



## 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%)

**In this  
issue**

**Confidence**

**The Budget Process**

**Raising the Standards**

**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](mailto:naomi.walker@lpa.lancsc.gov.uk)

# Message from the Divisional Commander

Western Division, covering both Blackpool and the Fylde, has continued to enjoy success in most areas of crime reduction and detection over the last 12 months. In broad terms, one in three crimes are now being detected, a testament to the investigative skills and professionalism of the officers in the division.

The quality of our service is measured by regular surveys which generally report satisfaction levels exceeding 90%.

Reducing crime against a backdrop of crime levels

which are at their lowest for well over 5 years was always going to be difficult, but we have managed to do so, albeit very slightly this year. It is good to see that violent crime in particular is showing a sustained and steady reduction. Our progress remains in the right direction and all the signs are that with the help of other agencies, community and voluntary groups, we can still achieve the very ambitious targets set for us.

In February, the division made a number of presentations to police

officers and staff from other non-police agencies. The awards, generously sponsored by the De Vere Heron's Reach Hotel have been a real boost in bringing together all the many people from police and non-police agencies who have to prevent crime and solve long-standing problems.

The very substantial investment in neighbourhood policing teams, working closely with neighbourhood managers, is giving the division highly localised service which we believe will deliver not only



reduced levels of crime and disorder, but improved feelings of safety and reassurance.

**Chief Superintendent  
Russ Weaver  
Divisional Commander**

## BSafe Blackpool

BSAFE Blackpool is the Blackpool Community Safety and Drugs Partnership dedicated to improving the neighbourhood in which you live.

From tackling everyday problems such as dog fouling and noise nuisance, to the more complex issues associated with drug and alcohol addiction or violent crime, BSafe Blackpool is dedicated to improving people's quality of life. Through a partnership approach, and listening to the needs of the residents, the Partnership is committed to working together to make a difference.

BSafe has recently given support to two initiatives aimed at reducing the recent rise in acquisitive crime (acquisitive crime covers all crime where items are stolen or acquired fraudulently. This includes burglary, business crime and vehicle crime).

The first initiative 'Automation' is against the backdrop of rising vehicle crime in the North of Blackpool, which has seen vehicle crime for November, December and January

rising sharply against the previous year. To date, with 'Automation' running throughout February, Vehicle crime for North Blackpool is down by 31% for the month, with no sign of displacement to other areas of the town.

Secondly an initiative named 'Revolution' aimed at reducing pedal cycle theft by using the latest 'Acid' bike security marking and the provision of free bike locks in both the town centre and Blackpool South shore areas is being introduced. The initiative has produced some significant decreases in both areas. Pedal cycle theft was reduced by 85% in Central Blackpool in the month of January, with further decreases in February.

Paul Phillpot, the Deputy Head of BSafe Blackpool told 'Dialogue' "The results of both these initiatives are very encouraging and underline the importance of partnership working in order to tackle crime within our community, BSafe Blackpool is committed to fighting crime and improving the quality of life for the people of Blackpool."

## Wanted, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

Police are hoping to recruit new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in the Ansdell area.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been out in force in recent weeks going from door-to-door in the area explaining the scheme and its benefits to potential new co-ordinators.

Sergeant Darrell Shuck is

the officer responsible for the Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. He said, "The Ansdell area is particularly under-represented in terms of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and we hope local residents who are community minded will put themselves forward and join our extended policing family.

Although Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators are a partnership in their own right, they also form part of our extended policing family, which includes CBM's, PCSO's and Community Volunteers.

Above all, the aim is to make our neighbourhoods safer places to live in by ensuring people have help

and advice so that they can protect themselves and their properties. However, we also hope that building strong links in the community will reduce the fear of crime, enabling people to improve their home security, be more vigilant and to feel confident about reporting suspicious incidents to the police."

# 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](http://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](http://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
<b>LPA</b>	<b>The LPA makes decisions in relation to final budget and Council Tax</b>	<b>February</b>
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".

# schools help police with truancy campaign

Local Police and Blackpool Council are enlisting the help of school children across the town as part of a new truancy campaign.

Year 7 and 8 pupils of Blackpool's secondary schools are being asked to design their very own truancy poster as part of an exclusive poster competition.

PC Dave Boyd from Blackpool Police came up with the idea. He said, "I have been conducting truancy sweeps with Pupil Welfare Officers for some time now and while we have made inroads into the problem, this is a great opportunity to further educate the youngsters about why it's important that they stay in school and get a good education.

