

## Future Meetings

CHESHIRE Police Authority listens to what people want from their police service. One of the ways that we do this is at meetings which we hold in your area.

Please feel free to attend any meeting in your area so that we can listen to your views on policing issues, let you know what has been happening in your area, determine policing priorities and your suggestions for improvement.

**All Western Area meetings will be held at 7.00pm on:-**

- **1 September 2009** Lifestyle Centre, The Drummer, Winsford
- **22 September 2009** Civic Hall, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port
- **19 January 2010** Memorial Hall, Northwich
- **26 January 2010** St Mary's Centre, St Mary's Hill, off Castle Street, Chester



### Monthly Crime Data

As part of our commitment to the Policing Pledge you can read about crime information in your area. Visit [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk), enter your postcode and use the interactive maps.

## How to get in touch

YOUR local Neighbourhood Policing Team is available to solve problems in your community. Officers can be contacted on the following numbers or by email to the addresses provided below:-

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Chester Outer</b><br><a href="mailto:chester.outer.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">chester.outer.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br>Covering Blacon, Boughton Heath, Vicars Cross, Huntington, Hoole, Upton, Handbridge, Westminster and Curzon Park, Lache, Newton, Saughall and parts of Saltney.                     | <b>0845 458 6375</b> |
| <b>Chester City Centre</b><br><a href="mailto:chester.inner.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">chester.inner.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br>Covering Chester City Centre, Boughton, College Ward and Sealand Road area.   | <b>0845 458 6384</b> |
| <b>Broxton (Dragon Hall)</b><br><a href="mailto:dragon.hall.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">dragon.hall.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br>Covering Dodleston, Tarporley and Tattenhall.   | <b>0845 458 6377</b> |
| <b>Frodsham</b><br><a href="mailto:frodsham.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">frodsham.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br>Covering Cuddington, Elton, Frodsham and Sandiway.   | <b>0845 458 6393</b> |
| <b>Mickle Trafford</b><br><a href="mailto:mickle.trafford.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">mickle.trafford.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br>Covering Mickle Trafford area.  | <b>0845 458 6394</b> |
| <b>Ellesmere Port &amp; Neston</b><br><a href="mailto:ellesmere.port.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">ellesmere.port.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:neston.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">neston.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br>Covering Ellesmere Port, Neston, Stanlow, Ince, Parkgate and Willaston. | <b>0845 458 6373</b> |
| <b>Northwich</b><br><a href="mailto:northwich.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">northwich.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br>Covering Northwich, Rudheath, Witton, Weaverham, Barnton, Winnington, Castle, Leftwich, Hartford, Kingsmead.  | <b>0845 458 6392</b> |
| <b>Winsford</b><br><a href="mailto:winsford.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk">winsford.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk</a><br>Covering Winsford, Grange, Wharton, Dean, Over, Greenfields, Swanlow, Davenham.  | <b>0845 458 6391</b> |

### Mission

To work in partnership with Cheshire Constabulary and others to create safer communities; and increase confidence and satisfaction in policing

### Vision

To ensure an efficient and effective police service, that is built on neighbourhood policing and tackles all levels of criminality, and makes the citizens of Cheshire safe and feel safer

### Aims

- To assist in achieving a consistently high performing force
- To ensure improvements in performance and scrutiny, underpinned by robust governance structures and appropriate Member support
- To provide better and more effective engagement with stakeholders
- To improve partnership working (both with the Constabulary and externally)
- To be a community leader in policing and community safety



### How to contact Cheshire Police...

- Non-emergency calls **0845 458 0000**
- Only use **999** if...
  - There is danger to life
  - Violence is used or threatened
  - A serious crime is in progress or likely to occur
  - A suspect is nearby
  - There is a Road Traffic Collision involving personal injury or danger to others
  - A vulnerable person needs urgent assistance

**Cheshire CRIME STOPPERS**  
0800 555 111  
Call anonymously with information about crimes

E-mail: [publiccontact@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:publiccontact@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)  
Website: [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk)

## Western Area



**Michael Darby**  
'Have Your Say' meeting Chairman

May 2009

**THIS newsletter outlines the discussions on 5 May 2009 in Neston and 19 May in Chester which were attended by 42 members of the public and local community representatives.**

The Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, Deputy Chief Constable, Graeme Gerrard and Chief Superintendent Tim Jackson were present to answer questions. Local Inspectors were also in attendance.

## Chairman's Introduction

THE Government's Policing Pledge requires local officers to arrange public meetings, and tonight's meeting supports that Pledge. The 'Have Your Say' meetings, organised by the Police Authority, enable the public to raise issues and provide information on improvements in and changes to, policing. It is important that the public are satisfied with the policing service they receive.

