay less than 27 pence a day in their council tax towards policing – that's way less than the cost of a first class stamp."



Steve Finnigan, Chief Constable

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

Lancashire Police Authority appointed Steve Finnigan to the role of Chief Constable just as Newsbeat was going to print. Mr Finnigan, who has been the Acting Chief Constable for the past two years, said he was honoured and privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve the people of Lancashire in this role.

He said: "The Constabulary's professional and hard working people have delivered many excellent policing services to our communities and my commitment to local people, to the Police Authority and to the Constabulary is to continue to work tirelessly to provide high quality policing services and to meet the challenges of the future head on and with enthusiasm."

Malcolm Doherty, Chairman of Lancashire Police Authority, said: "This is a very well deserved appointment. As Acting Chief Constable Steve Finnigan has already shown his strong leadership abilities and tremendous commitment to the job and I am delighted to see his position confirmed."



Bags light the way for road safety

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

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

Top award for Operation Lund

THE policing operation to deliver justice for up to 23 Chinese cockle pickers who died in Morecambe Bay has won Britain's top criminal justice award.

The multi-agency team behind "Operation Lund" collected the Justice Shield from Home Office Minister Baroness Scotland and TV presenter Fiona Bruce at a ceremony in London. It is the highest honour presented at the national Justice Awards.

Following an enormously complex prosecution involving more than 1.5million pages of evidence, the trial eventually led to a Chinese gangmaster being found guilty of 21 counts of manslaughter and jailed for 14 years in March 2006. It is thought that 23 illegal immigrants died in dangerous tides while scouring Morecambe Bay for cockles in February 2004, although two bodies have never been recovered.

Detective Superintendent Mick Gradwell led Operation Lund. He said: "I don't think anyone involved in the operation will ever forget it. It was such a terrible tragedy, such a needless waste of life.

"People from a host of agencies had to work very, very hard to see the prosecution through, and ensuring justice was done was very important to us all. While we are all very proud to have won the award and to have had our efforts recognised, our thoughts are naturally with those who lost their lives."

The trial was one of the most complex ever staged in Lancashire. Survivors who disappeared after the tragedy had to be tracked down, statements proved difficult to obtain because of language barriers and witnesses fearful of gang reprisals, and vast quantities of evidence had to be presented to the court.

New technology was introduced during the trial to provide the jury with location footage and video and audio evidence - with translations where appropriate.

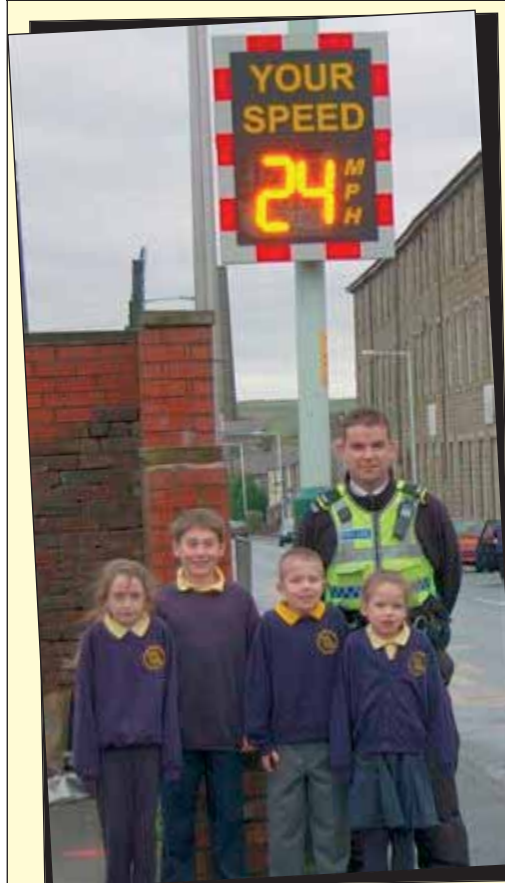
Bob Marshall, Deputy Chair of the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board, said: "This tragedy will stay with the people of Morecambe Bay for many generations to come. The successful prosecution of those responsible for the deaths and the other connected offences is



part not only of the healing process but also of making the Bay a safer place for cockle pickers in future.

"It is impossible to underestimate the difficulties of this prosecution - frightened witnesses, language barriers, a complex evidence trail. The fact that the team has received the highest honour in the national Justice Awards underlines that a very difficult job was done very well."

Police put brakes on speeding motorists



RESIDENTS and businesses in the Waterfoot area of Rossendale have joined forces with local police in a bid to put the brakes on speeding motorists.

They have all worked together to secure and fund "SID" - a mobile Speed Indication Device which will be used on roads throughout Waterfoot to remind drivers of their speed and encourage them to slow down if they are driving too fast.

Local Community Beat Manager PC Martin Storey said: "Speeding is an issue regularly raised at local Police and Communities Together meetings. Residents are concerned both for pedestrians and motorists and fear that unless speeding is curbed on some problem routes, someone will be killed or seriously injured.

"The residents didn't just bring their problems to us at those meetings though - they also worked with us to find potential solutions to the problem which is where SID comes in.

"Compact, mobile and easy to use, SID is an excellent way of making motorists aware of their speed and encouraging them to slow down."

Connecting Up

The year 2007 will see Lancashire Constabulary embark on an important programme of work which will look at all areas of information gathering and sharing between the Constabulary and the community.

The Lancashire Connect programme will provide the Constabulary with the opportunity to build on its current position and strive to achieve the very highest of standards in providing a first class quality of service for the diverse communities it serves.

In the recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) baseline assessment, the Constabulary's contact handling service was rated within the top tier of police forces in the country. Although this was an excellent recognition of the work the force already does, the Constabulary believes that more can be done in this important area of business.