"I thought we should ask the young people themselves to help with getting the message across. That's why I've asked year 7 and 8 pupils to help with the design of the poster



and to make it worth their while there will be prizes for the best design from each school and for an overall winning design. The winning designs would then go into print and be displayed within Blackpool schools.

I would like everyone to be as innovative as possible but within some guidelines. Basically these are around being unsafe whilst out of school and possibly getting into bad company and getting involved in crime. There are also some more serious concerns I would like them to think about whilst designing the poster, such as becoming victims and the long-term problems a poor education

would cause as they get older, such as, not getting a good job. We also want them to consider why an education is worthwhile and the benefits it can give throughout life.

Young people that truant get involved socially in different friendship groups, usually with older people who may coax them into doing things that aren't age appropriate.

Quite apart from the fact it's the law that children should be educated, truancy needs to be challenged. It is well-evidenced that young people who haven't been educated or who have truanting regularly are more at risk of being homeless, unemployed, suffer from depression, drift into alcohol and drug misuse and have mental health issues compared with those who attend school regularly."

Julie Smith, Pupil Welfare Manager for Blackpool said, "Good pupil attendance is

essential in giving children the best start in life. The Council has a package of measures designed to encourage as many pupils as possible to attend school as often as possible, and this latest initiative is an exciting opportunity to further raise the profile of school attendance - and the many benefits it can bring.

We already work closely with the Police on truancy sweeps across the town where we talk face-to-face with pupils and remind them why it's important to be in lessons. We want to build on this successful partnership and further engage with young people on their level.

The poster competition is targeted at Year 7 and 8 pupils in all our schools and the winning poster will be printed and displayed in schools and council offices. We're looking forward to seeing some of their creative ideas and turning the best ones into reality."

## GOOD TOGETHER WITH ORANGE

The Orange Mobile Phone Company has joined forces with Blackpool South Neighbourhood Policing Team to ensure that Communities in the Blackpool South area can access their local officers easily.



The Orange Mobile Phone Shop in Market Street, Blackpool has provided the team with 10 mobile phones free of charge. This will mean that people can get in touch with their local officer directly, without going through the Communications Room. This will reduce the burden on

Communications Operators who are already extremely busy and also provide a better and more easily accessible service for members of the public.

PS Mick Pritchard is delighted that the Orange shop are supporting the team. He said, "We constantly strive to make sure everyone can speak to us about anything they are concerned about. Recent IT developments mean that we can now be e-mailed, however still not everyone has access to a computer. Almost everyone does have either a home phone or a mobile phone, so thanks to Orange, as well as being contactable through the 0845 1 25 35 45 number, we can now be reached through these mobile phones.

I do want to stress that in an emergency where there is a crime in progress or a danger to life, people should still dial 999."

Tim Wright from the Orange Mobile Phone Shop is delighted to support local police and said, "Orange was launched in April 1994 with a simple vision for a brighter future, where people can

communicate wherever, whenever and however they wish. As part of our commitment to communities we are delighted to support Mick and his team.

Our belief is that people are good together and we are really pleased to be able to help by donating these phones."

### Neighbourhood Policing Mobile Phones

PC 79 HASKETT	Bloomfield 1	07890486058
PC 3070 WARRINGTON	Bloomfield 2/3	07813184742
PC 3306 RYAN	Bloomfield 2/3	07890808797
PC 3423 MASSEY	Waterloo	07890817062
PC 3018 AMIRKHANI	Victoria	07890484751
PC 998 STRINGFELLOW	Clifton	07890786524
PC 2835 DARWEN	Haweside	07890817039
PC 3340 GRUNDY	Highfield/Squires	07890486155
PC 4001 PHILLIPSON	Marton	07890817254

## Neighbourhood Watch

Did you know that for the past 7 years the Western area of Neighbourhood Watch, which covers the Blackpool and Fylde areas, has had a Website with all the up to date news and views of the Neighbourhood Watches which are currently active in Western Division. It may be found at the following web address of [www.westerndivision-nhw.co.uk](http://www.westerndivision-nhw.co.uk) and it contains all you need to know to set up a new Neighbourhood Watch in your area. There are also links to many other interesting sites in and around Lancashire which are of interest to all. Please pay a visit and let the webmaster know your views.

