

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OPERATIONAL REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To update the Authority on operational matters within the Constabulary.

TYPE OF CRIME	RECORDED Dec 07 - Jan 08	RECORDED Dec 08 - Jan 09	DIFFERENCE
Criminal damage	3015	2500	-515
Violent crime	2658	2371	-287
Acquisitive crime	2525	2320	-205
Domestic burglary	701	661	-40
Anti-social behaviour	7571	8349	778
Non-domestic burglary	837	919	82

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

- 2 The period December 2008 - January 2009 shows significant reductions in most crime groups. Overall crime is down 9.3% compared to the same period last year. Particularly impressive reductions were evident in criminal damage (-17.1%) and violent crime (-10.8%). Non-domestic burglary shows an increase on last year (+9.8%) and there were increases also in knife crime & personal robbery.
- 3 The detection target of 29.6% has been achieved in this period by a margin of 1.6%. The detection rate of 31.2% achieved during this period represents an improvement of 3.8% when compared to the same period last year.
- 4 The level of reported anti-social behaviour was of concern during this review period. There was an increase of 778 incidents December 2008 - January 2009 when compared to the same period last year, which equates to an increase of 10.3%. There is evidence that the engagement work being done by PCSOs has given confidence to the public and that this leads to increased reporting of offences and intelligence as people now feel that it will lead to their problems being resolved. The introduction of the Community Intelligence Model and Beat Managers will also lead to improved policing of anti-social behaviour in Cheshire.

CALL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

999 Emergency Calls

- 5 In support of the Policing Pledge 5, the Call Management Department continues to maintain levels of performance above the national target of answering of 90% of 999 calls within 10 seconds.

	999 Calls answered within 10 seconds. (The national target is 90%)		Volume in numbers	Total Calls answered
	2007/8	2008/9	(2008 / 9)	(2008 / 9)
Nov	91.6%	91.3%	13,307	100%
Dec	92.4%	91.5%	11,781	100%
Jan 09	93.7%	92.5%	12,071	100%
	Non Emergency within 30 seconds (No target)			
Nov	77.0%	87.4%	29,816	95.5%
Dec	72.3%	82.2%	27,995	94.8%
Jan 09	80.0%	83.5%	29,156	96.1%

Public Non Emergency

- 6 The number of total calls answered are now included in the performance figures in support of Policing Pledge 6 and the Call Management Department is continuing to significantly improve its non emergency performance in comparison with previous years.
- 7 Most notably over a ten day Christmas period from 24 December 2008 to 2 January 2009, an average of 90.5% of emergency calls were answered within 10 seconds and an average of 90.3% of Public Non Emergency calls were answered within 30 seconds.

Call Management Quality of Service

- 8 In order to improve the quality of service, the Call Handling Centre undertakes an audit of calls taken. Performance is monitored and assessed against an accredited scoring matrix. This has seen significant improvements in comparison to the same period last year. The accepted pass mark for individual call operators is 75%.

Quality scores	Oct – Dec 07	Oct – Dec 08
Average score for the dept.	68%	83%

- 9 The focus on obtaining the correct and most accurate information at the first point of contact rather than simply how quickly the next call is taken, has sustained an overall 8.5% increase in the number of calls resolved at the first point of contact in comparison with the same period in 2007/08.

Grade one calls deployed to within 15 minutes (as per the Policing Pledge number 5)

	Grade one incidents attended	Arrived within 15 minutes	% of grade one incidents deployed to within the target of 15 minutes	Average time to arrive of patrols for all Grade one incidents deployed to (minutes)
Nov	4138	3155	72%	12.10
Dec	4339	3307	72.2%	12.15

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY - Road Policing

- 10 Between January and December 2008 officers have carried out 206 field impairment tests which has resulted in 55 arrests. During the Christmas Drink/Drug drive campaign there were 34 FIT tests conducted with six arrests. Four for Northern, one each for Eastern and Western areas.
- 11 Field impairments tests are used to identify people who may be under the influence of drugs while driving or attempting to drive. There is no screening device to test for drugs as there is for alcohol, so a series of tests and observations provide an indication that the person might be under the influence of drugs and unfit to drive.
- 12 As part of the nationwide ACPO drink/drug driving campaign during the month of December, 4426 roadside breath tests were carried out resulting in 211 arrests. This equates to a 32% increase in the number of roadside breath tests administered and a 28% decrease in the number of persons arrested over the same campaign period in 2007.