Since the Constabulary has long understood that the customer comes first, it is the customer that drives the move to improve the way the Constabulary works. The standard of service the public expects is based on their experience with the best in the commercial sector. If the force doesn't meet that level of expectation it is unlikely the public will want to call again. This would be incredibly detrimental to the way the police deal with crime.

Since the police are in the business of collecting information, then anything it does to discourage people from giving this information can only be damaging. The Lancashire Connect Programme aims to make the service truly customer focused and everything done over the coming years will have that ultimate goal in mind.

The programme is scheduled to run for up to three years with each project having distinct timeframes within it. Obviously these timings are subject to change as the programme develops.

The major change will be the replacement of the Constabulary's current incident management programme known as CRS. The change to this will make the sharing and updating of information across the force easier and more efficient.

The force is also moving away from one single mainframe operating a number of systems.

By the end of 2008 the new systems will be fully operational.



Authority appoints new Chief

Lancashire Police Authority's new Chief Executive is Miranda Carruthers-Watt.

Newsbeat went along to meet her and to find out more.

Miranda Carruthers-Watt is a Lancashire lass. She was a teenager when she moved here, and went to school in Chorley and Burnley. Even in her university days, she didn't move away, choosing the University of Lancaster. She lives in Burnley today with her husband and two children, and although she has worked in London, it's Lancashire where she has her roots.

Miranda is very excited about her new job: "Everyone has been very welcoming and helpful. I have had some induction days with the Constabulary in early

March and I'm looking forward to working with the whole team". She is impressed with the work that her predecessor, Brian Aldred, the first stand-alone Chief Executive of Lancashire Police Authority, has been able to do. "I'm pleased to be joining an organisation with a solid foundation and I hope to be able to work with members of the Police Authority and with local people to ensure that local policing priorities reflect what people want and need."

The fact that Lancashire Police Authority and Lancashire Constabulary are already high performers is a challenge for a new Chief Executive hoping to make her mark, but Miranda has already worked in

"I'm pleased to be joining an organisation with a solid foundation"

two highly regarded local authorities, Blackburn with Darwen and Tameside: "I come from a position of 'pleased but never satisfied'", she warns: "working in an excellent organisation brings a bigger challenge to making continuous improvement."

She has a number of early priorities to tackle: "I'm very interested in how people use public services. Nobody likes being kept waiting on a telephone or not getting an answer to their question or complaint. Much of my previous experience has been in accessibility of services so I hope to be able to add value here."



Miranda Carruthers-Watt

Breakfast club helps to combat crime

A BREAKFAST club with a difference has been launched in Blackburn in a bid to take the town's 'business watch' scheme to the next level.

The scheme involves the work of the police, council and local businesses and has been set up in an effort to increase awareness and reduce incidents of crime.

An email alert system shared by all members of the scheme allows local businesses to share information and intelligence with the police, council and each other.

Inspector Claire Holbrook added: "The Business Watch scheme allows the police and council to work alongside local businesses and helps us to increase awareness of particular crimes and help businesses to avoid falling victim to crime.

"The scheme looks at many aspects of crime and suspicious activities and aims to improve communication and ultimately deter and prevent crime from occurring in the first place."



Insp Claire Holbrook at the Business Watch Launch

Net a criminal @

www.lancashire.police.uk



If you are 'www.wanted' by the police or have failed to appear at court there are suddenly less places to hide!

Lancashire's 'wanted' criminals are now being posted on the Lancashire Constabulary website so members of the public can help the police find them. And so far, three offenders have been traced.

There are two new sections on the website; 'Wanted by SOCU' (Serious and Organised Crime Unit) and 'Wanted on Warrant'.

When launched last year, 'Wanted by SOCU' was the first time the Constabulary had added a link on its website that allowed members of the public to see details of wanted criminals.

Detective Superintendent David Brian, Head of SOCU says: "The web site is another tool we are developing to help us to make the county a safer place for our communities and a more difficult place for criminals to operate in.....or to hide.

"The aim of the site is to make the public familiar with these offenders and we would be very interested to hear from anyone that has information on the people on the site. No matter how small a detail it is – it could help in making Lancashire a safer place for everyone."

Following the encouraging interest in the SOCU most wanted page on the Constabulary web site, the Criminal Justice Department

decided to embrace the technology and launch its own section.

The "Wanted on Warrant" page went live earlier this year and brings to the public's attention ten offenders wanted by police on warrant. It is hoped that, by identifying the perpetrators, the public will become more vigilant and come forward with information on their whereabouts.

The site will gradually be updated as offenders are located and new appeals are issued. Lancashire residents can keep themselves up to date by clicking on www.lancashire.police.uk.

If anyone has information as to the whereabouts of anyone "Wanted" on the Lancashire Constabulary website they should contact their local police on 0845 1 25 35 45, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The public are asked NOT to approach these offenders directly.



SPECIAL FEATURE ON DISABILITY ... SPECIAL FEATURE ON DISABILITY ... SPECIAL FEATURE ON DISABILITY

Lancashire Police Authority **first again!**



Participants discussed:

Publications - Accessible Communications for Everyone (ACE) was seen as a key priority and so 'ACE', a new newsletter, is being developed. This will be available both in hard copy and on the website and will feature news, information and consultation information.

Meetings - Joined up thinking helps joined up services. Participants wanted better liaison with disabled people but undertaken in a coordinated way. The Police Authority is exploring options for future joint consultation meetings with the Constabulary and other partner organisations.

Website - Our new look site is being developed and will have a range of accessible features inclusive of readspeaker and British Sign Language videos. New areas will also include accessible summaries of our publications and access to committee papers.

The Police Authority over the next 12 months will focus on the following three key priorities:

- Better liaison with disabled groups
- Training on disability issues for officers and staff
- Increased disabled representation on Authority committees and forums

Examples of artwork created by participants at the event



To assist the development of its Disability Equality Scheme, the Police Authority recently hosted its first consultation event with disabled people. This unique event brought together disabled people, practitioners, inclusion and equality officers, disability advocates and volunteers to share their views and experiences.

