

Northern Police Area

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

**Thursday 17 September 2009,
7pm**
Gateway Centre, Sankey Street,
Warrington, WA1 1SR

**Thursday 24 September 2009,
7pm**
Kingsway Learning Centre,
Widnes

Please come along to either or both.

1. Criminal Justice

A Magistrate will discuss local sentencing issues followed by a senior officer from Cheshire Probation Area, who will explain how community sentences and community payback schemes operate.

2. Policing in the Northern Area

Chief Superintendent Gary Finchett will discuss policing in the area. Details of crime levels and notable incidents are attached at Appendix 1 for your information.

3. Question Time

Your opportunity to question the Authority and senior Police Officers. Attached at Appendix 2 is a summary of issues raised at the last round of Have Your Say meetings held throughout the Authority area.

Future Northern Police Area meetings *All begin at 7.00pm:-*

Thursday 14 January 2010 at the Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn

Thursday 28 January 2010 at the Gateway Centre, Sankey Street, Warrington

Summary of Northern BCU Performance – May-September 2009

The following examples provide evidence of the work that has been going on within the Halton area.

Significant Recent Operations/Initiatives:

More than 30,000 music fans descended on Daresbury over the Bank Holiday weekend as they headed to Creamfields. Cheshire Police worked closely with the organisers of the two-day event to ensure it ran safely and smoothly. There were no reports of any serious incidents and, as a result of meticulous planning and a high-profile police presence, a good natured crowd were able to enjoy the event safely. Cheshire Police worked closely with the organisers of the music festival to minimise the impact of the event on residents in Halton. A dedicated team of community officers were on hand to address the specific concerns of residents and deal with any community policing issues arising from the event. A total of 10 people were arrested for a variety of offences including possession of drugs with intent to supply, public order offences, fraud, aggravated vehicle taking and drink driving offences. 21 people received a caution on site for drugs offences and 19 thefts from tents were reported to police during the event.

Jail terms ranging from 18 months to almost four years were handed down to defendants under Operation Strikeout – which comprised of a series of dawn raids, to target the use and supply of Class A drugs in the Halton and Merseyside areas. They had all pleaded guilty to separate charges of supplying Class A drugs (Heroin and Crack Cocaine) at an earlier hearing. The majority of the 11 defendants were arrested during the strike phase of the operation on 20 January 2009, when warrants and searches were carried out at a total of 32 properties (17 of those were in the Halton area). Others were arrested in the weeks following the initial raids. Operation Strikeout involved around 200 officers from Cheshire Police. The operation was organised by officers from the Northern Area Dedicated Drugs Unit - supported by officers from Widnes and Runcorn NPUs, the force's VECTOR unit and representatives from the Safer Halton Partnership.

A passive drugs dog, trained to identify people who might be carrying drugs or who may have had some recent contact with drugs, accompanied local officers, PCSOs and representatives from the Safer Halton Partnership as they patrolled Widnes and Runcorn town centre and checked bars and pubs. People were detained and searched during the operation and 4 men were given official cautions for possession of cannabis and cannabis, ecstasy and cocaine were seized. More than 30 bottles and cans of alcohol were also seized from drinkers throughout the operation.

Cheshire Police Officers working with Merseyside Police carried out Operation Kentucky to seek out those who use the roads in the pursuit of criminal activity.

The Automatic Number Plate Recognition system (ANPR) which scans passing motor vehicle registrations and checks them against information stored in the Police National Computer, DVLA databases and other local intelligence databases. This can identify vehicles of interest to the police such as stolen cars or those involved in crime. Officers in Halton and Merseyside utilised the mobile ANPR units for both forces as well as the fixed ANPR cameras on the Widnes/Runcorn Bridge. Over 100 vehicles were stopped on the Halton border over two days and 8 motorists were arrested for a variety of offences including suspicion of possession of drugs with intent to supply, money laundering, motoring offences and being wanted on warrant. 13 vehicles were seized and 34 fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers in relation to motoring offences and defects with vehicles. Class A drugs and £10,000 were also seized.

Work is continuing to reduce the illegal and anti-social use of mini-motos in Widnes and Runcorn and more bikes have been seized and more riders issued with warnings. Local officers are carrying out high-visibility patrols in hot spots at key times. PCSOs are also gathering vital intelligence from the local community in relation to mini-motos. Police have the power to seize bikes and cars which are used in a way which causes harassment, alarm or distress even if the motorist has tax and insurance. A warning is given first but if that fails to be effective, the vehicle can be seized under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act. 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.