Motorway

- 13 The beginning of this year saw the 24hour control room for the North West Motorway Police Group up and running. The collaboration with other North West forces and the Highways Agency has very quickly seen a marked increase in the number of incidents allocated to Highway's Agency Traffic Officers.
- 14 A considerable amount of work has gone into a regional high wind strategy which is now in a working document format. Due to a number of incidents on Thelwall viaduct and the Weaver viaduct, the regional strategy is particularly significant to Cheshire.
- 15 In order to cut down on cross border crime, a number of inter-agency operations have been conducted across the motorway group. They have brought together not only police forces but also Vehicle and Operator Service Agency (VOSA), Department of Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Border Control. The collaboration also continues to work closely with GMP and North Wales.
- 16 As a snapshot of performance Cheshire motorway officers have in the last three months arrested 135 people for a range of offences including possession of

drugs with intent to supply, drink driving, dangerous driving and various warrant offences. The unit has also been responsible for the seizure of approximately £300,000 from those involved in criminal activity. Pro-active roads policing on the motorway network has resulted in the seizure of 307 vehicles, 992 tickets have been issued, a total of 28 drivers have been recommended for the Driver Improvement Scheme and a further 367 have been summonsed to appear at court.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY - CRIME

Drug Crime

Operation Autumn (II)

- 17 Following a lengthy operation Kevin Matthews pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply one kilo of cocaine. He was sentenced to five years. Stephen Gerrard, John Gaskin and Anthony Cowan pleaded guilty to incidents of two importations of 240 kilos of cannabis. Gerrard was sentenced to six and a half years, Gaskin six years and Cowan five and a half years.
- 18 Stephen Moore, Peter Fogg, Thomas Turner and Barry Turner - Moore, Fogg and Thomas Turner all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess firearms and ammunition with intent to commit an indictable offence namely the supply of cocaine. Barry Turner pleaded guilty to the offence of possession of cocaine with intent to supply. They are all due to be sentenced on Friday February 13 at Warrington Crown Court.
- 19 Anthony Collings and Colin Whitfield - both pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply 105 kilos of cannabis. They are to be sentenced on 16 February at Chester.

Covert Policing Unit

Operation Spice

- 20 Officers from the unit have been involved in an operation based in Runcorn that has concluded with the strike phase. Covert officers were involved in gathering intelligence on those involved in buying class A drugs at street level. The strike phase (Operation Strikeout) was on 20 January and 20 people were arrested and charged with conspiracy to supply and a further 10 received conditional cautions. This is reported on in detail from the Northern division later in this report.

Operation Shrew

- 21 Officers have also been involved in the covert purchasing of stolen property on Ebay. The goods which consisted of various items stolen from a burglary at commercial premises in Winsford were recovered and two Northwich men were arrested and charged with handling stolen property. They have pleaded not guilty and will appear in Crown Court at the end of February.

Dedicated Surveillance Unit

- 22 The Dedicated Surveillance Unit deployed on 17 operations including five with the Basic Command Units targeting burglary offences, theft from vulnerable people, drugs and vehicle crime. There have also been nine operations focusing on drug crime, a high value hijacking offence, sex offences and murder. In addition officers have assisted the Regional Crime Unit and Regional Intelligence Unit in relation to drugs importation offences.
- 23 A further operation includes officers helping North Wales police in a cross border drugs supply operation involving North Wales, Merseyside and Devon & Cornwall.

Economic Crime Unit

- 24 November and December saw 27 cash seizures across the county with a combined value of around £200,000. Each seizure is being investigated with a view to instigating criminal proceedings where possible. These seizures represent a cross section of criminal activity from low level to serious and organised crime proceeds. In one case approximately £70,000 resulted from an intelligence based stop check.
- 25 The asset recovery target of £1.86million in confiscations from criminal activities was exceeded in December with a total of £2.077million being seized. Eighty-five confiscations were achieved at Crown Court against the target total of 77.