The event featured a drama performance and provided participants with the opportunity to design and decorate silk paintings or help create a wall of pictures about disability equality.

During workshops, participants were asked to consider issues relevant to the Police Authority's relationship with disabled people such as:

- **Information** – getting the message across
- **Consultation** – how best to involve you
- **Public engagement** – what's it all about?
- **Advice and involvement in the future**

Disability Equality Scheme will help force to improve



The scheme was launched at Beaumont College, Lancaster where students put on a display to mark the occasion

The Constabulary has recently launched a Disability Equality Scheme which aims to improve the services it provides to disabled members of the public.

Together with Lancashire Police Authority, the aim is for the Constabulary to become a 'disability confident' organisation, able to provide policing solutions to everyone, including disabled people.

Acting Deputy Chief Constable Adrian McAllister, said: "Disabled people face a wide range of barriers within society, including attitudes, policies and physical barriers. This means that they can often be, in some ways, excluded from society and the economy.

"What the Disability Equality Scheme aims to bring about is an improvement in the services given to disabled people, with the Constabulary displaying positive attitudes towards disability. We aim to ensure our

policies help and encourage staff to address all barriers to disability."

The Disability Equality Scheme is already evident in much of the Constabulary's work. The force has employed a Police Community Support Officer with the specific role of looking at how it engages with people with disabilities.

The Disability Equality Scheme covers issues including:

- Access to buildings;
- Delivering a non-discriminatory police service;
- Ensuring neighbourhood policing is inclusive;
- Eliminating discrimination;
- Encouraging diversity amongst the workforce;
- Ensuring staff receive appropriate training and development.

The Constabulary has recently added the 'Readspeaker' facility to its website so that all the information contained on the site can be read aloud for those visitors who may have difficulty seeing or reading the contents.

It has also added some new video based information using sign language, and is one of very few, if not the only constabulary in the country, to have made some of its information accessible in this way.



www.lancashire.police.uk

New website for young people

information, advice and news goes online

LimaCharlie.org is Lancashire Constabulary's brand new website featuring a whole host of information dedicated to young people aged between seven and sixteen. The website is loaded with fascinating information to download and enjoy.

It encourages young people to communicate openly with their police force and provides them with an avenue where they can voice their views on issues that affect them.

On the site, youngsters can take guided tours of vehicles, cells and police horse stables as well as get to know all about the equipment. They can also read about particular roles within the Constabulary in the 'jobs in the spotlight' section as well as finding out more about their local police officers. The site gives them the chance to catch up on the latest police news and get in touch with people involved.

There are also games, 'get the facts' pages – on all sorts of issues, games and a competition to add an extra incentive to get involved.

Acting Deputy Chief Constable Adrian McAllister says: "This is a very exciting new development for the Constabulary. The site aims to build on existing good relations between Lancashire Constabulary and young people, in turn providing a friendly and approachable face to the police."

"We are always happy to hear the views of younger people and want to know what they want from us. Previously this could only be done through classroom workshops and by stopping them in the streets. Children are not always forthcoming in those situations but the website gives them a forum to get their point across as well as learning more about us and what we do for them."

Another feature of the site is the "Schools in Focus" section which allows pupils and teachers to nominate their school to take part in a special educational programme. The pupils are given four topics to research and write about.

They have the full force at their disposal and can interview anyone they like and visit almost any police department. They then produce articles on each of the subjects and



work with designers to create their own newsletter which is put on the site for others to read and learn from.

They also get the chance to conduct a video interview with an officer or member of police staff which is also put on the site.

Mr McAllister adds: "The involvement this programme creates is unlike anything pupils would get through normal lessons in the classroom. It gives them the opportunity to learn for themselves about the things they are interested in. They can take their investigations in any direction they like."

In the first newsletter students from Lancaster Girls' Grammar School spent time with the Air Support Unit and interviewed the CSI team. Other articles included a study of anti-social behaviour and reviews of internet sites.



"This website is really good at encouraging young people to do well. Keep up the good work!!"
 Kimberley
 message posted on LimaCharlie.org

"I have just spent an hour looking at all the different parts of your site and think it is great. There is lots to see and do and will be of great use to me at school and for the children of all ages to access. It is easy to navigate with interesting articles and news for both boys and girls. Well done."
 Deputy Head Teacher,
 St John's CE Primary School, Nelson

"I'm just writing to tell you that this website is fab!
 -Very educational and fun, I entered a competition.
 -Information is quite interesting
 bye! Maaria
 message posted on LimaCharlie.org

"LimaCharlie.org has a good mix of interesting facts, the law and fun stuff and is very accessible. Well done."
 PC Fred Barnes,
 Youth Involvement Officer

"I think it is a great idea to have a kids site from the police"
 Angela - Parent



Neighbourhood Policing is excellent ... and that's official!

How to get involved with local policing

Many people take an active interest in how policing works in their area, whether as a Council tax payer or a concerned citizen. You can get involved with policing in Lancashire in a number of ways:

Police and Communities Together (PACT)

PACT meetings are held by your Neighbourhood Policing Team every month and provide you with the chance to meet the team, have your say on what you want the team to focus on and monitor its performance. You can find out when your next PACT meeting is by entering your postcode into the 'My Neighbourhood' panel on the Lancashire Constabulary website (www.lancashire.police.uk)

PACT meetings are open to EVERYONE



Police Authority Community Meetings

Police Authority Community Meetings (PACs) are a partnership of local residents, Police Authority Members, senior police officers and a representative from the local community safety partnership.

PACs provide residents with the opportunity to raise issues and concerns related to crime, community safety and other general policing issues direct to senior police officers and hear about crime reduction initiatives in the area. They also give the Authority the chance to consult with the public about their priorities for policing when setting the policing plan and about the council tax precept for policing.