It was announced that Margaret Ollerenshaw had been appointed as the new Chairman of the Authority and was keen to improve public confidence in the police.

## Local crime information

How the public can access local crime information via the website - [cheshire.crimemapper.co.uk](http://cheshire.crimemapper.co.uk) was announced. The web site contains information on the number of crimes and anti-social behaviour incidents for local neighbourhoods and gives contact information for local policing teams, details of local meetings and events, and volunteer opportunities. The web site also shows the local priorities for a particular area and how these are being tackled by the police and the results of policing operations.

Maps show the level of crime in your area and lets you search for more information by using your postcode.



## Customer service desk

Improvements made following the introduction of the Police Service Desks were outlined. The Desks provided a better service to the public reporting crimes and incidents, and supported victims of crime and witnesses. The Desks ensure that victims and witnesses are kept updated on investigations and issues relating to their case, such as - whether there is a suspect, what charges are being brought, what will happen about the recovery of stolen property, what will happen in court and whether the victim is required to attend.

The Chairman advised that whilst the internet enabled the Authority and Constabulary to disseminate large volumes of information to the public, many other forms of communication were also undertaken.

## HQ Crime and Operations Departments

THE meetings were given a presentation on the work of the HQ Crime and Operations Departments in supporting neighbourhood policing and tackling serious and organised crime.

Those in attendance received a detailed briefing on several major investigations targeting money laundering and drugs which resulted in a several arrests; the recovery of £10million worth of drugs; assets seized; and a large quantity of firearms and related weapons seized. The role of the Force Major Investigation Team (FMIT) who investigated serious and major crimes, such as murder, without the need to call upon local police officers from their normal duties, was explained. The Team had a 100% success rate in detecting murders.

Also outlined were the roles of the other units which provided unseen resources to support neighbourhood policing - including the Air Support Unit for surveillance and search of large geographical areas; the use of police dogs and the Search Unit to assist in locating

people reported missing, the firearms, explosives and drugs units; the North West motorway policing unit; police launch and the underwater search unit. Other units included the Intelligence Unit which evaluated and acted upon information received from the local community; the economic crime unit which investigates serious fraud and targeted criminal financial assets; the surveillance Unit; and Forensics Unit which used the latest techniques in forensic examination to assist in the detection of crimes.



## Policing in the Western Area



Chief Superintendent **Tim Jackson**  
Western Area Commander

Chief Superintendent Jackson discussed the proposed area partnership boards established by the Cheshire West and Chester Council and the implications for policing in the Western Area.

Performance data was presented for the Western Area which showed recorded crime, vehicle crime, violent crime and criminal damage which had reduced by 4%, 19%, 6% and 12% respectively compared with the previous year. Whilst domestic burglary had increased by 3% over the same period, so had the detection rate by 3.5% to 21.9%.

## Policing in Ellesmere Port & Neston



Inspector **Richard Rees**  
Ellesmere Port & Neston NPU

Inspector Rees gave an overview of recent activity in the Area which included the investigation into the death of a local man in Parkgate for which an arrest had been made; the six-year imprisonment of a man for a number of burglaries in Ellesmere Port; seizing and crushing a number of illegal off-road motorbikes and mini-motos; and the work undertaken by PCSOs in visiting schools, providing diversionary activities for youngsters and assisting with 'Community Speedwatch'.

Also outlined were initiatives to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour, which involved the use of ASBOs and Anti-social Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), and gave examples of where Restorative Justice had been effectively used.

## Question Time

**Q.** How can the public establish more Homewatch schemes?  
**A.** Chief Superintendent Jackson asked the questioner to speak to Liz Biddle, the Homewatch Manager for the Western Area after the meeting. [For further information on Homewatch – contact Liz on 01244 614291 or email [western.watch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:western.watch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)]

**Q.** What was the Constabulary's policy on the issuing of cautions?  
**A.** Inspector Rees advised that all forces worked to a national policy when issuing cautions which was dependent on a number of factors – age, 'gravity' score and seriousness of the offence.

**Q.** Would the re-aligned police structures under the new area partnership boards impact on the police response times.  
**A.** The Chief Superintendent confirmed that there would be no change and local officers would respond to the same incidents.

Highway/road safety issues relating to the Badgers Rake Lane/A540 junction; the construction of a lay-by for police vehicles in the central reservation of the A540; and the need to remove a '40mph' sign on the road surface in Liverpool Road were raised and noted by the Cheshire West & Chester Council Councillors in the audience. Inspector Rees agreed to inform the Council of the issues raised.