Operation Basket

- 26 Following an investigation into the kidnapping of a lorry driver and the theft of a high value load of cigarettes (£1.1million) in Ellesmere Port in August 2008, officers supported by the Dedicated Surveillance Unit and Force Major Investigation Team have charged two people from Bolton with this offence, offences of money laundering and conspiracy to steal a further consignment of £500,000 worth of razor blades.

Operation Nile

- 27 The trial of Paul Nicholson and Tracey Rogers from the Northwich area for offences including rape, kidnap, blackmail and assault concluded at Warrington Crown Court on 6 February. Nicholson was found guilty of 20 offences including illegal money lending, blackmail and an offence of rape against a female client. Rogers was found guilty of three offences relating to the loan shark business. Nicholson targeted the most vulnerable in the Halton community, charging interest rates of 100% and more. When his clients could not meet his demand for payment, he threatened and intimidated them. Sentencing has been adjourned to 20 March 2009.
- 28 Officers in the unit continue to support police teams across the force with incidents including criminal intelligence development, confiscation and cash

seizure investigations and missing from home enquiries.

Force Major Investigation Team investigations/convictions

- 29 Officers from the team initiated a number of investigations including one murder abroad, one corporate manslaughter investigation, and two suspicious death investigations.

Operation Dart

- 30 In November 2008, officers worked closely with the Foreign Office in respect of the murder of Philip Aitken in the Philippines. Mr Aitken was murdered by his female partner and one of her relatives. The people responsible have been arrested by Philippine officers who are carrying out the investigation. Officers from the team are liaising with family members and assisting in the repatriation process of Mr Aitken's body. A file will be submitted to HM Coroner.

Operation Crop

- 31 Following the death of Colin Clark in December 2008 at his place of work in Widnes, a joint investigation with police and the Health and Safety Executive was conducted. At the time of writing, there do not appear to be any offences under the Corporate Manslaughter Act and the investigation is being managed by HSE. Officers are preparing a file which will be submitted to HM Coroner.

Operation Lena

- 32 Nicola Dorricott, (46), from Crewe was found guilty at Chester Crown Court of the murder of Jonathan Lee and sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 13 years to be served.
- 33 The murder of Jonathan Lee, known to his immediate family as Ian Taylor, took place on the evening of July 8 2008 at Dorricott's home address in Hazel Grove, Crewe. Jonathan Lee suffered multiple stab wounds to his chest. Also in the lounge where he was attacked were three knives Dorricott had used. Paramedics treated Jonathan at the scene and subsequently transferred him to Leighton hospital but he sadly died of his injuries a short time later.

Operation Crag

- 34 Ian Broughton, (28), formerly of Priory Street, Northwich, was sentenced to 22 years in prison after pleading guilty to the murder of 17-year-old Rhys Butler at Chester Crown Court on 9 January 2009.
- 35 Rhys Butler was found with multiple head injuries and stab wounds inside a flat on Peckforton Way, Northwich, on 27 May 2008. Subsequent forensic examination determined that he had been attacked and died at the scene. A major investigation was launched and extensive enquiries were carried out into events leading up to, and surrounding Rhys's death.

- 36 In the days that followed, several arrests were made in connection to the incident and local man Ian Broughton was arrested for the murder of Rhys Butler on 31 May 2008. He was remanded in custody following his initial and subsequent hearings and pleaded guilty to murder at Chester Crown Court on 9 January 2009.

