

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.

Eastern Area meetings will be held at 7.00pm on:

- **Monday 11 January 2010** Methodist Church Hall, off King Edward St, Macclesfield
- **Thursday 21 January 2010** Civic Hall, Nantwich



Monthly Crime Data

As part of our commitment to the Policing Pledge to provide you with crime information in your area, visit 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:-

Knutsford 0845 458 6380

knutsford.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Knutsford, Mobberley, Mere, Ashley, Plumley.

Macclesfield 0845 458 6371

macclesfield.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Macclesfield, Poynton, Prestbury, Bollington, Disley.

Wilmslow 0845 458 6374

wilmslow.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Wilmslow, Handforth, Alderley Edge, Styal.

Congleton 0845 458 6382

congleton.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Congleton, Middlewich, Holmes Chapel, Sandbach and Alsager.

Crewe 0845 458 6382

crewe.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Crewe, Haslington, Coppenhall, Leighton, Sydney, Wistaston, Shavington.

Nantwich 0845 458 6378

nantwich.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk
Covering Nantwich, Willaston, Stapeley, Audlem and Bunbury.

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

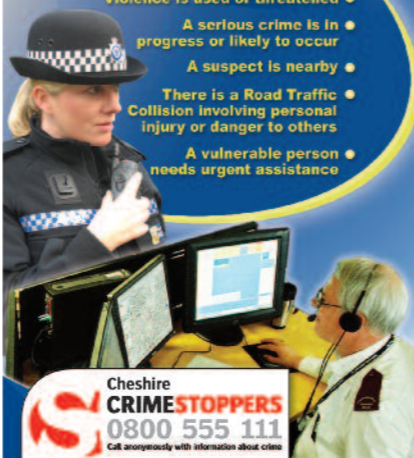


How to contact Cheshire Police...

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
Website: www.cheshire.police.uk

Eastern Area

September 2009



Terry Savage
'Have Your Say'
Chairman

THIS newsletter outlines the discussions on 3 and 14 September 2009 in Crewe and Congleton which were attended by 44 members of the public and local community representatives.

The Authority's Chief Executive, Mark Sellwood, Chief Constable David Whatton (in Congleton only) and Acting Chief Superintendent Mick Garrihy were present to answer questions along with the local Inspectors.

Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman commented on the Policing Pledge and the local meetings, surgeries, street briefings and mobile police station visits, which were being arranged to gain people's views on policing. 'Have Your Say' meetings supported the Pledge and enabled the Police Authority and the Constabulary to provide information on improvements in policing and an opportunity for the public to raise issues of concern. The Authority wants to know whether the public is satisfied with the policing service they receive.

The 'Your Policing' newspaper had been sent to all households and contained the priorities the Authority had set for the Chief Constable; explained the Policing Pledge; and how the police service was funded.

Criminal Justice

Magistrates and sentencing

Serving Magistrates John Bache, Clare Hoy and Alan Pierce made the following presentation to the meetings.

The Magistrates outlined the roles and responsibilities of being a Magistrate who were volunteers, appointed from the local community. They were then fully trained to deliver their role and there was an expectation that they should sit in court for a minimum of 13 days per year. The Magistrates Courts dealt with 95% of all criminal cases, with only the most serious cases being directed to the Crown Court to be heard by a Judge and Jury.

In deciding a sentence, Magistrates had to take account of both the facts of the case and the circumstances of the offender. They worked to national sentencing guidelines which prescribed a range of penalties, appropriate to the crimes committed, which ensured consistency throughout the country. The purpose of sentencing was to protect the public, punish the offender fairly and appropriately, encourage them to make amends, and to seek to reduce crime through stopping them from reoffending.

Magistrates were expected to demonstrate judicial independence, which meant that they should never show bias towards a particular offence or offender, that each individual case should be dealt with in an appropriate and

professional manner and that they should not discuss or make comments, to the media, about individual cases.

Anyone interested in becoming a Magistrate should contact the Secretary to the Cheshire Advisory Committee tel: 01244 405842 or email: martina.clarke@hmcourts-service.gsi.gov.uk



Cheshire Probation Area

Sandra Link and Kim Thornden, Assistant Chief Officers of Cheshire Probation Area gave a presentation on the work and role of the probation service which employed 420 staff who worked from 9 buildings, 2 approved premises, 2 Youth Offending Teams and 3 prisons. Their primary purpose was to protect the public; reduce re-offending; ensure proper punishment of offenders; and rehabilitate offenders.