Officers from Runcorn NPU and Widnes NPU have executed a number of warrants over the past few months, which have resulted in significant seizures of drugs/weapons/suspected stolen property and 11 people arrested.

Locals and officials gathered on the Cherry Sutton estate as part of a special crime reduction event. The burglary 'days of action' were organised by the Safer Halton Partnership as part of a crackdown on burglary across Halton. The event, which aimed to reduce the number of burglaries in the area, enabled residents to speak to representatives from the Partnership and local officers about home security and how to reduce the risk of being targeted by thieves. They were also given information about security products that are available including personal safety alarms and Smartwater (SmartWater is a property marking system that provides a unique traceable solution that can be painted onto items in the home).

Officers from Runcorn Neighbourhood Policing Unit are working with Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as part of a series of driver engagement and education days. Police are carrying out checks on drivers at key locations across the town, monitoring traffic speeds, checking that motorists are not using their mobile phone whilst driving, wearing a seat belt and adhering traffic signs. Drivers who are stopped are asked to watch a short road safety DVD, which features key

road safety messages and highlights the possible consequences of their actions - or face prosecution either by fixed penalty notice or court appearance.

Officers from Widnes Neighbourhood Policing Unit have been distributing special silver bells to local shoppers in the town centre. The bells can be attached to purses, bags and other personal items so shoppers are alerted if someone tries to steal them. There have been a number of bag thefts within the town centre and the aim of the initiative, which is running in partnership with the town centre manager and the Halton Community Safety Team, is to crack down on purse thefts and bag snatches – and to reassure shoppers.

Police in Runcorn have stepped up patrols in the Brow Estate area after residents raised concerns about anti-social behaviour and suspected criminal activity. Local officers are regularly patrolling the estate – including the play area - at key times throughout the day and will take positive action where necessary. Officers have responded to reports of suspicious activity in the area and recently arrested a 34-year-old man for driving whilst disqualified and, in a separate incident, seized a car on the Brow estate for having no insurance. Runcorn NPU will not tolerate any sort of behaviour that has a negative impact on the quality of life of others. Residents are urged to continue reporting any incidents to police.

Respect, responsibility and discipline were the focus of the latest 'Kooldown Plus' scheme in Halton. These key elements were the focal point for the group of youngsters who took part in the latest 9-week activity based course. Special 'graduation' ceremonies took place at Runcorn and Widnes Fire Stations in July and during the ceremonies the young people received certificates to mark their achievements. The scheme, jointly delivered by Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service is aimed at 13- 16 year olds who work closely with local officers and firefighters and participate in weekly activities.

Significant Recent Convictions:

There have been a number of significant arrests/convictions in relation to the Halton area over the past few months. The following are just a handful of cases:

A judge has made a confiscation order for more than £1 million against a 44-year-old man from Runcorn. The order was made under provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 after it was determined that he had benefited from the proceeds of crime including cultivating and supplying Cannabis. Financial experts had delved into his finances over the past six years and decided that he had benefited from crime to over £1.3 million. The experts then examined his current financial position and determined that he currently has assets worth almost £200,000. Now, as part of the recovery the man must realise the value of his assets and use those to payback the sum of almost £200,000 within six months – or face a three year prison sentence.

A 19 year old prolific offender from Runcorn has been jailed for three years for over 17 burglary and robbery offences in the Runcorn area.

Stringent restrictions have been placed Edward Geaney, 21, has been issued with a Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order which places a number of conditions on his future behaviour until 2011. Geaney was issued with the CRASBO after being convicted of aggravated vehicle taking on in February 2009. He received an eight week custodial sentence for the incident. Geaney, of no fixed abode, but living in the Runcorn and St Helens area, is prohibited from doing a number of things including - acting, inciting, encouraging or aiding others to act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to others not of the same household and being in or on any private motor vehicle without the express permission of the owner.

Four young men have been jailed after a vicious assault on a man after he got out of his car to confront the group who had thrown items including a road sign and traffic cones at the vehicle on Lodge Road, Widnes in January 2009. The man approached the group to question why they had targeted the car, which also had a toddler on the back seat – and he ended up being attacked sustaining serious injuries to his face.

