

FORCE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED BY POLICE AUTHORITY CRIME AND DRUG TEAMS IN A DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

1. This report seeks to inform Members of the Consultation and Partnership Committee about the Humberside Police response to community concerns raised by the Police Authority Crime and Drug Teams (PACDTs) in A Division, and actions taken by the Division as a consequence of these concerns.
2. The key local issues raised by the community at the Police Authority Crime and Drug Team meetings were:
 - complaints against young people;
 - contacting the police and call handling;
 - police community support officers.
3. Contacting the police and call handling is being addressed as a separate agenda item report. A presentation about the Force's deployment of police community support officers is also a separate agenda item.

INFORMATION

Complaints against young people

4. It is anticipated that 'community issues' will be retained within the divisional control strategy at this week's strategic intelligence meeting (week commencing 15 May). The Division is moving towards a more partnership based strategic assessment to ensure that all issues affecting the community are fully considered. It is intended that actions arising from the selected control strategy areas, particularly complaints against young people, will be allocated to partners as well as the police to ensure a more joined up way of working.
5. Work continues towards the development of neighbourhood teams which will be jointly managed and tasked by existing police Inspectors and Local Authority neighbourhood managers. The twenty five neighbourhood police officers in place are not being abstracted for other duties and are therefore able to spend their time dealing with community issues. The number of police community support officers (PCSOs) is gradually increasing and it is anticipated that A Division will receive eight new PCSOs from each eight weekly intake. Recruitment

for Local Authority wardens is progressing well and it is hoped that forty will be in place within the next three months. The number of special constables is increasing month on month, although it is unlikely that A Division will meet its recruitment target.

6. The anti-social behaviour panel continues to ensure a multi agency response to local anti-social behaviour issues. The Division currently has 65 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) in force, 25 of which are post conviction and 40 by way of complaint. This is a good indication that members of the community are becoming more willing to provide relevant evidence. 34 Anti-Social Behaviour contracts have been established and 125 warning letters have been sent out to offenders and parents.
7. The Division has seen a 35.8% reduction in public disorder incidents in 2005/06 compared to 2004/05 (down from 15497 to 9945). There is evidence to suggest that targeted activity around known offenders and the provision of youth activities through the Forward Groups has contributed to those reductions.
8. Work continues within the three existing Forward Groups on Freshney, Yarborough and Nunsthorpe. It is intended to extend the number of groups in the Division to twelve to cover the Grimsby and Cleethorpes areas. These groups will become the recognised way of achieving not only community consultation but more importantly ensuring that progress is made by all agencies towards addressing issues of concern raised by local communities.
9. Forward Groups are partnership teams who work together within geographical boundaries with the aim of improving the quality of life of those who live, work or visit the neighbourhood. Nunsthorpe Forward was the forerunner of this style of working and has been active on the Nunsthorpe and Bradley Estate for about two years. The Nunsthorpe Forward approach is now being adopted across North East Lincolnshire.
10. The Nunsthorpe Forward Group connects as many partners as possible from the statutory, volunteer and community sectors to deliver added value to their services by focusing on a number of activities and delivering together. The collective power of the Group is used to promote, plan and deliver activities for as many people as possible. Since its inception the Group has concentrated much of its efforts on delivering additional services and activities to young people. This takes many forms across the neighbourhood and all partners contribute in different ways.
11. During the school summer holidays of 2005, the activities organised ranged from kids clubs at St Martins Community Action Group, football at the Community School, dancing at the 2nd Avenue Resource Centre as well as cartoon drawing, girls football, sewing, knitting and bicycle

building. In total there were 4,500 attended activities in the area with the summer culminating in two special events.

12. The first was the Resource Centre Tenth Birthday Party. The day was opened by The Mayor of North East Lincolnshire, Councillor Melanie Dickerson who sliced the birthday cake. The day included fairground rides, stalls, an It's Knockout competition and general mayhem. Everyone had a great day and the weather was kind. The second special event was the Abbamania Show organised by St Martins and which took place at Grimsby Auditorium. The young people from the group organised and planned a two hour Abba show in which they danced and sang a number of Abba hits. The theme of the show was around supporting the young people and giving them the chance to show they could produce a spectacular event with the minimum of backing. Almost 1000 people attended the show and 120 young people got on stage to show off their talents. The event was such a success it was repeated again in October when Louise Casey from the Home Office attended and gave her support as the leader of the Government's 'Taking a Stand' campaign.
13. The future plans for the neighbourhood include the opening of the old TSB Bank on Second Avenue which has been renovated by Shoreline Housing Partnership. There will be multi agency tasking and co-ordination of response from the building involving the police, community wardens and police community support officers. As the process develops it is intended to gather other agencies together to align even further our response to the community's problems. The building is to be renamed following a competition held in the local schools.
14. Throughout the Grimsby North area, Freshney Forward continues to provide youth activity during school holidays. August 2005 saw a 44% reduction in calls for service for public order incidents compared with August 2004.
15. Operation Dacron is an initiative aimed at tackling fourteen young people assessed as causing the most problems on the Willows/Wybers Estates. Letters are in the process of being sent to parents of those youngsters inviting them to attend an event on the evening of 13-14 June. At the event they will be told of their child's behaviour, shown evidence of it and encouraged to enter into a contract to improve that behaviour as an alternative to prosecution. This is a new approach but one which we hope is effective.
16. A Grimsby North neighbourhood officer has been successful in securing tasking funding to carry out an initiative with the Fire and Rescue Service to tackle fires that are being set by young people on the West Marsh area. Although minor in nature, they pose a real threat to the safety of local residents. It is intended that police will patrol with

fire crews and record any available evidence to assist in identifying the offenders.

17. Letters are been sent out to local residents requesting information and intelligence about young persons causing problems at the Duke of York Gardens, such as pulling up the new planting etc., because of the significant negative impact it has on the wider community. Council wardens are going to patrol the area, which should give a starting point to tackle young people causing problems and continue the theme of trying to improve engagement with the West Marsh community.
18. North Grimsby and Immingham have been working hard resurrecting 'Kids n Cops', for July, which will be held at Healing School. On previous occasions it has been very well attended by children. Representatives from the Helicopter Unit, the Dog Section, Traffic and the Underwater Search Unit will be attending and the Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent Kevin Sharp, will be making the presentations at the end of the night.

RECOMMENDATIONS

19. It is recommended that the Consultation and Partnership Committee:
 - i) Discuss the content of the Report; and
 - ii) Continue to refer matters of operational policing to the Chief Constable for appropriate action.

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