Vector

- 37 Officers from the team were involved in Operation Olympic which concerned working with trading standards and led to the recovery of £2million worth of counterfeit soap powder. Officers from the unit have planned and policed 20 Royal and VIP visits to the Force Area including several short notice ministerial visits. A total of 27 pre planned firearms operations have been executed during this period including the provision of mutual aid assistance to Greater Manchester.
- 38 Operation Balance is a new program that Vector are implementing to target the growing threats from Cannabis cultivation. This is seen by organised criminal groups as a low risk, high profit industry. Each cannabis plant is capable of producing an ounce and a half of potent skunk-grade cannabis and a typical cannabis factory houses between 200 and 800 plants. The aim of this operation is to provide dynamic response to the identification and closure of such sites.
- 39 Tactical Training Centre: Construction of the new building is now well underway. The project is currently due for completion in late summer and will open in the autumn. A user group has been established to manage the transition to the new building and to ensure that it is used to its maximum potential.
- 40 The new centre will mean that tactical training can be done in-house. This will also create the opportunity to make Cheshire Constabulary a centre of excellence for firearms, public order, search and dog training.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNITS

Eastern Area

Congleton NPU

- 41 StreetSafe is a Neighbourhood Policing Unit led, multi-agency community safety initiative. It has now won the Local Criminal Justice Board award for Community Engagement and Event of the Year Award 2008 awarded by Congleton Borough Council.
- 42 The unit has established a Restorative Justice team focusing on reducing harm in communities by initiating longer term, sustainable solutions to community problems. The scheme aims to tackle anti-social behaviour and the potential break down of community relationships. Following a conference, incidents and offences are monitored to ensure the problem does not return.

- 43 Following reports of criminal damage and anti social behaviour in the Alsager community, a very positive and successful Restorative Justice conference was held with the offenders, their families and their victims. This enabled both parties to agree on any repairs needed, participation in community events and the legitimate use of premises for young people to meet at.

Operation Greet

- 44 An operation initiated and managed by neighbourhood policing staff involving area and Level 2 resources targeting a suspected major drug dealer. Team work between local officers and the Dedicated Surveillance Unit led to a 42-year-old man from Biddulph being arrested. He is currently on remand facing trial and a significant Proceeds of Crime Act investigation is underway.

Wilmslow NPU

- 45 Operation Gangforth is a three month operation targeting identified individuals likely to join gangs in the Handforth area of Wilmslow. As result, very few of the group members are getting involved in crime. The individuals involved have formed a Community Action Meeting which continues and sustains their engagement with the police. Since these initiatives have been in place anti social behaviour has been removed as a priority for the main Community Action Meeting for the first time ever.
- 46 Operation Dragonfly is an anti social behaviour, volume crime reduction and engagement initiative for the Colshaw Farm Estate. This involved Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order legislation being used on key individuals, along with search warrants on addresses suspected to be engaged in dog fighting. Officers have been liaising with schools to secure a plot for local youths at the Royal Horticultural Show at Tatton Park. This activity has seen a reduction in anti social behaviour and sustained reduction in reports of criminal damage. The work to date has received very positive feedback from the community and local residents' association.
- 47 Partnership activities include Breach of Tenancy notices and Eviction Warnings issued to problem tenants. The Probation Service led the distribution of 800 anti-social behaviour information leaflets and the procurement of two Nordic cleaning devices for offenders to remove graffiti.
- 48 Those involved in the operation have also secured funds from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to transport youths to engagement and distraction activities at Wilmslow Leisure Centre.

Knutsford

- 49 Neighbourhood policing staff are carrying out follow up ArcAngel visits on those identified as being involved in anti social behaviour or alcohol related crimes. Following the report of such an incident, the suspect is visited at home as soon as possible and a number of options considered such as advice about their

conduct, serving them with a banning letter or referral to alcohol advisory services. Further prompt intrusive evidenced based visits are then carried out by the Inspector and licensing officers to any licensed premises suspected of not adhering to the law.

- 50 Officers have also collaborated with the Vice Principal of Knutsford High School to reduce crime among young people. The aim is to build on the established relationship with Knutsford High School. Officers are working with the Vice Principal to improve information sharing which is resulting in intelligence that allows officers to take appropriate action to resolve and reduce crime of a minor nature in a positive way.

Macclesfield NPU

- 51 The VIP Phone initiative carried out by the unit aims to get the community involved with their local officers. The purpose of the scheme is to enhance problem solving. Members of the community tell police what their main priority is and each weekend a select number of people have direct communication with their local officer through the use of the VIP phone in order to supply information about that particular issue. This has led to improved communication, very fast response and positive outcomes regarding arrests, intelligence flow and general problem solving. Very positive feedback has been received from local residents who have taken part in the initiative.