Meetings are held within the 14 districts of Lancashire, three times a year and they are advertised via posters, radio advertising and the local press. To get the most up to date information on planned meetings, the dates and the venues check out www.lancspa.gov.uk and click on the public events page.

For the second year running, Lancashire Constabulary's approach to Neighbourhood Policing has been given the "excellent" grade by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), in the baseline assessment.

Over the past few years, Lancashire Constabulary has forged ahead in delivering neighbourhood policing into the heart of communities, working alongside other agencies to create confident, safer and secure neighbourhoods, where people know that the police and partners understand the issues that matter most to them and are able to tackle them together.

The Constabulary has developed its Police and Communities Together (PACT) initiative and has identified over a thousand different neighbourhoods across Lancashire, setting up more than 230 dedicated policing teams. These teams are made up of Community Beat Managers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Special Constables, response officers and community volunteers. Other specialist departments, such as Road Policing, and other groups, including Neighbourhood Watch, also support the teams.

The PACT initiative encourages local communities to get involved in local police activity, helping to set policing priorities in their areas and to contribute to the policing of their neighbourhood. This allows communities to tell the police and other partner agencies exactly what is of concern to them and how they would like to see these issues dealt with. These concerns are highlighted through PACT meetings, door knocks and street meetings.

The Neighbourhood Policing teams work really hard to try and solve problems that have been identified by the community and this work has a real impact on serious crime in the area. Helping to clear up graffiti, repairing and preventing criminal damage as well as finding other activities for young people to do, all instil a sense of pride and assist in the regeneration of communities.

A clear example of this in action is the Callon estate in Preston. Local residents were repeatedly complaining about crimes in their area and one resident, who was particularly unhappy with the police



Special Constables

Special Constables are unpaid volunteer police officers who receive training from Lancashire Constabulary and work with regular police officers as part of a neighbourhood policing team. A Special Constable has the same powers as a regular police officer, wears the same uniform and is issued with the same equipment. Special Constables come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Formal qualifications are not needed but you will have to pass a recruitment process.

For further information contact the Specials Recruitment team on 01772 413013 or visit www.lancashire.police.uk

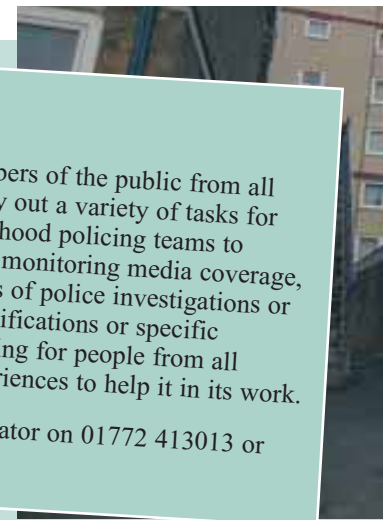
service being provided, started campaigning to be done. After a PACT meeting was set up, a house was opened and the neighbourhood was safer. The community felt empowered and as a result, trouble areas and people. The team worked effectively in the area and reports of trouble were reduced. A resident who was so annoyed with the situation, started campaigning in their favour and opened up to PACT meetings and their effectiveness.

Lancashire Constabulary has worked hard to reduce crime within communities and created a safer environment. These are crimes that take place within communities and easily escalate into larger crimes if not dealt with at the stage. For example, groups of people causing nuisance on an estate can affect a large area and escalate into more serious crimes. The success of these signal crimes and meetings were discussed to discuss how best to stop them from happening.

Superintendent Bill McMahon, the officer in charge of Neighbourhood Policing says: "We are proud of the continued success of neighbourhood policing. We have worked hard to engage with local people and listen to what they want us to do, with our part in their quality of life. To do this we carry out numerous door knocks and street meetings to get to the heart of what is affecting the community."

Supt Bill McMahon adds: "Neighbourhood policing is empowering communities and is the very heart of our approach to policing in Lancashire. We are proud of some really good work at a very local level and the difference to people's everyday lives."

The success in driving the PACT initiative has led to enquiries from other forces from across the country for neighbourhood policing in action in Lancashire as an inspiration for their own areas.



Community Volunteers

Lancashire Constabulary currently has over 500 members of the public from all walks of life who volunteer some of their time to carry out a variety of tasks for the Constabulary. This may include helping neighbourhood policing teams to develop close relationships with their communities, to monitoring media coverage, to contacting the public to update them on the progress of police investigations or to gathering further information. You don't need any qualifications or specific experience to be a volunteer. The Constabulary is looking for people from all backgrounds with a variety of different skills and experiences to help it in its work.

For further information, contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01772 413013 or visit www.lancashire.police.uk for more details.

Independent Custody Visitors

Independent Custody Visiting is a scheme whereby members of the public, who are appointed and trained by the Police Authority, visit police stations unannounced to check on the welfare of detainees. The scheme is completely independent of the Constabulary and helps to enhance accountability and helps to enhance public confidence in policing.

Animal Lay Visitor Scheme

Rather like Custody Visiting, the Animal Welfare Scheme provides an independent assessment of the training and care of the police horses and dogs.

The scheme involves visits from approved 'lay visitors' to the police stables and kennels to observe training methods and to check on the animals' condition and welfare before reporting their findings back to the group.

Q - Why should you get involved with PACT?

A – If you care about crime and disorder issues in your community and you want to have a say in how your area is policed – then speak up and come to a PACT meeting.

Q – How do I find out if there is a PACT meeting in my area?

A – PACT meetings are held every month and the easiest way to find out when and where your nearest one is, is through the Lancashire Constabulary website www.lancashire.police.uk. By putting your postcode in the search engine you can find out who your local policing team is, what they are currently dealing with in your area and the time and location of their next PACT meeting.

Q – What will I get out of it?

A - Through the PACT system the public have more access to police officers and the opportunity to work closely with them and partners to develop positive interventions in your local area. You will be able to influence local policing priorities by telling the police directly what the problem is in your area at that time. Importantly, you will also be able to hold them to account and find out what they are doing in your community as well as finding out if something hasn't been done, and why.

