

FORCE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED BY POLICE AUTHORITY NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS IN C DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

1. This report seeks to inform Committee Members of the Humberside Police response to:
 - Community concerns raised by the Police Authority Neighbourhood Panels in C Division
 - The impact of any local Force and/or partnership initiatives as a consequence of these concerns; and
 - Any demonstrable movement in performance at a local level that can be measured as a result.

KEY LOCAL ISSUES RAISED

2. The key local issues raised by the community at Police Authority Neighbourhood Panels (PANels) were;
 - Speeding and dangerous driving
 - Anti Social Behaviour
 - Alcohol related disorder
3. As part of the Division's continuous effort to address the concerns raised at the PANels a representative from the LPT always attends, the representative is usually the LPT Commander or a sergeant. In addition a member of the Senior Management Team will be rostered to attend to provide a Divisional perspective to the meeting.

SPEEDING AND DANGEROUS DRIVING

4. C Division Roads Policing Unit officers and LPT officers are trained in the use of pro laser equipment. The Division also makes use of the Armed Response Vehicle officers for speeding initiatives, through the bidding and tasking process. Additionally, C Division has 27 designated safety camera sites, which is the highest number of all of the Divisions.
5. There has been an increase in divisional and LPT budgets allocations to help deal with the speeding and dangerous driving issues.
6. Over the last year the C Division Roads Policing Unit has investigated 35 fatal collisions to a high standard and in a timely fashion receiving praise from HM Coroner on a number of occasion and successful prosecutions in all but one of the cases that have taken to the criminal courts. A high satisfaction level has been achieved from the relatives of those killed with many letters of thanks perhaps more satisfying, no complaints.

7. On average the Roads Policing team prosecutes about 180 motorists for exceeding the speed limit each month and arrest about 10 drink drivers. In October the Division (both LPT and Roads Policing officers) issued 228 non camera speed offence penalties, 48 penalties for seatbelts not being worn and 24 penalties were issued for using a mobile phone whilst driving. Additionally 27 Vehicle Defect Rectification were issued by Divisional Officers and 43 by Roads Policing skilled officers.
8. Since February this year the unit has been involved with Operation Evita which seeks to remove uninsured vehicles from the road and prosecute the owners and drivers of such. This campaign will cease at the start of December 2005 when a new Force procedure comes into effect. The work done in C Division has greatly helped to bring this most effective enforcement tool both for casualty reduction and criminal disruption to the Force much quicker than would otherwise have been the case. It is expected that by the end of the campaign nearly 400 vehicles will have been removed from the roads of East Yorkshire.
9. The extension of the new gas site at Easington has seen a great influx of vehicles to the area using roads that were never designed for such traffic. Working together with the major developers at the site extra funding was secured to provide additional roads policing resources to the roads in question. This has led to a 10% drop in Killed or Seriously Injured casualties on these roads.
10. It is hoped that there will be patrol vehicles operating in the Division with a Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) capability early in the new year, this should once again greatly improve performance.
11. Working in partnership with many other agencies a great deal of effort has gone in to attempting to reduce the high number of bike fatalities occurring year on year in this Division and across the Force – this year the figures are down to 11 killed from 17 last year.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

12. To give a comprehensive overview of how anti social behaviour is being tackled in the East Riding area, Nigel Brignall, the Team Manager of the East Riding County Council Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Office has provided the following update:
13. "The 5 members of the ASB Team have received 394 separate requests for service from 1 April to 31 October 2005. Requests can come from anywhere - the Police, public, other Council Teams, elected Members, etc.

Anti Social Behaviour Orders

14. ASBOs are only one method of tackling ASB and there are many other approaches that can be taken. As at 23/11/2005, there are 37 current ASBOs. The ASB Team have had involvement in all but one ASBO (this was given to a Sex Offender). Of these ASBOs, 35 have been obtained 'on conviction'. The

other two have been stand alone applications, one led by the Council's legal team and one by the Police legal team. In addition to these 37, we have approximately 10 applications in the court system.