Eastern Crime Operations

Burglary Dwelling

- 52 A notable arrest was that of Mark Burgess and Darren Charlesworth on 5 December 2008, when officers responded to intruders at an address in Crewe. Both were interviewed regarding the offence, but denied the burglary. Regardless of their denials there was sufficient evidence gathered from the scene and they were charged with the offence. They appeared in court the following day and were remanded into police custody in order that further enquiries could be conducted into the other offences.
- 53 Following this decisive action and thorough police investigation Burgess and Charlesworth were charged with a number of burglary offences and will appear at Chester Crown Court on 24 February.

Fraud - Operation Byline

- 54 In March 2005, the North West Development Agency based in Warrington, reported to Cheshire Police that they believed that they had been defrauded of a substantial amount of public funds. The alleged offender was the Chief Executive Officer Michael Welch, who was the head of one of their Cluster Development Organisations called "Digital Industries North West".

- 55 Welch was subsequently arrested and an investigation by the Economic Crime Unit commenced. Enquires later implicated his wife Anne Hunt and her own business as being involved. As a result of a substantial and complicated investigation in October 2007, Welch and Hunt were charged with obtaining £440,000 by deception and money laundering.
- 56 Hunt was additionally charged with fraudulently obtaining a mortgage to value of £500,000 by deception. In September 2008, Welch pleaded guilty to theft and Hunt pleaded guilty to the mortgage fraud. Hunt was given a community service order and Welch, a US national was imprisoned for three years and on completion of his sentence he will be deported.

Northern Area NPUs

Warrington Town Centre NPU

- 57 As part of the ArcAngel strategy to tackle alcohol related crime and disorder associated with the night time economy in Warrington there have only been 19 reported incidents in Bridge Street and Academy Way throughout December 2008, compared to 51 in 2007. Officers from the unit made 124 arrests during the month and issued 76 Section 27 Orders. As a result violent crimes fell by almost half in December compared to the previous year.
- 58 Also in December a joint operation was carried out with partners from CCTV, the Gambling Commission, Immigration, Licensing and the Borough Council. Takeaways were targeted and several arrests were made in respect of immigration laws.
- 59 Changes in the town centre were promoted in features in the Warrington Guardian and on Saturday January 17 the High Sheriff of Cheshire accompanied officers for a Saturday evening shift in the town centre. During the visit the High Sheriff witnessed a drugs dog in action during two drug searches. He met and spoke to door staff, and witnessed for himself environmental changes, such as the closure of lower Bridge Street, and the new taxi office and taxi ranks aimed at removing anti social behaviour flash points. A stop search was carried out on a man, which resulted in his arrest for a false passport and his friend being drunk and disorderly. Finally, the Sheriff was escorted through 'Halo' night club and other busy venues where he was able to speak to managers.

Widnes NPU

- 60 The town centre of Widnes saw a big increase in burglaries of commercial premises throughout October. The unit's officers scrutinised forensic evidence and information was given to the Force's intelligence unit. This extensive work was rewarded with the arrest of Adam Caine (27) from Widnes who admitted 16 offences in total. Caine was charged and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

- 61 November saw the execution of a drugs warrant in Westminster Close, Widnes and the seizure of Cannabis with a street value of more than £200,000. A man was charged and remanded for possession with intent to supply.
- 62 The Christmas initiative in the town centre involving high visibility patrolling, targeted thefts from car parks, purse dipping, and similar offences. This resulted in the arrest of a number of known offenders who were sentenced or remanded during the Christmas period.
- 63 Operation Campaign was implemented jointly with licensing partners on 5 and 6 December. This robustly targeted licensed premises in Widnes and Runcorn town centre. There was a 28% reduction in violent crime over that weekend.