28 Probation staff were deployed across all Magistrate and Crown Courts in Cheshire to ensure that pre-sentence reports were delivered on time to assist those sentencing in their decision making. Staff monitored prolific offenders in a multi-agency approach with Cheshire Constabulary.

Last year, 4,026 reports were produced for sentences and approximately 4,000 offenders subject to community sentences or following their release from prison on licence were supervised. 210,694 hours of unpaid work was also managed for the benefit of local communities.



Community payback schemes had improved many communities with offenders undertaking tasks to remove graffiti, clear overgrown areas and improve public spaces. Anyone aware of local areas or community projects that would benefit from the scheme should contact Anne Crawford on 01928 713555 or nominate a project via the Probation website - www.cheshireprobation.org.uk

Community links were being strengthened in each of the four council areas in Cheshire to reduce re-offending and make it a priority within community safety partnerships.

Policing in Crewe & Nantwich Area

Acting Chief Superintendent Mick Garrihy, Eastern Area Commander



Acting Chief Superintendent Garrihy expressed his concern about the increase in domestic burglary which was mainly due to burglars gaining entry via open doors and windows over the Summer and the release of 8 prolific and persistent offenders from Prison. An operation to focusing on bogus callers who targeted vulnerable elderly people had resulted in the arrest and subsequent imprisonment of a man who admitted 25 offences. Officers had been targeting criminal damage and vandalism by working with victims and social and private landlords to gain intelligence and identify common threads; arranging diversionary activities for young people such as fishing competitions; targeting motorists on red routes and those using mobile phones whilst driving or not wearing seatbelts.

Details were circulated of recent operations, arrests and convictions and other local incidents of note.

Question Time

Q. What action was taken against illegal wheel clampers operating in Crewe?

A. Inspector Broadhurst advised that he was aware of the incidents and the individual concerned, but was unable to comment further, due to an impending court case.

Appreciation was expressed to Inspector Broadhurst and his team for the assistance and support offered to volunteers operating 'Community Speedwatch'.

Q. Concern was expressed about large HGVs/delivery wagons reversing at speed on the pedestrianised zones in Crewe town centre and the lack of action taken when reported to a PCSO.

A. Chief Superintendent Garrihy advised that he was not aware of the issue, but shared the questioners concern and asked that they provide further details at the end of the meeting to enable the issue to be addressed.

[Post meeting note: The matter was subsequently explored in detail with the questioner by Inspector Broadhurst and Chief Superintendent Garrihy. A local officer was tasked to monitor and address by local traffic management or enforcement action. An undertaking was given to keep the questioner informed of developments.]

Appreciation was expressed to the representatives from the Magistracy and the Probation Area for their interesting and informative presentations. Those present were pleased to see the police, courts and probation service working closely together.

Q. What was the Constabulary's view of a report in the media that the ex-Chief Constable of Merseyside Police thought all victims should receive a visit by the Police.

A. Chief Superintendent Garrihy advised that all officers and staff subscribed to the Policing Pledge to ensure victims were kept informed of issues they reported to police and, that Customer Service Desks contacted victims and updated them on how an investigation was progressing. He further explained that whilst on occasion it may not always be possible for an officer to be deployed to every incident, the Constabulary undertook to assess the circumstances of every call and in doing so ensure factors such as vulnerability of the caller, whether the call was linked to a local priority and, in the case of non-urgent calls, what type of service the caller wished to receive that best suited their circumstances. He further explained that the service provided by the force ranged from immediate response – a deployment within 15 minutes, to an officer making an appointment with the victim at an agreed time that met their particular needs.

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Q. Were Magistrates issuing lighter sentences to offenders as the prisons were full?

A. Mr Bache advised that this did not impact on Magistrates decisions, however, the issuing of a prison sentence was considered as a last resort when all other punishments had been exhausted.

Appreciation was expressed to the Police for the quick response to a report of a suspicious vehicle in a locality.

Q. Concern was expressed about speeding motor vehicles travelling through Shavington particularly at night.

A. Inspector Broadhurst advised of the need to balance police resources with competing demands and that undertaking road enforcement at night was very challenging in terms of health and safety for the officers and other road users. He noted the comments and agreed to advise the appropriate officers. *[Post meeting note: The matter has subsequently been highlighted in the briefings given to local officers and now forms part of the local action plan for local community priority enforcement.]*

Q. What was the Police's view of the poor condition of a number of roads in the Crewe area?

A. The Chief Superintendent reported that the Police worked closely with partners such as the local authority and highways agency in relation to improving safety, reducing road traffic collisions; and road engineering. The questioner was urged to write to their local Councillor at Cheshire East Council to register their concerns or at one of the regular Area Partnership meetings held by the Council.

