

Have **your** say

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 consult you on important policing issues, determine policing priorities and listen to your views and suggestions for improvement.

Programme of Meetings 2009/10

All commence at 7.00pm

- **Thursday 7 May 2009**
Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn
- **Thursday 24 September 2009**
Kingsway Learning Centre
Victoria Square, Widnes
- **Thursday 14 January 2010**
Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn

How to get in touch Community Action Team

YOUR local Community Action Team (CAT) is available to solve problems in your neighbourhood. Leave a message on one of the following numbers and they will return your call within two days or email them at the address provided below:-

Runcorn 0845 458 6381

runcorn.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Runcorn, Moore, Daresbury, Preston Brook and Sandymoor

Widnes 0845 458 6383

widnes.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Widnes, Hale, Ditton and Upton

Cheshire Police Authority
www.cheshirepa.police.uk

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



Cheshire Police Authority
www.cheshirepa.police.uk

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 CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime



Cheshire Police Authority

Have **your** say

Halton

January 2009



*Have Your Say Chairman:
Police Authority Member
David Cargill*

THIS newsletter outlines the discussion at the meeting on 28 January 2009 in the Kingsway Learning Centre, Widnes which was attended by 32 members of the public and local community representatives.

The Authority's Chairman, Peter Nurse, Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood and the Area Commander Chief Superintendent Gary Finchett were present to answer questions. The Inspectors for the Runcorn and Widnes NPUs were also in attendance.

Face the people

DAVID Parr, the Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council and Chairman of Halton Strategic Partnership discussed the aims of the partnership which included working with the police and other key partners to create a thriving and vibrant borough, where local people can learn and develop their skills and enjoy a good quality of life in a modern environment. Mr Parr outlined the actions taken to improve community safety.

Successes of the Partnership included working with the police to target anti-social behaviour which had seen a significant reduction in incidents particularly on mischief night and the provision of diversionary activities such as the 'Friday night in the Park' and the 'Frenzy' events which enabled young people to meet up and enjoy the town within a safe environment. Support mechanisms had also been provided which assisted in the rehabilitation of offenders and get them back as a valued member of society.

Mr Parr reported on the development of the Partnership's Annual Plan which involved consultation with the local community – public, businesses and partner agencies to identify a series of priorities which could be addressed by the Partnership, partner agencies and the local community to make Halton safer.



Policing Priorities

THE Police Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, announced the results of the recent public survey about the priorities for policing in 2009/10. There had been presentations at 'Have Your Say' meetings, a survey on the Authority's website; a conference for young people, and questionnaires to partners, community groups and the Citizen's Panel; with touch screen surveys in 19 Post Offices throughout Cheshire.

The top priorities for policing, identified by the 2500 respondents to the survey, included responding to emergency calls; targeting organised crime and terrorism; targeting drug dealers; tackling domestic and child abuse; detecting crime and arresting offenders; and protecting witnesses. The survey also revealed that 67% of people felt that Cheshire Constabulary do an excellent or good job.

The Authority would now use the results to set the policing objectives for the Chief Constable.

A victim of a series of burglaries of his business premises commented that the police had failed to keep him informed of their enquiries and any action they were taking. The Chief Executive agreed to speak to the questioner after the meeting and reported that whilst the Police routinely surveyed victims of domestic burglary and other crimes, this did not include business crime. Detective Chief Inspector Bailey agreed to discuss the police response to the incidents after the meeting. Periodic surveys of businesses were undertaken.

Police Budget

PETER Nurse, the Police Authority Chairman, discussed the Authority's proposed budget for 2009/10 and outlined the extensive consultation with the public undertaken last year. Mr Nurse commented on the significant investment that had been made in frontline services to protect the people of Cheshire, to tackle serious and organised crime, the recruitment of additional sex offender liaison officers; increased roads policing, and improved witness protection and care. The investment had been possible due to the public support for an increase of 38p per week in council tax for a Band D property last year.

It was reported that for 2009/10, the Government had increased the grant for policing by 2.5% and limited the Authority's budget which meant a council tax increase of around 3% - about an extra 8p per week on a Band D household. Mr Nurse discussed the pressures that faced the Authority's finances, the limited grant, inflationary issues; the credit crunch; and the significant reduction in interest rates.

Almost £2m of savings had been identified and the Authority would be working with the Chief Constable to identify where further savings could be made whilst protecting frontline services, continuing to improve neighbourhood policing and tackling serious and organised crime.

A local councillor congratulated the Constabulary on the service provided to local people and asked what were the implications for policing due to Halton's inclusion in the Mersey city region. The Chairman stressed that Halton was an integral part of the Police Authority and the Constabulary

and would continue to be policed by the Constabulary despite Halton's developing economic links in the new Mersey city region. Mr Parr commented that following the Government's failed merger proposals in 2006, the Council and the Police Authority had developed strong working relationships and the Council was pleased to continue to work with the Constabulary to improve community safety in the area. The councillor welcomed the comments and the commitment that Halton residents would continue to receive policing services from Cheshire Constabulary.