A 15-year-old boy was jailed indefinitely for sexually assaulting a teenager as she walked along a path by Trident Retail Park in December 2008. The teenager was also given 16 month and four month consecutive sentences for attempting to commit a sexual assault, possession of a bladed weapon and common assault. He was put on the sex offenders' register and banned from working with children.

NORTHERN 'HAVE YOUR SAY' MEETING
17 & 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

Summary of Northern BCU Performance – May-September 2009

The following examples provide evidence of the work that has been going on within the Warrington area.

Significant Recent Operations/Initiatives:

More than 40 people were arrested as part of Operation Strikeout – a high-profile operation to tackle drug use and supply across Warrington. The operation involved officers from each NPU across Warrington working with officers from the Drugs Unit and the force's VECTOR unit. Numerous warrants were executed across the town, resulting in the arrests for a variety of drugs offences. Cheshire Police is committed to tackling the issues of drug use and supply and the operation followed months of work by officers and information gathered from the community and partner agencies – including Golden Gates Housing.

Warrington West NPU has launched a special operation to target anti-social behaviour and nuisance youths in the Mary Ann Meadows area of the town, after residents raised concerns about groups of youths congregating, drinking alcohol, being noisy and acting in an anti-social manner. Officers have stepped up patrols and are targeting repeat offenders and confiscating alcohol from underage drinkers. Positive action will continue to be taken against anyone found to be breaking the law or causing a nuisance.

Officers from Warrington Town Centre NPU were involved in Operation Checkpoint 2 which targeted drugs and was organised with the full backing and support of the Pubwatch scheme. This follows on from the successful Operation Checkpoint 1 last year, which targeted weapons. This latest operation involved four checkpoints being set up in the town centre – at these checkpoints more than 8,000 people were screened for cocaine use before being allowed into town centre bars. Anyone who indicated that they might have taken the drug was spoken to by an officer and members of the Local Drug Action Team. Over 40 people were referred to the Team during the course of the operation. The joint operation is one of many initiatives police and licensees are involved in.

Officers from Warrington South NPU worked alongside officials from Trading Standards, Warrington Borough Council's environment management department and HMCS as part of a special operation targeting doorstep crime - focusing on bogus callers and rogue traders targeting the homes of the elderly and vulnerable. Throughout the operation, officials reminded 8 traders of the legislation relating to the statutory 7 day cooling-off period, advised 5 residents of

their consumer rights and advised 4 tradesmen of the legislation relating to obtaining a waste carriers licence.

Police have stepped up patrols in the Warrington East area in a bid to curb anti-social behaviour and underage drinking. Officers are targeting two hotspots - the John Keeney Park in Admirals Road, Birchwood and the play area in Common Lane, Culcheth - where large groups of youths are congregating, causing noise disturbance, drinking alcohol and repeatedly dropping litter. Local officers are undertaking high-visibility patrols at key times, seizing alcohol from underage drinkers and confiscating alcohol from any adults. Warrington is a 'no drinking' zone and police will take positive action against anyone found to be drinking in the street.

Officers have executed a number of warrants over the past few months, which have resulted in significant seizures of drugs/weapons/suspected stolen property and have made a number of significant arrests. These include –

Police seized drugs and counterfeit goods after they executed a warrant in Chorley Street. A 55-year-old man, from Warrington, was arrested and helped police with their enquiries and has since been bailed pending further enquiries.

Residents living in the area had aired their concerns at a recent community meeting about drink and drug fuelled incidents at a property in Forshaw Street. Officers executed a warrant and a 47-year-old woman was arrested and charged with possession of a Class B drug, non-payment of fines and abstraction of electricity. She later appeared in court where she was given a conditional discharge.

Police uncovered a cannabis factory at a house in Thelwall Lane, Latchford. The plants and associated equipment were seized and taken away for forensic examinations. A 41-year-old man, from Warrington, was arrested at the scene and later received a caution for cultivating Cannabis.

Companies on Burtonwood Industrial Estate have now signed up to a Business Watch scheme, which sees them working together in the area to deal with any issues or problems. Officers and the local PCSO have approached every business in the area asking them to sign up to the initiative – with a positive response from the majority of businesses. The businesses share information about crime and anti-social behaviour in the area and have set up their own directory, which contains key contact numbers for other companies in the area, contact numbers for their local officers, who continue to regularly visit all the companies in the area and talk to staff.