Q. Were the number of road traffic collisions on red routes reducing?

A. Chief Superintendent Garrihy advised that there had been a reduction on red routes (roads identified as high risk) and work was undertaken with partners to change driver behaviour and raise awareness about road safety.

Performance

Details were circulated of recent operations, arrests and convictions and other local incidents of note. Performance data for the Eastern Area showed recorded crime, violent crime, vehicle crime and criminal damage had reduced by 7%, 2%, 14% and 11% respectively compared with the previous year. Domestic burglary had increased by 5% (58 more crimes).

Policing in Congleton Area

The Chief Superintendent reported on the success of the ArcAngel initiative in Congleton town centre which involved the police, local council and Trading Standards working together to target licensees selling alcohol to under 18's, continuing to serve drunk customers; and issue complete bans on individuals from licensed premises. It was reported that the initiative had significantly reduced alcohol related anti-social behaviour. Police had been working with the Town's Community Wardens and CCTV operatives to observe and where necessary take appropriate action against groups of youths acting in an anti-social manner.

Attendees were advised of a series of public meetings where issues of concern could be raised with local police officers and representatives of other partner authorities which included police surgeries; community action meetings; and local area partnership meetings.



Question Time

Q. What impact had the change in licensing hours had on the police?

A. Inspector Gammage reported that changes had been made to shifts to ensure that there were appropriate resources on duty later in the night. Whilst there was no extra cost to policing, the resources were shifted from other areas of policing and times. The Chief Constable gave an example of where a local authority had provided funding to support a team of officers solely to police the night time economy in a town centre.

Q. Concern was expressed about the drinking of alcohol in Congleton Park which was a designated 'alcohol free zone'.

A. Inspector Gammage advised that the Police relied on information from the public to enable such issues to be addressed and commented on the success of Operation 'Afternoon life' which targeted young people drinking in the afternoon/early evening and confiscated and disposed of their alcohol; taking action against adults who purchase alcohol for under 18's or against parents who condone it.

Q. When would the vacant PCSO post in Buglawton be filled?

A. The Inspector advised that the next recruitment campaign was to be held in October/November and it was hoped to have somebody in post as soon as possible.

Q. Why did the police use sirens at night?

A. The Acting Chief Superintendent advised that it was a health and safety requirement to warn pedestrians and other road users that emergency vehicles were travelling at speed.

Q. Comments about the Constabulary and Authority websites being hard to navigate.

A. The Chairman thanked the questioner and agreed to ask that the Authority's website be reviewed. The Chief Constable advised that funding had been allocated to develop and significantly improve the Constabulary's website.

Q. What was the Constabulary's policy on officers patrolling in pairs? A series of further comments were made regarding police officers giving their mobile telephone numbers to the public who would then incur the high cost of calls; whether a complaint had to be made in person at a police station; and the composition of the Police Authority including the 'independence' of the Independent Members.

A. The Chief Constable advised that the policy is normally for single patrols, however, on occasions, dependent on the time of day or the type of incident being responded to, vehicles may be double crewed and officers asked to patrol in pairs. The Chief Constable advised the mobile numbers were provided on some occasions to help individuals contact specific officers when they were on duty and that complaints could be made in a variety of ways and did not have to be made in person at a police station – further information on making a complaint was available on the Constabulary's website – www.Cheshire.Police.uk or on the Independent Police Complaints Commission Website – www.ipcc.gov.uk

Q. An enquiry into why the composition of the Police Authority was based on political beliefs rather than demographics.

A. The Chairman commented that nine Members of the Authority were nominated from the four councils in Cheshire and that the remaining 8 Independent Members were appointed following an external recruitment process.

Q. Concern was expressed about an ongoing dispute in Swettenham Heath with the local social housing provider's policy on relocating families.

A. The questioner was advised that the Constabulary were aware of the dispute with Dane Housing. Any incidents reported to the police would be dealt with in the normal manner. The questioner spoke to the Chief Executive and the Acting Chief Superintendent after the meeting and was reassured any incidents reported would be considered and actioned as appropriate by local officers.

Q. Who was responsible for monitoring re-housed families and the community impact?

A. The Chairman advised that this was a local authority issue and should be raised at the Local Area Partnership meeting to be held on 24 September 2009 between 6-8pm at Blackfirs Primary School, Congleton.