If you want to get involved in policing issues in your community, please visit www.lancashire.police.uk where you can search on your home address and find out about local meetings and local police priorities.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet please call on 0845 1 253545 for information.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

If you are interested in joining or setting up a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme either visit the website at www.neighbourhoodwatch.net or contact their head office at Room R1, Hatfield Annex, c/o Hatfield Police Station, 16 St. Albans East, Hatfield AL10 0EL. Tel: 01707 638 814. Alternatively speak to a member of your neighbourhood policing team to find out details.



All the activities listed above are good ways of getting involved with local policing. However, if you cannot take part in these types of opportunities then we ensure that our information is accessible via other means. The Authority and Constabulary websites are good places to start as they allow you to pick out information that is relevant to you. In addition, as they are kept up to date, you can see straightaway what objectives and targets have been set for the police, view latest news reports and articles, find out what police are doing in your area to tackle crime and anti social behaviour and give your views about policing online.

If you prefer reading then 'Dialogue' may of interest. Stocked in local libraries, community centres and town halls, 'Dialogue' is a newsletter which gives feedback on actions taken by the police to addresses concerns raised by the public at PACT and PAC meetings. It also details information about local policing initiatives and how to get more involved. It too can be downloaded from the website

New DNA advances catch Witton Park rapist



Graham Darbyshire was sentenced to life

ADVANCES in DNA technology led to a rapist who had managed to evade police being arrested and convicted nearly 10 years after he committed the offence.

HGV driver Graham Darbyshire, 52, attacked a woman in Witton Country Park, Blackburn on Sunday, 8 October 1995 while she was walking her dog. Despite extensive police enquiries and a national television appeal on Crimewatch, he was not caught until 2006 when crucial DNA evidence linked him to the crime.

An investigation by Lancashire Constabulary and Greater Manchester Police's Cold Case Review Unit led officers to Darbyshire's Leyland home where he was arrested on 22 May 2006.

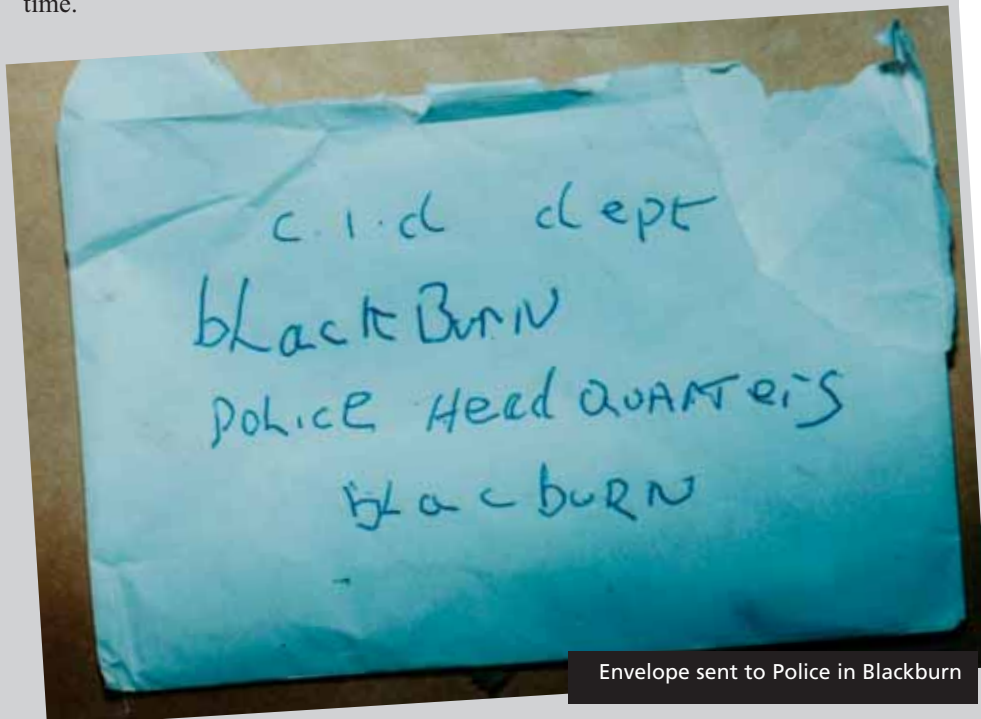
In 28 September last year Darbyshire (52), of Elm Grove, Cuerden pleaded guilty to the rape and indecent assault of a 22-year-old woman in Witton Park, Blackburn. He also pleaded guilty to rape and indecent assault of a woman in Boothstown Gtr Manchester. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Crimes

Around midday on Saturday, 31 July 1993, a 22-year-old woman was walking her dog in fields just off the East Lancashire Road near to Boothstown, Greater Manchester, when a man grabbed her around the neck and threatened to strangle her. He forced the woman to walk to a nearby tree, where he indecently assaulted her. After the attack, he told the woman to wait for five minutes as he ran off.

More than two years later, on Sunday, 8 October 1995, a young woman was walking her dog in Witton Country Park in Blackburn when a man walked up behind her and asked her for the time. She told him it was 1.30pm. He then grabbed her around the neck and forced her into some undergrowth where he raped and indecently assaulted her over a one-hour period, before telling her to wait ten minutes as he ran off.

This remained one of the most serious undetected stranger rape offences in Lancashire. In a bizarre twist, after the attack police received a letter with a black bin liner inside. Cut out letters from a newspaper had been glued to the bin liner, one of which said: "By the time you get this I'll be long gone." It went on to describe the colour of the victim's underwear, which had not been made public at that time.



Envelope sent to Police in Blackburn

How the crimes were solved

In 2004, Greater Manchester Police's Cold Case Review Unit carried out a review of the attack in Boothstown. An upgraded DNA profile was loaded on to the national DNA database. While it did not match any known individual, it did match the partial profile from the rape in Witton Park.

