

# Western Police Area

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

**Tuesday 19 January 2010,  
7pm**

Memorial Hall, Chesterway  
Northwich, CW9 5QJ

**Tuesday 26 January 2010,  
7pm**

St Mary's Centre, off Castle Street,  
Chester, CH1 2DW

*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 area 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 Western Area**

*Chief Superintendent Craig Guildford will discuss policing in the area. Details of crime levels 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

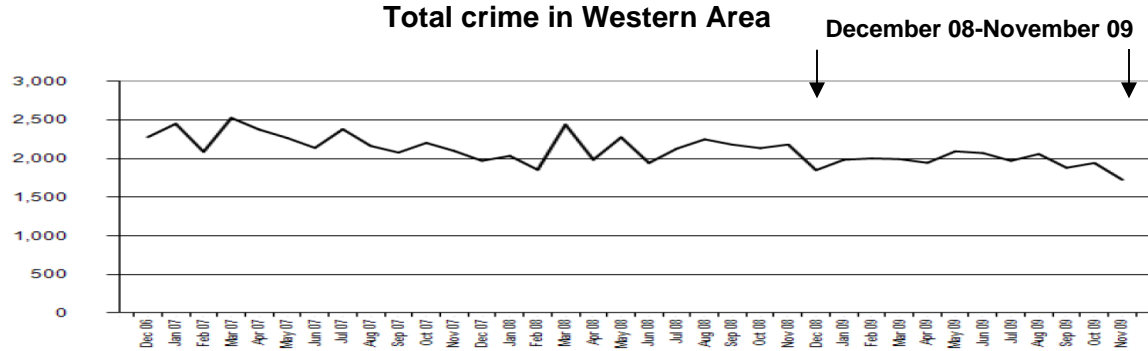
OBJECTIVE 7 - Optimise value for money by improving efficiency and reducing costs

Mark Sellwood  
Chief Executive

**PERFORMANCE DATA & RECENT ACTIVITY**

**Crime**

For the period December 2008- November 2009 compared to the same period the previous year, crime in the Western Area is down by 7% (1,859 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	Up 8%	100 more crimes
Violent Crime	Down 5%	280 less crimes
Vehicle Crime	Down 16%	470 less crimes
Criminal Damage	Down 13%	724 less crimes

**Detections**

The overall detection rate in the Western Area, for the is 26.3%. This compares to a rate of 27.2% 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	18.5%	22.5%
Violent Crime	43.0%	47.3%
Vehicle Crime	11.3%	11.6%
Criminal Damage	11.0%	13.0%

**Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents**

During 2009, there were 19,580 incidents of Anti Social Behaviour recorded in the Western Area, compared to 18,692 in 2008, an increase of 4.8%.

The most recent comparative data, which compares Western Area with other similar policing areas, shows performance equating to 13.690 per 1,000 residents, compared to an average of 13.893 .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 the 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 **88.1%** for the Western Area.

WESTERN AREA 'HAVE YOUR SAY'  
19 & 26 JANUARY 2009

SUMMARY OF WESTERN AREA PERFORMANCE – SEPTEMBER –  
DECEMBER 2009

The Western Area is continuing to perform well and this has been achieved through a team effort with all departments continuing to contribute to reducing crime and to reassure local communities. Compared to the same period last year, vehicle crime, business robbery and criminal damage has all reduced. The following examples provide an insight into the work that has been undertaken within the Western Area.

**SIGNIFICANT RECENT OPERATIONS/ACTIVITIES:**

Neighbourhood Policing Teams in rural areas of West Cheshire have reached out to the community with the help of the mobile library. Western Rural Neighbourhood Policing Teams will be joining the mobile library's route into local villages to give residents a chance to meet their policing team face to face and talk to them about any issues they have in the community.

Pubs across Cheshire have been given a lesson in forensics from Cheshire Police. Members of the 'Pubwatch' scheme in the Chester city centre were trained in basic scene of crime preservation by the force's Crime Scene Investigation and have now been provided with evidence kits. The kits include crime scene tape, forensic gloves, an evidence preservation tube, an evidence preservation box and a basic guide on scene preservation.

Jingle Bells were ringing out in Chester and Northwich over Christmas, due to the latest crime prevention initiative from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams distributing free bells over the Christmas period to reduce the seasonal increase in the theft of purses. The bells to be attached to purses, bags and other personal items so shoppers are alerted if someone tries to steal them.

Officers from the Chester Outer Neighbourhood Policing teams were responding to an increase in car crime in the Handbridge and Curzon areas of the city. The majority of car crime in the area had been as the result of cars being left unlocked outside the owner's home and valuables such as sat navs and MP3 players left on display. The team walked down residential streets and looked for insecure vehicles. If a car was found to be unlocked, officers knocked on the door of the owner to let them know how lucky they had been not to become a victim of crime. In some cases, they removed valuables from the vehicles and handed them over to the owner to show how easy it would have been for a thief to steal them.

Twenty-one people convicted of supplying drugs in Chester have been sentenced to a total of more than 69 years in prison. The group, who were all arrested as part of a three-month long undercover police operation, were sentenced at Chester Crown Court in December. The operation, which targeted the use and supply of drugs in the Chester area, culminated in a series of dawn warrants on 20 October 2009. All 21 defendants had earlier pleaded guilty to drugs offences, including supply.

A 33 year old man has been handed a six and a half year jail sentence for Section 18 offences - wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm on his ex-wife in Neston. He was also charged with making threats to kill, aggravated taking a vehicle without consent and driving whilst disqualified. He pleaded guilty to the four charges at an earlier hearing. Using a bottle and ashtray as weapons the man subjected his ex-wife to a ferocious attack that left her with multiple serious injuries. The attack ended when friends intervened.

Three men were sentenced for their part in robberies and burglaries across three counties on 15 October. The men aged 23, 20 and 16 pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to one count of conspiracy to commit burglary and two counts of robbery. The men were sentenced to 6 years and 5 years, 8 months imprisonment and the youth was sentenced to a 2 year Detention and Training Order. The men took part in door step burglaries, targeting elderly people and committed a total of 30 burglaries, 16 of which were in Cheshire

A man has been jailed for 18 months after a drugs warrant was carried out at his home. The 31-year-old from Northwich pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to two counts of possessing class A drugs with intent to supply. On 26 October, he was jailed for 18 months at Chester Crown Court.

A convicted drug dealer has been ordered to forfeit more than £127,000 by a court after it ruled his money came from criminal activity. The 51 year-old was arrested in March 2007 after Police simultaneously executed search warrants at two addresses owned by him. The man's then home in Winsford, officers found scales which contained traces of cocaine. At another address the search led to the recovery of cocaine with a street value of up to £5,350, with a purity of 73%. Following a five day trial at Liverpool Crown Court in December 2008, the man was sentenced to five and a half years in custody for possession of cocaine with intent to supply. Cheshire Constabulary's Financial Investigation Unit began a complex Proceeds of Crime investigation into his finances soon after the arrest. His assets were frozen to stop him from selling on any possessions or removing money from his bank accounts during the process. The Proceeds of Crime investigation revealed that the man had been unemployed for 19 years, yet had bought two properties, took regular exotic holidays, owned a time share in a Florida apartment and was the member of an exclusive golf club. Following the conclusion of a two day Proceeds of Crime Act hearing at Liverpool Crown Court in November, Judge Fletcher concluded the man had benefited from crime and made a confiscation order for £127,438.95 to be paid within 6 months.