15. The current method of working is that the Council's ASB Team lead on all applications. In practice, we have found that the most effective way to obtain ASBOs in this area is 'on conviction' and the courts are now used to this approach. The ASB Team draft the ASBO application and put together a community impact statement. This is supporting information from the public, other Council agencies and information from the Police nominal system. The benefit to this approach is that before any application for an ASBO is submitted, consultation takes place with agencies such as Schools, Social Services, Environmental Health, Housing, Youth Offending Team, etc. We find that applications made in this manner mean that we can give information to the Court to support the application for the ASBO which otherwise may not be provided. This also enables us to justify prohibitions within ASBOs. An example of a community impact statement is attached. This is a live application, due to be heard in Court on 21/12/2005.
16. Officers from the ASB Team work closely with the CPS and attend court to present the application. In practice, what happens is the CPS call the ASB Team as a witness and we present our statement and then justify our prohibitions in the ASBO. As we attend court, we are also in a position to negotiate prohibitions in the ASBO with the defence. Only today, we managed to negotiate and agree the ASBO with the defence before we even got into Court. We also work closely with the Prolific Offenders Unit.
17. When an ASBO is obtained on a juvenile in the East Riding, a member of the ASB Team works with the perpetrator throughout the period of the ASBO, monitoring their behaviour and assisting them with any support needs. This also proves successful.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts

18. ASBOs are not necessarily the best way to tackle anti social behaviour. The ASB Team, working closely with the Police, have used approximately 150 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) in the past 2 1/2 years. There are 29 current ABCs. These have proven to be an excellent early intervention tool with approximately 70% not breached at all. If perpetrators breach an ABC on 2 or more occasions, the next time they commit an offence which causes someone harassment, alarm or distress, this results in an application made to the Courts for an ASBO. ABCs offer excellent evidence to demonstrate to the Court that we have given an individual an opportunity to improve their behaviour, but they have chosen to continue with their unacceptable behaviour. To date, all ASBOs have been granted by the Courts where we have used an ABC on the perpetrator.

Dispersal Orders

19. We also work closely with Police Officers where groups of youths cause problems in certain areas. To date, we have used 5 Dispersal Orders in C Division. Dispersal Orders require the approval of the local authority and before approving any Dispersal Order, the ASB Team prepares an exit strategy - including longer term solutions to prevent problems reoccurring.

Some times, we cannot deliver all longer term solutions within the period of the Dispersal Order, however they are followed through. There are no current Dispersal Orders in place in C Division.”

ALCOHOL RELATED DISORDER

20. There are positive efforts in police tactics at LPT and Divisional level to challenge any recognised hot spot locations, specific times and days of the week, premises, known offenders and potential events which create or may have the potential to entail public disorder. LPT, divisional and whenever possible, Home Office central funding or initiatives are used to enhance police activity in this subject matter. The current Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign is a national campaign which is running from 14 November to 24 December and is subject to focused operational tactics with divisional licensing officers, LPT staff and partners, such as the East Riding County Council, the fire brigade and education authorities. This particular initiative will, if the bid is accepted, contribute £10,000 - £14,000 funding for C Division to deliver an agreed scheduled operation leading up to Christmas Eve.
21. The Division’s Operational Support Section staff are regularly deployed and bids for the tasking of the Mounted Section are made. Meaningful tasking through the National Intelligence Model and local LPT intelligence have had a positive affect on combating public disorder and on the public reassurance side of policing in the East Riding.
22. It is also worth noting a recent initiative in Hornsea involving joint work between the ASB Team (mentioned above) and Hornsea LPT, specifically PCs Burdon and Rackham. PC Burdon identified that there were problems in the town centre of Newbegin, with youths causing concern to residents, particularly regards underage drinking, littering and associated unacceptable behaviour.
23. From 22 July until 6 November on a Friday/ Saturday/ Sunday evening, members of the ASB Team joined PCs Burdon and Rackham on a number of patrols. This proved to be very successful, with a considerable amount of alcohol being seized, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts drawn up with people who persistently caused a nuisance and Fixed Penalty Tickets being given to those who litter the streets. In addition, there will be an application for an ASBO on one adult in the near future, once evidence has been collated. It did not involve working every weekend, but approximately 10 joint patrols were carried out throughout this period. Youth Workers are now actively involved in the area too and it will be interesting to monitor their success.
24. It is hoped that this will have a longer term impact in Hornsea and other initiatives are planned to divert people off the streets. Nigel Brignall of the ASB Team believes that there is scope to roll this kind of initiative out in other areas, if a similar pro-active approach is taken, although it must be acknowledged that resources are an obvious problem.
25. Further details of this initiative have been sent to the Regional Government Office, following a request for examples of good practice to reduce underage drinking/ alcohol disorder. The C Divisional Commander has asked Nigel Brignall to come up with a structured process with a view to doing something similar in other areas, such as Driffield.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. It is recommended that the Consultation and Partnership Committee:

- i) Discuss the content of the Report
- ii) Continue to refer matters of operational policing to the Chief Constable for appropriate action

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CHIEF CONSTABLE

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