

# Northern Police Area

*Our next two meetings in the Northern Police Area are:-*

**Thursday 14 January 2010,  
7pm**

Town Hall, Heath Road  
Runcorn, WA7 5TN

**Thursday 28 January 2010,  
7pm**

Gateway Centre, Sankey Street,  
Warrington, WA1 1SR

*Please come along to either or both.*

## **1. Policing Priorities & Budget 2010/11 – You said, we did**

*The results from the Authority's public consultation on the community's priorities for policing and the proposed Chief Constable's objectives are attached at Appendix 1. The budget proposals will be outlined at the meeting.*

## **2. Custody Visiting Scheme**

*Custody Visitors will discuss their role in visiting people detained in police cells.*

## **3. Policing in the Northern Area**

*Chief Superintendent Richard Strachan will discuss policing in the area. Details of crime levels and performance and notable incidents are attached at Appendix 2.*

## **4. Question Time**

*Your opportunity to question the Authority and senior Police Officers.*

Newsletters are published after each cycle of meetings which provided a summary of the matters discussed and questions asked. Copies are available at [www.cheshirepa.police.uk](http://www.cheshirepa.police.uk) or tel: 01244 614004.

## **POLICING PRIORITIES: CONSULTATION RESULTS**

During October and November 2009, the Authority consulted with the public about their priorities for policing for the forthcoming year. Consultation was carried out in a variety of ways:-

### Roadshow

The Authority met the public in eight town centres across the policing area of Cheshire.

### Postal Surveys

Postal surveys were sent , with second class reply paid envelopes to:-

- 'Have Your Say' regular attendees;
- Custody Visitors;
- Borough Councillors;
- Local Authority Chief Executives;
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships;
- Diverse groups; and
- a citizen's panel of people who volunteer to take part in surveys.

### Web Survey

People were encouraged to complete the survey on the web site through the local press.

1,927 people responded to the survey. The number of responses means that the results are statistically significant. 52.5% of respondents were female, 47.5% male.

## **HEADLINE RESULTS**

- 1,238 (65.3%) respondents felt that Cheshire Constabulary do an excellent or good job.
- 55% agreed (strongly & tend to) that the police are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the area, compared with 54% when asked about the police *and* council.
- 44% agreed (strongly & tend to) that they can influence decisions in their local area.

The survey asked people to say whether they felt the following areas of policing were essential, important or a lower priority.

|    | Policing in order of priority           |
|----|---|
| 1  | Responding to emergency calls           |
| 2  | Tackling violent crime                  |
| 3  | Detecting crime and arresting offenders |
| 4  | Tackling organised crime and terrorism  |
| 5  | Targeting drug dealers                  |
| 6  | Tackling domestic and child abuse       |
| 7  | Tackling ASB                            |
| 8  | More officers in the community          |
| 9  | Reducing Paperwork                      |
| 10 | Protecting witnesses                    |
| 11 | Focusing on burglary and vehicle crime  |
| 12 | Making better use of money and staff    |
| 13 | Keeping victims informed                |
| 14 | Improving road safety                   |
| 15 | Working with schools                    |
| 16 | Providing crime prevention advice       |
| 17 | Tackling community problems             |

The top 5 areas described as “essential” in each Council area are:-

|   | <b>Halton</b>                           | <b>Warrington</b>                       | <b>Cheshire East</b>                    | <b>Cheshire West &amp; Chester</b>      |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Responding to emergency calls           | Responding to emergency calls           | Responding to emergency calls           | Tackling violent crime                  |
| 2 | Detecting crime and arresting offenders | Tackling violent crime                  | Tackling violent crime                  | Responding to emergency calls           |
| 3 | Tackling violent crime                  | Tackling organised crime and terrorism  | Detecting crime and arresting offenders | Detecting crime and arresting offenders |
| 4 | Targeting drug dealers                  | Detecting crime and arresting offenders | Tackling organised crime and terrorism  | Tackling organised crime and terrorism  |
| 5 | Tackling organised crime and terrorism  | Tackling domestic and child abuse       | Targeting drug dealers                  | Targeting drug dealers                  |

## **PROPOSED POLICING OBJECTIVES 2010/11**

The Authority has used these results along with the national priorities set by the Home Secretary, policing intelligence and local priorities to prepare the following draft policing objectives for the Chief Constable for 2010/11. Targets and measures to assess achievement of the objectives are being developed.