Warrington Central NPU

- 64 Warrington Central Neighbourhood Policing Unit is leading the way in the use of Memo Cams to tackle crime and anti social behaviour. The unit is the first in the Division to use Memo Cam evidence in court. The main advantage of the Memo Cam is that it is discrete and can record continuously (for a week).
- 65 Last year an officer on the unit began to deal with incidents involving a prolific offender breaching his Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). The offender was cold calling and harassing a partially sighted vulnerable man who he had befriended through fear and intimidation. Intelligence suggested the offender had targeted several vulnerable people in the same way. A memo cam was fitted in the victim's address and it identified the offender cold calling at the address. The offender was charged with six breaches of his ASBO and remanded in custody for trial which began on 31 January 2009. Without the Memo Cam it would have been difficult to identify the offender and a vast amount of officer time would have been needed. This would have also necessitated relocating the victim to sheltered accommodation.

Warrington West NPU

- 66 Work being done by officers from the unit in relation to implementing the Government's Prevent strategy has been commented on favourably by Chief Superintendent Andy Rintoul (Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorist Command) who was pleased with the progressive culture of engagement displayed by the neighbourhood unit policing staff.
- 67 Prior to Christmas the unit ran a retail crime initiative based in the area of the Gemini Retail park to include, Marks and Spencer, Ikea, and Boots. Officers were scaled to work day shifts on high visibility foot patrol alongside covert officers. The objective was to disrupt and apprehend shoplifting teams operating throughout the retail areas at this busy time. There was daily liaison with the private security teams and regular briefings. The operation was a success in that crime was reduced significantly for the Christmas period.

Runcorn NPU

- 68 Operation Strikeout was conducted in Halton and Merseyside on January 20 and involved over 200 Cheshire officers from across the Force. Twenty arrests were made for the offence Supplying Class A drugs and all offenders were remanded. Officers interviewed a further six habitual crack cocaine users who were identified in the course of the operation. These addicts have now been linked into treatment with the Drug Action Team. Police Officers and PCSO's have continued to provide engagement with the communities in the strike areas and have also obtained additional community intelligence. Positive comments have been made by the local residents. A community reassurance plan is now being implemented which seeks to build on the positive impact of the operation.

Warrington East NPU

- 69 Additional funding during the Christmas period allowed officers to work extra hours to target issues linked to young people obtaining and abusing alcohol. Officers working with Trading Standards also conducted a test purchasing operation in the run up to Christmas, during which a number of premises failed. ArcAngel enforcement action has been taking place against those individuals and licensees who allowed the supply to take place. Trading standards will offer extra training to those involved.

Northern area crime operations

Pro-active Policing Unit

- 70 Two suspected prolific offenders from the Halewood area of Liverpool were targeted as part of Operation Springtown. The two men were suspected of committing car and key as well as plasma screen TV burglaries. Following this intelligence led policing operation both men were arrested, charged and remanded in custody. One of the offenders has since admitted to committing 48 house burglaries, 30 of which were in Widnes. The second offender admitted to committing 6 house burglaries and 13 vehicle crimes.
- 71 As a result of the investigation into an armed robbery at a Thelwall Post office in April 2008, David Williams, Ross Ward and David Harvey, all from Liverpool, appeared for sentence at Chester Crown Court in December 2008.
- 72 Williams was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, Harvey to 10 years and Ward to 9 years. (Ward will be sentenced later in February as his pre-sentence report had not yet been completed) .This is an excellent result and sends out a clear message that offences like these will be dealt with severely by the courts. His Honour Judge Dutton praised the quality of the police investigation that resulted in these four dangerous offenders being brought to justice.

Western Area NPUs

Chester Outer NPU

- 73 The team has been concentrating on strengthening partnership relationships within the area during the past six months. The three distinct geographic based problem solving groups continue to meet monthly.
- 74 At the meetings, headed by a CAT Sergeant and attended by key partners, any unresolved issues are escalated to the monthly meeting chaired by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership lead. This new structure is making a real difference with all partners engaging to resolve local issues.