The Policing Pledge

THE Chief Executive announced that Cheshire Constabulary and Police Authority had adopted the Policing Pledge as set out by the Home Secretary. The Pledge set the standards of service the public can expect from the police and included response times, feedback to victims and witnesses of crime, and contact details for local police officers.

A copy of the Policing Pledge can be viewed on the Authority's website – www.cheshirepa.police.uk

Policing in Halton



Chief Superintendent
Gary Finchett
Area Commander



Inspector
Derek Lockie
Runcorn NPU



Inspector
Sharon Case
Widnes NPU



Detective Chief Inspector
Nick Bailey
Crime Manager

THE Chief Superintendent reported on police performance which had seen crime in Halton fall by 2% along with reductions of 3% and 8% respectively in violent crime and criminal damage. Domestic burglary and vehicle crime had increased by 14% and 3% compared with the same period in the previous year. The increase in vehicle crime related to theft from vehicles, in particular the theft of number plates. The detection rates for all categories of crime had increased except in vehicle crime. The meeting was advised of a significant operation to target drugs in Halton - 'Operation Strikeout' which involving over 200 officers from all over Cheshire executing 32 warrants at properties in Halton and Merseyside and making 30 arrests for drugs related offences. The Chief Superintendent expressed his appreciation to the public for their information and intelligence which led to the success of the Operation.

Inspector Lockie discussed the work of the Runcorn NPU which included increased visible patrols on foot, cycle and in vehicles, who with other agencies were targeting vulnerable locations. Examples of the work undertaken to tackle vehicle crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour and drugs were outlined.

Inspector Case commented on the work of the Widnes NPU which included the arrest of a male for 27 burglaries, the

arrest of two females for a series of arson incidents; a number of ASBOs issued; the seizure of drugs valued £100,000; and the seizure of more than 30 mini-motos.

Detective Chief Inspector Bailey reported that the increase in last years' police budget enabled the appointment of an additional Sex Offender Liaison Officer for Halton which had resulted in arrests and the subsequent imprisonment of several offenders for a number of separate incidents.

Question Time

Q. Concern was expressed about some burglaries at elderly persons bungalows in Widnes.

A. Inspector Case reported that local officers and PCSOs distributed leaflets to the residents to raise awareness about crime prevention and burglaries. The Inspector agreed to speak to the questioner after the meeting.

Q. Concern was expressed about the court's sentencing policy, the reasons for early release of prisoners and the lack of deterrent to commit future crime and the need for more community service.

A. Mr Cargill advised that neither the Authority nor the Constabulary had any role in the sentencing of offenders. The Chief Superintendent advised that long prison sentences sometimes did not prevent individuals from re-offending and the introduction of Restorative Justice which enabled perpetrators of crime to meet with their victims to apologise and see how their actions affected the victim was reducing re-offending.

Mr Parr added that individuals who had to undertake community service work, such as litter picks, etc within the Borough were easily identifiable by high visibility jackets and reported that the Government were looking to implement more high profile

initiatives and punishments which were proportionate to the crime.

Q. An individual commented on the police action in relation to allegations of harassment and the subsequent series of complaints that had been made against the police. The complaints had been dealt with by the Constabulary's Professional Standards Department and the individual was unhappy with the outcome but had not made an appeal to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

A. The Chief Superintendent advised that he was not in a position to discuss the detail of the complaints but offered to speak to the individual after the meeting.

Comments were made about the poor standards of service in the courts and the lack of community service supervised by the National Offender Management Service.

Q. Did the Police liaise with Merseyside Police following a series of burglaries and vehicle thefts in Hough Green.

A. Detective Chief Inspector Bailey reported that the Constabulary worked closely with neighbouring police forces and were actively working with Merseyside Police on these thefts and were pursuing the offenders. He agreed to provide more

information to the individual concerned after the meeting.

Q. A representative of Halton Youth Cabinet enquired whether the Police support the 'Buzz Off campaign' which opposed the use of the mosquito device [a high frequency audio device to act as a deterrent to young people congregating in certain areas].

A. The Chief Superintendent advised that he personally considered it as a punitive measure and that the use of the device was disrespectful and painful to young people. He added that more diversionary activities and safe meeting places for youngsters to congregate were needed and that the majority of young people were law abiding.

Q. A comment that the 'Stay Safe' posters need to be more young people friendly.

A. Inspector Simon Blackwell, welcomed the feedback and reported on Operational 'Stay Safe' which was a national initiative to remove vulnerable youngsters off the streets at night and place them in a temporary safe place where social workers and other service providers could talk to them and their families about what led them to being out at night. The aim was to identify young people at risk and work with their families to help them. The youth cabinet's help to improve the posters was welcomed.