# new PCSO polices the gateway to blackpool

The Central Gateway to Blackpool is welcoming its very own Police Community Support Officer, Steven King.



The area has been recently redeveloped as part of the town's Masterplan and is part of

the Central Gateway project. The area includes the new George Bancroft Park, the first new park to be built in the town since Stanley Park in 1926. The park also boasts two international standard 20 metre climbing towers, which are proving to be very popular.

The idea to have a PCSO dedicated to the area follows on from the success of the Stanley Park Neighbourhood Policing team, where the PCSOs are partly funded by Blackpool Council. Having dedicated officers in the parks ensures that people are happy to visit the facilities knowing they can do so safely.

The area Steven will cover is also the site of the town's main car parks and Blackpool Football Club. Steven has been in post long enough to know he loves living and working in the area. He said: "I was born in Yorkshire but have lived in Blackpool for over 30 years. Being married with two grown-up children, and three energetic grandchildren, I know how important it is to people to be able to visit areas like the George Bancroft Park knowing they can enjoy time with their children without fear."

Steven, who brings to the job a wealth of life experience, has previously worked for both the

Ambulance Service and in the railway industry. He continues, "I am looking forward to the challenges of working with my police colleagues as a PCSO in the community. At fifty-three years of age, you are never too old for a challenge, or to retrain and provide a useful input to the community as a whole."

Residents in the rest of Blackpool can find out who their local officers are by visiting the new Lancashire Police website at [www.lancashire.police.uk](http://www.lancashire.police.uk) and typing in their postcode or street name under the Neighbourhood Policing Section. They can also call 0845 1 25 35 45 for details.

## OPERATION SIGN

On the 12th February judges at the De Vere Hotel Annual Problem Solving Awards were unanimous in awarding PC Paula Robertson first place in the Fylde category as well as naming her the overall winner, for her work with the deaf community.

PC Paula Robertson decided to take action when fellow officers clearly had problems communicating with a deaf person. She found that deaf people were an isolated group who did not have the same access to policing services as able hearing people. Deaf people rarely reported crime and community issues because of communication barriers.

Paula learned how to 'sign' and set up a BSL (British Sign Language) Link Officers scheme within the Constabulary and also spoke to the British Deaf Association about her ideas, which involved making information available on the web

site and in custody offices for deaf detainees. Through a DVD, PACT Meetings and extensive training for Police personnel, deaf people can now confidently report crime and have the same access to policing services as the hearing community.

Chief Superintendent Russ Weaver, who presented Paula with her award, said, "This is an excellent project. It is well thought out and addresses some of the problems we have previously experienced in reaching the deaf community and making sure they have adequate provision to local policing services. Paula's work with partners has been outstanding and she rightly deserves this award."

Bryan Ward, Fylde Community Safety Manager, said "We are delighted that St. Annes based PC Paula Robertson, has won this award and it is to her credit that such a worthwhile project has been rewarded"

## Garages get on board with crime fight

Drivers filling up at petrol stations in the Bispham area may well find themselves approached by their local PCSO.

The Bispham Neighbourhood Policing team is taking no chances that local car owners leave themselves at risk to opportunist thieves.

Sergeant Russ Farrand says, "We're pretty lucky here in Bispham in that we only have three petrol stations in the area, at Anchorsholme, Bispham Village and on Poulton Road, so using this approach to speak to every driver that fills up isn't a difficult or time consuming way of getting out our crime prevention messages.

We've recently seen a slight increase in incidents of vehicle crime, including theft of vehicles and also scooters and motor bikes, so it's important that we make sure that drivers take every precaution to ensure they do not become a victim. No-one ever thinks it will happen to

them, but if you're careless it does and often right outside your family home.



What I've done is to 'buddy' PCSOs from the Neighbourhood Policing team with local garages. They will be approaching drivers giving advice and handing out scooter locks and crook locks to drivers. Each driver will then be asked to complete a vulnerable vehicle form and a letter will be sent to the registered keeper highlighting any problems and also offering them a 10% discount for further security devices at Andrew Currans Auto Shop on Anchorsholme Lane who have been kind enough to support this idea."

## The next scheduled Police Authority Community Meetings for Western

### BLACKPOOL

Bispham High School, Bispham Road, Blackpool  
Thursday, 17th May, 2007 at 7.00pm

### FYLDE

White Church, 22a Clifton Drive, Lytham St Annes  
Thursday, 14th 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

## Remember...

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