Chester Inner NPU

- 75 December brought an increase in visitor numbers to the city centre both in the day for Christmas shopping and at night for the social scene. Violent offences remained low due to the policing tactics employed. Chester Inner provided an additional police presence throughout the day and night to provide reassurance, not only to the public but also to the more vulnerable retail outlets such as jewellers.
- 76 In addition ArcAngel Christmas initiatives included good partnership working with local licensing teams, pubwatch, the Security Industries Agency and local church leaders. The use of the drugs dog resulted in four people being arrested in possession of Class A drugs. This additional resource is welcomed by the city's licensees and is seen as a valuable resource in dealing with drug activity, particularly around pubs and clubs where young adults are most susceptible to being introduced to drugs.

Winsford NPU

- 77 Officers have continued to conduct a number of drugs warrants and uncovered another house where cannabis cultivation was taking place, resulting in the recovery of 28 plants, equipment, and the arrest of one person. The unit has continued to increase visible patrolling in the community and has seized over 15 vehicles for traffic offences including no insurance, no driving license and disqualified driving.
- 78 Officers have continued to use the Restorative Justice process to bring a positive outcome to incidents. An excellent example of this was in response to a report of criminal damage to a school building caused by youths who had gained entry to an unused part of the school.
- 79 The seven youths identified as responsible took part in an RJ conference with parents and the head teacher, where they were made to face the consequences of their actions. The victims were able to influence the outcome which resulted in the seven offenders cleaning up the building.

Northwich NPU

- 80 Northwich Neighbourhood Policing Unit held a "FRENZY" event on 19 December in conjunction with Winsford Neighbourhood Policing Unit . The event creates a diversionary activity aimed at 11-16 year olds and promotes a safe environment to enjoy a themed night club experience.
- 81 The event was part of a series of three monthly events funded by the Fire Service, Vale Royal Borough Council and Weaver Vale Housing Trust. The events helped lower anti social behaviour and actively engaged youths. Members from the more rural Parish Councils commented on the success and hope that the event becomes a regular occurrence.
- 82 The unit's Christmas initiative concentrated on providing hi-visibility patrols in the day time around retail areas and in the evening around the night time economy and was funded with the assistance of Vale Royal Borough Council. The objective of deterring both retail crime and violent offences was achieved.

Western Rural

- 83 The unit launched an initiative to educate parents of school children about the issue of cyberbullying and intrusive monitoring of internet chat rooms. The presentation instructs parents on accessing and monitoring internet chat rooms and illustrates how to monitor and effectively manage their children's use of these sites.
- 84 The first of these presentations took place at Sandiway Library and was warmly received by the parents who attended. It is anticipated that this presentation will form part of school open evenings and will complement the schools anti bullying policy and the Respect Agenda.

FORCE DEVELOPMENT

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Update

- 85 The Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) unit provides vital intelligence on a regular basis resulting in an excess of 250,000 'hits' per day which are collected and stored by the central server at headquarters, all of which can be searched for analytical purposes.
- 86 The unit has the use and control of 33 fixed cameras covering the North, East and Western Basic Command Units and also uses 29 mobile units, two vans and two portable systems.
- 87 A considerable number of vehicle seizures can be attributed to 'hits' on the system as can many successful operations resulting in the arrest of offenders for serious incidents. This can be highlighted by a recent system activation coordinated by the Regional Deployment Centre, resulting in the arrest by Vector staff, of an offender wanted for kidnap and sexual assault.

- 88 Training packages have been developed and delivered to Regional Deployment Centre staff, who now monitor the systems 24/7 and deploy patrols to high priority hits when necessary. The training has also been rolled out to staff in the Neighbourhood Policing Units, Targeted Patrol Teams, Motorway, Intelligence Units, Vector, Police National Computer Bureau, and Air Support all of which are utilising the system for analytical and deployment purposes.
- 89 Work continues on the collaboration with Merseyside, Lancashire, GMP, Cumbria, North Wales and the Highways Agency to develop a fixed site camera infrastructure which the Constabulary is leading on.