Further enquiries funded by the Home Office as part of Operation Advance resulted in Darbyshire's arrest for both offences. A DNA sample taken from him following his arrest was found to match the DNA profile that had been loaded on to the database. It was the first time in the world that the new technique had been successfully used to obtain a conviction in a criminal investigation.



Advances in DNA technology helped catch Darbyshire nearly 10 years after his offences

A victim speaks out

Newsbeat spoke to Darbyshire's Witton Park Victim

"Clare" (not her real name) said she was glad Graham Darbyshire had finally been captured and sent to prison after waiting 11 years for justice.

"I always knew he would get caught," said 32-year-old Clare. "That was a great comfort to me. And while I was extremely pleased he had been caught, it was quite strange how all the emotions came flooding back. It is absolutely brilliant that DNA technology is now able to get evidence in this way."

Describing the events in Witton Country Park, Clare said that what started out as a normal Sunday turned to horror in an instant.

"It was just like any normal day and people were around doing their usual Sunday walks, when out of the blue a jogger came up to me. He asked me the time and that was when it happened.

"It was impossible to get away. I was not sure what he would do if I tried. He was a lot stronger than me. He did say he would kill me and said he had a knife.

"It was off the main pathway in a really woody area so no-one could see. My dog barked a bit and I thought people might

hear something but we were in the undergrowth."

"I did not blank it out but it was really quite strange," she said. "It was like I was in a little bubble, floating. Even to this day it is a bit of a blur. It did go on for a long time. My body just shut down, probably for protection.

"He told me to stay still until he was gone. I could hear him leaving but he said he was watching me. After a few minutes I got up and tried to get help and luckily people were walking past and helped me."

Over the years Clare said she has tried to come to terms with what happened but can neither forget nor forgive her attacker.

"I feel angry for what he did because no-one has the right. I need to understand why he did it. No-one needs to do what he did.

"My life did change because I became much more aware of my surroundings. It made me look at people, especially men, differently. I could not walk anywhere by myself, or walk the dog. Even now, I can only walk in unknown places with friends."

Opinion INTO ACTION!

“Opinion” is a panel of 4000 Lancashire people like you, who have committed to giving the Police Authority their views on a wide range of policing topics. We thought you’d be interested in how we’ve acted on them.

Support for high visibility policing

Asked how Opinion panel members rated their own fear of crime, most people scored it below five on a ten-point scale, but two thirds said they had made their homes more secure, didn’t go to certain areas of their neighbourhood or didn’t go out after dark.

Nearly four in 10 said that providing more visible policing is the main thing that makes people feel safer. Superintendent Bill McMahon, who is in charge of neighbourhood policing, explains: “We are always looking to find ways to maximise the amount of time officers can spend out in their neighbourhoods by cutting red tape and paperwork. We also have neighbourhood policing teams across the whole county, dedicated to providing locally visible and accessible policing.” Find out more by visiting www.lancashire.police.uk

Involvement in decision making

Involving the public in decisions about local policing is central to the work of the Authority and the Constabulary but 83% of the Opinion panel members said that they don’t feel involved in local decision making, with 73% feeling that they do not influence it.

However, the results also showed that panel members were aware of various opportunities to become more involved. Higher awareness was shown in relation to becoming a special constable (54%), police volunteer (47%) and joining a community safety group (43%), while awareness of more local opportunities for involvement was lower - PACT meetings (30%), joining a community safety panel (23%) and attending a PAC meeting (22%).

Getting the message across

Communication with the public is an important job so views on this are important. People in Lancashire say they want information on:

- Police progress on high profile crimes;
- Policing decisions at both local and strategic level.

Other popular suggestions included:

- Definition of an emergency call and other contact numbers;
- Updates on reported crimes;
- Level of police presence in area.

The panel shows that people prefer to receive information via local newspapers and leaflets rather than e-mail, text messaging and websites - although those aged 18-24 felt that such methods were preferable to hard copies.

The Authority was concerned to learn that:

- Less than half of the panel members considered it to be good at communicating a wide range of information ranging from crime in the area to annual policing plans;



- 41% would not know where to find information about the Constabulary;
- 47% would not know how to find information about the Police Authority.

The role of the Police Authority

The panel was asked about their views on the work of Police Authority, on how successful they considered the Authority to be in carrying out its duties relating to performance scrutiny, leadership, community engagement and what they thought its aims, roles and objectives are.

Responses showed that the Authority is thought to be most successful with regard to performance scrutiny, but they wanted to see more public information about policing objectives and performance monitoring, with local and county-wide information easily accessible. Much of this is covered by the Local Policing Summary, which overwhelmingly the panel wished to see produced at divisional level (79%) and via the local press (73%).

Many of these findings are being addressed following the views received. The Authority’s communication strategy is being updated and in respect of access to performance information, the introduction of a Local Policing Summary delivered to households in Lancashire will enable readers to benchmark how well the Constabulary performs against other forces and will detail what the Authority will be doing to make sure that any improvements identified are undertaken.

Making your voice count

If you have something to say about policing, don’t bottle it up or keep it to yourself. Tell Lancashire Police Authority and it can do something about it, whether you want to make a complaint, a suggestion or simply pass on your thanks for a job well done.

Police Authority Community meetings – or PACs – are held three times a year across each of the 14 police districts in Lancashire giving everyone plenty of opportunity to get involved.

PACs give people the opportunity to talk directly with their local Police Divisional Commander and Police Authority member. They can find out about new projects or initiatives and pass on concerns about policing or things like anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

David Nicholls from Fylde is one of Lancashire Police Authority’s volunteer publicity officers and plays a vital role for the Authority by publicising local PAC meetings to residents in the Fylde area.

David is very enthusiastic about these meetings and feels that they really do work. “People who attend appreciate the fact that they can ‘tell it as it seems to them’,” he said. “They provide a direct and very accessible link between the public and the police, giving local people the opportunity to discuss how they feel about policing in their area.”