OBJECTIVE 1 - Increase public confidence in policing

OBJECTIVE 2 - Respond effectively to the public when in need

OBJECTIVE 3 - Prevent and address anti-social behaviour and disorder to maintain safe and strong communities

OBJECTIVE 4 - Prevent and investigate crime

OBJECTIVE 5 - Protect vulnerable people

OBJECTIVE 6 - Protect the public from serious and organised crime and terrorism

OBJECTIVE 7 - Optimise value for money by improving efficiency and reducing costs

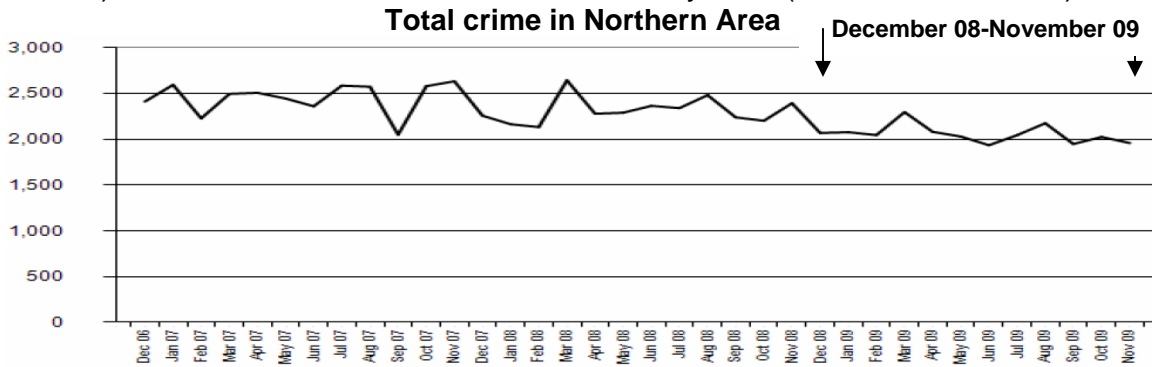
Mark Sellwood  
Chief Executive

APPENDIX 2  
NORTHERN 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETINGS  
14 & 28 JANUARY 2010

**PERFORMANCE DATA & RECENT ACTIVITY**

**Crime**

For the period December 2008 - November 2009 compared to the same period the previous year, crime in the Northern Area is down by 11% (3,101 fewer crimes) In Cheshire as a whole, crime is down by 11% (8,139 fewer crimes).



Performance in relation to a number of key crime categories over the year is:

|                   |          |                 |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Domestic Burglary | Down 5%  | 82 less crimes  |
| Violent Crime     | Down 9%  | 518 less crimes |
| Vehicle Crime     | Down 13% | 441 less crimes |
| Criminal Damage   | Down 15% | 947 less crimes |

**Detections**

The overall detection rate in the Northern Area, for the period is 32.4%. This compares to a rate of 29.4% for the same period the previous year. Other detection rates include:

|                   | <i><b>This year</b></i> | <i><b>Last year</b></i> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Domestic Burglary | 23.2%                   | 21.2%                   |
| Violent Crime     | 48.2%                   | 48.3%                   |
| Vehicle Crime     | 18.7%                   | 9.5%                    |
| Criminal Damage   | 14.3%                   | 13.5%                   |

**Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents**

During 2009, there were 22,313 incidents of Anti Social Behaviour recorded in the Northern Area, compared to 20,857 in 2008, an increase of 7.0%.

The most recent comparative data, which compares Northern Area with other similar policing areas, shows performance equating to 17.110 per 1,000 residents, compared to an average of 21.124. Overall, the force recorded 60,930 incidents during 2009, an increase of 4.2% over 2008.

**Public Confidence and Satisfaction**

In the most recently available data from British Crime Survey (June 2009), the percentage of the Cheshire public who stated they had confidence in their local police was **51.4%**. The percentage of the public who were satisfied with the whole experience of the service received from the police for the year ending September 2009 was 88.9% for the force and **88.2%** for the Northern Area.

## RECENT ACTIVITY AND INCIDENTS OF NOTE

Officers in the Northern Area spent weeks planning operations for Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night to ensure the events – and the build-up to them – were as peaceful as possible for everyone. The operations coincided with 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' – a national government campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour in local communities. There were no reports of any serious incidents during the Hallowe'en/Bonfire Night period. Officers carried out high-visibility patrols in hotspot areas at key times to deter any potential troublemakers and dealt with incidents of crime and disorder, confiscated alcohol from underage drinkers and visited local shops and off-licences to offer advice and support. PCSOs also visited elderly and vulnerable residents to offer reassurance and to address any issues or concerns they might have had.

Roads Policing officers carried out high-profile patrols using marked and unmarked cars and motorcycles to undertake roadside checks. In the run-up to Christmas every driver who committed a traffic offence or was involved in a collision was breath-tested. Officers also stopped and tested anyone who they suspected was under the influence of drink or drugs. Specially trained officers also conducted Field Impairment Tests on drivers to ascertain whether they were unfit to drive through drug-related impairment. The operation was funded by the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership.