Custody

- 90 The contract for the provision of medical services to the force is currently awarded to Reliance Medical Services. This is due to expire at the end of April 2009. Custody management continue to work closely with the force procurement department in managing the tendering process required to ensure continuation of an outsourced service. Key individuals within the force have been consulted in the tendering process.
- 91 Custody are working closely with Quest Investigation in the Evidence Review Officer (ERO) pilot on the Eastern Basic Command Unit and have supplied two custody sergeants to assist delivering the Evidence Review Officer 24/7 staffing model. The pilot is running until the end of February at which point consideration is to be given to rolling out the model to the other two Basic Command Unit's. Key drivers of the pilot are reduction in detention times and the improved management of bail.

Student officer training

- 92 Student officer training has now fully relocated to the Padgate campus at Warrington. Only the first five weeks of the 27 week programme are conducted at HQ where personal safety training, induction, uniform issue and public order training take place for logistical reasons.
- 93 Reception on the campus by other students and staff has been very positive with comments being fed back to police trainers by students, staff and parents concerning the feeling of increased safety on the campus.
- 94 Police training has recently been inspected by a university appointed external validator from Hull who has focused on the assessment processes, results so far and the quality of feedback and recording. The Constabulary received very favourable comment about the quality of the training, record keeping and the feedback provided to officers as well as the high achievement rates. One comment made in relation to the standard of support and feedback at the formal meeting being "The university can only dream of achieving these standards."

- 95 The success of the foundation degree has prompted further research into other training, in particular the provision of qualifications, and recently the Neighbourhood Policing Unit training modules received approval by the university for a certificate level award. Crime training is now approaching validation as a diploma award and third year option for those staff with a foundation degree. Similarly PCSO training, road policing courses and the training for special constables is being considered for formal recognition and the award of industry standard qualifications.
- 96 The University has also created a qualification for the Force's trainers to complement the National Policing Improvement Agency Police Trainers course, so that all staff will have a certificate for teaching ongoing development. This is similar to the Certificate in Education but it is more appropriate for adult learning and recognised across the industry.

Crime mapping update

- 97 The Constabulary's crime mapping website is now up and running providing easy access for the public to information about crime in their area. The website aims to ensure the Constabulary is meeting the requirements of the neighbourhood Policing Pledge and confidence commitments.
- 98 The Home Office driven second phase of providing local crime information to the public involves developing a one stop shop for the public to find out neighbourhood policing information for their local area. Linked to the new crime mapping site Forces are being asked to provide neighbourhood policing team information including contact details; times and dates of meetings; action and consequences; how a member of the public can take action such as reporting crime; and links to Watch schemes and other proactive community action programmes.
- 99 This phase includes the adoption of a template approach for all Forces. The Constabulary already provides much of the information recommended by the Home Office on its current website but not in the recommended format. Work is being undertaken to ensure compliance with the Home Office recommendations. This work will involve the migration of information into the crime mapping site as changes to the design of the neighbourhood policing pages in the time scales provided are not possible. Completion of phase two is expected by the end of February ready for the launch of a Home Office marketing campaign in March 2009 to promote the improved access to local crime and policing information for the public through DirectGov.com.

Restorative Justice Update

- 100 Other forces have visited the county to view the Restorative work being undertaken by the Constabulary. The training for all the front line staff in Level 1 Restorative Justice was completed on 4 February. This means that over 1000 operational staff will be trained in RJ. This includes all the staff from the force working in Neighbourhood Policing Units or in the Targeted Patrol Team.

- 101 Level 2 training is then going to be rolled out to those staff working on the Neighbourhood Policing Unit's to allow more complex issues to be resolved through RJ. The use of RJ has been quite extensive. Since the roll out of the training at the end of October, over 200 crimes have been resolved through the scheme. It is expected that once the Level 1 training has finished, approximately 120-150 crimes a month will be resolved in this manner.
- 102 The restorative approach allows the offender and victim to be brought together in a controlled environment and allowed to collectively decide how best to resolve that incident.
- 103 Over half the incidents are being resolved through a simple apology, either written or verbal, but over 45% of the incidents have involved some further work on the part of the offender. This could be in the form of reparative work or the victim being remunerated for any loss incurred.

RECOMMENDED:

That the report be noted.

DAVID WHATTON
CHIEF CONSTABLE