## Policing in Chester



Inspector **Ian Thorp**, Chester Outer NPU

Inspector Thorp outlined partnership work to target anti-social behaviour and burglary. Operation Shine distributed 'Smartwater' kits to vulnerable members of the community to protect their property and with the assistance of the Housing Trust, a 'Trap House' had been created which had led to the arrest of a man for burglary. Officers had also been working with other agencies to provide support to Persistent and Prolific Offenders (PPOs) – individuals who committed multiple crimes, in order to rehabilitate them and deter them from re-offending.

Sergeant Andy Pickup on behalf on Inspector Williams reported a reduction in violent crime incidents within the City centre. Officers were working with partner agencies to target alcohol related anti-social behaviour by the homeless by identifying individuals who commit repeat crimes/low level incidents and offer assistance. Multi-agency visits and covert visits were being undertaken to

licensed premises and clubs to gain intelligence on the sale of alcohol to under 18's or where anti-social behaviour incidents were occurring. A number of individuals had been banned from the City.

The Sergeant explained the use of Restorative Justice (RJ), where the victim of minor crime and the offender meet to discuss issues about the crime, such as the impact on the victim, and explain why the offence was committed.



Inspector **Phil Hodgson**, Western Rural NPU

The Inspector discussed the successful joint investigation undertaken with Merseyside Police following the robbery at Ashton Hayes post office, which resulted in the arrest of a man who admitted 17 other offences; the arrest of a man for a knife-point robbery in Frodsham; and the investigation of individuals who commit burglaries and target vulnerable residents which led to the arrest of 4 men from North Wales.

## Question Time

- Q.** Who pays for the 'Smartwater' kits?  
**A.** Inspector Thorp advised that the kits were funded by the Community Safety Partnership and the Housing Trust. Inspector Hodgson hoped that the kits would be rolled out to social housing landlords in the rural area. The Constabulary's Homewatch Manager, Liz Biddle added that Homewatch Co-ordinators were able to purchase the kits at a discount. [For further details contact Liz on 01244 614291 or email [western.watch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:western.watch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)]
- Q.** Concern was expressed about the reluctance of two police officers to get out of a police vehicle to assist a man who had been assaulted in the City centre and why were officers not on foot patrol.  
**A.** Chief Superintendent Jackson advised in relation to the first issue that it was difficult to comment on a specific incident that had been reported third hand as an objective assessment could not be made. As a general rule he would expect officers to make themselves accessible to members of the public who wanted to report incidents or obtain assistance. The questioner was informed that Inspector Williams and his officers did undertake foot and vehicle patrols in and around the City centre. Vehicles were used in order to deploy an immediate response. Since 2005, more officers had been allocated to neighbourhood policing teams from response duties and the number of PCSOs had increased to 247.
- Q.** Why were the 'Have Your Say' meetings not advertised more to increase attendance?  
**A.** Mr Eaton advised that press releases were issued to the media, however, the Authority had no say on what the newspapers printed. Paid adverts in the press had not proved cost effective or increased attendance figures. Posters were also sent to Parish Councils, local authorities, libraries and other community groups to display on noticeboards. The dates also appeared in the 'Your Policing' newspapers and the council tax leaflets which were distributed to every household in Cheshire.
- Q.** Concern was expressed about the venues and the geographical spread of the 'Have Your Say' meetings.

- A.** The Chairman advised that the comments had been noted and would be considered when the Authority reviewed the operation of the meetings later in the year.
- Q.** Had the Authority considered the present economic climate when setting its budget and impact upon crime?  
**A.** The Chairman advised the Government and the Police Authority had taken the economic situation into account when setting its budget. This issue was the same for all public service sectors. The effect of the economic situation on crime was something that the Constabulary kept under constant review and would affect priorities as circumstances changed.
- Q.** Who's benefit was the crime mapping for?  
**A.** Chief Superintendent Jackson reported that the Authority and Constabulary had a duty to provide this information under the Government's Policing Pledge.
- Q.** How much crime was unreported?  
**A.** The Chief Superintendent advised that the British Crime Survey was considered to be the most accurate measure as data was collected annually from the public by independent polls. The survey results indicated a reduction in crime. The public were urged to report all types of crime to enable intelligence to be gathered about where offences were being committed and ensure they were addressed.

Appreciation was expressed by an individual to the Police for the prompt feedback given to him following the reporting of an incident/crime.

- Q.** Had the Constabulary considered the use of a single telephone number?  
**A.** The Chief Superintendent advised that a project to establish a Single Non-Emergency Number (SNEN) across the UK involving a number of other authorities and emergency services in recent years, had not progressed due to the prohibitive costs and number of resources required to provide the service.