Work is continuing to reduce the illegal and anti-social use of mini-motos in the town and over the past few months more bikes have been seized by officers and more riders have been issued with warnings. Local officers are carrying out high-

visibility patrols in hot spots at key times. PCSOs are also gathering vital intelligence from the local community in relation to mini-motos and this information will be acted upon.

Significant Recent Convictions:

There have been a number of significant arrests/convictions in relation to the Warrington area over the past few months. The following are just a handful of cases:

Two brothers aged 18 and 20 have received indeterminate sentences for the kidnap and rape of a 12-year-old boy in Stockton Heath in July 2008.

A 20-year-old from Waring Avenue, Warrington, was sentenced to 14 months behind bars after pleading guilty to assault in Bridge Street on New Year's Day in which a man was punched and kicked. The young man admitted attacking another man outside a bar in the street at about 4.30am. The incident, which was captured on the town centre CCTV system, was witnessed by a number of people. The 28-year-old victim, sustained injuries including a broken jaw.

A 52-year-old man from Bathgate, West Lothian, was given a suspended prison sentence for 120 days after pleading guilty to 10 counts of causing £16,000 worth of criminal damage to windows of a car showroom, using a catapult and ball bearings.

A taxi driver, who hid Class A drugs in his cab, has been sentenced to almost six years behind bars. The 37-year-old was sentenced after admitting an offence of possession of a Class A drug with intent to supply. Police executed a warrant at his home in Tavlin Avenue, Dallam, in May and discovered a large amount of drugs and cash.

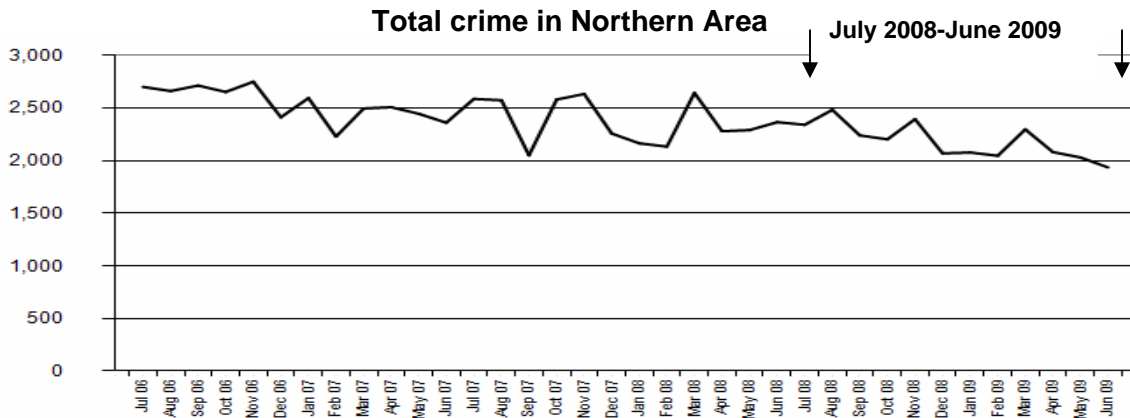
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PERFORMANCE DATA: JULY 2008- JUNE 2009

The Information below reflects that which respondents to our recent survey on performance information stated they wished to see reported. It covers three key areas of crimes, detections and public confidence and satisfaction.

Crime

For the period July 2008-June 2009 compared to the same period the previous year, crime in the Northern Area is down by 8% (2,363 fewer crimes). In Cheshire as a whole, crime is down by 6% (4,595 fewer crimes).



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

Domestic Burglary	Down 2%	30 less crimes
Violent Crime	Down 7%	396 less crimes
Vehicle Crime	Down 8%	275 less crimes
Criminal Damage	Down 16%	1,118 less crimes

Detections

The detection rate, in the Northern Area, for the period July 2008 -June 2009 is 32.3%. This compares to a rate of 27.6% for the same period 2007 -2008.

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

	<i>This year</i>	<i>Last year</i>
Domestic Burglary	26.1%	20.8%
Violent Crime	49.3%	46.2%
Vehicle Crime	18.2%	10.5%
Criminal Damage	14.3%	11.9%

Public Confidence and Satisfaction

In British Crime Survey interviews for the year ending March 2009, the percentage of the Cheshire public who stated they had local confidence in their local police was **48.9%**. The percentage of the public who were satisfied with the whole experience of the service received from the police for the period July 2008-June 2009 was 87.5% for the force and **83.9%** for the Northern Area. This compares to a national target of **85%** for the force.