As the meetings are attended by partner organisations, people can also find out about what the local community safety partnerships are doing and how, by working together, a real difference can be made.

PAC meetings are advertised in advance on the Police Authority website:

www.lancspa.gov.uk

Simply the best!

Staff recognised for excellent contribution



Student Officer of the Year 2006 - PC Jonathan Simpson

Lancashire Police Authority / Pauline Clare Community Police Officer of the Year 2006 PC Susan Sanderson



Diversity in Action Team 2006 - Eastern Division Minorities Team

RECOGNISING outstanding contributions was the order of the day at a special event held by Lancashire Police Authority recently.

Police officers and members of staff from across the Constabulary were rewarded for their work in delivering high quality policing services for the people of Lancashire.

The three top awards were the Lancashire Police Authority / Pauline Clare Community Police Officer of the Year, Student Officer of the Year and the Diversity Team in Action award.

Community Beat Manager for the Daneshouse and Stoneyholme Wards in Burnley, PC Susan Sanderson, took the honour of Community Police Officer of the Year.

Susan, who works in some of the most deprived wards in the country, has been making a real difference. She has introduced a 'Walking Bus' for primary school children and monitors all crime and disorder problems herself.

Her commitment to tackling drugs by working in partnership with local people and acting on information they give her has seen reductions in this area of crime and local people also benefit from regular surgeries and Police and Communities Together meetings held by Susan.

Morecambe-based Jonathan Simpson was named as the Student Officer of the Year. Having joined the Constabulary as a probationer in January 2005, he has already developed excellent relationships with both the community he serves and with colleagues. He is a popular member of his team, particularly because of his confidence and effectiveness.

Since June 2005, Jonathan has made over one hundred arrests, resulting in detections and convictions.

Eastern Division's Minorities Team was also hailed at the event in the category of Diversity in Action Team 2006.

Based at Blackburn, the team has the sole aim of improving relationships in that area around hate/race crime.

The team is responsible for dealing with racist incidents and crime and members are always looking to support and work with other agencies. The detection of hate/race crime has improved over the last twelve months from 30 per cent to 56 per cent.

Malcolm Doherty, the Chairman of the Police Authority, praised all the award winners: "I would like to congratulate everyone on the contributions they have made to the delivery of high quality policing services in Lancashire. With officers and staff of this calibre it is easy to see why Lancashire continues to be one of the best performing police forces in the country."

WIN

A DAY OUT IN A POLICE CAR!

The object of this puzzle is to find the 25 listed hidden words. The words may be hidden in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and forwards and backwards. Each word is connected with an area of Police Authority business.

F	N	I	S	M	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	V	P	L	Q
C	W	I	R	D	O	P	S	R	E	B	M	E	M	I	R	Y	A
O	A	D	N	L	N	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	I	T	E
N	X	K	R	E	S	O	U	R	C	E	S	U	B	T	O	I	C
S	I	E	V	I	T	C	E	F	F	E	G	A	O	J	R	R	N
U	H	A	B	M	A	Q	U	P	A	K	V	P	C	Y	I	O	A
L	D	I	S	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y	I	L	O	E	T	H	M
T	P	S	C	R	U	T	I	N	Y	N	A	D	M	C	I	T	R
A	O	O	F	J	L	I	D	A	I	D	P	K	M	I	E	U	O
T	L	M	W	R	A	D	H	O	J	I	C	E	I	L	S	A	F
I	I	O	R	C	R	U	N	V	G	A	F	E	T	O	T	R	R
O	C	N	E	S	Y	A	P	R	B	G	D	J	T	P	E	B	E
N	Y	I	P	S	G	T	U	D	S	C	A	P	E	D	G	J	P
A	S	T	O	P	&	S	E	A	R	C	H	O	E	U	D	F	K
F	Y	O	R	D	V	E	B	K	L	Y	T	I	L	A	U	Q	E
P	W	R	T	E	F	F	I	C	I	E	N	T	F	U	B	F	P

1. Performance
2. Scrutiny
3. Budget
4. Resources
5. Consultation
6. Community
7. PACS
8. Policy
9. Priorities
10. Stop&Search
11. Members
12. Committee
13. Efficient
14. Effective
15. Constabulary
16. Authority
17. Audit
18. Diversity
19. Equality
20. Monitor
21. Report
22. Disability
23. Police
24. Opinion
25. Feedback

Send completed word searches along with your name and address to: Competition, Lancashire Police Authority, PO Box 653, Preston, PR2 2WB by 6th May 2007.

Using technology to tackle crime

Lancashire Constabulary prides itself in leading the way in its use and development of technology. Using state of the art equipment, officers can be kept fully aware of any situation and have access to vital information at their fingertips.

Being at the forefront of technology has helped Lancashire Constabulary establish its current position as only one of two forces in the country to be graded 'excellent' for its ICT Services provision by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

The 2006 HMIC report said of the Force's ICT Department: "The Constabulary, and in particular operational policing, reap the benefits of an innovative ICT Department which is an integral part of the process of achievement of organisational objectives."

Making frontline policing hi-tec

One of the ICT Department's priorities is to make Neighbourhood Policing easier for the officers on the street. The Mobile Data Project has looked at how new technology can be used on the move and access information in otherwise inaccessible areas of the county.



There are 330 handheld Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's) and 65 Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) on trial in two areas of the county. These 'gadgets' act as a mobile computer system giving the productivity of a regular computer as well as the flexibility and freedom required by mobile officers. Due to the success of this trial, there will now be a full rollout of PDA's to all Community Beat Managers (CBMs) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

Looking to the future, developments in respect of mobile data are expected to include direct reporting from the scene of crime which means officers can be out on the beat for longer.

Project Lantern

Lancashire is one of ten forces currently piloting mobile fingerprinting which enables officers to take fingerprints by the roadside and allows for real-time searching of the national fingerprint collection on the National Automated Fingerprint System.