Officers reminded motorists to ensure their vehicles were locked and secure at all times after a spate of thefts from vehicles. Valuable items had been snatched from vehicles which had been left insecure overnight. Officers had stepped up patrols in hotspot areas at key times and reminded motorists to remain security conscious at all times of the day and night. Drivers are being urged to lock all doors, windows and the sunroof when their vehicle is unattended – even for a few seconds, activate the alarm and/or the steering lock, ensure all personal possessions and valuables are removed from the vehicle and remove the fascia of the stereo and the 'sat nav' and cradle. During the recent cold spell of weather police also warned motorists not to leave their cars defrosting on the driveway – with the keys in the ignition.

## HALTON AREA

On 7 December 2009, the Safer Halton Partnership was successful in its application to close 38 Market Street, Widnes after a catalogue of evidence from police and partners. The Order was made under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, which allows the closure of premises used in connection with the production, supply or use of Class A drugs and associated with the occurrence of disorder or serious nuisance. The property, a three-bedroom terraced house, belongs to Cosmopolitan Housing Association. Following the hearing, the tenants left the property and all windows and doors were boarded up. Large notices on the house explained why the property was closed down and leaflets were distributed to local residents to inform them of the action that has been taken. The Closure Order is another example of the efforts being made by police and partners to tackle anti-social behaviour and the effects it has on local communities.

Police and partners cracked down on alcohol related crime and disorder in Widnes and Runcorn over the festive period. Operations took place in both Runcorn and Widnes town centres at night with local officers dealing with alcohol related crime and disorder

incidents and reinforcing the message that bad behaviour will not be tolerated. Representatives from partner agencies also increased the number of licensing visits to premises to ensure licensing regulations were being met and co-ordinated drug searches also took place. Police also continued to use powers under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act - known as 'Direction to Leave' in a bid to minimise the likelihood of alcohol-related crime or disorder taking place. During one enforcement operation in Widnes in December officers arrested 6 people for a variety of offences and issued 2 Section 27 Notices.

Officers from Runcorn and Widnes NPU discovered cannabis farms at a number of properties in Widnes after acting on information from the local community. A warrant was executed at the properties and a significant number of cannabis plants were seized. Various drugs paraphernalia, including lighting, extraction systems and electrical transformers was also seized.

Officers from Widnes NPU joined forces with representatives from partner agencies to ensure that Mischief night ran as smoothly as possible with 10 incidents of criminal damage reported. An overturned car in Coronation Drive resulted in two 16-year-olds and a 17-year-old being arrested. A 15-year-old boy was also arrested on suspicion of assaulting a police officer. Throughout the course of the night, officers responded to a number of calls in relation to anti-social behaviour in the town. Several groups of youths were spoken to about their behaviour and officers seized a number of fireworks, eggs and flour, and alcohol from underage drinkers.

Police across Halton are continuing their clampdown on the illegal and anti-social use of mini-motorbikes. Over the past few 7 months, officers have seizures over 30 mini-motos/motorcycles and issued 30 warnings to riders. Local officers have stepped up patrols in problem areas and are actively targeting those suspected of causing a nuisance. Members of the public are urged to continue passing on any information in relation to the illegal or anti-social use of mini-motos to police.

Police, partners and local residents joined forces to send out a strong message to thieves. Locals and officials gathered in areas of Widnes and Runcorn (including the Cherry Sutton Estate, Stewards Avenue and Castfields) as part of a series of special crime reduction events. The burglary 'days of action' organised by the Safer Halton Partnership as part of its current crackdown on burglary across Halton included officers from Widnes and Runcorn NPUs visiting hundreds of homes, talking to local residents and offered householders valuable advice about home security and how to reduce the risk of being targeted by thieves.

Officers from Runcorn NPU have been working with Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service over the past few months as part of a series of driver engagement and education days. Police carried out checks on drivers at key locations across the town, monitoring vehicle speeds, checking motorists were adhering to the law by not using mobile 'phones whilst driving, driving without a seatbelt or ignoring traffic signs. On High Street, Runcorn, almost 40 people were stopped for not wearing a seatbelt over 4 hours, 1 for using a mobile 'phone and another for using fog lights inappropriately. They were all invited to watch a DVD, which featured key road safety messages and highlighted the possible consequences of their actions - 38 chose to take up this offer. Two drivers – who were stopped for not wearing a seat belt – chose to accept fixed penalty notices for the offences instead.

A 26-year-old Widnes man was jailed for six years for causing the death of toddler Joshua Jones in November 2007. A woman also received a six-month sentence suspended for two years for allowing a child to be harmed. The toddler died from brain swelling.