The main purpose of Lantern is to increase the time officers spend on the frontline by helping establish a person's identity using their fingerprints without the need to go to a police station. Without the mobile fingerprinting devices an officer would take a minimum of two hours, taking an arrested person to a custody suite to be able to do this.

The Lantern device works by electronically scanning the subject's index fingers, which are then sent to the central fingerprint database.

A search is then made against the national fingerprint collection of 64 million prints. Any possible matches are identified and returned to the sending officer in a target time of less than five minutes.



Technology saving vital minutes in search for missing people

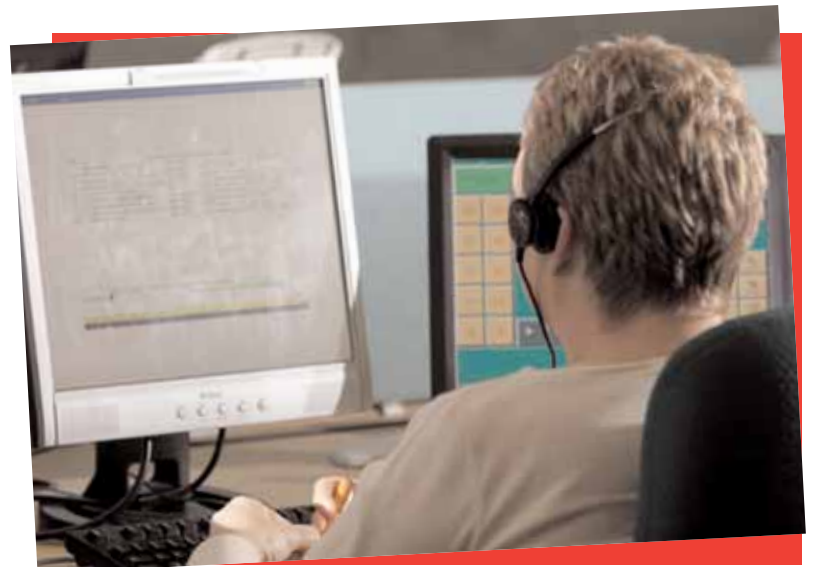
An exciting new initiative is the direct inputting of "missing from home" information by residential care home staff. This has the potential to save over £1million per year in terms of officer time. The system allows care staff to add information to the database about a particular missing person. This provides officers, looking for the missing person, with information they would not normally have as well as giving them more time to search.

The Future – putting information at YOUR fingertips

The future lies very much with the community and the way the Constabulary offers and receives information from the community it serves.

Community access is being developed in order to provide ways by which members of the public such as victims and witnesses, can access information themselves. This will mostly be done through the Force web site, www.lancashire.police.uk, which will be continually improved to be more accessible and user friendly.

Another addition to the website that is currently in the pipeline as part of the Connect Project is the ability to report crimes through the site. Members of the public will be able to give information over the internet which will then be picked up by an officer and immediately sent to the relevant department who can respond immediately. The form will mean that more detailed information can be obtained and directed to the relevant team more efficiently.



NewsBeat

The Final Edition

You will have read elsewhere in Newsbeat that the Police Authority and the Constabulary are facing increasing pressures on the policing budget and it has been decided that Newsbeat funds should be redirected. Therefore, this will be the last edition that you receive.

The Police Authority will continue to produce the Local Policing Summary with the Constabulary, which was very well received last year and is distributed to every household in the county. In addition, you can find a wealth of information on both the Authority's and Constabulary's websites and in the council tax information leaflet.

Operation Summer Nights

Targeting alcohol-fuelled crime

With the start of the summer holidays approaching, organisations across Lancashire are, for the third year running, joining forces for Operation Summer Nights

Operation Summer Nights is a multi-agency campaign that aims to tackle and prevent alcohol related crime and disorder across Lancashire in the summer months. The campaign aims to let people know that this type of behaviour is not acceptable in Lancashire and reassures others that action is being taken, including police enforcement where necessary.

Drink sensibly this summer

During the summer there is traditionally an increase in alcohol-related crime and disorder. The partnership wants people to have a good time in the summer and enjoy the weather, but doesn't want their behaviour to have an adverse effect on anyone – including themselves. The message is – “drink sensibly this summer”.

While many people enjoy drinking socially and in a way that doesn't cause anyone else any problems, a growing number frequently drink large amounts of alcohol in a short space of time that sometimes results in criminal behaviour or in serious health problems. These people need to be aware of the impact their behaviour can have on others.

Operation Summer Nights is a campaign to make sure that people don't have to suffer from the consequences of disrespectful behaviour. The campaign looks at everyone who is behaving anti-socially as it impacts on the quality of life for young and old people alike and is carried out by people from all ages and backgrounds.

The Operation Summer Nights partnership doesn't want to stop anyone enjoying alcohol – but does want people to drink sensibly in a way that won't cause harm to themselves or other people.

Initiatives ranging from putting more officers on the beat, providing activities for young people, issuing fixed penalty notices for disorder, test purchasing, visits to licensed premises, offering home fire safety advice to reducing alcohol-related accidents and promoting public health messages will all part of Operation Summer Nights '07.



Operation Summer Nights

The Operation Summer Nights partnership includes:

Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service, NHS North West, Lancashire County Council, The Maritime and Coastguard Agency, The Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Youth Offending Teams, Lancashire Youth and Community Service, the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board, each of the Borough Crime and Disorder Partnerships, Connexions Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Borough Council, The Lancashire Young Person's Alcohol Project, The Crown Prosecution Service, Trading Standards and the Lancashire Drugs Action Team.



Date for your diary

After the hugely successful open day held at Lancashire Constabulary HQ last year, we will be hosting another day filled with fun. The Open Day will take place at the Headquarters site on Saunders Lane, Hutton on July 1st. Why not come along - there will be plenty to see and do!