A Widnes teenager spent Christmas behind bars after he was caught with Class A drugs. The 16-year-old was already serving a custodial sentence in a young offenders' institute when £1,500 worth of crack cocaine and heroin were found in his cell. He appeared before Wigan Youth Court and, having pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of Class A drugs, was sentenced to an 18 month detention order.

A 46 year old Widnes man has received a 12 week prison sentence after admitting to keeping a stash of hundreds of wild birds eggs. The sentence was suspended for 12 months, however, the man must undertake 200 hours of unpaid work and was ordered to pay £85 costs.

## WARRINGTON AREA

Four people who were arrested as part of Operation Strikeout, a high-profile drugs operation involving more than 100 officers in Warrington have pleaded guilty to drugs offences including the supply of Class A drugs or conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. All 4 defendants have now been committed to Crown Court and a further 8 defendants who were also arrested are yet to enter a plea. The operation was the result of six months of intelligence gathering surrounding the supply of powder cocaine in the Warrington area. During the operation, warrants and searches were carried out 16 properties and suspected class A and B drugs were seized, with more than £1,500 in cash and four motor vehicles. The operation was organised by the Northern Area Dedicated Drugs Unit and supported by the Force VECTOR unit and partner agencies, including Golden Gates Housing and the local Drug Action Team. Operation Strikeout continued with a special proactive night time operation in Warrington town centre. Police worked alongside representatives from partner agencies and were accompanied by a passive drugs dog to carry out high-visibility patrols. Throughout the evening officers and licensing officials conducted checks of licensed premises.

Officers from Warrington Town Centre Neighbourhood Policing Unit have been involved in Operation Red Mountain - specifically targeting retail crime within the town centre during the day. This operation involved uniformed and plain clothed police officers and PCSOs dealing with any incidents, talking to shoppers and handing out valuable crime reduction advice. Officers are also working closely with premises, including those affected by retail crime, to ensure that they have all the appropriate crime reduction advice and support. Over 100 arrests were made over a two month period for offences ranging from shoplifting to drunk and disorderly. A further 25 individuals were dealt with by way of Restorative Justice or issued with a Penalty Notice. Officers also disrupted those who engaged in alcohol related anti-social behaviour - seizing and disposing of alcohol, making arrests and issuing Section 27 notices.

Officers had also been involved in special operations involving mobile CCTV to ensure that thieves did not spoil the Christmas celebrations. Police urged those visiting busy shopping areas to remain alert and offered crime reduction advice.

Officers from Warrington South Neighbourhood Policing Unit working with partner agencies continued to carry out high-visibility patrols in hot spot areas at key times, seizing alcohol, speaking to young people about their behaviour, taking their details and advising their parents accordingly.

Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service had urged Warrington residents to be extra vigilant following a spate of arson incidents in the area. Since August, Warrington fire crews had attended more than 100 deliberate fires many involving wheelie bins located close to houses.

The White Ribbon Campaign is a national campaign primarily aimed at men and boys to encourage them to pledge that they will never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. Key representatives from the Warrington Domestic Abuse Forum took part in a series of fund raising events throughout the campaign. The Forum includes a number of agencies such as Cheshire Police, Warrington Borough Council, Criminal Justice Agencies, Health Services and Specialist Support Services working in partnership to tackle domestic abuse in the town.

A 24-year-old man was found guilty of two counts of rape following a week-long trial at Warrington Crown Court. The man had followed the young woman into her flat on the night of 30 April 2009. The man later received an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for Public Protection with a minimum of 5 years and 103 days before parole.

Two men who robbed an elderly shopkeeper at an off-licence in Orford in July 2009 have each been jailed for 4 years. The 80-year-old shopkeeper was targeted as he opened the shop and threatened with a pair of scissors. The pair fled the scene with a bottle of vodka and an empty money box. Two members of the public chased after the men and they were eventually arrested and charged.

A group of young men have been sentenced for their role in a number of robberies and drugs offences in which shop staff were threatened with violence. The men aged between 16 and 20, were handed jail terms ranging from 3 years and 4 months to 6 years or detention and training orders during a hearing at Warrington Crown Court. The men committed the offences as they had got into severe debt with drug dealers. The Police thanked members of the public for their response to the press appeal in relation to the robberies.

A Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order has been imposed on a homeless man from Warrington until September 2011. The order restricts the 54-year-old from dancing, sitting or lying down on any road; being abusive to or threatening to cause injury to a person; swearing in a public place; and possessing an open container containing alcohol on any public footpath or road.

A 21-year-old man received a 250-hour community order after he pleaded guilty to drunk and disorderly behaviour in Warrington town centre after CCTV footage captured him urinating on the war memorial at Bridgefoot and damaging poppy wreaths.